



March
2023

NEWSLETTER

Te Reo ō te Kura ō Hato Hoāni
The voice of St John's School

Kia ora whānau,

What a busy start we have had so far. It has been great to see the children's participation and enthusiasm in their classrooms, during Mass, in the playground and during EOTC week. I would like to thank all the children for their fantastic attitude and their courage in trying new things. I would also like to thank my teachers for all the work they put into planning and facilitating this week and the significant numbers of parent helpers who made these experiences possible for the children.

It has been a real pleasure to see the children enjoying buddy time, with the big and little buddies getting together to celebrate liturgy in the church and also to just have fun getting to know each other and playing with each other. Buddy classes all spent time together following the beginning of the year Mass.

We are very fortunate to share our site with our Parish church and together we have celebrated the beginning of the year and come together to mark the beginning of Lent. Our children truly benefit from our close relationship with our Parish and our Parish priests.



CURIOSITY - MAHIRA

***Ko ia kāhore nei i rapu, tē kitea.
They who do not seek, will not find.***

Our theme for this year, across the curriculum, is Curiosity - Mahira.

There are many academic and personal benefits for fostering curiosity:

- Pursues new knowledge and experiences
- Leads to an increase of knowledge or ability
- Drives people to know what is beyond the observable
- Deepens engagement in tasks
- Increases perseverance and resilience
- Develops critical and creative thinking
- Promotes interest and care and concern for others and the world we live in
- Develops awareness of differing views and experiences
- Forms interpersonal attachments and facilitates feelings of belonging

We look forward to supporting our students develop their own curiosity as they explore the world they live in.

PTFA

We look forward to seeing all those that can make it at the PTFA Family picnic this Friday. Please feel free to come down to the field anytime after school, the picnic officially starts at 5:30pm.

Just a reminder that the PTFA AGM is on next Tuesday, 7th March, at 7:00pm in the school hall. All are welcome to attend.

TERM 1 AND 2 STUDENT LEADERS

There are many opportunities for all our Year 6 students to become actively involved in our school and I look forward to seeing my first group of Year 6 leaders take up this leadership. In such roles the students are invited to lead their peers and demonstrate and develop responsibility for both themselves and others. Leadership begins with identifying and understanding our values; Faith, Community, Respect, Excellence and Wellbeing. As leaders they are in a position to, through their own words and actions, influence, motivate and guide others to become the best they can be and grow closer to God.

On Thursday 16th February, at our beginning of the year Mass, we commissioned our House Leaders; elected by their peers to lead our four houses. This is a long-held tradition. They will hold office over the next two terms and provide a valuable student voice to the Senior Leadership, their mandate is to KNOW what is right, to STAND for what is right and to LEAD others in that direction.

For **Keegan** House; Ted Sagar and Thea Straka
For **Liston** House; Finn Brannigan and Libby Simpson
For **Pierce** House; Sienna Gunn and Isaac Treeby
For **Quinlan** House; Mayan Awrooj and Dan Buckley.

We also commissioned our Young MacKillops. These children were selected by Mrs Baddeley and their teachers. They provide a student voice around social justice and work with Mrs Baddeley as our Director of Religious Studies to support and promote the Special Character of our school, particularly through leadership in liturgy.

The young MacKillops for Terms 1 and 2 are: Jan Andrea, Amina Deles, Carter Gilchrist, Nina Harris, Scarlett Hill, Anushka Kumaran, Leo Moore and Benjamin Moss.

SOCIAL OUTREACH



LOUD SHIRT DAY

Thank you to all those who supported Loud Shirt Day on Friday 24th February. It definitely brightened up the place with bright primary colours, loud and outrageous patterns, brilliant fluro and of course, a healthy amount of glitter and sequins.

Through your generosity we raised **\$332.20** for The Hearing House.

NON-UNIFORM DAY CYCLONE GABRIELLE RELIEF

On **Friday 10th March (Week 6)**, we will be having a non-uniform day in return for a gold coin donation for the victims of Cyclone Gabrielle. Alternatively, you can donate through [Kindo](#).



The donations will go to the Catholic Caring Foundation, to help Cyclone Gabrielle victims in the Hamilton and Palmerston North dioceses. The cyclone caused wide destruction in those two dioceses, particularly in Napier-Hawkes Bay, East Cape-Gisborne and the Coromandel Peninsula. The recovery will be long and painful, but in the midst of disaster, we now can come together and make a difference, like New Zealand did for Christchurch in the wake of the earthquakes.

For the full press release see [here](#).

