



7th February
2024

NEWSLETTER

Te Reo o te Kura o Hato Hoani The voice of St John's School

Kia ora whanau, nga mihi o te tau hou.

Welcome back to a new year to our staff, families and all our beautiful children, and if you are just joining our school... welcome to the family! A special welcome to our new students across the school, our new entrants in Rooms 11 and 12 and Mrs Danika Chambers who has joined our teaching team. It is a joy to see and hear the children around the school, brimming with enthusiasm for the year ahead.

MEET THE SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM (SLT)

MARINA BINNS

Ko Ingarangi te whakapaparanga mai. I tipu ake au ki te Whanganui-a-tara, engari, e noho ana au ki te Raki Paewhenua inaianei i te maru o te maunga o Rangitoto. E mahi ana au hei tumuaki i te kura tuatahi o Hato Hoani. Ko Marina Binns toku ingoa.

Although born and raised in Wellington, as a family we moved to the North Shore when I was in Year 6.

After starting my teaching career at Carmel College, I moved to St John's, where I have now been for many years; initially as a classroom teacher in the Senior School, then as the Deputy Principal for 5 years. I am now entering my second year serving St John's School as the Principal.

I am the leader of learning and am responsible for professional leadership and the day-to-day management of the school. I am very blessed to be supported in this role by an excellent leadership team.

VIVIENNE FUALETOELAU

I have been at St. John's School since 2018 and prior to that, I have taught at various schools across Auckland.

As a Deputy Principal I support the Principal in whole school management. My other roles at St John's are Rangitoto Team Leader (Y1-3) and the school SENCO (Special Education Needs Co-ordinator).

I have three children. My older boys are at high school and my youngest, Gabriella, attends St John's. We feel blessed to be part of such an amazing and supportive community.

CARA MOUNTJOY

Tēnā koutou,
Ko Ngaruahine taku iwi.

My parents, John and Kathleen Brockliss, were very active members of East Coast Bays Parish. I am a past pupil of St. John's School, my children attended St. John's and I have been teaching here for 18 years.

I serve our school community as a music specialist and Director of Religious Studies (DRS). Assisting the Principal in promoting, enhancing, and upholding our Catholic Character through leadership and support in Religious Education, Liturgical life, and Pastoral Care.

I currently live in Glenfield with my husband Francis, my youngest son Phoenix -who started Rosmini this year, and my very handsome Frenchie, Leroy (dog). My three older children have 'flown the coup' and we enjoy spending time with them, and my granddaughter, when they have time!

HELEN PERRY

Entering my sixth year at St. John's feels like coming home. Before joining this wonderful community, I had the pleasure of teaching at Carmel College and Holy Cross in Henderson.

As Deputy Principal, I work alongside our Principal to keep things running smoothly. I also have the joy of leading the Waitemata Team (Y4-6 students) and making sure our digital systems stay up and running as the Computer Systems Administrator.

I'm a proud parent to two boys: Ben, who's already graduated from St. John's, and Brodie, who's currently in Year 6. Here's to another year of learning and laughter at St. John's!

God bless you all for the year ahead, nga mihi nui, Marina Binns, Principal



In Religious Education during the first few weeks, the children will learn and understand our School Charism and what our values look like in action. The charism underpins all we do at school, it is woven into daily life and talked about with the children regularly. We embrace our special Catholic character with the charism of the Sisters of St Joseph. The children spend time learning about our motto: Prepare the way – Whakapaia te Huarahi. We follow in the footsteps of St. John the Baptist as he prepared the way of the Lord.

We hope the Josephite Charism becomes a part of our students' lives and that they take it with them when they leave our school.

KARAKIA - TE TIRITI O WAITANGI

*Te Atua of our journey,
your watchful presence is with us everyday.
Open our minds and hearts
to the wonderful ways you work in our land of Aotearoa.
Strengthen us as we struggle to put things right
so that we may all live with dignity and justice.
Lead us in ways which will honour our Tiriti covenant
so that we may see your loving presence alive in our land.
Amen*



LENT

Next week, we enter the Lenten Liturgical season. We will be coming together as a school for a Liturgy to mark the beginning of Lent - Ash Wednesday, 14th February.

Lent is a time of prayer, fasting and almsgiving in preparation for the resurrection of the Lord at Easter. During Lent, New Zealand's Catholic Bishops invite us to provide for the needs of the poor through the work of Caritas. Money raised through the Bishops' Lent Appeal helps us to fund both development and emergency relief work around the world.



This year, each week has a specific focus. Throughout the Lenten season, weekly Caritas stories will transport the children to six remarkable focus countries: Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Pakistan, Timor Leste, Cambodia, and Papua New Guinea. These narratives will breathe life into the weekly Gospel readings, showcasing the profound transformations unfolding in the lives of individuals and communities, all made possible through the unwavering support and partnerships forged by Caritas and our local partners.

Each class has a Lent Mission box along with one in the main office, in which children are invited to bring in coins during Lent to contribute to our Lenten appeal.

