

St John's Girls' School

Te Kura Kōtiro ō Hato Hoani

Newsletter

9 April 2021

Principal's Comments

Tena koutou katoa – Greetings to you all

Maths

Next term we would like to invite you to an information evening where we will share how we are now delivering the maths curriculum. This will help you support your daughter at home as we need to be on the same wave length or your daughter(s) will get confused. The proposed date is Wednesday 9th June but this is to be confirmed. This will be an interactive evening where you will be in groups experiencing how it is delivered. Our purpose is to explain/demonstrate how the new delivery works and to answer questions.

I can already hear some of you saying, "No way! I'm no good at maths. I'm not going."

This meeting will not be threatening. We promise not to embarrass anyone or put anyone on the spot.

For years maths was 'done' to us. We had rules to follow that often didn't make sense and the answer was either right or wrong. As it got harder, the rules became more difficult to understand. Many people grew up thinking they couldn't do maths and as such, thought they were not intelligent. The new approach is making girls who think like this, realise that they can do maths. In fact, some of these girls see the patterns more quickly than the girls who previously have been deemed to be good at maths.

This morning, I asked the girls in assembly if they liked/disliked the new approach. I then asked them why/why not. I was pleased with the feedback as it reinforced what we were thinking. The general trend was that they liked working with a buddy or in groups and were finding maths easier.

Lit Quiz

Our team of Olivia Gibson, Jessica Huang, Pippa Keary and Binne Lenihan travelled with Ms Lenihan to Gore to compete in the Southland Lit (Literacy) Quiz . They think they gained a fifth place which is a wonderful result in a Southland Competition.

Easter Service

The girls told the story of Easter beautifully. It never ceases to amaze me how Mrs Taylor gets so many girls to shine!

School Board (Previously called the Board of Trustees)/Board of Proprietors

Mr Mark Billcliff was re - elected as the School Board chair and Mrs Raewyn King as the Board of Proprietors chair. I look forward to continuing to work with them in these roles.

Sick Children – no answers, just thoughts.

We seem to be having a lot of girls coming to the office because they don't feel well. This is a good thing. We would hope they would do this.

However, they often tell us, whether it is true or not, that they told you before school that they didn't feel well and you told them to go to school and if they still didn't feel well, to go to the office and you would collect them.

Being a parent/grandparent and dealing with a potentially sick child is not simple. You don't want to send them to school when they are sick as that wouldn't be, being a kind parent nor would it be good for the other children and teachers in the class, but, are they really sick? Not an easy judgement to make.

When a child comes to the office and Mrs Loader doesn't think she is actually sick, Mrs Loader will phone you, out of your child's hearing, to check to see what you would like to do. When children come to the office and tell us that you have said you will collect them if they are still feeling sick, we can't phone you to check what you would like us to do, as this would undermine what you have said. A dilemma. We will keep doing what we are currently doing but there has been a lot of discussion around here about it, so I thought it was worth mentioning.

Have a great weekend.

Nga mihi nui (Warm regards)

Brenda Mackay
Principal

TERM 1

April

- 14th Aerobics Festival 2pm - all welcome
15th BOT meeting 5.30pm
16th Bonus Points trophies awarded
Last day of Term 1

TERM 2

May

- 3rd First day of Term 2
25th School Cross Country (27th postponement date)
26th Teacher Only Day—CANCELLED
31st Year 8 Young Leaders Day—Dunedin

June

- 7th Queens Birthday (no school)
9th Mufti Day
Maths Curriculum Evening—TBC
15th Dress Rehearsal—Production
16th-17th Production
18th Southland Cross Country (22nd postponement date)

UNIFORM PURCHASES

If Mrs Lang gives you pieces of uniform to try on at home, please return any unwanted items the following day, in the condition you received it.

Invoices are sent out within a week of purchase and it's time consuming having to adjust invoices when items are returned after the invoice is emailed.

The Winter uniform is to be worn from the **start** of Term 2 (3 May).

REMEMBER to place your kilt order. Kilts take 6-8 weeks to make.

REMINDERS

Late arrivals:

All girls arriving at school after 8.40am must report to the office before going to assembly, so please remind your daughter when you drop her off. Bus girls are the only exception.

Reporting absences:

All absences must be reported to the office before 8.45am with a reason for the absence. Please use the Skool Loop app but if you email an absence/appointment time to the class teacher please ensure you include—
office@stjohnsgirls.school.nz.

Picking up girls for appointments:

Please notify the office if you are taking your daughter out during class time. Ask your daughter to wait for you at the office. You can drive in the main entrance off Dee Street and when your daughter sees your car she can go to meet you. Mrs Loader will sign your daughter out and sign her back in when she arrives back at school. Please also inform the office if your daughter is going to be late due to an early appointment.

Dropping gear off for girls:

Anything you need to drop off for your daughter is to be left at the office. Mrs Loader will contact your daughter and let her know it's there.

Arrival time at School should not be before 8.15am please.

This is for the safety of your daughter as she may be unsupervised.

AFTERSCHOOL CARE PROGRAMME

This programme operates every day after school from 3.15pm to 5.15pm. Girls can attend on a daily or permanent basis.

If your daughter attends on a casual basis it is expected you will pay on the day. If your daughter attends on a regular basis, payment is expected weekly.

This is an excellent service offered to the school by Mrs Wilson so please use it.

Congratulations to the following girls who received awards recently—

- Room 1 Briar Brady, Portia Smith
Lola Rutledge, Charlee Miles
Mackenzie Brown, Madeleine Davison
- Room 2 Bailey Cooper, Courtney Mackie
Leah Hamilton, Danielle King
Evie Erskine, Eilidh Gordon
- Room 3 Mia Reilly, Ava Moore
Alysha Jennings, Sofia Campbell-Wall
Abby Unahi, Summer Behl
- Room 4 Kiran Gilmete, Amelia Reignen
Emma Visser, Mia Padgett
Matilda Moody, Ingrid Fleming
- Room 5 Ella Pope, Pippa Keary
Jessica Huang, Sienna Hunter
Janika Stirling, Lucia Hughes
- Room 6 Lucy Watt, Sienna Pirie
Harlow Sheehan, Olivia Crosbie
Sienna Macpherson, Olivia Sorensen
- Room 7 Nieve Peddie, Camryn Shepherd
Ana Packham, Lucy Middlemass
Shanna-Beth Smith, Sophie Baron

Values Cup Recipient

- 1 Apr Meila Iosefo Rm 3
9 Apr Greer MacPherson Rm4