



February
2023

NEWSLETTER

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

Kia ora whanau, nga mihi o te tau hou.

Welcome back to a new year to our staff, families and all our beautiful children, and if you are just joining our school... welcome to the family! A special welcome to our new students across the school, our new entrants in Rooms 11 and 12 and Mrs Tayler McGregor who has joined our teaching team.

This was not the start we expected for 2023, however, I hope that you all managed to have some time to refresh and relax with family over the Summer. I was fortunate to catch up with family who travelled over from the UK after a number of years, it was lovely just being together again.

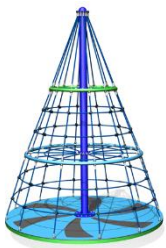
Please keep all those who have been adversely affected by the recent floods in your prayers as they begin the process of recovery and repair.

PROPERTY



During the holidays work began on the refurbishment of the Administration block. A large amount of the demolition was done prior to Christmas, and 99% of the rest was completed during January. We are now at the point where 75% of the new framing has been erected. We are hoping to be back in the administration building early in Term 2.

Just a reminder that the construction area, clearly marked by fencing, is out of bounds for the duration of the renovation. You can still walk in front of the admin building, there is space between the fence and the bank.



Our schedule of painting continued over the summer break with the exterior painting of Rooms 7, 8 and 9, Room 10, and Rooms 11 and 12.

Over the last couple of weeks, installation has nearly been completed of the Orex Spinner that the children fundraised for last year. The groundwork has been completed and the soft fall bark has been delivered. We now just await the actual spinner for the installation to be completed in the coming days.

SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

Communication is very important in the daily life of the school by allowing us to **pass on information and share some of our experiences and needs as well as helping us connect with our community**. There are a variety of communication avenues used by the school community and it can be a bit overwhelming, particularly if you have more than one child.

In an attempt to ensure that those needing to know receive the information they need, we will be streamlining whole school communication this year. Official whole school communication comes through the monthly newsletter, whole school emails via our school management software, eTap, the school calendar and the school website. Team, class and sport communication also come directly from the teachers or sport co-ordinator through email. Please read the piece later in the newsletter for more information.

Please consider downloading and linking the SJMB Community Calendar to keep up to date with events at the school. [Link to download calendar](#)

DATES FOR TERM 1, 2022

We are looking forward to an exciting 2023 and have planned a number of events where we can share experiences with the wider community. As a new initiative this year, in the middle of each term we will be planning an event where the whole school community has the opportunity to come together. This begins in Term 1 with the PTFA Family picnic on Friday 3rd March.

Below are some key dates for this term. For further dates, please check the calendar on the school website. If we need to change these dates for any reason the calendar will be updated and if needed, communication will come via email.

Date	Event
Thursday 9 th & Monday 13 th February	Softball Have-a-Go day (please ensure your child has their PE gear including trainers at school)
Sunday 12 th February	Weetbix Tryathlon
Thursday 16 th February	Beginning of the Year Mass
Monday 20 th to Friday 24 th February	EOTC (Education Outside the Classroom) week (detailed information will come out shortly from the team leaders and class teachers)
Wednesday 22 nd February	Ash Wednesday
Friday 24 th February	Loud Shirt Day
Friday 3 rd March	PTFA Family Picnic
Wednesday 8 th March	Meet the teacher Conferences (Option of an online form or 10 min conference)
Tuesday 14 th to Friday 17 th March	Yr 6 Camp – Hunua Falls
Sunday 19 th March	Feast of St Joseph
Monday 20 th March	Mass for Feast of St Joseph
Wednesday 22 nd March	School Swimming Sports (TBC)
Thursday 6 th April	End of Term 1 at the usual time of 2.50pm

BUDDY CLASSES

This year we are reinstating the buddy system at school where younger children are buddied up with older children. Buddy classes meet to attend Mass together and for socialisation and interclass activities. It has been a tradition that has been greatly valued by the students.

