



**1st August
2023**



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

Kia ora whānau,

It has been lovely to have had a variety of events over the last two weeks which we have shared with members of the community. It has been a busy start and there is much more to come. As the term is shaping up to be quite busy, for the remainder of the term, newsletters will be coming out fortnightly. Please keep an eye out in your inbox on Tuesdays and at the end of the term I will be seeking some feedback over the preferred frequency.

I wish to thank the PTFA for organising the children's Disco night. From what I could see in the photos and from the reports of the staff and children, an awesome evening was had by all. Thank you to the parents and staff members who supported the PTFA on the night.

STAFF NEWS

As you know, Mr Dixon is leaving us on Friday 18th August. We wish him well for his retirement where he will have more time for family, travel, and golf. We will be farewelling him as a whole school during the Mass for the Feast of the Assumption on 15th August. You are most welcome to join us; 11:00am at St John's Church.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Mrs Elizabeth Hames on her appointment as Dean for International Students at Epsom Girls Grammar and teacher of junior Social Studies. While we will miss Mrs Hames, we wish her well in her new role focussing on pastoral care of students living away from home. She will be leaving us at the end of the term to take up this new role in Term 4. I would like to acknowledge the work she has done within our school community, particularly in supporting the students, and their families, who have English as a second language.

I also want to inform you of a change within our school's leadership team. For family reasons, Mrs Laura Baddeley has resigned from her leadership position as our Director of Religious Studies. While Mrs Baddeley will no longer serve in a leadership capacity, we are delighted to inform you that she will continue to be an integral part of our teaching team. Over the years, Laura has made significant contributions to our school community, and I wish to thank her for her valuable input and dedication over the years in supporting and developing the Special Catholic Character of our school.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION COMMUNITY CONSULTATION



Thank you to all those who came to the onsite meeting or completed the digital form to share their ideas for the future direction for the school.

The Board will now collate the information and put together a draft document. This will be shared with the community when completed.

YEAR 5 AND 6 SPEECH COMPETITION



Last Friday the Waitematā Team gathered for the finals of the St John's Speech Competition. Two finalists were selected from each of the Year 5 and 6 classes. I was blown away by the standard of the speeches presented and congratulate all the finalists for their presentations.

A special congratulations to the Winner, Isaac Treeby, and the Runner Up, Sophie Hayward who will represent us next week at the North Shore Catholic Schools Kāhui Ako Speech Competition at Carmel College.



NEAREST AND DEAREST DAY

It takes a
village to
raise a child....



Your child will have brought home an invitation today to our first Nearest and Dearest Day.

Friday 18th August, 2023
8:50am – 11:00am

We invite **EACH** child to bring someone they hold dear to come and share time with them at school. This could be any adult.

There is no requirement to reply, however, if there is no one able to come and share the day with your child, please contact their class teacher.

The day will start in an allocated classroom at 8:50am with the roll and prayer. Please see the individual invitations for which classroom. This may not be the children's own class, as they are grouped in houses. Siblings will be allocated the same room so there is no problem if children are sharing a person.

Life is full of commitments and activity. We hope that you are able to put the busyness of life and work aside for a little while as the children share with you their favourite places and spaces at school. Following our prayer time, you are invited to wander around the school, visiting the different classrooms, the library, the playgrounds etc. The children may want to show you their favourite places and share with you what they do and where they go during a normal school day. There will be activities, play and sport equipment available for you and the children to engage in together. We hope that the weather will be fine so that you are also able to spend some time playing with the children outside.

There will be the opportunity at approximately 10:00am to have a hot drink and something to eat in the hall. The children are welcome to join you, or you can use this time to connect and catch up with others in our community or to meet people new to our school community. We envisage the event finishing by 11:00am.

STUDENT LED CONFERENCES

Student Led Conferences help students become informed assessors of their own learning. As they prepare and conduct conferences about their learning, they are developing their knowledge and understanding of themselves as learners. They are also developing 'real life' skills in presentation, making the report process an authentic part of their learning.

Student Led Conferences support parents to become informed partners in the learning process and support them to become more able to understand how learning can be supported at home. Students will share and discuss their learning in particular areas, and comment honestly on the things they have done and identify their strengths and the progress made.

