



Week 6, Term 4
23rd November 2021

NEWSLETTER

Te Reo o te Kura o Hato Hoani The voice of St John's School



Kia Ora whānau,

George was the first child I welcomed back onsite at the front entrance of school last week. He came zooming up to the gate on his bike with a huge smile on his face. *"It's great to see you, George,"* I said. *"It's great to see you too"* he replied, and that was all it took to make sense of this very unusual situation we currently find ourselves in. The rest of the morning was filled with our beautiful children, most adorned in masks, waving goodbye to their parents and bouncing into school, bursting to share their stories.

However, it has not been easy. For you, our parent community, this is extremely challenging, your own work commitments accompanied by staggered days of school, and home learning on Fridays. I thank you for your understanding and ongoing support of our team as we endeavour to navigate our way through this.

I also extend my gratitude to my team, who have accepted, adapted, and embraced the current situation. Their commitment to ensuring that the children have fond memories of the last few weeks of school for 2021 is to be commended.

It looks as though we will move to the new Traffic Light System in the not-too-distant future and I will keep you informed of what this will mean for our school as I am expecting more information about this later in the week.

A particular thank you to Mrs Hanabadi for donating mini hand sanitizers for every child in our school.

BUBBLE SCHOOL AND STAGGERED ON-SITE DAYS

As you are aware we are operating our school on staggered days. We made this decision based on advice and guidance from the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education. Other schools have opted to open differently, allowing all children on-site. Some of these schools justify this decision because their rolls are not full and they have spare learning spaces, they have more than one toilet block and have multi learning spaces (hubs) where children can be spaced out.

We have single cell classrooms, one toilet block and a geographically challenging play area. We have taken absolutely every precaution we can to minimise risk. We have supervised rolling playtimes (8) ongoing throughout the day with each class having allocated play areas. We want all our community to feel safe to be at school.

We understand that people are all at different levels of concern. We are catering for those who are most concerned so that they can return their children to school, albeit in a part time capacity.

I know some families would love for their children to be at school for more days and some have requested this. Although we too would love for this to happen, we are unable to cater for these numbers under the current public health guidelines. We are unable to extend days to any more children as we will be exceeding our safe limit of children on-site. I apologise for any inconvenience this may cause and feel sorry that I cannot help more.

God bless,
Viki Trainor- Principal

STAFF UPDATE

We are very sorry to be saying farewell to two of our awesome teachers at the end of this year.

Mrs Suzanne Zaisluik, who has been at our school for 13 years, is having a lifestyle change and heading a little further north to take up another teaching role. Mrs Zaisluik has taught mostly in the Senior School, has been Acting Director of Religious Studies and a member of the Senior Leadership Team. We will really miss Suzanne and little Olivia and wish them all the best in their new venture.

Mrs Paula Ritsma is also moving on. Paula has been with us for two and half years. During this time Paula has co-led our Garden to Table programme and our Te Reo/Tikanga Programme. We will all miss Paula very much and wish her well as she continues her teaching career at her new school.

We are very excited to welcome **Mrs Imelda Moss** permanently to our team. Imelda has taught part time this year across the school, and we have absolutely loved having her, so we are thrilled that she will now be with us full time in 2022. **Mrs Grace Atmadji** has opened our new entrants class for the past two years. Grace is a wonderful Junior School teacher and the little ones love her. We are so happy that Grace has agreed to work full time and teach a Year One class for 2022.

CLASS PLACEMENTS 2022

We acknowledge that these are unusual times. In order to provide some stability for our children, the classes will move together, as a group, to their new classroom and year level. Although class placements are usually communicated through the end of year report, this decision allows us to share this information with you now.

This Year	→	Next Year
Room 10 (Kowhai) Year 0 Mrs Grace Atmadji	→	These children will be split between R11(Mrs Fuaaletoelau) and R12 (Mrs Atmadji) with children commencing in 2022.
Room 10 (Kowhai) Year 1 Mrs Grace Atmadji	→	Room 9 (Pohutukawa) Year 2 Mrs Anne Howard and Mrs Katrina Little
Room 11(Ti Kouka) Year 1 Mrs Vivienne Fuaaletoelau	→	Room 9 (Pohutukawa) Year 2 Mrs Anne Howard and Mrs Katrina Little
Room 12 (Mahoe) Year 1 Mrs Beverley Harper	→	Room 13 (Ponga) Year 2 Mrs Beverley Harper
Room 13 (Ponga) Year 2 Mrs Laura Baddeley	→	Room 8 (Karo) Year 3 Mrs Allison Miller and Mrs Wendy Whiteman
Room 9 (Pohutukawa) Year 2 Mrs Anne Howard and Mrs Katrina Little	→	Room 7 (Harakeke) Year 3 Mrs Elizabeth Hames and Mrs Katrina Little
Room 8 (Karo) Year 3 Mrs Allison Miller and Mrs Wendy Whiteman	→	Room 3 (Tarata) Year 4 Mrs Carrie Mercer
Room 7 (Harakeke) Year 3 Mrs Elizabeth Hames and Mrs Katrina Little	→	Room 2 (Mapou) Year 4 Mrs Laura Baddeley
Room 2 (Mapou) Year 4 Mrs Cara Mountjoy	→	Room 1(Houpara) Year 5 Mrs Cara Mountjoy
Room 1(Houpara) Year 4 Mrs Suzanne Zaisluik	→	Room 4 (Kauri) Year 5 Mrs Imelda Moss
Room 3 (Tarata) Year 5 Mrs Carrie Mercer	→	Room 5 (Whau) Year 6 Mrs Helen Perry and Mrs Wendy Whiteman
Room 4 (Kauri) Year 5 Mrs Paula Ritsma	→	Room 6 (Manuka) Year 6 Mrs Claire Taylor

