



18<sup>th</sup> March  
2024

# NEWSLETTER

## Te Reo o te Kura o Hato Hoani

### The voice of St John's School

Kia ora whānau,

#### WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

Since the last newsletter we have welcomed 7 new students to our school; Santiago, Pippa, Seong, Lily, Madison, Sia and Jan. From these new students, there are four new families. I wish you all a very warm welcome and all the best as you embark on this next stage in your educational journey.



#### NEW BASKETBALL HOOPS

Last Friday saw the installation of three new basketball hoops that are already being well utilised. I even heard of some past pupils who popped in on the weekend to check them out. They are height adjustable, with the ability to move between 168cm and 305cm, so are more user friendly for all our students.

#### AGM AND FIRST PFTA MEETING FOR THIS YEAR

The PTFA held their AGM last week and it was lovely to see some new faces around the room. I would like to thank Amanda, Brendon and Mary for their selfless service over the last year as executive officers of the PTFA. As part of the AGM, new executive officers are elected. I would like to congratulate our executive office holders for 2024; Amanda Dixon-McIver – Chair, Ziad Burjony – Treasurer and Michelle Burdett – Secretary.



#### SWIMMING SPORTS

Our Swimming Sports are **tomorrow, Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March**. The Waitemata Team (Year 4 to 6) children will be participating in the morning, starting at 9.30am, and competing for the **Nicola Jack Memorial Cup**. Rangitoto Team (Year 1 to 3) children will be participating in the afternoon, starting at 1.15pm, where they will have the opportunity to showcase what they have been learning and enjoy time together in the pool area.

While the nature of the event does not allow us to give times, here is [the order of events \(please click\)](#). A copy of the programme is also available on the [Sports page](#) of the school website.

We ask you to refrain from going inside the pool area, rather, enjoy sitting on the surrounding banks. For safety reasons the children will not be allowed to leave the pool enclosure. They will have their hats on while not swimming and should also bring a T-shirt in their house colour to wear at the pool. Please feel free to give your child 'named' sunscreen to put on or apply it to your child before they come to school.

Please ensure that your children arrive at school with swimming togs, goggles, 2 towels and a water bottle. **ALL** items should be clearly named.

God bless,  
Marina Binns, Tumuaki – Principal



## FEAST OF ST. JOSEPH A CELEBRATION OF FATHERS AND FAITH

Today we gathered as a faith community for Mass to celebrate the Feast of St Joseph.

St Joseph was a very important figure in the life of Jesus, but we know very little about him. In the Bible there are no recorded words spoken by St Joseph. Not one! But the Bible does tell us that Joseph was Mary's husband and Jesus' foster father; that he worked as a carpenter and was humble, and not wealthy, and that one of his great, great ancestors was King David (that is the same David who killed the giant Goliath with a stone).

It is in the Bible that we learn about St Joseph;

**St Joseph listened to God.** St Joseph listened to God's voice. He listened carefully to the angel, and because he was a kind, caring man who loved God, he did immediately what God had asked of him and married Mary.

*How can we listen to God?*

**St Joseph looked after Jesus and Mary.** Joseph and Mary had to leave their home, friends and family to keep Jesus safe from King Herod. St Joseph showed his loving care and service by sacrificing his own comfort to keep Jesus safe.

*How do we show God's love to others who are frightened or lonely?*

**St Joseph trusted God.** When Joseph and Mary presented baby Jesus at the Temple in Jerusalem, they met Simeon, a holy man. Simeon recognised Jesus as the saviour God had promised and praised God. But he also foretold the heartache Mary would feel as she watched her son, Jesus, be rejected, suffer and die on the cross. But Mary and Joseph knew that God does not want us to worry about anything. They trusted that God loves us and wants the best for us. When we follow God, we find peace, love, and joy but sometimes life can be difficult, too. Joseph and Mary relied on each other and prayed together to ask God to guide them and help them to follow His plan.

*When you are anxious, who can you turn to for help?*

**Joseph shared his faith with Jesus.** Jesus learnt about the Jewish faith and customs at home from his parents, Mary and Joseph. They celebrated the holy days together and so learned to appreciate how important they were.

*What holy days do you celebrate as a family? What do you do?*

Just as St Joseph protected the Holy Family when he was on earth, today in heaven he continues to care for all families, including God's worldwide family – the Church. Pope Francis has said that we can learn from St Joseph how to be caring, humble, faithful, and listen carefully to God and each other.

*How can we care for ourselves, one another, and God's worldwide family?*

## LIFE EDUCATION VISIT



Following Easter, we will be having a visit from the Life Education van. If you grew up in New Zealand, you may remember the excitement when Harold the Giraffe came to your school. The teachers have planned with the facilitator to focus on specific concepts from the Health curriculum, relevant to their class and classroom programme. We look forward to having Harold come and join us at St John's.

