

St John's Girls' School

Te Kura Kōtiro ō Hato Hoani

Newsletter – 3 August 2018

Principal's Comments



Tena koutou katoa – Greetings to you all.

The teachers and I will be on strike on Wednesday 15 August 2018. We don't like doing this as it impacts on you and your children but we need to, to drive change. It's important that you make alternative arrangements for the care of your child/children on the day of the strike as the school will not be open for instruction unless negotiations are successful and the strike is called off.

What are we campaigning for?

More teachers – smaller classes so your children can get more attention

More resources/staff to support the increasing number of children with additional learning needs

A significant pay increase to address the teacher shortage – so that your children will have a teacher in the future.

You may be aware of the nationwide crisis in recruiting and retaining teachers. While there are many more children coming into the school system, there are not enough new teachers being trained. There is a 40% drop in the number being trained. Adding to this a large percentage of the current workforce are ready to retire in the next ten years. The average teacher's age is 57 years!

There is also a retention problem. Once trained, large numbers don't remain in teaching. 40% of those that are trained drop out in the first five years.

Urgent and significant changes are needed to ensure that we can attract high performing staff to teach your children and so we can keep them in the profession, to ensure class sizes do not increase.

We are fortunate at this school. We have small class numbers and we are very well resourced, but this is not the norm. Please support us to get the changes we need, for the benefit of **all** children.

Nga mihi nui (Kind regards)
Brenda Mackay

23 July

Term 3

August

14th ICAS Maths
15th NZEI Strike—school not open for instruction
17th Family Ski Day Years 5 - 8
20th BOT meeting 5.30pm
21st Mufti Day
24th Gym Festival Seniors am Juniors pm
28th Polyfest 1pm
BOP meeting 7pm
30th Disco
31st Father/Daughter netball

September

3rd HPV vaccinations Y8
6th Room 4 Speech Exams
13th Christian Education Speeches 1pm
20th Parents' Association Art Exhibition & social event
24th BOT meeting 5.30pm
25/26th Dance Exams
28th Last Day Term 3

October

15th First Day Term 4

Congratulations to the following girls who received awards recently—

Room 1	Ruby Duffell, Bailey Cooper
Room 2	Sofia Peters, Leah McEwan, Liliana Clinckett, Jessica Hay
Room 3	Charlotte Torrington, Lucy Watt, Christabel Billcliff, Jhordaya Shaw
Room 4	Alicia Purdon, Bailey King, Riley Morrison, Sofia Campbell-Wall
Room 5	Indya Hillman, Grace Watson, Katie Dennis, Maddison Booth
Room 6	Kobi Harpur, Eva Sexton, Ella Erskine, Emma Pope
Room 7	Millie Cottam, Holly Keary, Amanda Henderson, Molly Cole

Values Cup:

27th July	Olivia Corson	Rm 5
3rd August	Amber Behl	Rm 2

REMINDERS

ABSENCES:

If your child is sick please phone the office or email both the office and class teacher.

office@stjohnsgirls.school.nz

If you are informing the school of a future date your daughter is going to absent please send a note to the school office (Mrs McEntyre will inform the class teacher) or email dates etc to the office and class teacher.

If a child is not at school and we haven't heard from you Mrs McEntyre will phone to check.

Parents' Association News

Greetings parents and caregivers

Wow, the Spellathon raised over \$3000. Thank you so much for your fantastic support. There was great competition between the girls while learning their spelling and all money raised will be used to purchase Chromebooks for the senior school.

This term we have a very exciting social event planned. We are organising an art exhibition in the hall. All the girls will produce an amazing piece of artwork and this will be framed and on display on the night. All artwork will be available for purchase and we will have a copying facility available if people require more than one copy of a particular piece.

We will be serving drinks and nibbles, so tell all grandparents, aunts and uncles and save the date - **Thursday 20th September**. We are looking forward to seeing you all there and the girls can't wait to share their amazing pieces with you.

Thank you again for all your amazing support.
The Parents' Association

ROOM 1—Year 1—Mrs Jagoutz

Room 1 are looking forward to having some new additions to our class throughout term 3. We welcome Bailey and her family to St John's and to Room 1.

The Drama Festival was a huge success, with Room 1 looking very cute.



Well done, especially learning your lines and remembering all of your stage directions.



Room 1 have been having fun learning new maths games to support our basic facts.

We are looking forward to the Gymnastics Festival this term and have been practising our balancing, rolling, skipping and lots more.

ROOM 2—Year 2—Mrs Kelly & Mrs Brand



We have had a lovely start to the term. We have started our Kitchen Chemistry unit and it is astounding what the girls already know about liquids, solids and gases. They are really enjoying taking part in the experiments. We had a lot of fun this week organising plays in our reading groups as part of our focus on characters in our narrative writing. Our practice for our gymnastics festival is going well and the girls are making good progress. We are practising on Monday and Friday afternoons at the moment.

A reminder about some organisational matters: could we make sure that reading logs and basic facts cards come to school daily, library books on Thursdays, spelling notebooks on Fridays and PE bags arrive on Monday and go back home on Friday. Could you also check that the girls have all their PE gear as we had several girls without socks this week.

