

Dear Parents/Caregivers/Whanau,
Kia Ora Koutou

The teaching and learning year has had a fantastic start. Core teaching and learning programmes around reading, writing and mathematics are now well underway.

Thank you for attending recent Goal Setting meetings. A positive message for our learners about our strong student/home partnership. It has been great connecting with the students to celebrate their successes at our assemblies and Principal's morning teas. My appreciation to our wonderful staff for providing rich learning opportunities and experiences. On that note our vision is to ensure that our learners are confident, happy, lifelong learners and caring citizens who contribute positively to a sustainable world. The current opportunities and experiences outside the classroom also help our students to become those well rounded individuals. We have had students participating in the Let's Go/Mā Ake Cycle Skills programme. Shortly the Life Education programme is being delivered school wide, Year 4→6 are having their annual camping experience, swimming and triathlon training is in full swing, Discovery time has started, Choir, Earth Kids and much more. As a parent as well as principal, I am really appreciative of all the "other - non core" experiences and opportunities our children get, creating many great memories of school days. The staff have expressed to me their gratitude for the wonderful parent help and support they are receiving for all these "extra" opportunities. Thank you.

Nga mihi
Michael Fitzgerald

New Students

A warm welcome to Paige Tasker and Katy McCullum who recently joined our school family. We wish you all the best with your learning at our school.



KEA CROSSING

The Kea Crossing on Great North Road opposite the Virginia Lake Aviary is still operating every morning. We thank those parents who are electing to drop their children off at the aviary so that they can safely walk to school, thus helping to reduce the congestion at the school gate. We suggest that the parents who are driving past the crossing in the morning consider dropping their children off so that the wardens, assisted by a trained adult supervisor, can cross them safely followed by a short walk to school.

Coronavirus Update

At the time of writing, New Zealand has three confirmed cases of the COVID-19 virus. The Ministry of Health is closely monitoring the situation and following guidelines from the World Health Organisation (WHO). The likelihood of additional cases in New Zealand is high, however, the probability of a widespread outbreak remains low. If your children or anyone in your household is travelling overseas, through any of the effected countries, please ensure you inform the school. A 14 day quarantine may be required.

Handwashing to prevent spread:

- Washing hands with soap and water before and after eating as well as after attending the toilet
- Covering coughs/sneezes with clean tissues or with an elbow
- Putting used tissues in the bin

Encouraging children, staff and students to stay home if they are unwell.

You will be aware that advice from Health asks everyone to wash your hands often and thoroughly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, making sure you dry them thoroughly. Singing Happy Birthday slowly twice, should take about 20 seconds!!!

Virtues Awards

Well done to the following students who were recently recognised for displaying their virtues and celebrated with morning tea with Mr Fitzgerald. Well done!



Whanaungatanga - a sense of belonging (Enthusiasm/Cooperation):
Grace Ivory, Liam Cox, Jessie Howells, Emily Jamieson, Melissa Lister, Carter Hallett.
(Kindness):
Ethan Toy, Sophia Su'a.
Ako - a cooperative and considerate learner:
Piper Loft Angel, Jonty Belliss.
Courage:
Scarlett Prussing, Logan Smith,



Jed Bullock, Wyatt Cross, Natasha Yuen, Ayva-Jay Hall, Anthony Dew, Freddie Thompson.
Friendliness:
Morrison Davis, Evie Watson,

Coby Davis-Phillips, Matilda Milsom, Aaliyah King.



Whanaungatanga - a sense of belonging (Enthusiasm): Blake Sutherland, Jesse Toohill.
Reliability: Lachlan Pitt, Te Manawanui Marks-George.
Ako - Diligence and Enthusiasm: Jaime Munro, Jude Riordan.
Ako - Cooperation and consideration: Milly Vivian, Asta Norman.
Kotahitanaga (Friendliness): Ben Forsyth, Elizabeth Morton, Harrison Ward, Imogen Daley.
Rangatiratanga (Our best always): Frankie Devane,

Wairangi Potaka-Osborne Milner-Skudder.

Courage: Maggie Savage, Indigo Su'a, Eshaan Sabari, Oliver Dodds.
Friendliness: Patrick Fitzgerald.

Ruru Team Coastal Day of Learning

On Wednesday and Thursday last week Ruru Team travelled to Castlecliff beach for a 'Coastal Day of Learning' Designed to develop a love for our coast, and heighten awareness of how we can protect it, the day involved learners rotating through four amazing activities.



The activities included:

Traditional Māori storytelling and songs, environmental art, a biodiversity investigation and care of our seas. Learners cooperated well with peers from across the Ruru Team and were supported by a skilled team of educators from the museum, art gallery, and Enviroschools, as well as parents and helpers.

