



**6th December
2023
Term 4, Week 9**



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

Kia ora whānau,

This is our last newsletter for 2023 and I would like to take a moment to express my gratitude. I thank you all for your support, caring and commitment to our school, and to me personally over the past year.

Thank you to the parents and guardians who have supported and encouraged the children, on their learning journey this year. On behalf of the school staff, I would also like to thank you for your involvement in the many school activities and events that have enriched this year.

I would like to thank our wonderful PTFA, your work benefits the whole community, both present and future. Your financial support of learning programmes and resources enhances the everyday learning experiences in and out of the classroom. I thank all the parents who attend the meetings and who continue to dedicate their time and energy to supporting the school in many practical ways. I would like to acknowledge the office holders; Amanda, Brendan and Mary for their leadership, Rachael for convening the gala, Rebekah for her work organising the online fundraisers and Fran for her work with the second hand uniform. Thank you also to the CLPs who provide a valuable link between the PTFA and the class parents.

Our school is very blessed to be supported by a wonderful Board and I thank you for giving up your time and expertise in governing the school; forming policy, setting the strategic direction and financial and property management. I would like to personally acknowledge Anne-Marie, our Presiding Member and Emma, our Treasurer for their ongoing support in these roles.

Finally, I would like to thank our incredible staff who have worked so hard for the children and the community over the year. Thank you for your unwavering commitment to nurturing our students and your passion for education.

I do hope that you will be able to take some time to be with family and friends this festive season, whether that be at home or abroad. I wish you all a very blessed Christmas and a joyful New Year. I pray that you and your whānau will be happy, be safe and I wish you all the very best in the year ahead.

God bless,
Marina Binns
Tumuaki - Principal.

END OF SCHOOL YEAR

SCHOOL CLOSURES FOR 2023 on Thursday, 14th December at 12:00 noon

School buses will not be running, please make arrangements for your child/ren to be collected promptly at midday.

END OF YEAR REPORTS

These will be coming home with the children on the last day of school. Please look out for the envelope in your child's bag. If, for any reason, your child is not at school on the last day, these will be posted to your home address.

Class placements are now finalised. Included in the report is information specifying what room your child will be in for 2024, a welcome note introducing their new class teacher and instructions for booking interviews for Thursday 1st February, 2024.

2024 TERM DATES AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Thursday 1 st February	School open for Interview Day
Friday 2 nd February	School open for Classes
Tuesday 6 th February	Waitangi Day (School closed due to public holiday)
Friday 29 th March	Good Friday (School closed due to public holiday)
Monday 1 st April	Easter Monday (School closed due to public holiday)
Tuesday 2 nd April	Easter Tuesday (School closed due to public holiday for schools)
Friday 12 th April	Last Day of school for Term 1
Sat 13 th - Sun 28 th April	School Holidays (includes ANZAC Day 25 April)
Monday 29 th April	Term 2 begins
Friday 31 st May	Teacher only Day (School closed for students)
Monday 3 rd June	King's Birthday (School closed due to public holiday)
Friday 28 th June	Matariki (School closed due to public holiday)
Friday 5 th July	Last Day of school for Term 2
Sat 6 th July - Sun 21 st July	School Holidays
Monday 22 nd July	Term 3 begins
Friday 27 th September	Last Day of school for Term 3
Sat 28 th Sept - Sun 13 th Oct	School Holidays
Monday 14 th October	Term 4 begins
Monday 28 th October	Labour Day (School closed due to public holiday)
Friday 15 th November	Teacher only Day (School closed for students)
Tuesday 17 th December	School closes for the year at 12:00pm

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES

I am very pleased to inform you that the Board has appointed Cara Mountjoy as our new Director of Religious Studies. The DRS sits on the school leadership team and is responsible to the principal for the Religious Education curriculum. They give guidance and provide effective leadership in religious education and observances throughout the school including prayer, liturgy and developing and supporting our Catholic Faith and Josephite Character.

