



29<sup>th</sup> August  
2023

# NEWSLETTER

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

Kia ora whānau,

A real highlight over the past two weeks were the different opportunities we have had to gather as a school and as a wider school community. It was lovely for the wider community to join us for the Feast of the Assumption where, alongside celebrating the Feast Day of Mary, New Zealand's Patron Saint, we also farewelled Mr Dixon. While we are still in the process of finding a permanent replacement, we are grateful to Mr David Harper who has accepted the temporary position as caretaker for the remainder of this term.



Our first ever Nearest and Dearest Day was a great success and very well attended. I would like to thank all those who were able to take the time to join us for the morning. While we were initially a bit worried about the weather, the rain stopped, and the sun came out so that everyone could enjoy playing together in the playground, visiting the classrooms and the library, and enjoying a cookie together.

It was great to hear the children buzzing about their learning as they prepared to share this with their parents at the Student Led Conferences. This gave the children a real ownership over their own learning. I have been fortunate to view several presentations that have been created as well as reading various pieces of writing that the children have selected to share with their parents, showcasing some of the learning that is happening in the classes at the moment.

We have also gathered for author visits, sharing across classes, class trips and sporting events.



I would like to take the opportunity to wish all our wonderful Fathers, Grandfathers, Godfathers, and those who take on the special role of fathering in our whānau, a Happy Father's Day for this Sunday.

May God continue to bless you on your parenting journey as you work on making the future of your children bright and blessed.

***And He will turn the hearts of fathers to their children  
and the hearts of children to their fathers...***

*Malachi 4:6*

## SCHOOL SHOW

As part of the Performing Arts Curriculum this year the Year 6 children will be producing our school show. 'Flux', a show written by the children with the help of their teachers, tells the story of a class on a trip to the Auckland Museum.

Evening shows are on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September and Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September, starting at 7:00pm. There will also be a matinee on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September at 1:00pm.

Tickets are available via [Kindo](#) and are \$10 per person to help cover the cost of putting on the show.



## DAFFODIL DAY

Thank you for your generous support of Daffodil Day. We raised \$417.40 for the Cancer Society.

RECORDING OF MASS FOR SUNDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> SEPTEMBER

Yesterday our Year 4 and 5 students attended a Parish Mass that was recorded for Shine TV. The Mass will be broadcast this Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September.

## CANS FOR CHRISTMAS



On Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September we will have a collection as part of the Cans for Christmas initiative.

Cans for Christmas was established in 2015 as a community building project between the Catholic Schools in Auckland.

It has now grown nationwide with schools in Wanaka, Alexandra and Wellington joining in.

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*

## SOCIAL ACTION DAY – YEAR 5



The Catholic social teaching principle of Participation is recognising that everyone has a part to play in our communities. Promoting Participation – Nāu te rourou, Nāku te rourou – means recognising we each have something unique and important to contribute to society. We are called on to be active members of our local and global communities.



The Catholic social teaching principle of Stewardship – Kaitiakitanga – is about being responsible guardians. We are kaitiaki – guardians of the earth. Exercising stewardship is caring for the gifts God has given us, including the environment, our own personal talents and other resources.

Our children are involved in many varied social action initiatives throughout the year for the wider community, most of them based within the school. This Friday we have another first for St John's. Our Year 5 students are undertaking community service as a group, outside of our school community. There will be a group doing service at the Church, some children will be giving service at two local daycares and preschools, helping out with younger children, and a group will be working with Julia from the council planting 200 trees in a local park. We look forward to them sharing their experience with us on their return.

Thank you to Mrs Baddeley, Mrs Perry, Mrs Blind and Mrs Moss and the parent helpers for supporting this initiative with the children.



## YEAR 1 MUSEUM TRIP



"On Monday, we went to the museum. It was fun. We learnt about volcanoes. Did you know that the museum was built on top of a volcano? There are fifty-three volcanoes in where we live." - By Emma, Room 12.

"On Monday, we went to the museum, and I saw two dinosaurs. At the museum, I learnt about volcanoes and about Rangitoto. Rangitoto is the youngest volcano. Rangitoto is so so special because it is the youngest volcano. Did you know that Rangitoto is 600 years old? You know, that is very old for a human, but it is very young for a volcano. When I went into the volcano room, it was loud!" - By Kate, Room 12.



## NEW SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER



Kia ora whānau.

The Board is pleased to announce that Mr Tim Gunn has been selected to fill the vacant board member position on the school board.

Tim is a past student who attended his primary years at St John's. Tim and his wife Lara, have two children attending St John's, Sienna and Carter Gunn. They live locally.