Buddy classes are as follows:

- Room 1 Year 6 and Room 11 Year 1
- Room 6 Year 6 and Room 12 Year 1 (and Room 10 later in the year)
- Room 4 Year 5 and Room 8 Year 3
- Room 5 Year 5 and Room 7 Year 3
- Room 2 Year 4 and Room 9 Year 2
- Room 3 Year 4 and Room 13 Year 2

MEET THE TEACHER CONFERENCES

Due to the delayed start we have rescheduled Meet the Teacher Conferences.

These will now be held on Wednesday 8th March.

The purpose of the Term One Parent Meetings are:

- For parents and teachers to meet one another
- For parents to ask the teacher any questions they may have
- For parents to share information that may help the teachers get to know your child as a learner
- For parents to discuss their aspirations and goals for their child(ren) for the year ahead

We have made the decision that, under these unusual circumstances, for these conferences **we will NOT be closing school at lunchtime** as we normally would, but rather we are providing parents with the option of sharing information about your child by completing a digital form or choosing to come to a face to face 10 minute conference with the class teacher.

Option 1: Digital form

I know that many of you may already know your child's teacher(s) or cannot take time off work at present, but may still wish to share your aspirations for your child this year and other pertinent information with the teacher. You will be able to do this by submitting a written form digitally. The link to the form will be sent out closer to the time via email.

OPTION 2: Face to face conference

If you wish to meet face to face, the conferences will be from 3:20 - 7:30pm on Wednesday 8th March. We are anticipating that there will be enough spaces for those who wish to come. If all these spaces are filled and there are still parents wanting a face-to-face conference we will organise an alternative time.

Bookings can be made online at schoolinterviews.co.nz with our case sensitive code being **dft88**

LOUD SHIRT DAY- 24th FEBRUARY



Loud Shirt Day is on Friday 24th February. Wear your brightest outfit this February and bring a gold coin donation to raise vital funds to help children and adults who are hard of hearing and access sound with cochlear implants.

Loud Shirt Day is the national fundraising campaign for The Hearing House and the Southern Cochlear Implant Programme (SCIP) – the only two charities in New Zealand dedicated to helping children and adults with cochlear implants learn to listen and speak. Together, these two organisations provide lifetime support to thousands of Kiwis in every region of New Zealand who live with cochlear implants.

For more information visit the Loud Shirt Day website.

MEET THE SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM (SLT)

MARINA BINNS

Although born and raised in Wellington, as a family we moved to the North Shore when I was in Year 6.

After starting my teaching career at Carmel College, I moved to St John's, where I have now been for many years; initially as a classroom teacher in the Senior School, then as the Deputy Principal for the last 5 years. Now, I am very proud to be the new Principal serving St John's School.

I am the leader of learning and am responsible for professional leadership and the day-to-day management of the school. I am very blessed to be supported in this role by an excellent leadership team.

LAURA BADDELEY

Tēnā koutou, my role at the school is the Director of Religious Studies (DRS). I assist the Principal in promoting, enhancing and upholding the Catholic Special Character of the school through leadership and support in the Religious Education Curriculum, Liturgical life and Pastoral Care.

I have been at St John's for 8 years, and prior to that, I taught at various Catholic schools across Auckland.

I have two children, Connor and Grace. Connor is 6 years old and is in Year Two at St. John's. Grace is 3 years old and goes to a local daycare.

VIVIENNE FUAALETOELAU

I have been at St. John's School since 2018 and prior to that, I have taught at various schools across Auckland.

This year my roles at St John's are Rangitoto Team Leader (Y1-3) and SENCO. As part of my role I assist with whole school responsibilities which includes special education needs.

I have three children. My younger two, Isaac and Gabriella attend St John's and we feel blessed to be part of such an amazing and supportive community.

HELEN PERRY

This will be my 5th year teaching at St John's. Prior to coming to St John's, I was a teacher at Carmel College and Holy Cross in Henderson.