Conferences will be 15 minutes in duration (although you are welcome to stay longer if you wish) and will be held from **1:00 - 6:00pm on Wednesday 23rd August**. As they are led by the students, there will be multiple families in the room at the same time.

If you have any specific concerns or enquiries, these should be addressed by teachers and parents prior to the conferences. Appointments may be made outside the conference time if needed.

The role of the parents is to let their child take the lead and direct any questions or comments to him/her. You might like to ask questions such as:

- **What is it about this piece of work that shows what you have learned?**
- **What has been your proudest achievement so far?**
- **What are you going to try to get better at next?**
- **What support do you need to achieve your targets or goals?**
- **How do you manage a difficult task?**

as well as providing encouragement, praise, feedback and reinforcement.

Student Led Conferences will be held on
Wednesday, 23rd August for all classes except for Room 10.

School will finish at 12 noon and conferences will begin at 1.00pm.
There will be no school buses running. Bookings will be available every 15 minutes.

These conferences are an opportunity for your children to share their learning with you.
Your child will show you their work and you can ask your child questions and join in activities they may show you.

The children will need to come to school in their uniform to conduct the Student Led Conference.

There are four bookings available for each time slot.

Bookings can be made online at <https://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz/code>
with our case sensitive code being **q9ry4**

SOCIAL OUTREACH - DAFFODIL DAY



On **Friday 25th August**, we will be participating in Daffodil Day. Daffodil day symbolises hope for the 1 in 3 New Zealanders affected by cancer.

We invite the children to bring in a gold coin donation to place on a coin trail. Your donations will go towards vital scientific research into the causes and treatment of all types of cancer, as well as providing a wide range of support services for people affected by cancer.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

It was an honour to witness many of our children celebrate their First Holy Communion on Sunday 30th July at St Francis.

Your First Holy Communion marks a significant step in your journey of faith, as you become more closely united with Jesus Christ through the Sacrament. It is a beautiful expression of your love for God and your desire to deepen your relationship with Him. Congratulations to each one of you on this momentous occasion in your lives, and it fills our hearts with joy to witness your spiritual growth and commitment to your faith.

As you partake in the Eucharist, always remember the profound significance of this sacred ritual. In the bread and wine, you receive the body and blood of Christ, strengthening your connection with Him and with one another as members of the Church. Let the graces received from this holy sacrament guide you throughout your lives, helping you to be compassionate, forgiving, and always guided by love.

Today, I would also like to acknowledge the efforts and dedication of your families who have nurtured your faith and helped you prepare for this momentous occasion. Their support and guidance have played a crucial role in shaping you into the wonderful individuals you are today.



As you continue on your faith journey, I encourage you to remain steadfast in your love for God and your commitment to living a life of virtue and kindness. Let the teachings of Jesus be your compass, leading you to be a shining example of faith and love in the world. May God bless each one of you abundantly and grant you the strength to face life's challenges with courage and grace.

Once again, congratulations on your First Holy Communion! May it be a source of abundant blessings for you and your families.



Rafael A, Andre A, Louvel A, Noel B, Joshua B, Joshua C, Matthew C, Thomas C, Matteo C, Bronson C, Lewis D, Finn G, Zack H, Michael H, Mark J, Sean J, Aiden K, Lydia K, Sylvia K, Violet K, Rosie K, Angelina L, Alex M, Emma M, Luca M, Avisha M, Mira N, Trinity S, Bo S, Coralee S, Willow S, Wonai S, Hugo S, CJ S, Alexandra S, Louis S, Helena V, Andre W and Evelyn Y.

**God bless,
Marina Binns.
Principal**

FEAST OF MARY MACKILLOP

Mary, your life made a difference,

Mary, you could recognise when the poor were being used and abused,

Mary, you pushed the boundaries wider than the structures,

Mary, you were prepared to live among those whom you served.

Mary, a woman of vision, Mary, a woman with inner strength, Mary, a woman of prayer, Mary, a woman who dared to be different.

Lord Jesus, may we try to follow Mary and walk in the ways of the Spirit.

