NEWSLETTER

St John's Girls' School

7 June 2024

I hope you all had an enjoyable long weekend during King's Birthday. There really is something to be said for having an extra day to achieve, tick off jobs, or do absolutely nothing!

The staff had an incredibly productive day on Tuesday, planning for the remainder of the year and looking at assessment practices. We hope that adding it to the end of the long weekend made it easier for your family to plan around.

Year 7 and 8 Learning Packages

Part of my strategic vision for St Johns' when I was appointed as Principal was to provide an opportunity for our senior girls to steer some of their learning towards their passions and curiosities. This year, our Year 7 and 8 girls finish their weekly music, speech and dance lessons at the end of Term 2, after their speech and dance exams. Every Friday afternoon for the remainder of the year the girls will learn in a package that they select, with the advice and guidance of their family. Term 3's options of 'Need for Speed', 'Performance Showcase' and 'Wearable Arts Spectacular' have certainly ignited rich discussion, excitement and lots of busy planning. In Term 4 the girls will choose from another selection of subjects. We are all very excited to get the teaching and learning underway!

Invoices

The Term 2 invoices for both Boards are now due. Please make these payments promptly.

Kite Inquiry

There is a buzz about the school this term as our girls follow the technology design process in designing, constructing and flying their very own kites. The resilience, teamwork and problem solving are so valuable to every girl, and this is happening right from our new entrants to our senior girls. To celebrate Matariki we will all be traveling to Oreti Beach for the afternoon on Thursday 27 June where we will test our creations out and see if we can launch them up to Ranginui, the sky father. There will be more information to follow.

Testing

We are very fortunate to have a Board who value the 1-1 time our teachers spend with every girl assessing her knowledge of reading and mathematics. This comes at a considerable cost to provide relief teachers to cover the classrooms while the testing occurs. The teachers are busy writing your daughter's mid-year report, and with such valuable achievement data they really know your daughter's abilities inside and out. We look forward to being able to feed back to both you and your daughters at the interviews in the final week of term.



Greetings from the Principal

Bonjour, Goedemiddag, Tena koe

Whakatauki -Māori Proverb

He Manawa tītī

A person with great endurance





Values Cup Recipients



Alysha Jennings Room 8



Victoria Duncan Room 3

Police Dog Training

St John's, along with some other schools, has been approached by the Police to use our grounds and buildings to carry out training exercises with the dog squad. This initiative is to be an effective deterrent to vandals and thieves, as well as discouraging youths from hanging around in the evenings and weekends. Should you see Police and their dogs at school in the evenings or weekends, please don't be alarmed. We are helping them to upskill their service, while they help to keep our school safe.

Speech Exams

There is the usual pre-exam anxiety developing among the girls. Yesterday in assembly we talked about the need for them to chip away at the components of their exam every day. I told them a story from my past about a similar feeling of not being prepared, and about the only way I could fix it; get stuck in every day and learn my material.

Some of you will have upset girls at home who proclaim that they haven't been told what to do. That's not correct. They have been working on their content since the beginning of the year. Some girls are feeling a compounding sense of overwhelm as the date is rapidly approaching. It is impossible for the speech teachers to spend a lot of 1-1 time with every girl in a weekly 40 minute lesson. Please make sure your daughter seeks out assistance when she needs it and takes up the offer of lunchtime help etc when it is offered. You can assist your daughter by setting aside 20 minutes every day for the next week to prepare her. Ask her to show you the requirements for her year level. She has these. This is one of those occasions where putting the hours in will allow for success on the day.

Have a safe and enjoyable weekend.

God Bless.

Nathan Hughes **Tumuaki - Principal**



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUNE

- 10 Swimming [1pm]
- 14 Southland Cross Country
- 17 Swimming Sports [11.45 am] Yr 7 Speech Exams
- 18 Yr 5 Speech Exams Dance Exams
- 19 Yrs 3/4 Speech Exams Dance Exams Sing Out Zone Rehearsal [Choir] BoP Meeting [5.30pm]
- 20 Problem Challenge Yr 8 Speech Exams
- 21 Yr 6 Speech Exams
- 24 Road Safety NZ Police [Rooms 1 & 2] Rm 6 Bake Sale [lunchtime]
- 25 BoT Meeting
- 27 Matariki Kite Celebration Oreti Beach
- 28 Reports Out Mataiki Observation [school closed]

