



ST JOHN'S SCHOOL

— Te Kura o Hato Hoani —

MAIRANGI BAY, AUCKLAND

St John's Parents, Teachers and Friends Association

"Nāku te rourou nāu te rourou ka ora ai te iwi."
With your basket and my basket, together we will thrive.

Kia ora koutou e te whānau!

Welcome to Term 3 – Can you believe that we are already over half way through the school year? The first week of term has been one of mixed success.

CHILDREN'S DISCO – 21st JULY 2023

This was such a fun event and was very well attended. It was quite magical to see the happy faces jumping around to the sounds of DJ Ray. Some pretty spectacular dance moves were on display too – not to mention the array of different costumes! Thank you too to the wonderful parents/siblings who assisted with the decorating of the hall and on the BBQ/Glowstick stand. It is your help that ensures the success of these events and the children definitely had a ball.

From a fundraising perspective, the disco has contributed a further **\$1000**, based on the sales of the sausages and glowsticks, into our COLA fund which is fantastic!!



CASINO NIGHT – 22nd JULY 2023 – CANCELLED

Not quite so fantastic however was the cancelling of the Casino night for the parents.

Firstly, thank you to those 17 families that purchased tickets to this event. We are sorry that the low ticket sales meant that we did not meet the minimum numbers required for the vendor. The vendor was very understanding and was kind enough to waive the cancellation fee so that we were not left out of pocket which we appreciated as others may not have been quite so generous.

We have subsequently received a number of emails regarding the cancellation of the event. I thank those who took the time to provide feedback and again encourage you to attend future PTFA meetings. I would also like to bring a few things to the attention of the wider audience.

The **PTFA has meetings** held on the **first Tuesday of the month at 7pm** in the school hall and all parents are encouraged to attend. You do not require a special invitation – all you need to do is turn up! A virtual link is also available if you cannot make it in person. At the **first meeting of the year**, we plan what events will be held usually based on what has been successful (in terms of attendance and financial liability) in the previous years.

The previous Casino night had been well attended and we had received many comments from parents that it was a "great night" and that they would "like to do it again." Whilst there was concern raised at the PTFA meeting that we would need good attendance for this to be a success, the feeling in the room was that it would be easily achievable. We felt that the requirement to sell **60 tickets** given that there are **225 families** at the school also doable. And so...the Casino night was booked. It



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was as disappointing for us as it was for those who had bought tickets to have to cancel and this is something that we do not want to happen again.

We have learnt some valuable lessons through this which I would also like to share.

1. **Reliance on external vendors should be kept to a minimum.**
 - a. Events runs by the PTFA should **not** run at a loss.
 - i. Our purpose is to raise funds for the benefit of the children
 - ii. Running parent social events that negatively draw on those funds is not an option
 - b. Where possible any events that we undertake going forward should minimise external involvement.
 - i. We are then not bound by minimum numbers or the pressure to cover the cost of the vendor
2. **Better communication with regards to ticket sales cut-off dates.**
 - a. Although CLPs and our School Facebook pages indicated that if minimum ticket sales were not met we did not specify a date by when tickets must be bought.
 - b. Future communications with regards to events with minimum number requirements will specify a cut-off date.
 - i. Please be aware that where there is external involvement this may require you to purchase your tickets a number of weeks in advance of the event.
3. **Greater community involvement**
 - a. We have 225 families with children at our school. With greater community representation at our PTFA meetings, we would have a better understanding of what is more likely to be successful as well as greater support for our activities within the school.

We need you! We need you to come to our PTFA meetings. We need you to help us build our community. We need you to support our fundraising efforts.

SAVE THE DATE – FRIDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER 2023:



We do want there to be a parent event this term so we will be holding a **PTFA-run Quiz night** on **Friday 8th September at 7pm**. The cost of the tickets will be **\$10** and you will bring your own food and drink. This event **WILL** go ahead irrespective of ticket sale numbers. You will be able to come as a Team or as an individual. This **WILL** be the parent event of 2023. Look out for more information in due



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course. **Sponsorship opportunities are available for businesses and we would welcome donations of suitable prizes for each of the rounds.** Please email: ptfa@sjmb.school.nz if you or your business is able to help.

KIDSARTWORKS FUNDRAISER – COMING UP:



The children will begin creating their artwork over the next few weeks. This artwork will then be used to produce cards, calendars and diaries. Orders will be taken before the end of Term and delivered to the school in the first half of Term 4.

GALA – FRIDAY 10th NOVEMBER 2023



The preparations are already underway for our main fundraising event of the year. We will soon be contacting stall holders from last year to check their availability and asking for volunteers from each classroom to run stalls again this year. If you have an idea for a stall or have items to donate, please email us and let us know: ptfa@sjmb.school.nz

PTFA SURVEY

Finally, the PTFA will be sending out a **short survey**. I would encourage you to complete it. Your answers to it will help us understand the barriers to participation and give us a better understanding of our parent base and what fundraising activities appeal to you. **One lucky person will win a bottle of bubbles for their efforts.** 😊

St John's is an awesome school and we have a fantastic school community. Let us all work together to foster our community spirit and in doing so create more wonderful opportunities to connect with each other and to provide more for our tamariki.

Amanda Dixon-McIver
Chair, St John's PTFA