For the second year now, Tim has coached the 'St John's' Rippa Rugby team at East Coast Bays, where he holds a position on the Junior Rugby committee. Tim has attended many school trips and participates fully in the community life of the school.

Tim is employed at Mitre 10 as part of the Senior Leadership Group. He is familiar with working in committees and teams, meeting deadlines, consulting and collaborating. Tim brings compassion and commitment to his role on the Board, and we look forward to utilising his personal and professional skills to continue the Board's work of enhancing the educational excellence of our children.

Regards,  
Anne-Marie Percy  
*Presiding Member, St John's School Board*

## SCHOOL UNIFORM PRICE INCREASE



We have been notified by New Zealand Uniforms that, following detailed analysis of their retail pricing given the cost inflation of fabric, manufacturing and freight in the last 12 months, there will be some changes to your school uniform pricing.

I have attached the [new price list](#) for your information and the pricing is scheduled to become effective from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2023.

## SECOND HAND UNIFORM SALE

The next second hand uniform sale will be held in the school hall at **2.50pm on Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> September**. Please bring cash.

If you need specific items please contact our parent coordinator, Fran Gilchrist on Tel: 021 488 279.



## PTFA EVENTS



### FROZEN FRIDAY

**THIS Friday**, 1st September, is Frozen Friday.

To welcome the first day of Spring the PTFA will be selling Juicies at lunchtime. These proved extremely popular last time. All money raised will contribute to our covered outdoor learning area (COLA) fundraising.

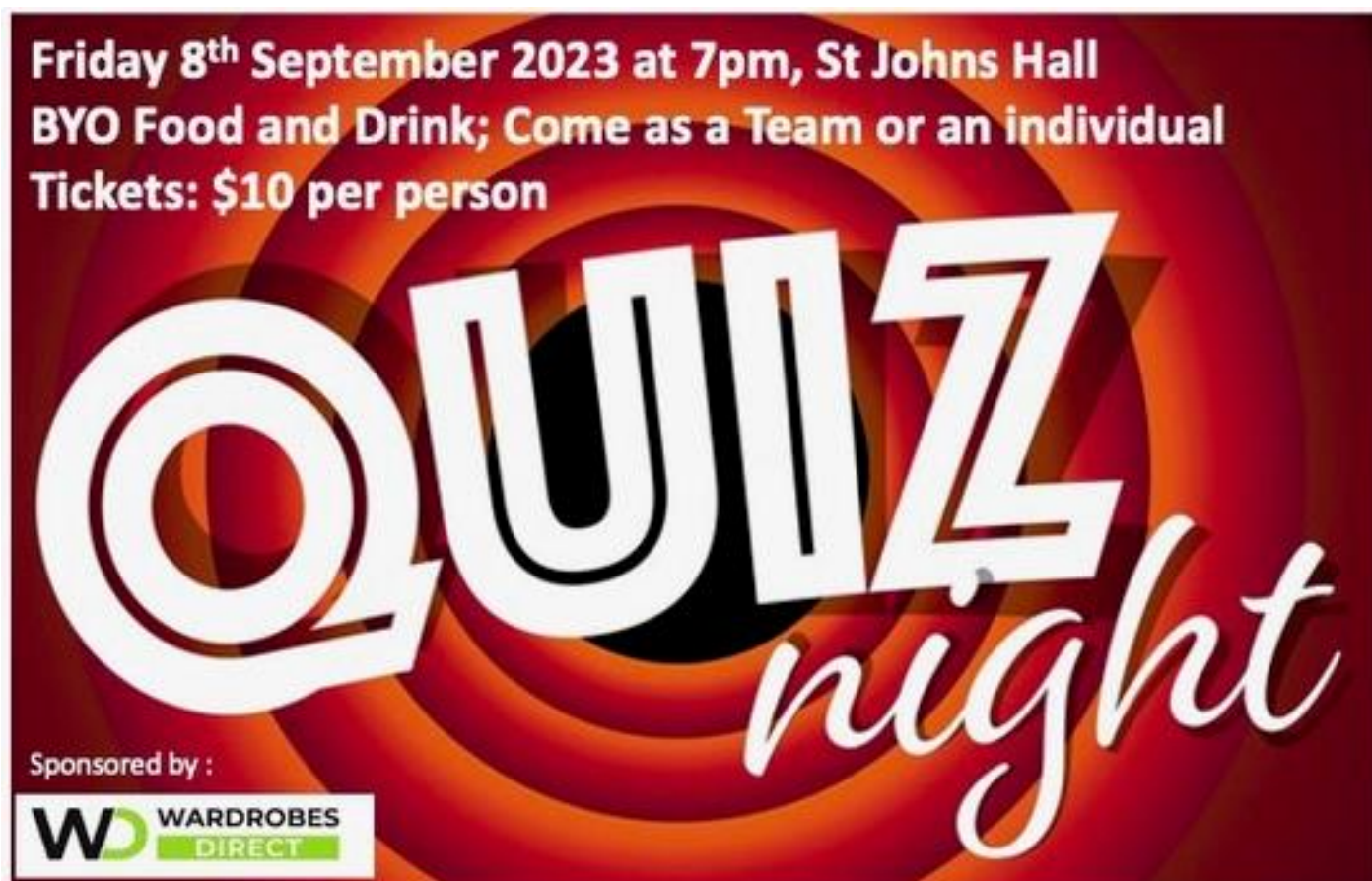
Children are asked to bring **\$2.00** if they wish to purchase a Juicie. They may buy more than one if they wish.