We farewell our graduating Year 6 students

REPORTING AND PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

As a result of the lockdown and the disruption to onsite learning, experts have stressed the importance of prioritising well-being for all and in particular for children. Our professional opinion, which is shared by most educators, is that testing children immediately upon returning onsite, (which is what would have been required to gather assessment data), is not in the children's best interest. Therefore, onsite learning has focused on ensuring the children are happy, safe and exposed to authentic learning opportunities, with many activities being outdoors.

Therefore, your child's end of year report will look different for 2021. The report will include teacher judgement around the Key Competencies and a written statement covering key observations of learning across curriculum areas and identifying the children's 'bright spots'.

We believe that communication with whānau is extremely important and probably of the most value for our children going into 2022. Therefore, parents will also be offered the opportunity to meet with the teacher via Zoom to discuss their child's learning and well-being.

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parent Teacher Conferences will be held via Zoom on Friday, 3rd December

Each appointment will be **10 minutes** in length and can be booked via www.schoolinterviews.co.uk using our unique, case sensitive code **cyjgt**

Teachers will send an email with the relevant link for your interview **after bookings are closed on Tuesday, 30th November at 3.00pm**

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL 2021

For children in the Monday/Wednesday bubble, school will close at 12:00 on Monday 13th December. For children in the Tuesday/Thursday bubble, school will close at 12:00 on Tuesday 14th December. School will open again on February 3rd, 2022.

PHOTOGRAPHS – For children not returning to school

If you have chosen for your children to not return to school yet but have indicated via email that you still wish for your child to have their photograph taken you are welcome to do so. The Photolife photographers will be in the school hall between 9am – 9.45am tomorrow (Wednesday 24th, November) morning for this purpose.

Please follow this procedure:

- Please use the car park at the turning circle off East Coast Road
- Ensure that everyone, Year 4 and above, coming onto the school site wears a face covering
- If you arrive prior to 8.50am please remain in your vehicle
- After school has started (8.50am) please make your way directly to the school hall
- Scan QR code and sign in with member of staff
- Please wait outside until you are requested to enter the hall by one of the photographers using the entrance indicated - door near kitchen, or door near stage.
- Whilst waiting please ensure that you social distance from other families also waiting
- As soon as your child(ren)'s photograph(s) have been taken please sign out before leaving

In due course Photolife will send an email directly to parent's email with details of individual shoot key codes and how to order photographs.

PTFA RAFFLE

Many thanks to the PTFA, and in particular Rebekah Saxon for co-ordinating our Calendar Raffle Fundraiser during these difficult times. Winners have been notified and are also listed on our school website and Community Facebook Page. All vouchers have been sent home with your children, or mailed, so if you have not received them please check your children's bags carefully.

ADVENT

This Sunday marks the beginning of Advent, a time for preparing for the coming of Christ. The children will be learning about the meaning of Advent as we prepare for the birth of Christ.

The Advent wreath is a circular evergreen wreath with four candles, three purple and one rose. The candles symbolise the light of Christ coming into the world. Each candle is first lit on the appropriate Sunday of Advent, and then the candles may be lit each day as a part of the individual's or family's daily prayers.



The candles have been given various names:

Candle 1. Hope [purple] Candle 2. Peace [purple] Candle 3. Joy [rose] Candle 4. Love [purple]

Taken from <http://www.churchyear.net/adventwreath.html>

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

I am sure we are all aware that some families have struggled a great deal more than others due to the impact of Covid-19 and the various Lockdowns we have lived through. De Paul House is currently accommodating 50 families (83 adults and 115 children).

Due to the restrictions of lockdown and logistic complications, this year De Paul House is having to change their toy and gift appeal. They are aiming to give every child, teenager and adult a gift voucher, to allow them to choose their own gift. (\$30 per child, \$50 per teenager & adult) from either The Warehouse, Kmart or Westfield.