I am responsible for leading the Waitemata Team (Y4-6 students) in addition to whole school responsibilities including my role as the Computer Systems Administrator, managing the digital infrastructure of the school.

I have two boys, Ben who finished at St John's last year and Brodie who is in Year 5 this year.

God bless you all for the year ahead, ngā mihi nui,
Marina Binns, Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

In Religious Education during the first few weeks, the children will learn and understand our School Charism and what our values look like in action. The charism underpins all we do at school, it is woven into daily life and talked about with the children regularly. We embrace our special Catholic character with the charism of the Sisters of St Joseph. The children spend time learning about our motto: Prepare the way – Whakapaia te Huarahi. We follow in the footsteps of St. John the Baptist as he prepared the way of the Lord.

We hope the Josephite Charism becomes a part of our students' lives and that they take it with them when they leave our school.

FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD



On Thursday 2nd February, the church observed the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, honouring Jesus Christ's presentation in the Temple when he was a young child.

Jesus' presentation in the Temple reflects how he fulfils the Old Covenant. According to Old Testament law, a sacrifice had to be offered in the Temple when a child was consecrated to the Lord. Mary and Joseph honoured this tradition.

KARAKIA - TE TIRITI O WAITANGI

*Te Atua of our journey,
your watchful presence is with us everyday.
Open our minds and hearts
to the wonderful ways you work in our land of Aotearoa.
Strengthen us as we struggle to put things right
so that we may all live with dignity and justice.
Lead us in ways which will honour our Tiriti covenant
so that we may see your loving presence alive in our land.
Amen*



BEGINNING OF THE YEAR SCHOOL MASS – 16th FEBRUARY

We will be celebrating Mass together as a school on Thursday 16th February to ask for God's blessing on our school community and the coming year. Mass will begin at 11:00am in the church and you are warmly welcome to come and celebrate with us.

Following Mass, the children will take their lunchboxes with them and gather with their buddy class to eat lunch together. **IT IS NOT A SHARED LUNCH.** Following the normal lunch break the children will have time to get to know their buddy, their buddy class and their buddy class teacher.



NGĀ KĀKAHU O TE KURA – SCHOOL UNIFORM



We expect all children to wear full and correct school uniform at all times. Please refer to the school website for [uniform expectations](#). Just a reminder that school sandals must be worn when arriving at and leaving school.

As part of our commitment to being SunSmart, children are required to wear the school hat when playing outside in Terms 1 and 4. These hats should stay at school during the term to ensure they are able to enjoy their playtimes. The children's health and safety is important to us and therefore, if a child does not have a hat, they will need to play in the shaded area outside the library. Hats can be purchased from [NZ Uniforms](#).



SECOND HAND UNIFORM SALE

Second hand uniform sales will be held on the first Thursday of the month. The next second-hand uniform sale will be held THIS Thursday, 9th February in the school hall between 2:50 - 3:15pm. For any queries, please contact our parent co-ordinator, Francine Gilchrist, Tel: 021 488 279 or email: fgilchrist@gmail.com



Monthly Newsletter: We will be piloting a monthly newsletter that will be sent to all current families as well as being put on our school website. This newsletter will contain important reminders and share some of the happenings around the school. It will be emailed on the first of the month (or the following Monday if the first falls in the weekend or in the school holidays). Past newsletters can also be accessed via the newsletter link on the school website.

Whole school emails: These will be sent from school management, the school office or the sport co-ordinator as needed and we strive to keep these succinct and to a minimum.

School calendar: Important dates will be added and updated on a St John's School Google calendar. This can be viewed on our school website. You are also welcome (and encouraged) to link this calendar to your own if you use Google calendars. [Link to download calendar](#)

School website: This contains a wealth of information about the school.

Team and class emails: These will be sent directly from team leaders or class teachers with information pertaining to specific year levels or classes. We endeavour to identify the class or year level in the subject line of the email (please forgive us if we occasionally forget).

Sport information emails: These will be sent directly from the school sport co-ordinator or from parent co-ordinators with information pertaining to specific year levels or classes. We endeavour to identify the sport and the class or year level in the subject line of the email.