### QUIZ NIGHT - FRIDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER

The PTFA welcome you to come and join in the fun that only a quiz night can bring.

Come along and compete for a \$200 voucher for Ramen Takara, kindly donated by Wardrobes Direct. There are some other wonderful prizes on offer on the night including a special make-up session, kindly donated by Bianca Fallon, valued at \$100!

Tickets available on [Kindo](#) for \$10.00 per person. This event will definitely go ahead.





## REPRESENTING THE SCHOOL – KIDS SING CHOIR COMPETITION



Our School Choir has been hard at work preparing for the Kids Sing Competition. The Kids Sing is a choral festival for Primary and Intermediate schools held in 8 regional centres. Across the country, this festival involves around 3,500 children.

Our choir will be performing at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Parnell on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September.

The aim of the competition is developing performance skills and offering constructive feedback from a New Zealand Choral Federation adjudicator. Judging takes place during the day and the children receive feedback from the judges on technical aspects of choral singing such as;

- Intonation: accuracy of pitch; overall tuning
- Tone and Blend: evenness of tone; overall blend of voices
- Vocal Technique: breath support; posture
- Diction: clarity of consonants; uniformity of vowels
- Interpretation: phrasing and expression; integrity to text; observance of performance markings (articulation, tempo, dynamics etc.)
- Staging and Presentation: visual impact; choral discipline; stage presence



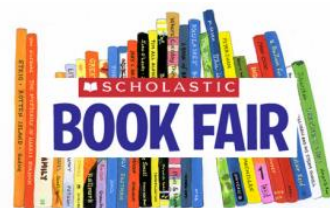
The children then have the opportunity to perform alongside the other competing schools in the evening showcase.

In addition to the physiological benefits of singing, improving breathing, posture and muscle tone, making music can benefit our sense of wellbeing as well. Singing is known to build self-confidence, promotes self-esteem, engages the emotions, promotes social inclusion, supports social skill development, and enables young people of different abilities to come together successfully to create something special in the arts.

I would like to acknowledge the hard work and effort the Year 6 children are putting into their preparation. I would also like to thank Mrs Cara Mountjoy, our choir director.

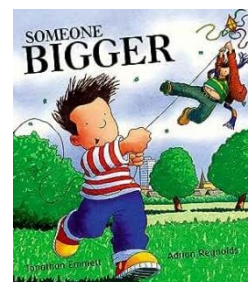
## LIBRARY NEWS

A huge thank you to everyone who found time to come and shop at the Scholastic Book Fair last week. Your purchases, totalling more than \$5,000, mean that the school will receive 35% of the sales to purchase more items for the Library.



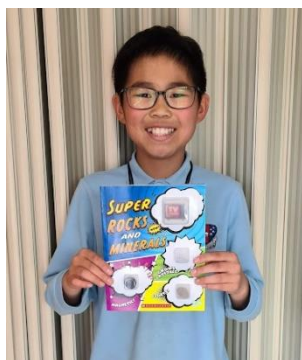
### MYSTERY READER

Thank you to Mr Martin Bridges who visited the library earlier this term as a Mystery Reader. He read 'My Elephant is Blue' a new book for our library and one of his son's favourite childhood books 'Someone Bigger' a copy of which the children then requested for the library!



## GEOLOGIST COMP

Congratulations to our winners who correctly answered the question “What do we call a scientist who studies rocks and minerals?”



## REPRESENTING THE SCHOOL – INTERSCHOOL TOURNAMENTS

### SUPERCLUSTER HOCKEY

On Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> August, two of our hockey teams, the Blacksticks and the Defenders, represented us at the Supercluster Tournament. Both teams represented us well and played some stiff competition resulting in extremely close games.

