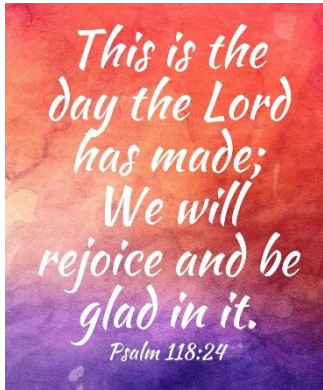




April
2023

NEWSLETTER

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



Kia ora whānau,

Easter is a special time in the life of the church. The beginning of the Church's year, we remember Christ's journey to the Cross and celebrate His resurrection on Easter Sunday. A time of hope for all; it reminds us that God has power over death and that, in all times of trouble, God is with us.

Together as a Church we rejoice in the hope and the joy that only the resurrection can bring, the promise of eternal life. Nothing can keep us from the joy that God wants to give us.

STUDENT LED EASTER LITURGY

You are warmly invited to join us for our Easter Liturgy on Thursday 6th at 2:00pm in the church. This liturgy is prepared and led by our Year 6 students and is always a moving experience.

As we wrap up Term 1, I look back on some of the many highlights and celebrate the wonderful learning experiences that have taken place.

YEAR SIX CAMP

Our Year Six Camp was, once again, a great success. I was fortunate to visit them on one of the activity days. They were extremely busy and engaged in their various activities and I was so proud of our students as I watched them step up to new challenges and support each other.

I would like to acknowledge the work and effort by the staff and parents who gave up time away from their families and daily lives to make camp happen for our children.



INTERSCHOOL TENNIS



A small, but enthusiastic, group of students went to represent us at the Supercluster Tennis Tournament on the 13th March.

This was our first interschool event and gave these children a chance to represent the school in their club sport.

Thank you to Mrs Rachelle Barrett for managing the team on the day and for the parents who helped transport and supported the children during the day.



CURIOSITY - MAHIRA

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

Throughout the days and weeks at school, we aim for our children to have many occasions to develop their curiosity. Highlighting two such events this month are the visit from the NZ Fire Service and our Garden to Table.



The Rangitoto Team Year 1 and 2s had the opportunity to listen to and question the fire fighters about their job and being fire wise. A highlight was being able to sit in the fire truck and some groups even got to hear the sirens.

It was great to hear from some of the children that they had gone home and talked to their whānau about an emergency plan for their homes.





The Waitemata Team are participating in the Garden to Table Programme which takes learning out of the classroom and into the garden and the kitchen, empowering tamariki to grow, harvest, prepare, and share great food. It was a real pleasure to share in the beautiful salad Room 2 made last week and hear how the children are learning new knowledge and skills and trying food they have not tried before.



I would like to acknowledge all the hard work the teachers, Mrs Moore in the garden and the parent helpers in the kitchen provide each week to make this happen for our students. What a great life skill.

From Room 2...

This week Room 2 had a wonderful Garden to Table session. We practised knife chopping skills, grating, measuring and cooking. We made hummus, flatbread and a delicious salad using kale, courgette, spring onions and tomatoes from our garden at school. Down in the garden, we planted some cauliflower, watered the plants and discovered worms and centipedes! We are thankful for Mrs Moore who looks after our garden so beautifully.



From Mrs Moore, our garden specialist...

It has been a tough summer for the garden with floods, rain and gale force winds. Surprisingly, the garden came through well and this term the children have been harvesting the last of the summer crops. We have been busy picking tomatoes, cucumbers, corn, beans, kale, courgettes and a favourite for the children, digging for potatoes.

In the last few weeks we have been clearing the vegetable beds and have been preparing our soil with compost, mulch and coffee grounds ready for our winter crops.

Next term we will be planting our winter vegetables and focusing on soil science and composting. Hopefully we will be back in the kitchen cooking and creating some amazing meals.



SCHOOL SWIMMING SPORTS

On Wednesday 22nd March we celebrated our annual St John's School Swimming Sports Day. We were all so grateful that this favourite event could go ahead, and it was great to see so many of our families sitting on the banks around the pool to support their children.

