



NEWSLETTER

Week 4, Term 4
3 November 2020

Kia ora whanau,

It was lovely to celebrate assembly together as a school last week. There is great value in coming together as a whole school. It gave classes an opportunity to share some of what they had been doing and last week we were treated to lovely garden art from Room 1 as well as very moving tableaus of the Sorrowful Mysteries from Room 2. It also gave us the opportunity to welcome our newest members from Room 13. I believe that the ability to speak with confidence in public is so important for our children and I was once again stunned by the leadership from our Year 6 house leaders and our Ambassadors. Not all people innately love the limelight and it is great to see the children developing their skills and confidence over time.

Family Prayer

God be with our family,
From the youngest to the oldest,
Lighting up our relationships,
Sowing grace into our troubles.

God be with our family,
Weaving love into our work,
Our rest, and our play.

Amen.

www.lords-prayer-words.com

Friday also saw the collection of Cans for Christmas, and I would like to thank you all for your generosity. We collected 15 boxes of cans which will be collected to be distributed to those in need this Christmas through St Vincent de Paul and the Mercy Hospice.

The children also came together on Monday afternoon to share in the performance of "And the Winner is..." The feedback from the children was that it was a great show. Some of our younger students were absolutely amazed at the speed of the costume changes. The children joined in with the performance, and the singing could be heard through the walls.

God's blessings on you all, Viki Trainor – Principal





PTFA RACED NIGHT – THIS FRIDAY, 7.30pm!

It's not too late! Tickets available to purchase all week via the school office or pay online
Account number: 12 – 3042 – 0268412 – 00 Tickets \$20 per person

We would love to have your support for a fun night at the races.

Come and dress up yourself and your tables and have a flutter on the horses (funny money provided)

Be sure to bring some \$2.00 coins for the win a bottle coin toss.

The hall will be available from 2.30pm on Friday to dress up your table.

Don't worry if you haven't got a full 10 people on your table.

Please note there are no physical tickets, we will have a list on the door of all that have paid

Any questions please email gemmacluskey@hotmail.com or 021761778

See you there for a fun night out!



CONCERNS PROCESS

Parents occasionally have enquires/ concerns about their children's progress at school and from time to time things occur at school which lead to parents seeking clarification. These could include child behaviour and behavioural attitudes, relationships with other children or teachers, programmes of work, school activities, general school policy or day to day incidents that may arise.

The classroom teacher is the first and best point of contact to answer the concerns or enquiries of parents about their children. Generally matters are resolved at this level as they know your children and the situation the best.

We ask that you make contact with the person concerned to arrange a time to discuss the matter privately, indicating beforehand what it is about as the time before and after school when the children are in the classroom or teachers are heading out on duty or to a meeting can be quite busy meaning that your concerns can not be given the teacher's full attention. As you will understand, during the day and when the children are in the classroom they are the teacher's first priority.

If the concern is about a student, please contact the student's teacher directly via email. Teachers will respond by the end of the next school day, which allows them time, outside of class teaching time to gather the information they need to consider and address your concerns.

If the enquiry is not about a particular student, but about schoolwide policy or procedures please feel free to contact the office who will pass your concern onto the appropriate person.

CLASS PLACEMENTS 2021

It is time once again to organise our classes for the following year. Teachers and Senior Leadership are now in the process of placing children into classes. Our teachers spend a lot of time getting to know your children as little people and in a learning capacity. Therefore, their professional judgment is critical when placing the children in classes.

If you wish to share any information about your child that you think we need to know when finalising placement please email classes@symb.school.nz by Thursday, 5th November. Confirmed placements for 2021 will be included in your child's end of year school report

DATE REMINDER

2021 Year 6 Camp - The parent information meeting for our current Year 5 children who will be attending camp next year is on Tuesday, 17th November at 6:30pm in R6

DATE CANCELLATIONS

In the Week 1 newsletter you will have seen on the list of calendar dates a trip to Birkenhead for our Year 6 children on **Friday, 11th December**. Sadly, this trip will not be going ahead this year due to circumstances beyond our control.

Friday, 4th December, Junior School Nativity – this event has been cancelled, however, our Junior children will still be having a Christmas celebration, more information to follow in due course.

SIBLING, FLIPPABALL AND TOUCH TEAM PHOTOS

Photographs of Siblings, Flippaball and Touch Teams have been rescheduled for Monday, 9th November.

Sports Uniform reminders:

Flippaball: swimming togs (caps will be provided at school)

Touch: full school PE uniform plus white socks and sneakers

All children with long hair must wear it in a tidy, tied up style as they would on any game day.

CULTURE BOXES

We are very blessed to have so many cultures and languages represented within our St John's community. Parents may be familiar with the Culture Boxes, Shoe Box Autobiographies or Brown Paper Bag Autobiographies which some classes create at the start of each year.