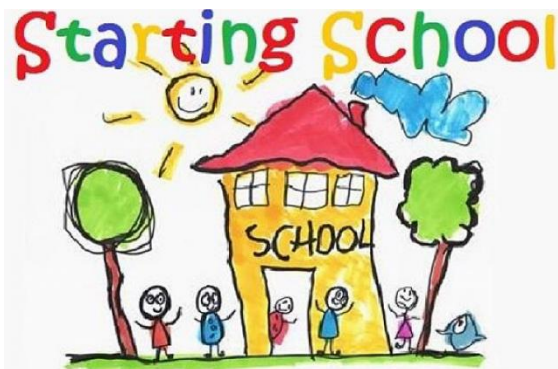
We invite you to join our Liturgy to celebrate the Feast of Mary Mackillop on **Tuesday 8th August at 11am** in St John's Church. We will be blessing our Term 3 and 4 School Leaders during this liturgy.

FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION

We also invite you to join our Mass to celebrate the Feast of the Assumption on **Tuesday 15th August at 11am** in St John's Church. It has always been a tradition in the Church to decorate Our Lady's altar with flowers on her special Feast Day. The children can bring a flower from your garden to school next Tuesday. Please do not go to any expense buying flowers. What is important is the feeling and thoughtfulness.

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

NEW ENTRANT ENROLMENTS FOR 2024



You are reminded that applications for New Entrant enrolment for next year (2024) will close on 31st August 2023. Children applying for enrolment after applications have closed for the forthcoming year will not be considered until the following year unless vacancies still exist on the roll after all previous applications have been accepted. If you have not yet made application for a New Entrant enrolment for 2024 then please email Michele Nash michelen@sjmb.school.nz for the application forms. Confirmation, or otherwise, of New Entrant enrolment will be sent to all applicants by mid-September 2023.

Please encourage your friends, family members and other families you know at pre-schools and daycare centres with new entrants who may qualify for Preference Enrolment to lodge their applications before 31st August or to ring Michele at the school office (Tel: 09 478 7734 Ext 203) if they have any questions regarding enrolment. Online applications can be made on the [tab](#) on the home page of the school website. Enquiries can also be made by email michelen@sjmb.school.nz

CULTURAL ITEMS

WANTED: Donations of Cultural Items St John's School is blessed to have a beautiful multicultural community and looks at ways we can celebrate our rich cultural diversity. One way of doing this is through our **Cultural Boxes** which we use to inspire conversation, curiosity and learning about countries and cultures. We would be grateful to receive donated items e.g., books, photos, pictures, maps, clothing, fabrics, ornaments, or souvenirs. Please send these to the office for Mrs Hames.

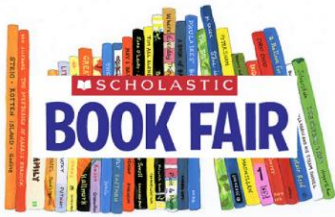
YEAR 5 AND 6 POSITIVE PUBERTY

Parent Meeting – Monday 7th August 6.30pm via Zoom.
Please keep an eye out in your email inbox for the meeting link.

SECOND HAND UNIFORM SALE

The next second-hand uniform sale will be held **THIS Thursday, 3rd August** at 3.00pm in the hall. Cash preferred.

SCHOLASTIC ANNUAL BOOK FAIR



August 18th – 24th will see the Scholastic Book Fair taking place in the School Library. This is an annual event at St John's and gives children and parents an opportunity to purchase books and novelty items.

Tamariki will have an opportunity to walk around the book fair with their class and will bring home a leaflet to show the types of books available.

The Book Fair will be open at the following times:

Friday, 18th August during the Nearest & Dearest event

Friday 18th – Thursday 24th daily between 2.30 – 3.30pm for parents to make purchases

Wednesday 23rd for the duration of the Student Led Conferences

Payment via cash or EFTPOS (credit cards accepted) will be available.

Please remember to bring a shopping bag.

SCHOLASTIC LUCKY BOOK CLUB DISTRIBUTER NEEDED!

Once a term, usually in week 4 or 5, the school receives the orders that have been placed with the Book Club. Our current parent helper who used to sort the orders and deliver them to the children is no longer able to do this task. If you feel you could help with this, please email Library@sjmb.school.nz to find out more, training will be given.