There has been much discussion and learning prompted by the trip and we are grateful to all those who assisted in making the day possible.

Academic Achievement and/or Progress:



Congratulations to the following students:



- Sam Penwarden** Having a Growth Mindset and positive attitude to all his learning.
- Riley Loader** For his positive attitude to learning and self management.
- Addison Healey** Showing great determination in maths problem solving.
- Ella Papworth** Top result in P.A.T Listening. Great understanding of what was being read to her.
- Livia Salliu** Competently, thoughtfully and creatively expressing her understanding through what she says and writes.
- Kayla-Rose Yakas** Setting high standards and a growth mindset in her work.
- Elyse Hale** Using powerful language and interesting sentence structure in your writing.
- Lily Pedley** Using a Growth mindset during writing. Well done Lily, you used your phonological fingers to help you sound out words you wanted to write.
- James Macpherson** Incredible ocean research - Well done on your fact box!
- Ayden Benton** Fantastic effort and commitment to his reading and using phoneme fingers to help figure out new words. Ka pai!
- Max Coleman** Fantastic effort with writing.
- Emily Tonks** Working so hard on her reading!
- Keira Harris** Using sounding out strategies to write words independently in her draft writing.
- Greyson Pitt** Having a Growth mindset and applying himself in reading.
- Alex Turner** Working hard at writing the sounds he hears in words.

School Lockdown Practice

Providing a safe physical and emotional environment for students and staff is our BOT commitment. As part of this we need to make sure we have appropriate responses to ensure safety of all in a range of events. A lockdown of our school will be implemented at any time students, staff and visitors need to be contained and protected inside school buildings. This we hope will separate them from any risk. Next week, without alarming the students, the staff will be talking with the students about the purpose of a lockdown being to keep everyone safe and the procedure this will take. The students will practise these procedures in their classroom prior to having a school-wide practice the following week. Students may share with you information about this and we appreciate, without alarming them or causing any anxiety, you reinforcing safety messages.

 **Green-Gold Enviroschool**
EARTH KIDS Education for Sustainability
 **Schoolgen School**
Health Promoting School

School Swimming Sports – Monday 9th March, 10am – 1pm

On Monday the 9th of March we will be holding our senior school swimming sports. This event will be held at the Splash Centre starting as close to 10am as possible. Students in years 4, 5 and 6 will be involved and will have to be able to confidently swim one length of the Splash Centre in either freestyle, backstroke or breaststroke. Event order for the day will be Freestyle, Backstroke, Breaststroke starting with the 8 year old girls then boys, followed by 9 year olds and finishing with 10+year old. All students that are competing will be leaving school at 9:30 and walking to the Splash Centre. We will require some parents to accompany us for this walk. Please contact your child's classroom teacher if you are able to help.

School Triathlon – Friday 13th March, 1pm – 2:45pm

On Friday 13th of March we will be holding our senior school triathlon final. Prior to this date, year groups will have run their own event and students will have recorded a time for doing a full triathlon. On the day of the final students will be grouped with others that have recorded similar times in practice races. Students will need to complete all three sections of the triathlon to compete on the day. They will require their togs, towel, bikes and helmet. Parents are encouraged to come along and support the competitors on this day.

Bible in School

Starts Wednesday 11th March. Programme delivered to Room 1→6. This is an international religious education programme which also supports the teaching of the values/virtues we promote and encourage at our school. If your child is not to attend, please send a note. Children not attending will be supervised at the library. Thank you.



Thank you to those who have paid \$6 for your child's online learning profile. If you have not yet made payment this would be appreciated and can be paid to your child's classroom teacher or at the office. Thank you.

School Payments

Payments for all school based activities eg: camp, sports, trips, voluntary donations can be paid by direct credit into the school bank account.

[SJHS BOT: 03-0791-0552038-00](https://www.stjohnshill.school.nz)
Please use your child's name and activity type as reference.

PTA News

Easter Buns—Term 1 Fundraiser

A reminder that order forms and money are due in by next Friday 13th March. Please support us by asking friends/family/colleagues/ neighbours to purchase these delicious packs for Easter. Buns will be delivered to school Wednesday 1st April.



Disco

Date: Friday 13th March
Time: Juniors (Rm 7-16) **5-6pm** Seniors (Rm 1-6) **6.30-7.30pm.**
Cost: Entry \$3. Treats/Face Painting available 50c-\$2.
White/Neon clothing is suggested as new lighting is being trialed. Please ensure your child is accompanied to the hall and collected by an adult from the hall promptly at the end.



Sausage Sizzle

Date: Thursday 9th April
Time: Lunchtime
Cost: \$2 per sausage. This will be collected from the classroom on the morning of the sausage sizzle.