Have an enjoyable weekend.

Mrs Kelly and Mrs Brand

Melting solids



ROOM 3—Years 3 & 4—Ms Wilcox-Clarke & Mrs Dawkins

Room 3 are excited to begin a fresh new term with lots of learning in store.

Our Kitchen Science unit is so much fun. We have made some interesting discoveries such as making liquid milk into solid butter. The magic milk experiment showed how dishwashing liquid and food colouring create a cool reaction. Have you heard of a bouncing egg! Well, that's what happens when an egg is kept inside a jar of white vinegar. We are learning many new scientific terms and finding out so much about the changing state of matter in liquids, solids and gases.

Last week we prepared plays in reading. We were looking closely at character descriptions, the sequence of events and problems and solutions. We are using these ideas in our narrative writing with great effect. In maths we are learning about fractions of sets and know how important our basic facts are in this work.

In strand we are looking at position and orientation and learning to use a map to find locations. Shanna-Beth told us a good trick to remember North, South, East and West. Never Eat Soggy Weetbix!



Congratulations to our amazing 40 Hour Famine girls. You've don't it! You have changed the lives of children in South Sudan by exceeding our goal of raising \$1600.

You have raised \$2579.60!

40 Hour Famine

Wow! We have beaten our fundraising goal this year by nearly \$1000. A huge thank you to all the girls that collected sponsors and participated in 40 hour challenges. You have been absolutely amazing this year. Also thank you to the parents and friends of the school for kindly sponsoring our girls and helping them make a difference for the children of South Sudan.

Every dollar makes a difference and we can feel proud that we will make a difference.

Miss Smillie

SPORTS NEWS

futureFERNs NETBALL

We have eight girls entered in the Year 1-4 futureFERNs programme. The programme starts on Thursday 9th August and runs until Thursday 27th September, 2018. There is no netball on Thursday 30th August.

MINIBALL

We still require players for the Year 3/4 and Year 5/6 teams. If your daughter has expressed an interest in playing, please contact Mrs Smith.

The online registration on our school website and via the SPORTY app has been left open, if you wish to register your daughter.



NETBALL

Our Year 7/8 teams have 4 weeks of competition left. The finals will be held on Saturday 25th August. We wish you well for the remainder of the season.



SOUTHLAND PRIMARY SCHOOLS NETBALL TOURNAMENTS

We will be sending a Year 5/6 and a Year 7/8 team to tournament. Mrs Keary and Mr Dawson have held a trial this week for the Year 6 team.

A parent confirmation letter will be emailed later this month. If you have any queries please feel free to contact me sports@stjohnsgirls.school.nz

Tournament dates:

Year 5/6 – Wednesday 12th September

Year 7/8 – Friday 14th September

Thank you to Mrs Jo Keary, Mr Barry Dawson and Mrs Suz Middlemass who will be coaching the St John's teams. Also a big thank you to Mrs Trudy Snee who will be umpiring for our school at the Year 8 tournament.



FUTSAL

The Year 1/2 St John's Glittergirls played their first game on Monday afternoon. Mrs Macpherson, the team manager, said they were very entertaining and played well for the first game. Keep it up Glittergirls!



HOCKEY

There is only 3 weeks left of the Junior High competition and two more weeks for the Primary schools.

Junior High:

August 9th - St John's Quicksticks vs Ascot 4.00pm Turf 2

August 16th – Cross Over Games

August 23rd – Finals for all teams



Primary Schools:

15th August – finals for all grades.

Please check the Invercargill Hockey Ass website for turf allocations and times. <http://www.sporty.co.nz/IHA/>

BADMINTON

The 2018 Primary Inter Schools competition starts during Term 4 and will run for six weeks from Tuesday 30th October – Tuesday 4th December, from 3.45pm – 4.45pm.

Teams consist of two players and the format is two games of singles and two games of doubles.

If your daughter is in Years 4 – 6 and is interested in playing please email me.

sports@stjohnsgirls.school.nz



WATERPOLO

Junior Water Polo Year 1-3 and Year 4-6 competitions will commence again in Term 3, starting 7th September (Week 7), followed by 14th September and 21st September.

In Term 4, all school grade games (primary and secondary) will be held on 26th October, 2nd November, 9th November, 16th November. The 23rd November will be the finals night for all grades.

There is **no game on 19th October** due to Labour Weekend.

Next week, I will give out the game cards to the girls who returned them at the end of Term 1.



PHOTOS

If anyone has taken any photos of our after school sports teams in action, please feel free to email them through to me as it would be nice to put some in the sports section of the newsletter when space is available.

sports@stjohnsgirls.school.nz

REPRESENTATIVE NEWS

*If your daughter has **made a representative team or has excelled in her sport**, please remember to inform either myself or Mrs McEntyre in the school office so we can acknowledge it in the newsletter. If they participated in a St John's Girls' School sports team we will note this for end of year achievement certificates and for Y7/8 stripes. Thank you. My email is sports@stjohnsgirls.school.nz*