



8th March
2024

NEWSLETTER

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

Kia ora whānau,

EOTC WEEK

EOTC (Education Outside the Classroom) Week is a week that the children and teachers look forward to as we leave our normal programme and explore and learn in our school and local environment. Despite the turn in the weather, this week's EOTC was fabulous. There was an exciting programme planned and all the children participated in both onsite and offsite activities.



On Tuesday morning, the school all gathered out on the courts to wave off our Year 6 students as they departed for Hunua for their 3-night camp. This is one of my favourite traditions, and one meaningful to the students, with many children at camp telling me that they remember standing their waving off previous classes, knowing that one day it would be their turn.

Around the school this week we had wheels days, waterslides, model raft building, swimming, exploring the native bush area, and of course... we can't forget when all the teddy bears came for their picnic and their sleepover in the library.

In addition to the many activities at school, all year groups ventured out into the wider community. The Year 5 students, having attended their camp a few weeks ago, spent time at school and in the local environment. A highlight for them was, braving the weather on Tuesday, making their way to Murrays and Mairangi Bay beaches to enjoy what is on our own doorstep, building interconnected sandcastles across the shore as well as undertaking some social outreach, picking up litter to protect our environment. Year 4 challenged themselves with a full schedule of activities at the Millennium on Wednesday and a day at Stanmore Bay Leisure Centre on Thursday. Kayaking, rock climbing, water safety and teambuilding challenged the children and were a great preparation for future camps. A highlight for Year 3 was their trip to Treetop Adventures where the children climbed, crawled and flew through the course suspended in the trees out at Woodhill Forest. Our Year 2 students spent the day at Arataki on Thursday exploring the richness of our native bush. Our Year 1 students visited Kiwi Valley Farm having hands on animal adventures.

There are a few snapshots of the week at the end of this newsletter.

A lot of preparation and hard work goes into making these experiences possible and a success. I would first like to thank the teachers and administration staff for their organisation and planning. I would also like to thank all the parents who volunteered to help at these events. They would not be possible without your generosity. We hope that you enjoyed them as much as the children did.



God bless,
Marina Binns
Tumuaki – Principal

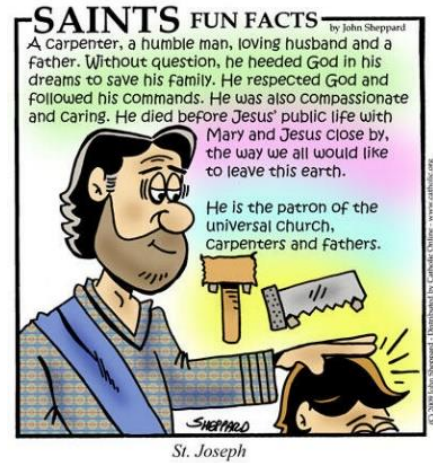
MASS FOR THE FEAST OF ST JOSEPH – 19TH MARCH

St Joseph was a special man who cared greatly for Jesus and Mary. He is considered the patron saint of the Universal Church, families, fathers, expectant mothers, travellers, immigrants, house sellers and buyers, craftsmen, engineers and working people, among others.

His feast day is March 19th.

We celebrate this as a special day at our school because St John's School was founded in 1961 by the Sisters of St Joseph.

On Tuesday 19th March we will be celebrating Mass together as a school. You are welcome to join us in this celebration at 11:00am in the church.



SWIMMING SPORTS



Our Swimming Sports will be held on Wednesday 20th March. Our Swimming Sports is always a special event and the children are keen to get in the pool and compete for their house teams. 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**. A copy of the programme will be published on the Sports page of the school website <http://www.sjmb.school.nz/> in due course once entries are in.

The Nicola Jack Memorial Cup was presented by her family to the school for our swimming sports in memory of Nicola Jack who was in Year 3 but tragically died as a result of an accident in 1991. The cup is presented to the winning house team.

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.

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.

Best of luck to all the House teams!

EASTER BREAK

This year Easter falls within the school term time. School will close for Easter on Thursday 28th 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 3rd April.