If you would like to donate a voucher these are being collected at the school office along with donations of food items, which De Paul house are always in desperate need of biscuits, chocolates, pantry staples (tea, coffee etc).

If you would prefer to make a donation directly payments can be made to Online banking: BNZ 02-0278-0059429-02 please use the reference "Christmas"

With very many thanks from De Paul House for any donations.

REMINDERS



HATS

Our school summer hats must be worn during Term 4 and 1, please ensure that all hats are very clearly labelled. New hats can be purchased from [NZ Uniforms](#).

WATER BOTTLES

Especially during this warmer weather, it is ESSENTIAL that all children bring a water bottle to school EVERY day as our drinking fountains remain switched off. These can be refilled in the classrooms.



MASKS

Year 4 - 6 children need to have a clearly named mask at school at all times to be worn when they are inside. Other children are very welcome to wear a mask if you wish for them to do so. Please remember that any adult that needs to come onto the school site must be wearing a mask.

SCHOOL SWIMMING POOL KEYS FOR SUMMER USE

We are sorry to inform you that we have had to make the decision that due to Covid-19 Health and Safety requirements we are unable to hire out keys to the school pool at this stage. We will review this decision following our return to school in the new year. We do appreciate that this will be a great disappointment to many of you and thank you for your support.

SPORTS UNIFORMS

All inventory belonging to the school needs to be accounted for before the end of the school year. All uniforms will be checked back in against the 'issued list' we have, so **please ensure that you return them otherwise charges may be incurred.**



- All netball players, please return your netball uniform (Skirt or Dress and Fleece) washed in a bag with your name, year level and team to your COACH / MANAGER.
- All basketball singlets, hockey, and school fleeces, and all other uniforms and sports fleeces should be returned to your COACH / MANAGER.
- Team Managers / Coaches please return your kit bags with bibs, ball, first aid box, all Player of the Day Trophies and all uniforms for your team to the school office or Karen Dorrington as soon as possible.

TERM DATES FOR 2022

Term 1 – Thursday, 3rd February to Thursday, 14th April

Term 2 – Monday, 2nd May to Friday, 8th July

Term 3 – Monday, 25th July to Friday, 30th September

Term 4 – Monday, 17th October to Date TBC

Providing for
Catholic Schools
in the Auckland
Diocese

THE MARY THOMAS BUILDING
Rosmini College, Takapuna

ATTENDANCE DUES

Attendance Dues are used to pay for building related costs at Catholic Schools in the Auckland Diocese. Paying Attendance Dues is a condition of enrolment for all students attending New Zealand Catholic Schools. Attendance Dues are compulsory – there is a legal requirement for parents and caregivers to pay Attendance Dues under the Education and Training Act 2020.

ATTENDANCE DUES ARE:

2022	PRIMARY STUDENTS	SECONDARY STUDENTS
per year (incl. GST)	\$468	\$916
per term (incl. GST)	\$117	\$229

For more information:
www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/Compulsory-Charges-and-Contributions
Phone: (09) 360 3040 **Email:** acfl@cda.org.nz

Catholic Special Character Contribution

SUPPORTING
CATHOLIC EDUCATION
IN OUR SCHOOLS

The Catholic Special Character contribution is used to fund the staff and services provided by the Catholic Education Services Board who are responsible, on behalf of the Proprietor, for safeguarding and strengthening the Catholic Special Character of our schools.

The contribution is \$12.50 per term per student or \$50 per student per year.

The contribution is tax deductible and a 33% refund can be claimed from the IRD.

For more information:
www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/catholic-education-services/
Phone: (09) 3603091 **Email:** ces@cda.org.nz

LIBRARY NEWS

Welcome back to school, it is lovely seeing the children back.

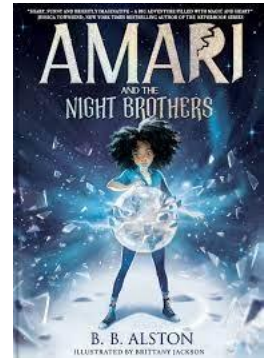
Stocktake is now under way, thank you to those who were able to return their Library Books last week. Overdue notices will be coming home with your children this week so please look out for a slip of paper in their school bags. Please ignore the notice if your child returned the item already following last weekend.

Recommended Books

In my role as the school librarian, I read a LOT of children's books. It helps in selecting and promoting books to our tamariki to get as much reading engagement as possible. I thought you might like to know what I have enjoyed reading this year to help you with any Christmas book selections, although your local bookstores are experts and will help guide you too.