END OF YEAR MASS AND GRADUATION

"What a wonderful day we had together yesterday! It was so special to see the Year Six students lead such a beautiful, child-centred mass, they all did a wonderful job! Feedback suggests they also had a fabulous time with the waterslide and pool too! There would have been some tired graduates last night, I am sure! Thank you for coming along and making the day so special for us all." – Year 6 teachers

For those who were unable to join us, here is the [link](#) to the Nativity Video that was shared as the Gospel reading at the Mass.

SOCIAL OUTREACH - YEAR SIX CHRISTMAS MARKET



The Year 6 students have been creating products for sale at a special Christmas market stall. Production is well in process and almost ready to sell!

"We are looking forward to holding our Y6 Technology Unit market next week. We are selling Cookies, Croc Charms, Christmas Decorations and other goodies. The market will be held from 2:30pm onwards each day after school, and we will be collecting cans for St. Vincent de Paul at this time as well. Come to school next week armed with a can and some cash and enjoy our hard work! All profits will also go to St. Vincent de Paul." – Year 6 students

PTFA CHRISTMAS TREE FUNDRAISER... IT'S NOT TOO LATE

Get ready to embrace the holiday season with a picture-perfect Christmas tree! The PTFA still have a few trees available for sale, with collection this Sunday.

You can choose between regular trees (5ft - 6ft'6) for \$45 or large trees (7ft - 7ft'6) for \$75. We offer convenient delivery for an additional \$15, and don't forget to grab a Christmas tree stand for \$40.

Mark your calendar for collection or delivery on Sunday, December 10th. To order please visit this [link](#) and complete the order form.



ESOL GRADUATION

On Thursday 23rd November, all the ESOL students, along with Miss Binns, Mrs Williams, and Mrs McFadzean gathered together in the outdoor classroom for the Graduation of our ESOL students and End of Year Celebration. We were led in prayer by Amelia, Poppy, Christine and Anushka, where we asked for Blessings for all our Teachers and our families.

Miss Binns spoke to the students about their English Language Journey and said how proud she was of all the ESOL students. She encouraged us to continue in our journey as it will help us in all curriculum areas, especially with academic language.



Our 2023 graduates are: Joseph Bae, Anushka Kumaran, Christine Lee, Clara Sieun Kim, John Wang, Mayan Awrooj, Lucas Ye, Maximo Boxall, Jack Bai, Angelina Lavender de la Garza, Mira Nakar, and Andre Wartanian.



It was pleasing to see the students answer questions correctly from Miss Binns that included "What is a graduation?" and many children knew the name of the special hat that is held above the head of the graduates. This is called a Mortar Board or a Trencher.



Our gathering concluded with a traditional Christmas treat being given to the children and we ate our morning tea together.

From all the ESOL students at St John's School, we wish you a Blessed Christmas.

Thank you,
Mrs Fuaaletoelau (TIC ESOL), Mrs Williams, and Mrs McFadzean (ESOL Tutors)

GARDEN TO TABLE



Our recent seedling and produce sale was a big success. Thank you to the school community for supporting this. We raised \$122 for our programme.

The children worked hard planting seeds and painting pots for our sale in the weeks before. We then harvested kale, silverbeet, cabbage, lettuces, worm tea and bunches of herbs for sale.

We hope to make this an annual event.

We received this wonderful feedback from a parent:

"Attached is a photo of the kale and cabbage coleslaw we made using the kids' produce that we bought at the sale. It was very cool to see what the children had grown, and have the opportunity to buy bits and pieces. We also bought two little lettuces which were very yummy and made a delicious salad to go with our dinner on Thursday night."

"And we're looking forward to seeing how the seedlings that we bought grow, and what they produce! So my son will be able to continue his gardening all summer."



SOCIAL OUTREACH - YEAR 6 CHOIR



Last week our Year 6 choir went to Outram Hall to sing for a Christmas party hosted by the Murrays Bay Residents Association.

"Thank you so much for bringing your students to sing at our morning tea."

"They were so delightful and did a wonderful performance, thoroughly enjoyed by everyone."

CONGRATULATIONS LAKERS



"The Year 4 St John's Lakers managed to come first in their grade again! It was a great season for this team who have dominated most games this semester. Thanks again to the excellent coaching skills of Becky Buckley. Well done, Lakers!"