STUDENT LIBRARIANS

Our Year 6 librarians have been doing a wonderful job of looking after the library and working hard to acquire all the skills they need to achieve their bronze and silver badges. Keep up the good work children!



MYSTERY READER IN THE LIBRARY

We have been delighted to welcome two 'Mystery Readers' into the library. During the lunch break the children have an opportunity to listen to stories read by our mystery visitor.

If you think you might like to be a Mystery Reader please email Mrs Dunn at Library@sjmb.school.nz

BOOK BATTLE

Last term our Year 5 & 6 children took part in the St John's Book Battle. All participants did really well, the questions were hard, and all contestants scored extremely well! It was also great to note how eager they were to come back and finish the competition during their lunch break when we ran out of time during the original allotted time slot. The top 10 rankings were constantly swapping. We are super proud of the 11 children who were such avid readers and now have an opportunity to represent St John's at the North Shore Interschool Book Battle next week. Big thanks to Mrs Marsh for her support of the children.



LOST BOOKS

Lookout for overdue notices coming home on your child's library day. If you have an overdue notice and have had a good look at home and they are not there, please email library@sjmb.school.nz and let me know. With student librarians and class librarians doing the returns they are sometimes not processed correctly and reshelfed. If I know they are not at home, the class teachers and I can keep a lookout for them in the library or classroom. In most cases, books are found eventually either at home, in the classroom or in the library. Above all, we want our children to read. By the school being informed that the books have been misplaced, the children can go back to getting out their full amount of books instead of one.

If your child is unable to locate their book(s) please contact the Library at library@simb.school.nz and let Mrs Dunn know that you have had a good look for it. This is information that is preferred to come from an adult through our email system rather than via a child.

Your email will receive a reply like this with a picture of the cover of the book to help you spot it.

"Thank you for letting me know that you have had a good search for the missing library books, I am sure that the book will turn up eventually. I will mark the book as Misplaced; this means that your child will be able to continue getting books out during the year."

CLIFFORD THE BIG RED DOG PRIZE PACK COMPETITION



A

B

C

Last term Mrs Bridges was excited to share with the children that a new puppy would soon be joining her family. A competition was run in the library for children to guess which puppy she had chosen from three of the litter.



The lucky winner drawn from the correct guesses (B) was Izaak Chua – congratulations! Little Luna joined Mrs Bridges' family at the beginning of the school holidays.

Ngā mihi

Chantelle Dunn (Library Manager)

OUT AND ABOUT AROUND THE SCHOOL

YEAR 4 AUCKLAND MUSEUM VOLCANO VISIT



PTFA DISCO





ROOM 6 MATARIKI KITES





St John's School

Mānuka Class - Year 6 at St John's School worked collaboratively to create these kites. As kaitiaki of our world, we chose to use bamboo poles and recycled paper shopping bags as the basis of our kite designs. We loved the contrast of the brown paper bags against the black paper in our silhouette designs.

Each kite represents one of the stars of Matariki.

- **Matariki** is the star that signifies reflection, hope, our connection to the environment, and the gathering of people. Matariki is also connected to the health and wellbeing of people
- **Pōhutukawa** is the star associated with those that have passed on
- **Waitī** is represented by the freshwater awa- river flowing from the mountains
- **Waitā** is the moana - the ocean, in particular, our Waitematā harbour, nourishing the sea life within
- **Waipuna-ā-rangi** is the star linked to the water cycle, the kātao - water of the skies
- **Tupuānuku** represents the harvest we look forward to, with the kai - food that grows in our soil
- **Tupuārangi** celebrates that we are kaitiaki of our forests, including the birds and animals that live within
- **Ururangi** represents the power of the wind, telling the story of Tāwhirimātea.
- **Hiwa-i-te-rangi** is the star associated with granting our wishes, and realising our aspirations for the coming year

At this time of Matariki, we celebrate our resilient, strong community that has travelled through difficult times in recent years. We honour those who have left us, and thank God for the gifts these people have left us. We aspire to be the change that the world needs as we journey through life - te wā.