Personally, I love this day as it is an opportunity for me to see every child in our school having fun. The Swimming Sports, as a culmination of the aquatics programme this term, showcased how far some of our children have come in the last 6 weeks. It was great to see, particularly in our youngest students, how much their confidence and capability developed. I would like to thank our teachers for their work in preparing the students for the day.

The competition was high in Waitematā, amongst the house teams, as they competed for the Nicola Jack Memorial Cup. Whilst all teams gave their best, it was the reigning champions, **Pierce** House, who took out this coveted prize for 2023.



Rangitoto Team showcased great participation in the afternoon with **Keegan** collecting the most points for the day.

HEALTH AND SAFETY BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL

A couple of reminders about before and after school to make sure our tamariki remain safe...

- The Church Driveway (entrance off Hastings Road) is for parents who are parking their cars and coming into the school. Children cannot walk through the car park to go to parent cars. If you wish to drive up and remain in your car to collect your child, please use the alternative carpark off East Coast Road.
- Please be mindful that the Hastings Road entrance is a shared driveway with our neighbours and that there are children about. We ask that you keep your speed to a minimum in all our car parks.
- I have noticed that a small number of children are arriving very early at school. The school is open from 8:15am and classrooms open at 8:30am. Before this time staff are unable to actively supervise students onsite. If you need to drop off students before this time, we ask that you arrange this with the onsite before school care.

I wish you all a safe and happy holiday.

God bless,
Marina Binns.
Tumuaki – Principal

CARITAS JUSTICE CHATS WITH THE YOUNG MACKILLOPS

Last week, the Young MacKillops and I joined the Caritas Justice Chat on Zoom with many other Catholic schools from around Aotearoa.

We spent some time focusing on what's being happening in our world – it made us feel extremely grateful for what we have in New Zealand.

Many countries have had natural disasters, war and famine. We discussed how we can make a difference to those in need, in response to Pope Francis' 'Laudato Si'.

We enjoyed connecting with our schools, hearing their ideas about how we make a difference to our school communities and to the wider world through Caritas.



HOLY WEEK

The Paschal candle represents Christ, the Light of the World. You see it at the front of the church. The candle is lit during the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday night in Holy week. The pure beeswax of which the candle is made represents the sinless Christ. The wick signifies His humanity, the flame, His Divine Nature, both soul and body. Five grains of incense inserted into the candle in the form of a cross recall the aromatic spices with which His Sacred Body was prepared for the tomb, and of the five wounds in His hands, feet, and side.

Holy Week – Walk with us prayer

*Jesus, you know what it's like to feel abandoned, lost and afraid.
Walk with us.*

*And show us how to walk with others who live in fear,
who face death through hunger or war.*

*Show us how to pray for those we do not know and will not meet,
but who are always loved by you.*

Walk with us Jesus

Amen.

Find locations and times for Holy Week services and Easter Masses at parishes across the Auckland Diocese here:

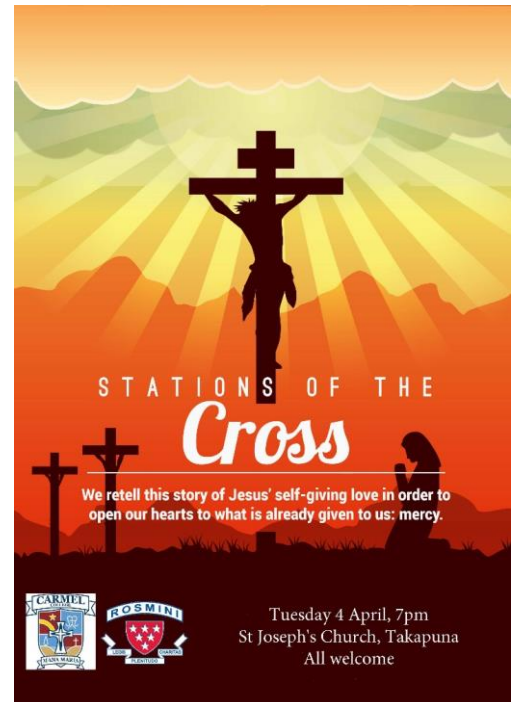
<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/holy-week/>

Please join us at Church this Easter. Who might you invite back to Church this Easter?