The Defenders placed 5<sup>th</sup> in their division.  
Congratulations to our girls Blacksticks team who won their competition.



### INTERSCHOOL BASKETBALL

On Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> August, our Year 6 Celtics Basketball team represented us at the Supercluster Tournament at the North Shore Events Centre.

This team play together in the weekly league.



### INTERSCHOOL FOOTBALL



On Monday 28<sup>th</sup> August, our Interschool Football team represented us at the Supercluster Tournament at Ashley Reserve.

This team, formed for this tournament, is made up of children who play in a weekly league for their local club.

Congratulations to the team on their 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish.



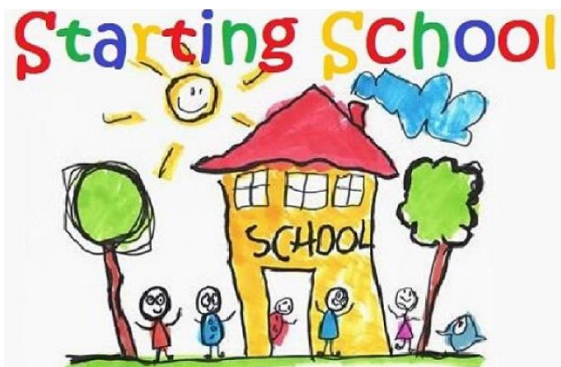


## THANK YOU SO MUCH

Thank you to Mrs Dorrington, our Sport Co-ordinator, all the Coaches, Managers, and the parents who provided transport. Your ongoing assistance facilitated the team's participation in these events.

I would also like to thank all the parents and whānau who support the children from the sidelines. It wouldn't be the same without you.

## NEW ENTRANT ENROLMENTS FOR 2024



You are reminded that applications for New Entrant enrolment for next year (2024) will **close THIS THURSDAY 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](mailto: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 31<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:michelen@sjmb.school.nz)

## DATES TO DIARY

**TEACHER ONLY DAY** - A reminder that school will be closed for a Ministry of Education Teacher Only Day on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November.

**END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR** - School will close for the end of the year at 12:00pm on 14<sup>th</sup> December.

## FRIENDLY REMINDER

**We kindly request that parents and caregivers avoid using the school playground during school hours.**

We understand that having a playground close by is a fantastic opportunity for your little ones to play and socialise. During school hours, we request that the playground is kept available for the school's use for our students to engage in physical activities, lessons, and outdoor learning experiences.

## OUR OWN PUBLISHED AUTHOR AND ARTIST

Since 2015, Toitoti has published a quarterly journal celebrating the curiosity, courage and creativity of young New Zealand writers and artists.

Congratulations Yasmeena who has had her work professionally published in Toitoti Magazine. It is a great showcase of her talent and attention to detail.

Have a look on Room 6's door to see Yasmeena's writing and illustrations on the issue of Kauri Dieback in New Zealand.



### JAMES RUSSELL



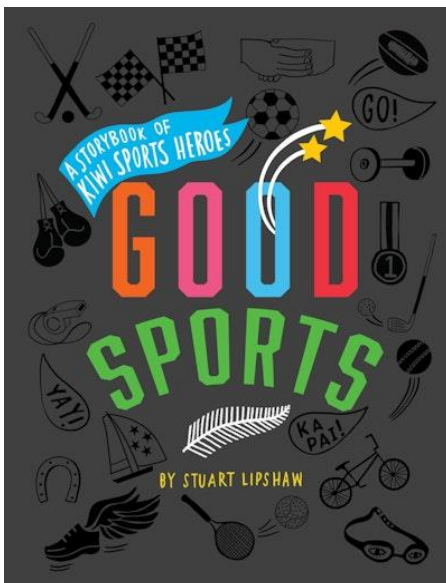
On Monday 21<sup>st</sup> August, local author James Russell came to visit St John's and spoke to different year levels.

James Russell is the best-selling children's author of The Dragon Brothers Trilogy (The Dragon Hunters, The Dragon Tamers and The Dragon Riders) and the Dragon Defenders series.

The Year 4 classes were particularly interested as they are currently studying one of his novels in class. They appreciated the opportunity to ask him questions about some of his character and storyline decisions.



### WEEK 9 AUTHOR VISIT- STU LIPSHAW



On Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September, the Waitemata team will enjoy a visit from local Mairangi Bay author Stu Lipsaw.

Stu is the author of 'Oh Boy' and his new book 'Good Sports' A Storybook of Kiwi Sports Heroes is released today.

For further information regarding the book please click [here](#).