Weekly Focus Arotahi mō te Wiki

Week One Wiki Tuafahi	 	Time for Preparation Te Wā mō te Takatū	Kiribati Tebora's Story	
Week Two Wiki Tuarua	 	Time for Encounter Te Wā mō te Tūfaki	Solomon Islands Education and Encounter	
Week Three Wiki Tuatoru	 	Time for Justice Te Wā mō te Tika	Pakistan Emergency Response: The Caritas Way	
Week Four Wiki Tuawhā	 	Time for Love Te Wā mō te Aroha	Timor Leste Mana Gertrudes' Story	
Week Five Wiki Tuarima	 	Time for Sacrifice Te Wā mō te Whakahere	Cambodia The Phea Family's Story	
Week Six Wiki Tuaeono	 	Time for Hope Te Wā mō te Tūmanako	Papua New Guinea Bridgith's Story	



LENTEN PRAYER

*E te Ariki, Lord,
 Strengthen us as we begin our Lenten journey.
 May your grace give us the courage to face the many challenges and temptations that life presents us.
 Teach us to know right from wrong so that we can be a light in the darkness, a symbol of hope to others and an instrument of peace in your world.
 Help us to pray, fast and give alms this Lent so that we can walk in your footsteps and bring love to our neighbours.
 We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.
 Āmene.*

PROPERTY

The refurbished Admin block is now open for public use and most boxes are now unpacked. Please pop in and have a look around when you have a moment.

Our schedule of painting continued over the summer break with the exterior painting of Rooms 4, 5 and 6, and the caretaker's shed.

Just after school closed, we received an infrastructure upgrade for our network with all new access points and cabling. This ensures that we have up to date connectivity in all learning spaces.

Work was also undertaken in the student toilets, with new toilets being installed in the girl's toilets. The boys toilets will be replaced in due course.

SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

Communication is very important in the daily life of the school by allowing us to **pass on information and share some of our experiences and needs as well as helping us connect with our community**. There are a variety of communication avenues used by the school community and it can be a bit overwhelming, particularly if you have more than one child.

Official whole school communication comes through the fortnightly newsletter, whole school emails via our school management software, eTap, the school calendar and the school website. Team, class and sport communication also come directly from the teachers or sport co-ordinator through email. Please read the piece later in the newsletter for more information.

We are looking forward to an exciting 2024 and have planned a number of events where we can share experiences with the wider community. Please check the calendar on the school website for upcoming dates and events. If we need to change these dates for any reason the calendar will be updated and if needed, communication will come via email. Please consider downloading and linking the SJMB Community Calendar to keep up to date with events at the school. [Link to download calendar](#)

BUDDY CLASSES

Our school buddy system sees our younger children buddied up with older children. Buddy classes meet to attend Mass together and for socialisation and interclass activities. It is a tradition that has been greatly valued by the students.

Buddy classes are as follows:

- Room 5 Year 6 and Room 11 Year 1
- Room 6 Year 6 and Room 12 Year 1 (and Room 10 later in the year)
- Room 1 Year 5 and Room 7 Year 3
- Room 4 Year 5 and Room 8 Year 3
- Room 2 Year 4 and Room 9 Year 2
- Room 3 Year 4 and Room 13 Year 2

PTFA EVENTS



FROZEN FRIDAY

THIS Friday, 9th FEBRUARY, is Frozen Friday.

To celebrate the lovely warm weather we are having at the moment, 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.

PTFA FAMILY PICNIC

Please pop Friday, 23rd February into your diary.

This picnic is a wonderful informal gathering of our school community where you are invited to bring a picnic, chairs, rugs and beverages and the children have the option of bringing their togs for a swim in the school pool (under your parental supervision of course!).

The PTFA will provide a sausage sizzle (\$2 a sausage) and cold drinks (\$2 a can) so you can simply turn up and be fed and watered. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know your fellow parents and a great way to start our year.

AGM AND FIRST PTFA MEETING FOR THIS YEAR

This will be held on Tuesday, 12th March at 7pm in the staffroom. At this meeting the annual general meeting (AGM) will be held, where we go over the achievements of last year and assess the PTFA finances. We also accept nominations and vote for the elected key positions of responsibility for the year – Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. This meeting is generally a little longer than usual as we will plan a schedule of events for the upcoming year, including our fundraising and community activities.

NGĀ KĀKAHU O TE KURA – SCHOOL UNIFORM



We expect all children to wear full and correct school uniform at all times. Please refer to the school website for [uniform expectations](#). Just a reminder that school sandals must be worn when arriving at and leaving school.

As part of our commitment to being SunSmart, children are required to wear the school hat when playing outside in Terms 1 and 4. These hats should stay at school during the term to ensure they are able to enjoy their playtimes. The children's health and safety is important to us and therefore, if a child does not have a hat, they will need to play in the shaded area outside the library. Hats can be purchased from [NZ Uniforms](#).

SCHOOL COMMUNICATION



Fortnightly Newsletter: The fortnightly newsletter will be sent to all current families as well as being put on our school website. This newsletter will contain important reminders and share some of the happenings around the school. It will be emailed on Tuesdays (or Wednesday following a public holiday). Past newsletters can also be accessed via the newsletter link on the school website.