TEACHER ONLY DAY TERM 2

It seems we have only just started school and we are now in the process of organising Term 2. Please take note, that **Friday 31st May will be a Teacher Only day** and the school will be closed for all children. The following Monday, 3rd June, is King's Birthday and a public holiday in New Zealand. We hope that, by selecting this day, the disruption will be minimal and hopefully it may even help in planning your holidays.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – 4TH SUNDAY IN LENT

This week's Gospel includes John 3:16, one of the most popular verses in the whole Bible. This really is a great verse to know. It tells us Jesus's whole purpose in just a few short words.



"For God so loved the world..." Do you believe that?

That God really does love the world? The WHOLE world? Do you know why that is so important? It means you don't have to earn God's love. He already loves you, and there is absolutely nothing you could do that would change His love. We all sin sometimes, but it is so nice to know that God will still love us even when we do mess up.



Ok, next section. "...that He gave His one and only Son..."

If you ever think that maybe God doesn't love you, just think about this part. God loved you so much that He gave up His own Son for you.

God knew we needed a perfect sacrifice, and He knew His Son Jesus was the only one who be that sacrifice. And why do we need that perfect sacrifice? That's in our next section.



"...that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."

With that perfect sacrifice we can live forever with God. And that's God biggest wish. He wants nothing more than for you to live with Him in Heaven. Yes, YOU!

God loves YOU so much that He was willing to send His Son Jesus as YOUR sacrifice, so YOU could live in Heaven with Him. YOU!



And how do we get there? That is in the verse too!

All we have to do is believe in God. We don't have to be perfect, we just have to believe in God, put our faith and trust in Him, and love Him in return.

God loves YOU.

KINDO



With back to school charges, sports starting up, and following EOTC Week, there have been different charges added to the student's Kindo accounts recently. We know that life can get busy and sometimes it is hard to remember to log into Kindo to see what is still remaining.

To help out, we have decided that we will email the community with a list of outstanding charges in the middle and at the end of each term. We hope this helps. An email will be sent out next week. Please let us know if you have any questions around any of the charges or if you do not receive the email by the end of next week.

PTFA



AGM AND FIRST PTFA MEETING FOR THIS YEAR

This will be held on Tuesday, 12th March at 7:00pm in the staffroom. As it is the first meeting of the year, and the AGM, this is an in-person meeting. Future meetings will also be available via a virtual link for those who wish to attend, but cannot meet onsite.

We are currently calling for nominations for the positions of Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. If you would like to nominate someone for one of these roles, please email these to the secretary by 12:00pm, Tuesday 12th March ptfa@sjmb.school.nz

SECOND HAND UNIFORM SALE

The next scheduled second hand uniform sale will be on Wednesday, 13th March between 2.30pm – 3:15pm in the school hall.

Cash preferred.



FROM THE PARISH



ALTAR SERVERS

Father Carlo is looking for altar servers to assist with the Masses during Holy Week. If you have an older child who had previously been trained, or a Y5 or 6 student who is willing to train, please contact Cara Mountjoy. caram@sjmb.school.nz

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

On Sunday at Mass, Father acknowledged the work and generous service that people give to our Parish. He also made an open invitation for anyone who would like to take on an active service role. No experience is necessary, just a willingness to share your time and talents. The Church is looking for Ministers of the Word, Ministers of the Eucharist, musicians and people to operate the projector slides as well as any young people who would like to train as Altar Servers. If you are interested in finding out more about this, or other opportunities to serve in the Parish, please contact the Parish office. office@ecbcatholic.org.nz

CELEBRATION OF MASS WITH LITURGY OF ANOINTING - 9th and 10th March

The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick is a Sacrament of the Catholic Church which celebrates our faith in the healing touch of Christ in our lives. Jesus had deep compassion for those who were sick, and the Church continues his healing mission today. In the Sacrament, we pray that the sick person be healed in body, soul and spirit. The Sacrament offers forgiveness and healing. Healing, though, is not restricted to mere physical healing. God alone knows what kind of healing is most needed for us: that our anxieties are eased, that a wound be healed, that our fears turn to hope, that loneliness be embraced, that confusion turn to insight. It is meant for anyone who is suffering a serious illness: physical, emotional, mental or spiritual. This will be celebrated during Vigil and Sunday Masses for the 4th Sunday of Lent.

BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSE

Tuesday 9 April, 7pm.

Registration is necessary. See the website at

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

Contact 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

MONTHLY CHILDREN'S MASS

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

Contact Lindy lindy@willplan.co.nz

NEWSLETTER

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



A SNAPSHOT OF EOTC