LOST / FOUND PROPERTY

It is nearing the end of the year and the blue box of lost property items in the office is FULL yet again!

School uniform items, mufti clothing, shoes, sports balls, water bottles, lunch boxes etc. We endeavour to return items that are clearly labelled, however, at the end of the year unnamed items left in the bin will be donated to the PTFA second hand uniforms for resale and all non-school clothing, footwear and other items will be donated to charity. You and your children are welcome to come and look for missing items at any time of day whilst the office is open.

This is also a timely reminder to clearly name **all** items that your child brings to school.

SCHOOL LEAVERS



- If your family is leaving our school, please make sure to stop any regular automatic payments that have been set up before the school year finishes. You may also need to transfer or close your account which can be done as follows:
- **Not sure if your new school is using Kindo?** If you're not sure if your new school is using Kindo, you can either ask them directly or go to "My Details" in your Kindo account and click on the list of schools to see if your new school is listed.
- **New school IS using Kindo.** If your new school is using Kindo, simply click on the new school from the list in "My Details" of your Kindo account and you'll be attached to the new school's menu. Any balance on your Kindo account will remain available to spend with the new school.
- **New school is NOT using Kindo, or you no longer need Kindo.** If you need to close your Kindo account, use the "Close Account" button within the "My Details" section of your Kindo account. You can either withdraw your account balance or choose to donate your balance to the school. Please note that all withdrawals will be made via electronic payment to your New Zealand bank account. Kindo is unable to process cash withdrawals.

If you are wanting to withdraw your Kindo account balance or make a donation that exceeds Kindo's threshold (currently more than \$10,000 total within one year), Kindo may need to undertake some identity checks on you to comply with its obligations under the Anti-Money Laundering (AML) and Countering Financing of Terrorism (CFT) Act 2009. Please action the withdrawal or donation in your Kindo account as outlined above and if these AML checks are necessary Kindo will advise of the next steps required in this regard. Kindo has endeavoured to make this process as pain-free as possible and appreciates your patience.

SWIMMING POOL AND KEYS FOR SUMMER USE

You are offered a family key to take advantage of the pool for family swimming after school and over the Summer holidays. The cost is \$80 for the entire season plus a \$20 key bond [refundable]. The season end is flexible, around 31st March 2024.



Keys are numbered and must be returned within four weeks of the end of the season when a bond refund will be given. If the key is not returned within this time the refund is forfeited as these keys need to be refigured and replaced each year. Keys can be purchased at the school office up until noon, Thursday, 14th December when the office closes for the year.

2024 TEACHER AND CLASS PLACEMENT

There has been some movement in teacher placements for 2024. I am pleased to be able to inform you that next year Mrs Cara Mountjoy will be working as a specialist teacher, teaching Music and Performing Arts across the school. All classes will have regular timetabled sessions. We are blessed to have someone with her musical and artistic expertise alongside her experience teaching across all levels of the school.

Teacher placements for 2014 are:

Rm 1	Year 5	Janet Blind
Rm 2	Year 4	Laura Baddeley
Rm 3	Year 4	Carrie Mercer

Rm 4	Year 5	Imelda Moss
Rm 5	Year 6	Wendy Whiteman
Rm 6	Year 6	Claire Taylor
Rm 7	Year 3	Katrina Little
Rm 8	Year 3	Allison Miller and Danika Chambers
Rm 9	Year 2	Anne Howard and Jill Marsh
Rm 10	NE	Opening later in the year
Rm 11	Year 1	Ashley Shearer
Rm 12	Year 1	Grace Atmadji
Rm 13	Year 2	Beverley Harper

We welcome a new staff member, Mrs Danika Chambers, to our teaching team. Many of you may have met her already as she is one of our regular relievers.

BACK TO SCHOOL 2024

We've teamed up with OfficeMax to make your back-to-school stationery shop super easy. And if you order in December, you'll go in the draw to WIN 1 of 5 \$1,000 cash prizes*.



Your child's year list is already loaded. Just go to myschool.co.nz. Simply add your details, check the compulsory items and any additional items that may be needed on the list, then click and confirm — OfficeMax will get your delivery underway with free delivery on orders over \$70.