AUGUST

- 15 Cultural Day
- 21 Sing Out Rehearsal [Choir]
- 22 BoT Meeting [5.30pm] Problem Challenge
- 23 Mufti-Day Daffodil Day
- 28 Polyfest Performance [1.40pm]

SEPTEMBER

- 10 Sing Out Rehearsal [Choir]
- 11 BoP Meeting [5.30pm]
- 12 Sing Out Rehearsal [Choir] Sing Out Performance [Choir]
- 19 BoT Meeting [5.30pm]
- 25 Aerobics Festival
- 26 Bonus Points Awarded
- 27 Gymnastics Festival Last day of Term 3

JULY

- 1 Road Safety NZ Police [Rooms 1 & 2]
- 2-5 Life Education Bus
- 3 Interviews 2.15pm [School closed at 2pm]
- 4 Interviews 3.15pm [School closed at 3pm]
- 5 Last day of Term Stripes and Bonus Points awarded
- 22 Day 1 of Term 3
- 30 Parents' Association Meeting [7pm]



From the **KAIARAHI**

Mufti Day

Foodbank PROJECT written by Raine, Leah, Sofia & Star

Last Friday we had a mufti day. We were supporting the Southland Food Bank. We had a rough total of 390 cans and non-perishable food items. The theme for this recent mufti day was whatever you felt comfortable in! It seems boring but it was very very fun! Everybody came in what they felt like and mufti days like this are a great way of expressing yourself and your style. The Kaiarahi and Parents' Association organised a yummy lunch of sausages and ice blocks so a big thank you to the Parents' Association! We all hope you enjoyed mufti day and your delicious lunch, and we hope you enjoy the mufti days to come!





oom 24

Flight! Kites! Lift! Wind!

Our learning this term has centered around kites and why/how they fly.

In our reading groups we learned the science behind flight.



The science behind kites

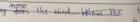
A kite is heavier than air so there needs to be an upward force lift if it is to By. Most of the force comes from the wind pushin against the face of the kite soil.

Agnes

The rest of the force comes from the upper surface of the kite acting like an aeroplane wing (aerofail) Low air pressure is produced on the upper surface.

is that the air on the lower surface of the kite pushes he wing than the air above, producing lift.

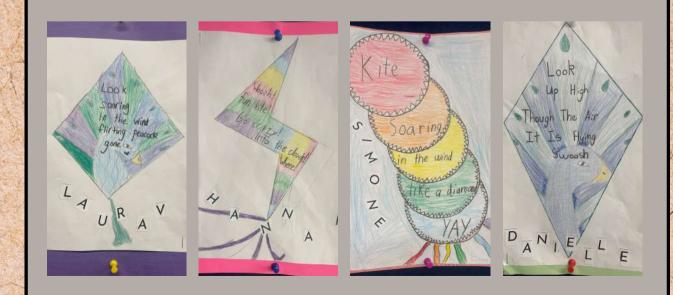
Flying a kite depen the kite. To keep sta on the relative size of the forces act **ality** these forces must be **balanced** ng on



What upward force is needed for a kite to fly? Lift a the force needed so the life What does the upper surface of a kite act like? actional How does stability happen? The forces must be whenced (drag, thrust, weight, life) why does the wind below the life to have does the wind below the life to Rite up it its got the weight on

Poems

In writing we have made poems using descriptive language.



We have had a play around with aerofoils and paper kites and know what is needed to make a kite fly.



construct a successful kite.

udia What have we learned makes a good kite?

What will you need to make a kite?

cardbor String Ogerson Peace of

We look forward to testing our kites out at Matariki time. Watch this space!

Bambo

2

PERSONIFICA

PESOF

Figurative Language Room 6 has been looking at using figurative language when writing to make it more interesting. We worked to understand the types of language and shared some examples. Last week we started some short snapshots of writing using the different types of figurative language.

FIGURATIVE

ANGUAGE

by Isla

Once upon a time there was a little girl called Patricia. She was walking to the local library to hit the books.

by Maya

In the dead of the night, the silvery moon trickled like water through the trees. An elfish young child was slightly glowing silver and gold as the light touched her face.



Alice got on her unicorn and set off. She had to go on a quest for her father who was feeling under the weather.



Room, 7's Kites!