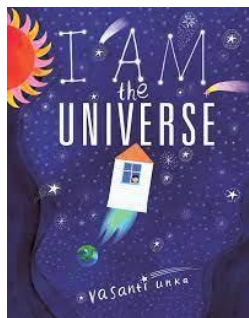
Senior - *Amari and the Night Brothers* by B.B Alston

I felt this was a cross between Men In Black and Harry Potter, I will definitely be adding this to our school library next year. It is an absolute page turner of a book.



"Amari and the Night Brothers has all the comforting appeal of an updated, girl-centred Harry Potter, but its roots are planted firmly in the American soil of Men in Black and Into The Spiderverse. All signs point to this being the start of a wildly popular series that readers aged 9 and up will fall in love with." - Booktrust

Junior - *I am the Universe* by Vasanti Unka



This was a popular read when I read it to the school this year during library time. The children enjoyed recognizing the local landmarks as the book zoomed into Auckland City.

"From glittering galaxies to busy city streets, this stunning picture book takes you on a tour around the Universe. I am the Universe, an infinite space of glittering galaxies. It's a starlit journey through space that will lead you to a wonderful planet brimming with all kinds of life - including yours." - Penguin.co.nz

2021 Library Events

Even though we have been closed a lot this year and a few events were missed, we have had a few exciting events occur in the library.

The ANZAC walkthrough organized by the Senior Classes was particularly moving and a wonderful time for parents and children to connect in the library.



It was lots of fun watching children and their special people interacting and sharing their memories about books and games with the children during Grandparents Day.

We had authors Swampna Haddow, Raymond McGrath and Anne Kayes visit, with Anne giving the children an opportunity to purchase her books with a personal message to the children inside.

As you can see her storytelling skills were extremely popular with our students.

And we are finishing off the year with a Book Battle for our teams that have been working hard all year towards entering. It might be a little different doing it as a Kahoot over Zoom, but I have a feeling the children will be expert 'zoomers' now.



Ngā mihi mahana (warm thanks),
Chantelle Dunn (Library Manager)

HAUORA WELLBEING

NZ welcomes families from around the globe as we welcome new families to our St John's family. Follow this link to learn about Belong Aotearoa – an organisation assisting and supporting newcomers, migrants, and former refugees to settle in NZ and make a new life for themselves and their families.

<https://www.belong.org.nz/>



If your family needs some additional support, then maybe an approach to Strengthening Families can provide the support you need. Eleven government agencies and a variety of community organisations all working together to ensure the best outcome for your whanau. Follow this link to find out more.

<https://www.strengtheningfamilies.govt.nz/>

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Mid Bays Music School 2022

Mid Bays Music School 2022 enrolments open on the 1st of December!

Our highly qualified tutors make learning music relevant and enjoyable.

Any enquiries, please email mbmusic@mbi.school.nz

Music tuition for \$150 - \$250 for the whole year. (This includes the book hire but NOT the instrument hire)



Weekdays after school or Saturday mornings, Murrays Bay Intermediate School

Start date: Early February (exact date to be confirmed)

Age: Group lessons are open to 6-12 year olds but there are age requirements for some instruments. Please check [our website](#) for more information. *Instruments offered:* Drums, Bass, Guitar, Ukulele, Saxophone, Clarinet, Keyboard, Trumpet, Recorder, Flute, Violin, and Viola. [Here is a page](#) to find more about each instrument.

Enrolments will be through Kindo so make sure you have an account. Any troubleshooting solutions will be online at www.mbmusic.org. Spaces are limited and some of our instruments have sold out within the first 48 hours! So get in quick!

Term 4 Online
After-school Classes

SCIENCE & TECH CLASSES
AGE 5 - 13

VISIT BRAINPLAY.CO.NZ
BOOK YOUR FREE TRIAL

Brain Play teaches STEM classes covering topics such as coding, robotics, and 3D printing.

For the rest of Term 4, these will run online, and after school hours.

Free trials are available, and we have weekend events such as Minecraft. Ages 5 - 13yrs. Email us for more information on info@brainplay.co.nz or see brainplay.co.nz.

Extraordinary Kids

We provide extra help with Maths, Reading, Writing and Spelling on the Northshore for students 6 to 16 years old. Spaces are available now and we are running a January Summer School.

Phone: 09 475-6296 or 0223411716 Email: office@extraordinarykids.co.nz
www.extraordinarykids.co.nz

NORTH SHORE youth music APPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR 2022

Con Brio Choir Premier Choir Ages 10 - 17 years old	Stringalongs Beginners string group Non-conditional
Junior Orchestra Ages 10 - 13 2 Year programme 10 - 13 year olds	Songsters Non-conditional Beginner choir and musicianship 7 - 8 year olds
Children's Choir Non-conditional 6 - 12 year olds	Resound Ages 16 - 25 Youth club 16 - 25 year olds

To apply or to find out more information about the above groups, visit our website or find us on Facebook

www.nsym.org.nz