Whole school emails: These will be sent from school management, the school office or the sport co-ordinator as needed and we strive to keep these succinct and to a minimum.

School calendar: Important dates will be added and updated on a St John's School Google calendar. This can be viewed on our school website. You are also welcome (and encouraged) to link this calendar to your own if you use Google calendars. [Link to download calendar](#)

School website: This contains a wealth of information about the school.

Team and class emails: These will be sent directly from team leaders or class teachers with information pertaining to specific year levels or classes. We endeavour to identify the class or year level in the subject line of the email (please forgive us if we occasionally forget).

Sport information emails: These will be sent directly from the school sport co-ordinator or from parent co-ordinators with information pertaining to specific year levels or classes. We endeavour to identify the sport and the class or year level in the subject line of the email.

St John's School Community Facebook Page: This is a more informal avenue for sharing information with, and by, the school community. All parents are welcome to become members of the group, as well as any extended family members.

Permission slips and payments: Wherever possible these will be processed through your Kindo account. There may be exceptions where a paper permission slip comes home, but these will be rare.

PARENT COMMUNICATION

Contacting the school: Parents are welcome to contact school staff directly by email or by phoning the school office. We ask that all communication comes through these channels rather than student emails. We recognise that email is a valuable and efficient communication tool that is widely used across our society. Staff members are provided with a school email address which can also be found on our school website (first name and initial of surname eg. John Smith is johns@sjmb.school.nz).

The staff member may not have a chance to open their email messages by the end of the school day (2:50pm). **For vital or urgent messages please phone the school office.** Teachers check their emails daily, however, during the day, the teacher's priority is the children in their class and therefore, cannot respond immediately to emails or answer external phone calls. During the week your emails will be responded to within 24 hours.

Please remember that your child's teacher holds your child's well-being and your concerns with the utmost care and respect. Please ensure all correspondence with your child's teacher reflects your own care and respect. I ask that emails are used for sharing information and making appointments, rather than addressing issues.

Parent concerns: From time-to-time things occur at school which lead to parents seeking clarification. If you have concerns about your children's progress or you wish to seek clarification about something that has happened at school, **the classroom teacher is the first point of contact** to answer the concerns or enquiries of parents about their children. Generally, matters are resolved at this level.

Teachers often have appointments before and after school and it is not appropriate to discuss your child in front of other children or parents. If your inquiry is more than a 'quick question' we ask that you speak to or email the teacher directly, or phone the office, to make an appointment to ensure that the teacher will be available to discuss your concerns, giving you their full attention. Please email both teachers in job share situations.

If after meeting with the classroom teachers there is further concern or dissatisfaction parents should then seek an appointment to meet with the Team Leader in an attempt to resolve the matter of concern. Thereafter to the Principal.

There are specific avenues for enquiring about information about the school or commenting on school policies, property, and procedures. **Please contact the office who can help you address the right person to talk to.**

KINDO



St John's is using the online 'shop' Kindo for additional charges for trips, stationery items, online learning subscriptions etc.

FAMILIES NEW TO ST JOHN'S

If you have not already set up an account with Kindo please visit www.mykindo.co.nz as soon as possible to sign your children up. You may have more than one child per account.

It is vital that the email address used for your Kindo account is exactly the same as the one the school has listed on our database for your child's first caregiver (in most cases this is usually Mum). If your email address does **not** match the one we have recorded in our student database then you will see an error message. You then have the option to either update your account details on Kindo or to email Michele Nash on MicheleN@sjmb.school.nz to request a change on the school database.

If you have any queries at all, please do not hesitate to contact Anneliese Bridges in the school office or if you have difficulties with the Kindo website their helpdesk is but a phone call away (Freephone 0508 454 636).

TERMLY SCHOOL FEES are dealt with separately by Mrs Michele Nash, michelen@sjmb.school.nz and should be paid either via bank transfer (12-3042-0320348-00) referenced with your child's name and 'Fees', or via EFTPOS at the school office. Any families paying in instalments do not need to make any changes to arrangements already in place.

FROM THE PARISH – STAFF VACANCY

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.

Both Positions require a person with the following skills:

- Friendly and welcoming person
- Good interpersonal and relationship building ability
- Good communicator
- High level of written and spoken English
- Self-managing, action oriented, and composed under pressure
- Strong organisational and administrative skills
- IT and social media savvy
- Eye for detail and accuracy
- Committed to the Catholic community's beliefs, ethics, values and standards
- Team player
- Reliable

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

Location: Parish Office, 395 East Coast Road, Mairangi Bay, Auckland.

DOVE CATHOLIC FELLOWSHIP FOR WOMEN – NORTH SHORE

Our first gathering for 2024 will be on TUESDAY, 20th February 2024 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Thomas More Catholic Church followed by cuppa. Holy Mass will be celebrated by Fr. Pio Fong. Come and join Catholic women to pray, praise and fellowship with one another. Phone Sylvia Hartley 021 088 22990 or email aldonsylvia@gmail.com