Room 7 has been working hard on making kites for Matariki! We are going to have a kite flying day at Oreti beach on the 27th of June. We have been using a 'Client and Designer' function where we get paired up with someone and that someone is our client and we are their designer, but it goes the other way too so we are also a client and our pair is our designer. We have been following the step by step design process of 'Empathise - Define - Ideate - Prototype - Test'. Above are some examples of the different stages we are at for our kites.

Kites fly using forces such as thrust, pull, drag, lift. We also use bridle lines and bridle points to keep the kites steady. We have learnt a lot about kites and how they work, and learnt about all of the different kites and their inventors.

by Ava, Sophie, Mia P, Gwynedd & Mia R

My First Time in Hospital

My body shakes, I can smell the fear and feel it. Filling my body with the stench of sterile hospital air. Hearing all of the nurses ask me my name and murmuring to other nurses and doctors, that I'm only just hearing over the baby crying, it makes me shiver. Feeling the cosy off-white cotton sheets rub against my legs makes me hot and sweaty.

The taste of saltiness from the sweat and the nerves make me cough and lick my lips. This is my first time in hospital and I'm petrified, I'm only eleven and have a spinal infection!

I look out of the curtain to see all the damaged people and the nurses trotting about. A nurse is trotting towards me, she walks into my room and says

"Do you need some panadol?". "No thanks". "Okay, I'll be back shortly to start your antibiotics..."

by Paige Robertson

Toi Toi Writing

This term we have been doing Toi Toi short story writing. Toi Toi is a book of young children's writing that gets selected from schools all over New Zealand each month. It gets put into a book as a collection. We are creating short stories to enter and hopefully, one or more of our entries gets selected to be in a book this year! We used the 'Pierced Ears' story as our example so we had an understanding of what makes a great short story.

by Meila, Maisie, Nakaysha and Paige

My First Waterski

Deep in the bone chilling water, my lip trembles and my young weak legs struggle to keep the oversized skis out of the water. The ice cold water submerges my wetsuit.

Grasping the jagged rope, I smell the fear ripping through my flesh. People are staring, the waves collide into me.

All I can hear is my inconceivable thoughts ringing in my head, that give me knots in my stomach. Everyone pointing makes me feel nauseous. Tears tremble down my rosy cheeks. The boat engine roars, I get yanked up by the boat, I heave. Gliding across the water the air brushes against my delicate skin, this is a buzz!

by Gracie Dennis

Learning Packages

In term three and four Year 7 & 8 will be provided with a new learning experience. Every Friday afternoon the girls will go off to their chosen activity.

The girls will get to have 3 choices of activities. They will pick their first & second choices. The three different subjects are very individual, so there is something for everyone!

The activities are: Need for Speed - taught by Mrs Bradshaw, Performance Showcase - taught by Mr Hughes, and Wearable Arts Spectacular - taught by Mrs Stewart. For more info on the learning packages, any of our year 7 & 8s would be delighted to answer any questions.

by Zoe, Martina, Abby & Drew

 \sim



Design Thinking

Room 8 have been exploring the design thinking process in inquiry. One quickthinking activity involved designing and then creating a chair for a specific person using a range of different materials. The ability to ideate, think on our feet and remain calm when given a limited time frame was definitely a challenge!

Kites

We have finished making our prototype sled kites. We used bin liners, garden canes, tape and string. We then went out to the back field for some test flights. We think a bit more wind might have helped, but we may also need to fine-tune our design and flying skills. Alysha and Evie's kite was a definite success. We are going to try a smaller sled kite design before creating our own kites over the next couple of weeks.







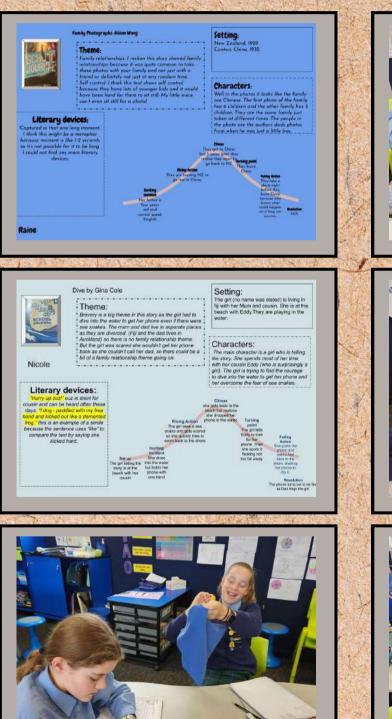


Booksnaps

Our homework routine includes creating 'booksnaps' in which we respond to a text we are reading. This term, we have been using journal stories to show our understanding of narrative structure, themes, literary devices, setting and characters.

