



15th August
2023

NEWSLETTER

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

Kia ora whānau,

Today we celebrated the Feast of the Assumption, remembering the day that St Mary, Mother of Christ and the Mother of the Church, was taken into Heaven. It was a lovely Mass and I would especially like to thank Mrs Laura Baddeley for her work organising the Mass and Mrs Cara Mountjoy for her beautiful music. I would also like to thank the teachers for their work supporting during the Mass and for preparing the children to celebrate this very special Mass for Aotearoa New Zealand.

Bishop Jean-Baptiste Pompallier was the first Catholic bishop of New Zealand. At the end of the first Mass he celebrated in Aotearoa New Zealand, on 13th January 1838, in Hokianga, he dedicated the country to Mary under the title of her Assumption. The New Zealand Catholic Bishops' Conference, in a pastoral letter in 1988 said:

"In dedicating New Zealand to Mary in her Assumption, Bishop Pompallier placed our country under the protection of Mary as she is now – alive, body and soul, rejoicing in the happiness of God's kingdom."



During the Mass we also farewelled Mr Dixon as a school family. He finishes his role as our caretaker this Friday. We wish him well as he embarks on new adventures; travelling overseas to see friends and family, spending time with his family in New Zealand and enjoying the opportunity to play more golf and spend more time in his garden.



Over the last few weeks the children have been very busy. With trips, visits and tournaments, the students have had many opportunities to extend their learning outside of the classroom walls. These opportunities would not be possible without the ongoing support of our wider community. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the important role you play, sacrificing your time and energy to provide transport, supervision and assistance on these occasions. Whether it is transporting and supporting children at sports tournaments, helping in the kitchen during Garden to Table, providing support for the PMP programme, climbing up Mangere Mountain or the many other various ways you give assistance... THANK YOU.

We are looking forward to celebrating our first Nearest and Dearest Day with you **THIS** Friday, 18th August. Just a reminder that, if there is no adult able to come and share time with your child, please let the class teacher know so that arrangements can be made. The allocated classroom for prayers can be found on your invitation. If you forget which room you are going to for prayers, feel free to pop into the office where we will have a master list.

STUDENT LED CONFERENCES

Just a reminder that School closes at 12:00pm on Wednesday, 23rd August for all classes. Student Led Conference Bookings are still open for all classes, except Room 10. Bookings will close next Tuesday at 12:00pm.

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.

We ask that the children 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**

CATHOLIC CARING MASS

Last week Mrs Baddeley, Mrs Perry and I took three students to the annual Caring Mass, held at Christ the King Church in Owairaka. This Mass is a wonderful way to acknowledge and celebrate all the good, caring work that is done in our community, including the support from the Caring Foundation, the wider Catholic community, and especially the Catholic Schools. It is uplifting to see and hear of so many occasions where students have stepped up to help those in need in practical ways as well as spiritual support.

Our school recipients of the Caring awards, Benjamin, Sienna and Clara, were selected by their peers in recognition of the caring manner they have shown to others. They were presented their awards by Monsignor Bernard Kiely and Mr Philip Mahoney, Manager of Catholic Education Services at the Catholic Diocese of Auckland.





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 (this is NOT A NON-UNIFORM DAY - children wear their school uniform as normal). 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.

PEACE WEEK

Last week we celebrated Peace Week. The Year 6 Peer Mediators worked with our staff co-ordinator, Mrs Miller, to prepare and run a variety of peace activities. Peace was also a focus in classes and I was delighted when Year 2 students, Leen and Lily, from Room 12 came to show me their wonderful poems about Peace for Peace Week.

Peace by Lily

Peace is sharing.
Peace is breathing in and out.
Peace is giving.
Peace is joyful.
Peace is loving.
Peace is being together.
Peace is a smile.
Peace is patting my cat.
Peace is playing together.
Peace is calmness.
Peace is hugging my puppy.
Peace is God's love.
Peace is listening to the waves.
Peace is listening to the sound of a shell.
Peace is all around us.
Peace is in our hearts.
Peace is in our land.

Peace by Leen

We are peaceful rivers of God.
The peace of the world is us.
The darkness will turn to lightness.
We give the World peace as we are peace.
The rivers of peace shall rise more powerful than ever
and bring God's lightness stronger.

CANS FOR CHRISTMAS

On 8th September we will have a collection for St. Vincent de Paul Society for Social Outreach.

Children are invited to bring in cans of food. The cans will go to help those who access the St. Vincent de Paul Society and The Mercy Hospice Centre.

Ngā mihi,
Laura Baddeley
Manutaki Akoranga Katorika - Director of Religious Studies

CANS FOR
CHRISTMAS

CAN DRIVE

In support of
St Vincent de Paul
Society

8th September
2023

Proud Sponsors

TOSHIBA

YEAR 6 PERFORMING ARTS

Our Year 6 group have been hard at work getting ready to put on a school show. The show has been written by the children with the help of their teachers and centres on a school trip to Auckland Museum. More details and ticket information will be out in the next newsletter once performance times are confirmed.



REPRESENTING THE SCHOOL - SUPERCLUSTER RIPPA RUGBY TOURNAMENT



On Thursday, 3rd August, six teams from Years 3 - 6 participated in their second day of the Rippa Rugby Interschool Tournament. The weather was favourable as each team in turn took to the field.