We would like to expand on this concept by creating '**Culture Boxes**' which can be used across the school on a regular basis to celebrate our rich cultural diversity. If families have any spare items that they could give to the school that represent a country, culture, or language, we would be very grateful to add these to our Culture Boxes. **Donations could include ornaments, instruments, pictures, photos, books, fabric, clothing, carvings, art, postcards, posters, calendars, flags, maps, crockery etc.** Items can be sent to Room 3 or the school office with a note to say which country they are from.

Many thanks in advance, Elizabeth Hames – ESOL Coordinator

SECOND HAND UNIFORM

There will be a Second Hand Uniform Sale in the School Hall at 2.30pm **THIS Thursday, 5th November**. Please bring cash to pay for your purchases.

Please see the notice below regarding introduction of the new uniform style. Please contact our parent co-ordinator for any particular needs: Fran Gilchrist, Tel: 021 488 279.

HAUORA WELLBEING

As a community we are all experiencing challenges at present – within our families, our learning environments, our businesses, and the wider community. Some challenges may seem overwhelming but there are many organisations and resources that can help us.



2020 has not been an easy year for our whanau for so many different reasons. But here we are in Term 4 hoping for a better 2021. This article from Ellie Gwilliam at the Parenting Place is a discussion about how to keep calm as the year speeds up to the finish.

<https://parentingplace.nz/school-learning/keeping-calm-and-coping-with-term-four/>

Also, check out Australian parenting guru, Maggie Dent for tips about almost everything parenting at <https://www.maggiedent.com/>.

Please don't be afraid to ask for help. No-one will judge you. Covid has impacted everyone. You are not alone, and you will be ok.

UNIFORM REMINDER OF THE WEEK



The School Board made the decision at its meeting last week to extend the changeover period for our school uniform. The uniform was changed in 2018, with an initial changeover period of two years. We know that these are unprecedented times and some of our families are experiencing changes and difficulties in their situation. With the extension, **children are able to wear the older items of uniform until the end of the year, 2021.** We expect that by the end of 2021, the second hand uniform shop will start having the new style items for sale as our children grow and move on to high school.

CONGRATULATIONS

Maria Hale – Netball, **Sophie Hayward** – Netball, **Emma Neill** – Netball
Isla McQueen – Auckland Marathon Children's Division

Cecilia Zeng won the 2nd place in the "Sino-New Zealand Children's poetry online competition". She has been learning Chinese poetry since the beginning of the year and she really enjoyed it. Due to COVID-19 and lockdowns, the competition was changed to an online version.



PARISH NEWS

St John's Church Garden Working Bee: Saturday, 7th November

Many hands make light work! Please do consider giving some of your time to keep our church gardens looking beautiful. For more information please contact Beate

Foodbank Items: this week we would like to focus on tea bags, coffee and biscuits. Please leave in the basket in the church foyer. Thank you!



BAPTISM PREPARATION: FOR PARENTS WANTING THEIR FIRST CHILD BAPTISED.

The course will be held at St John's Church; Tuesdays November 17th & 24th; 7:15pm.

Attendance at a preparation course is a pre-requisite for parents wanting their 1st child baptised. To enrol/book. Email Liz in the office.

Conversational English

If you know of anyone who would like to improve their spoken English we would welcome them to join our group. We are a mixed group from different countries. We meet each Wednesday at 1.00pm in a small chapel at St John's Church. For information contact Mary Finlayson, Tel: 09 444 7156

LET'S CELEBRATE!

Our parish has much to celebrate and be grateful for.
Let us celebrate together at **St Francis Church on Sunday, 15th November.**

You are welcome to join for 10.30am Mass or just arrive on time at 11.45am for the official part of our special day:

- COVID-19 debrief (Parish Pastoral Council)
- Short Annual General Meeting
- Opportunity to share your ideas (please write your thoughts on paper and contribute to the meeting beforehand – drop note into the parish office or send an email to office@ecbcatholic.org.nz)
- Thanksgiving to the volunteers in our parish
- Invitation to a celebration with sausage sizzle, yummy treats and free barista made coffee.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

North Shore Dove Fellowship for Women will meet at St. Thomas More Church hall in Glenfield on 18th Nov 2020 at 7:30 p.m. for the final meeting for the year. The speaker is INGRID D'SOUZA and the topic is THE LORD IS MY STRENGTH. Scripture reference is Exodus 15:2-3 *The Lord is my strength and my might, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him. The Lord is a warrior; the Lord is his name.*

Race Night

PARENTS NIGHT OUT

HAVE A FLUTTER ON THE HORSES

FRI 6TH NOV

TKTS \$20 (INCLUDES FUNNY MONEY)

PRIZES TO BE WON



Please return to Office with payment by 2nd November

FAMILY NAME FOR TICKETS _____

ELDEST CHILD _____ RM No. _____

TABLE NAME _____

No OF TKTS (\$20) _____ TOTAL ALL TKTS \$ _____

(CIRCLE) CASH - EFTPOS - ONLINE A/C 12-3042-0268412-00

Enquires to Gemma Wavish 021761778 gemmamccluskey@hotmail.com