## ABSENTEES

As we head towards the colder months of the year, it is not uncommon for children to get sick and need to stay home. This is a friendly reminder to inform the school if your child is away from school. We ask that you phone or email the school office (Ph 09 478 7734, email [office@sjmb.school.nz](mailto:office@sjmb.school.nz)) or submit an absentee form via the website **for each day they are away**. For safety reasons, we do not assume that because they were away yesterday, they are still away today.

If you know in advance that your child needs to be away from school (that is, for any reason other than illness or medical appointments), please email me [MarinaB@sjmb.school.nz](mailto:MarinaB@sjmb.school.nz) with the dates and reason and copy in the school office [office@sjmb.school.nz](mailto:office@sjmb.school.nz). This is needed so that we can code the absentee accurately for reporting to the Ministry of Education.

## EASTER BREAK



This year Easter falls within the school term time. School will **close for Easter on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March** at the normal time of 2:50pm.

The school will gather prior to the end of day bell to remember Christ's journey to the Cross with liturgy.

There will not be a bell at the end of the day, and we ask that the children leave quietly in commemoration of this time.

The Tuesday following Easter Monday is a school holiday (but not a statutory holiday), meaning schools will be closed.

The terms and holidays are usually set so that Easter occurs during the first term break and the Easter Tuesday school holiday goes unnoticed. However, in years when Easter falls particularly early, such as this year, all or some of the Easter break will be during the first term.

We will **open again after Easter on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April**.

## TERM 2 AND 3 SPORT

Sports registrations will soon be opening for Term 2 and 3. There will be Netball, Hockey and Flippaball for starting in Term 2. Basketball will be later in Term 2, for starting in Term 3. Keep an eye out for email over the coming weeks for registration.

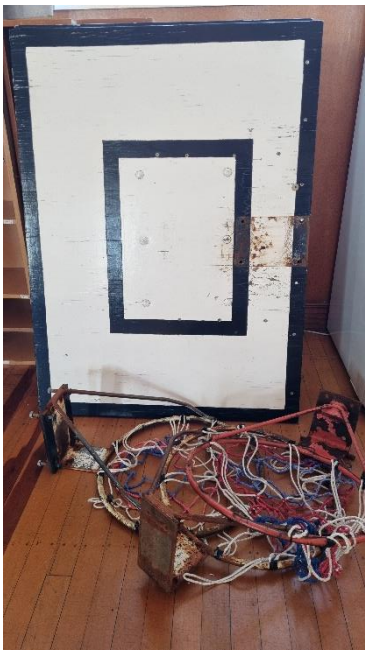
## SCHOOL FURNITURE

We have been very blessed to have been gifted new staff desks and storage at the end of last year. In addition to this, with the move into new spaces, and reallocation of offices, we have some used furniture that is available for rehoming. We would love to offer it to any interested members of the community before looking further for repurposing or disposal.



We have some adult straight desks, manual height adjustable desks, large corner desks (currently dismantled), some old metal filing cabinets, a couple of old basketball hoops and backboards, and a few odd pieces of storage furniture.

They are currently stored in the hall. If you are interested, please email the office. [office@sjmb.school.nz](mailto:office@sjmb.school.nz)



**FROM THE PARISH**

**MASS AND LITURGY TIMETABLE FOR HOLY WEEK**

**Holy Monday, 25 Mar:** Liturgy of the Word, St John's, 9.15am  
**CHRISM MASS** at St Patrick's Cathedral, 7.30pm

**Holy Tuesday, 26 Mar:** Mass at St Francis, 10am

**Holy Wednesday, 27 Mar:** Mass at St John's, 9.15am

**Holy Thursday, 28 Mar:** MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER at St Francis, 7pm (Adoration after Mass until 10pm)



**Good Friday, 29 March**, Stations of the Cross, St John's, 10am (Procession and Stations around St John's School and St John's church)  
THE PASSION OF THE LORD at St Francis, 3pm

**Holy Saturday, 30 March:** No morning Mass  
EASTER VIGIL & FIRST MASS OF THE  
RESURRECTION at St John's, 7pm

**Easter Sunday, 31 March**  
Mass at St Francis, 7.30am  
Mass at St John's, 9am  
Mass at St Francis, 10.30am



### **BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSE**

Tuesday 9 April, 7pm.

Registration is necessary. See the website at

<https://eastcoastbayscatholic.org.nz/2023/03/09/baptism/>

Contact [baptism@ecbcatholic.org.nz](mailto:baptism@ecbcatholic.org.nz)

### **CATHOLIC SCHOOL PREFERENCE FORMS**

Fr Carlo and Fr Emile will be available to sign the forms on Wednesdays.

10am - 12 noon & 1 – 3pm for a 15-minute slot.

Please make an appointment through: [office@ecbcatholic.org.nz](mailto:office@ecbcatholic.org.nz)

### **MONTHLY CHILDREN'S MASS**

3rd Sunday: 9.00 am Mass St. John's Church.

Contact Lindy [lindy@willplan.co.nz](mailto:lindy@willplan.co.nz)

### **NEWSLETTER**

For more information from the Parish, please see [their regular newsletter](#).