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

**Tuesday 4th April, 7pm
St Joseph's Church, Takapuna.**



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

SOCIAL OUTREACH

NON-UNIFORM DAY CYCLONE GABRIELLE RELIEF



Thank you for your support of our non-uniform day on **Friday 10th March (Week 6)**. We have raised **\$456.10** which has been sent to the Catholic Caring Foundation, to help Cyclone Gabrielle victims in the Hamilton and Palmerston North Dioceses.

[Click here](#) to read the letter we received from Bishop Steve's Caring Foundation team.

SCHOOL BOARD CASUAL VACANCY – ELECTED MEMBER

Due to family commitments Ricky Curteis has left the School Board, creating a vacancy. The St Johns' School Board thanks her for her service as a board member for our school community. We wish her well for her next endeavours.

A casual vacancy has occurred on the School Board for an elected Parent Representative. The Board has resolved under Schedule 23 [Section 12] of the Education and Training Act 2020 to fill the vacancy by selection. If 10% or more of eligible voters on the school roll ask the Board within 28 days of this notice being published, to hold a by-election to fill the vacancy, then a by-election will be held.

Any eligible voter who wishes to request the Board to hold a by-election should write to The Presiding Member, St. John's School Board, 87a Penzance Rd, Mairangi Bay or email presidingmember@sjmb.school.nz by 30 April 2023, 3pm.

SPORT



Looking for an easy and accessible way to stay up-to-date on all things sports related?

Look no further than our online registration and information hub, St John's Sports!

Our site offers a user-friendly platform for

- registering your child for upcoming sports leagues or interschool competitions
- links to league draws and results
- important information and dates about the sports we offer

Head to the Sports page on our school website

KINDO

As we near the end of the term it would be greatly appreciated if all families could review their Kindo accounts (www.mykindo.co.nz) to check for any outstanding payments. We pride ourselves on offering our students a wide and varied curriculum and offering a number of valuable resources such as our Maths & Literacy online learning. Your ongoing support for these items is essential and we gratefully acknowledge your contribution and your attention to this matter. Thank you.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Keep up to date with school events through downloading and linking the SJMB Community Calendar. [Link to download calendar](#)

STAFF NEWS

Unfortunately, this month we farewelled one of our valued Learning Support Assistants, Mrs Katherine Ashton, and her family. We thank her for her work with our children over the last three years and wish her and her family well as they begin their next adventures with a move out of Auckland.

DATES TO DIARY

SECOND HAND UNIFORM SALE

Due to school finishing on Thursday this week, this month the second-hand uniform sale will be held on Wednesday instead of Thursday. It will be held **this Wednesday, 5th April**, 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



SWIMMING POOL CLOSURE

OUR POOL CLOSED FOR THE SEASON ON SUNDAY, 2ND APRIL AT 8.00PM

Pool key bond refunds are now available from the office.
To receive the bond refund, keys must be returned before the end of term on Thursday 6th of April.

I would like to thank Mr Dixon for his work over the whole swimming season keeping our pool in such a great condition for our students and the community to enjoy and I would also like to thank Mr Moore for keeping on top of things in his absence.

ANZAC DAY PARADE



St John's will be participating in this year's ANZAC Memorial Parade and Service in Browns Bay on Tuesday 25 April.

Want to walk with us?

Meet at 8:15 am on the corner of Anzac Road and Beachfront Lane.

All whānau welcome!

Students should wear their school uniforms.

If you would like to play a role in the ceremony, please email Mrs Perry helenp@sjmb.school.nz

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.



START OF TERM TWO - STAFF ONLY DAY TERM 2

Monday 24th April will be a Staff 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.**

LOST PROPERTY

We always endeavour to return items that are clearly labelled.

If you are looking for a specific item, please contact the school office via email (office@sjmb.school.nz) with a description of the item, name and room of the child concerned and we will do all we can to trace the item.

There are currently both uniform and non-uniform items in the Lost Property box, all of which we are unable to return to their owners as they are unnamed.

If you believe they may belong to your child, please take a moment to check out the lost property box located just outside the office on the deck (or inside in inclement weather)

All unclaimed items of uniform at the end of term will be donated to the PTFA second hand uniform sale and non-uniform items will be donated to charity.

SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMMES

These are advertised as a courtesy and are not affiliated with the school.

[Pupuke Golf Club](#)

[Conscious Kids](#)

[Kids Choice](#)