I was impressed by their passion and attitude as well as the progress and development in their skills and teamwork. Many teams used the time between games to work with their coaches to upskill and practice their passing and intercepts.

Thank you to all the parents who helped coach, manage, transport, and support our teams.





REPRESENTING THE SCHOOL - NORTH SHORE CATHOLIC KAHUI AKO SPEECH COMPETITION



Last Tuesday Isaac Treeby and Sophie Hayward represented St John's at the North Shore Catholic Kahui Ako Speech Competition.

Embracing the concept of kaitiakitanga – guardianship and protection of our environment, both students presented persuasive speeches, encouraging us all to make better choices to protect our world through the use of electric vehicles and by eliminating plastic containers and straws in our drink choices.

REPRESENTING THE SCHOOL - NORTH SHORE BOOK BATTLE



Last Friday Mrs Marsh and Mrs Dunn took a team of 11 students to compete in the North Shore Interschool Book Battle, held at Northcross Intermediate School.

The children were very excited to share how they had participated and competed on the day. I am extremely proud of them and all their hard work and commitment to their preparation. A special thanks to Mrs Marsh and Mrs Dunn for their facilitation and support of the team.

A word from the team...

August the 11th was the North Shore Book Battle (sponsored by Barfoot & Thompson, Browns Bay & Scholastic) at Northcross Intermediate School. We were all very excited to go and compete in the Book Battle because we all worked really hard to study lots of books as much as we could. For all of us Book Battlers, our spare time in the past few weeks has been spent pouring over books, and then finally the big day arrived, so off we went!

There were LOTS of schools competing, but we knew we had put our all into preparing for this day. We saw Bonnie who was on the Carmel College Team. Getting ready for the Book Battle was really fun. We had to read a LOT OF BOOKS, but it was amazing, nevertheless.

Thanks to our lovely teachers Mrs Marsh and Mrs Dunn we were able to get hold of all the books required and help us prepare!

Anyway... the competition was awesome! Both St John's teams A and B came 3rd=! Dan won a spot prize, and the School won a lucky draw prize. We were all extremely thrilled!

At the end of the Book Battle we went to Sherwood Park to play on the playground and had some ice cream.

**Written by Tiwonge Shoniwa and Amina Deles
(St John's Interschool Book Battle Team Captains 2023)**

YEAR 4 TRIP TO MANGERE MOUNTAIN EDUCATION CENTRE - Written by Room 3

On Friday the 4th of August, Rooms 2 and 3 went to Māngere Mountain as we had been learning about Aotearoa history and volcanoes in Terms 1 and 2.

First, we were welcomed onto the grounds of the Māngere Mountain Education Centre with a karakia, mihi and waiata. St John's responded with a mihi and we performed our school waiata.

Next, we got ready for our walk up the mountain. Along the way, we stopped for our guides to tell us about the early history of the mountain. Māori families lived there long ago, they grew kumara, yams and taro. The mountain was a highly prized major fortified pa. They had great security for keeping their enemies away from their land. One way was to put shells on the path so the people living on the mountain would know if strangers were on their land and wanted to attack their village.

The views of the mountain and surrounding areas were beautiful and we were lucky to go on a sunny day. When we had finished our big walk we were allowed to play in the playground. That was lots of fun. Returning to the Education Centre we had lunch and then played tag in the nature area near the centre. Then our classes were split into two and we participated in two workshops: kite making and Māori games. We got to bring our kites back to school and you can see them hanging in our classrooms.

We really enjoyed the experience and would like to go again sometime in the future. Maybe we could take our parents there too.



SOCIAL ACTION – KAITIAKI GUARDIANS

Once again this year, a group of our Year 5 students are working alongside Julie from the Auckland Council to actively reduce pest plants in our local environment. They have been busy learning about noxious weeds and pest plants, locating and removing them from areas within the school grounds. One area they have been working on is the hill between the presbytery and the back court, removing agapanthus plants.

Last week, they made the most of a rainy day by talking with Julia about introduced animals and the consequences of their introduction on our native animals. With only 10 minutes of fine weather before the end of the day, they were super keen to get back out into the grounds to dig out more agapanthus.



SCHOOL DATABASE



It has come to our attention that there have been some recent changes to addresses and phone numbers.

Please let us know if this is the case for you to help us keep our records up to date.

Email: MicheleN@sjmb.school.nz

Or use the link on the school website, [here](#).

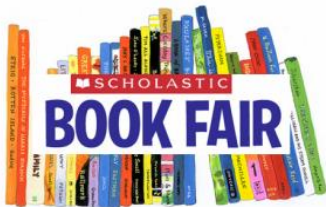
NEW ENTRANT ENROLMENTS FOR 2024



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

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR



Once again, St John's is holding a Scholastic Book Fair. Book Fairs build the excitement and fun of reading in a pop-up bookshop style event at school to celebrate reading and raise funds for books and resources for the school. Every book that is purchased earns our school reward points that we can redeem on books and resources for the library.

Each student will be given a time to visit with their class to explore the book fair and, if you wish to purchase a book, the Book Fair will be opening in the Library this Friday and will be open during our Nearest and Dearest time. It will also be open next week Monday to Thursday from 2:30pm until 3:30pm and during the Student Led Conferences.

FOUND

A sum of money has been found in the church car park this morning. If you believe it could be yours please call into the school office to claim it. A description of the container it is in and the name is required.