St John's School Community Facebook Page: This is a more informal avenue for sharing information with, and by, the school community. All parents are welcome to become members of the group, as well as any extended family members.

Permission slips and payments: Wherever possible these will be processed through your Kindo account. There may be exceptions where a paper permission slip comes home, but these will be rare.

PARENT COMMUNICATION

Contacting the school: Parents are welcome to contact school staff directly by email or by phoning the school office. We ask that all communication comes through these channels rather than student emails. We recognise that email is a valuable and efficient communication tool that is widely used across our society. Staff members are provided with a school email address which can also be found on our school website (first name and initial of surname eg. John Smith is johns@sjmb.school.nz).

The staff member may not have a chance to open their email messages by the end of the school day (2:50pm). **For vital or urgent messages please phone the school office.** Teachers check their emails daily, however, during the day, the teacher's priority is the children in their class and therefore, cannot respond immediately to emails or answer external phone calls. During the week your emails will be responded to within 24 hours.

Please remember that your child's teacher holds your child's well-being and your concerns with the utmost care and respect. Please ensure all correspondence with your child's teacher reflects your own care and respect. I ask that emails are used for sharing information and making appointments, rather than addressing issues.

Parent concerns: From time-to-time things occur at school which lead to parents seeking clarification. If you have concerns about your children's progress or you wish to seek clarification about something that has happened at school, **the classroom teacher is the first point of contact** to answer the concerns or enquiries of parents about their children. Generally, matters are resolved at this level.

Teachers often have appointments before and after school and it is not appropriate to discuss your child in front of other children or parents. If your inquiry is more than a 'quick question' we ask that you speak to or email the teacher directly, or phone the office, to make an appointment to ensure that the teacher will be available to discuss your concerns, giving you their full attention. Please email both teachers in job share situations.

If after meeting with the classroom teachers there is further concern or dissatisfaction parents should then seek an appointment to meet with the Team Leader in an attempt to resolve the matter of concern. Thereafter to the Principal.

There are specific avenues for enquiring about information about the school or commenting on school policies, property, and procedures. **Please contact the office who can help you address the right person to talk to.**

KINDO



St John's is using the online 'shop' Kindo for additional charges for trips, stationery items, online learning subscriptions etc.

FAMILIES NEW TO ST JOHN'S

If you have not already set up an account with Kindo please visit www.mykindo.co.nz as soon as possible to sign your children up.

It is vital that the email address used for your Kindo account is exactly the same as the one the school has listed on our database for your child's first caregiver (in most cases this is usually Mum). If your email address does **not** match the one we have recorded in our student database then you will see an error message. You then have the option to either update your account details on Kindo or to email Michele Nash on MicheleN@sjmb.school.nz to request a change on the school database.

If you have any queries at all, please do not hesitate to contact Anneliese Bridges in the school office or if you have difficulties with the Kindo website their helpdesk is but a phone call away (Freephone 0508 454 636).

TERMLY SCHOOL FEES are dealt with separately by Mrs Michele Nash, michelen@sjmb.school.nz and should be paid either via bank transfer (12-3042-0320348-00) referenced with your child's name and 'Fees', or via EFTPOS at the school office. Any families paying in instalments do not need to make any changes to arrangements already in place.

SCHOLASTIC



The Lucky Book Club catalogue, issue 1, will be coming home this week, I hope that you have a chance to browse and possibly place an order.

The close off date for orders to be delivered to the school is Sunday 26th February at 4pm. If you prefer for deliveries to be made to your home, with a shipping fee, please place your order between Tuesday 1st March and Friday, 8th April. All orders will benefit the school rewards program.

Please use Scholastic LOOP to place and pay for your order. By using LOOP there is no need to fill out any forms or receipt numbers. All orders can be made through [LOOP on the Scholastic NZ website](#) or by using the Scholastic LOOP app which is available on Google Play or the App store.