Maths - Probability

Earlier this term, we explored experimental and theoretical probability in maths. We had lots of fun conducting our probability tests, and then using percentages to confirm our thinking around the probability of an event happening.

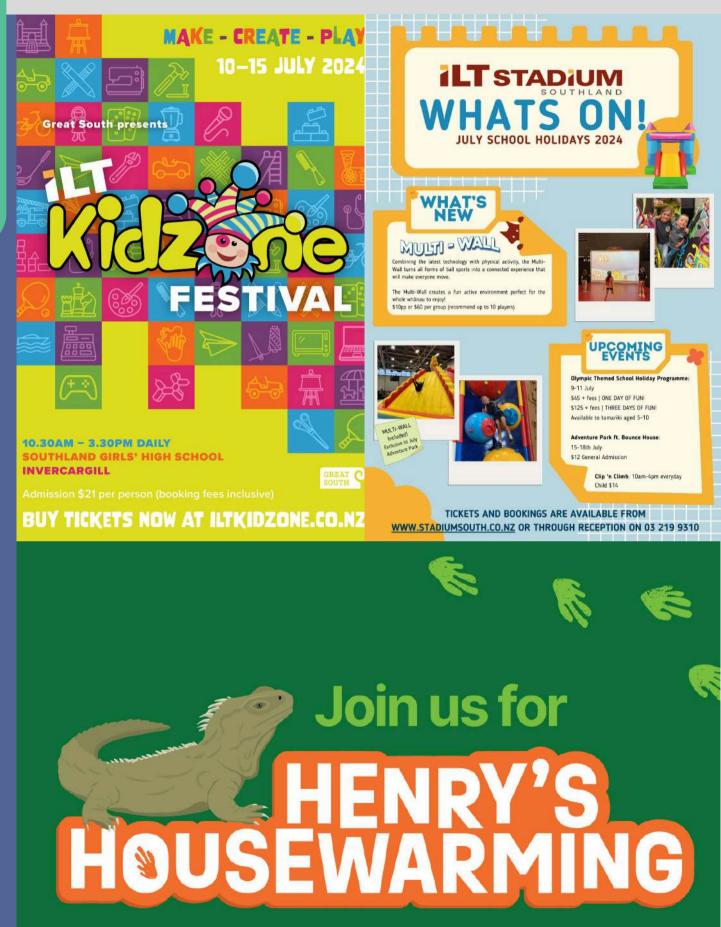






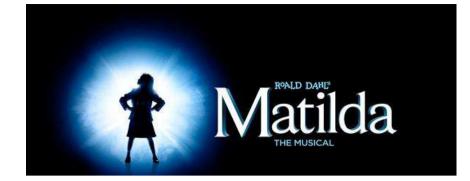


NOTICES



Saturday 8 June. 10am-1pm. Queens Park Animal Reserve.





MATILDA THE MUSICAL

INVERCARGILL MUSICAL THEATRE JULY 2025

PRE -AUDITION INFORMATION

CHARACTERS

MATILDA

Singing and acting role with some dance Aged between 8 and 12yrs Height under 130cm approx. We are looking for 3x children to play the role of Matilda and to share the performances throughout the season

CHILDRENS CAST

Bruce Lavender Amanda Eric Hortensia Tommy Nigel Alice

All aged between 8 and 13yrs

All have to sing dance and act height under 147cm approx.

Boys must have unbroken voices.

BACKING VOCALISTS Children 2 sets of 10 to share performances

MATILDA REHEARSALS

Children (*onstage and backing vocalists*) Music rehearsals with the Musical Director for the children will commence in late January.

Rehearsals with the Director, Choreographer and Musical Director:

Rehearsal period 1:

February 15th 2025 - 12th April 2025

Rehearsal period 2:

May 15th - July 12th

NB Children's rehearsals will continue between periods 1 and 2 with a dance captain and acting coach.

PRE-AUDITION MEETING FOR PARENTS

Friday, June 28th (Matariki Holiday) at 1 pm at IMT Rooms.

The creative team will explain the Matilda production process and it is a chance to ask the production team questions about rehearsals and commitment.

Note: this meeting is for parents/caregivers only, NOT the children.

Girls interested in auditioning for the role of Matilda are to email info@imti.co.nz

🗆 age

□ height and experience by June 26th.