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Thank you to all the parents who have given feedback about how helpful it is having the calendar synced to their phone.

If you haven't already, please consider downloading and linking the SJMB Community Calendar to keep up to date with events at the school. [Link to download calendar](#)



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, 2nd March** in the school hall between 2:50 - 3:15pm. Please bring cash.

For any queries, please contact our parent co-ordinator, Francine Gilchrist, Tel: 021 488 279 or email: fkgilchrist@gmail.com

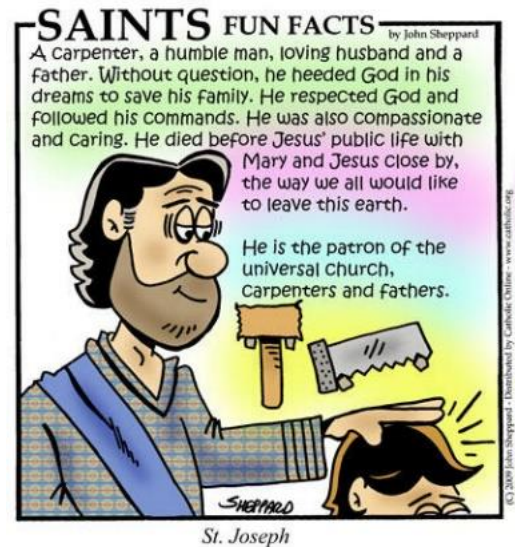
MASS FOR THE FEAST OF ST JOSEPH

St Joseph was a special man who cared greatly for Jesus and Mary. He is considered the patron saint of the Universal Church, families, fathers, expectant mothers, travellers, immigrants, house sellers and buyers, craftsmen, engineers and working people, among others.

His feast day is March 19th.

We celebrate this as a special day at our school because St John's School was founded in 1961 by the Sisters of St Joseph.

On Monday 20th March we will be celebrating Mass together as a school. You are welcome to join us in this celebration at 11:00am in the church.



SWIMMING SPORTS

Our Swimming Sports will be held on Wednesday 22nd March. Our Swimming Sports is always a special event and the children are keen to get in the pool and compete for their house teams. The Waitemata Team (Year 4 to 6) children will be participating in the morning, starting at 9.30am, and competing for the **Nicola Jack Memorial Cup**. A copy of the programme will be published on the Sports page of the school website <http://www.sjmb.school.nz/> in due course once entries are in.

The Nicola Jack Memorial Cup was presented by her family to the school for our swimming sports in memory of Nicola Jack who was in Year 3 but tragically died as a result of an accident in 1991. The cup is presented to the winning house team.

Rangitoto Team (Year 1 to 3) children will be participating in the afternoon, starting at 1.15pm, where they will have the opportunity to showcase what they have been learning and enjoy time together in the pool area.

We ask you to refrain from going into the pool area, rather, enjoy sitting on the surrounding banks. For safety reasons the children will not be allowed to leave the pool enclosure. They will have their hats on while not swimming and should also bring a T-shirt in their house colour to wear at the pool. Please feel free to give your child 'named' sunscreen to put on or apply it to your child before they come to school.

Please ensure that your children arrive at school with swimming togs, goggles, 2 towels and a water bottle. **ALL** items should be clearly named.

Best of luck to all the House teams!

END OF TERM ONE

School will close for the end of Term One on Thursday 6th April at the normal time of 2:50pm.

The school will gather prior to the end of day bell to remember Christ's journey to the Cross with liturgy.

There will not be a bell at the end of the day, and we ask that the children leave quietly in commemoration of this time.





TEACHER ONLY DAY TERM 2

It seems we have only just started school and we are now in the process of organising Term 2. Please take note, that **Monday 24th April will be a Teacher Only day** and the school will be closed for all children. The following day, 25th April, is ANZAC Day and a public holiday in New Zealand. Therefore, **school will open for Term 2 on Wednesday 26th April**. We hope that, by selecting this day, the disruption will be minimal and hopefully it may even help in planning your holidays.

PICK UP AND DROP OFF

Just a friendly reminder that **the turning circle is for pick up and drop off only**. You are unable to leave your vehicle in this space. If you need to get out of your car and go to the classrooms or the office, we ask that you either park in one of the parking spaces before the turning circle or you park in the church car park off Hastings Road.

MEET THE TEACHER CONFERENCES

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

Option 1: Digital form

If you wish to share this information with the teacher(s) through completing the digital form please watch out for the class specific link in your email on Friday.

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.

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

Bookings will close this Friday at 3:00pm.