You can pay by internet banking, credit card or debit card. Laybuy is also available, so you can pay in 6 weekly, interest-free payments and still get your order right away. Plus you'll be helping our school earn school rewards that we use to purchase much needed extra resources for our school.

We encourage you to order early to ensure your child has all their stationery requirements ready to go in plenty of time for the start of Term 1 on Friday 2nd February 2024.

get back to school ready!

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- Check that you want everything on the list
- Enter your details and choose how to pay
- Choose when you want your order delivered, before Xmas or in January
- Your delivery is underway PLUS you're in to win*

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Choose how you pay.

You can pay by internet banking, credit card or debit card. Plus, we've partnered with Laybuy, so you can pay in 6 weekly interest-free payments and still get your order right away.

Choose when you want it.

Whether you want your order delivered before Christmas, or in the new year - the OfficeMax team will make it happen.

Help yourself. Help your School.

Earn School Rewards with every order. It's our way of giving back to the community, and it helps your school get the extra things they really need.

Order in December and be in to WIN

*PROMOTION TERMS & CONDITIONS: 1st December 2023 - 31st December 2023. The promotion (Promotion) gives you the option to order goods in December and choose whether you receive the goods in December 2023 or January 2024. 1. The Promotion is only available for orders placed online at myschool.co.nz in December 2023. 2. Payment options include internet banking, credit/debit card, or Laybuy (see myschool.co.nz for terms and conditions). 3. School donations and other charges will be charged when you place your order. These are paid direct to the school and will show as a separate transaction. Payment for school donations and other charges can only be made by internet banking if your school has opted for this payment method or on your credit/debit card. 4. If you buy in December 2023 you will be automatically entered into the draw. The prize is \$1000 cash. 5. To be won. The winners will be notified by 22nd January 2024 by telephone or email. Inability to contact any winner by close of business on 30th January 2024 will result in the prize being forfeited and a further draw will be conducted. Winners consent to their name and photo being used for public relations purposes relating to this promotion. 6. School necessary items are published as soon as your school has approved them for publication. OfficeMax is not responsible if the Promotion is shortened due to any delay in OfficeMax receiving approved lists. 7. The Promotion is OfficeMax New Zealand Limited, 30 St Wood Street, East Tamaki, Auckland.

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This full-time role is to provide credit control and administration support to the Operations Manager for the collection of Attendance Dues for schools in the Auckland Diocese. Hours are flexible to incorporate some evening and Saturday morning work.

Key Tasks include: Collection of compulsory school Attendance Dues; contact with school parents via outbound phone calls; follow up of unpaid accounts and Debtor ledger management.

To view the full advert and to apply, please visit our website www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz under Diocesan Services and Staff Vacancies.

FROM THE PARISH

Church Sacramental Programme

East Coast Bays Parish runs a full sacramental programme for children, details of the next Confirmation ceremony can be found [here](#). Any questions should be directed to the Parish office, Tel: 09 478 4565

ECB Christmas and New Year Masses 2023

Sunday 24 th December	5:30pm: St Francis (Children)
Sunday 24 th December	8:30pm: St John's (Vigil)
Monday 25 th December	9:00am: St John's
Monday 25 th December	10:30am: St Francis
Monday 1 st January, 2024	9:15am: St John's

Parish Office Staff Vacancies

If you are friendly and welcoming, have a high level of written and spoken English and are IT savvy you might like to consider applying for one of the positions.

Position 1: Office & Communications Assistant

To support the office team in communications activities and processes for the parish and ensure all parishioners are kept informed and supported through different channels of communication. This includes preparing the weekly newsletter and assisting with the updating of the parish website and social media.

Position 2: Liturgy & Pastoral Coordinator

Prepare the efficient delivery and coordination of all sacraments and liturgical celebrations which enhance the parish community of East Coast Bays Parish. This role includes supporting and coordinating processes, programmes and volunteers, and making sure that the parish's liturgical and pastoral needs are met.

Hours: 12-15 hours/week (with some flexibility)

Location: 395 East Coast Road, Mairangi Bay

Detailed Job Descriptions are available on request. Contact: beate@ecbcatholic.org.nz