PROPERTY

We have had some disappointing news about the progress of our Administration block. The discovery of a few damp issues inside the walls has resulted in the need for the Catholic Diocese to have further drawings done and additional council consent sought in order to remedy the situation. We are grateful to the Catholic Diocese that the scope of work will be extended, however, this does mean that we will be working out of the hall and Room 14 for longer than expected. Early indications are that we will not be in the new Admin block until at least Term 4. For the time being, construction on site has stopped and the site secured until new consent is issued, hopefully by the end of the term.

God bless, ngā mihi nui, Marina Binns, Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

LENT

Last week, we entered the Lenten Liturgical season. We came together as a school for a Liturgy in the Church to mark the beginning of Lent - Ash Wednesday.

Lent is a time of prayer, fasting and almsgiving in preparation for the resurrection of the Lord at Easter. During Lent, New Zealand's Catholic Bishops invite us to provide for the needs of the poor through the work of Caritas. Money raised through the Bishops' Lent Appeal helps us to fund both development and emergency relief work around the world.

This year, the money raised in our school and Parish will go to help the people of Fiji. Each class has a Lent Mission box along with one in the main office, in which children are invited to bring in coins during Lent to contribute to our Lenten appeal.



LENTEN PRAYER

*E te Ariki, Lord,
Strengthen us as we begin our Lenten journey.
May your grace give us the courage to face the many challenges and temptations that life presents us.
Teach us to know right from wrong so that we can be a light in the darkness, a symbol of hope to others and an instrument of peace in your world.
Help us to pray, fast and give alms this Lent so that we can walk in your footsteps and bring love to our neighbours.
We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.
Āmene.*

Focus Country Te Whenua Arotahi

Fiji is the focus country for the stories and videos in Lent 2023.

People throughout the islands of Fiji have faced many challenges and times of darkness in recent years. As the case in many countries, the ongoing impacts of closed borders from COVID-19 has continued, such as the loss of business and employment options. For young Fijians they are highly dependent on resorts for employment and produce/fish market opportunities. In many coastal communities particularly, impacts of climate change and associated weather events has increasingly disrupted customary livelihoods and health and food/water security. Across the country, soil degradation, fertiliser over-use and cheap low-nutrition food imports are impacting health and lifespans too.

At the end of 2020, Cyclone Yasa had devastating impacts on rural communities located in the Southwest of Fiji's second largest island, Vanua Levu. Many homes, and in some cases, almost entire villages, were damaged beyond repair and crops were lost. Many were left without means to house or support themselves. Most have regained what was lost, however the mental/emotional trauma and resulting social impacts remain in the most affected districts.

Caritas partners with three fantastic local organisations in Fiji who are bringing light to communities in need. Each of these is highlighted through the Caritas case studies and the videos within the resources for Lent 2023.

The Marist run Rural Training Centre at Tutu on Taveuni Island is the focus in week two and five. Students will meet Eroni Turaga and see how his time at Tutu Rural Training Centre transformed his life.

The newest Caritas agency on our planet, Caritas Fiji, is the focus in week three and students will find out more about how they have responded with love to support families after cyclones and the pandemic.

The third amazing organisation that Caritas partners with is highlighted in week four. SEEP or the Social Empowerment & Education Program, based in Suva, works to empower indigenous and marginalised communities. Students will see the example of Tuliana and her family and how they were supported during a tough time.



ANNUAL CATHOLIC SCHOOLS DEDICATION MASS

On the 15th February, our teachers alongside many other schools from the Auckland Diocese, came together to celebrate a new year of learning with Bishop Steve. This year's theme was New Beginnings; moving on from the Covid Pandemic.

Both Miss Binns and I received endorsement of our leadership certification.



As is tradition, at the end of the Mass our school candle was taken forward and a blessing for the year ahead was offered.

Ngā mihi,
Laura Baddeley, *Director of Religious Studies*

OUT AND ABOUT AROUND THE SCHOOL







ATTENDANCE DUES

We collect Attendance Dues and the Catholic Special Character Contribution on behalf of the Auckland Diocese.

Providing for **Catholic Schools**
in the Auckland Diocese

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:

2023	PRIMARY STUDENTS	SECONDARY STUDENTS
per year (incl. GST)	\$488	\$956
per term (incl. GST)	\$122	\$239

For more information:

<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/catholic-schools-2/>

Phone: (09) 360 3040

Email: acfl@cda.org.nz

St John the Evangelist Catholic School – Otara



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

Mō tā tou, ā, mō ngā uri ā muri ake | For us, and our children after us.