



4<sup>th</sup> June  
2024

# NEWSLETTER

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

Kia ora whānau,

As we head into the second half of the term, I hope you all had a chance to enjoy King's Birthday Weekend. Today we welcome four new students, and two new families to our school. Welcome to the family, we hope that you have a wonderful start and feel at home very quickly.

## CONFIRMATION AND HOLY COMMUNION

Along with Baptism, the Sacraments of Holy Communion and Confirmation complete the three Sacraments of Initiation, a figurative doorway into the fullness of Church life. Confirmation is the Sacrament that graces you with the Holy Spirit, sealing the covenant made at Baptism. The rite of Confirmation is anointing the forehead with chrism oil, together with the laying on of the minister's hands and the words, "Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit."

Congratulations to the fifty St John's students, past and present, who received the Sacrament of Confirmation on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May. It is a true blessing to be part of such an occasion on their faith journey.

Please keep them in your prayers as many of them continue on their initiation into the Church with the celebration of their first Holy Communion on 9<sup>th</sup> June at St Francis Church.





## INTERSCHOOL BASKETBALL

Last Tuesday, the Year 5 and 6 Lakers and Wildcats represented St John's at the Mid Bays Interschool Basketball Tournament. I would like to thank the parents who supported during the day; coaching, managing, transporting and encouraging on the sidelines. It was great to see the children having so much fun on the court while representing our school.

Congratulations to Oonagh B, Elijah M, Brodie P, Jacob R, Hugo S, Jackson S, Louie S, Max B, Finn G, Michael H, Sean J, Aron L, Luca M, and George M.



## INTERSHOOL RIPPY RUGBY

Today a large number of our Year 3 - 6 students are representing St John's on the first of two days of a Rippa Rugby Tournament. We look forward to hearing how their day has gone on their return.





## STAFF NEWS

I am pleased to inform you that Mrs Danika Chambers will be taking on the two-day teaching role in Room 9 from Term 3. Mrs Chambers will teach in Room 9 on Mondays and Tuesdays and Room 8 on Thursdays and Fridays. For those that do not know Mrs Chambers, she joined the St John's teaching team at the beginning of the year, teaching two days a week in Room 8. We feel blessed and fortunate that she is able to increase her time with us, meaning she can share her talents and teaching experience with the children in Room 9 whilst continuing her teaching in Room 8.

We are also pleased to welcome Mr Craig Ritson to our St John's team as our new caretaker. Mr Ritson already has a longstanding connection to our school with his three children attending St John's before attending at Carmel and Rosmini.

## KINDO



Just a friendly, midterm reminder to check your Kindo account [www.mykindo.co.nz](http://www.mykindo.co.nz). If you need any assistance or have any questions regarding your school account, please do not hesitate to reach out to the office. They will be able to provide you with the necessary information and guidance.

God bless,  
Marina Binns  
Principal – Tumuaki

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



On Sunday I attended Mass for The Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Jesus at the local hall in Mangawhai. It is a wonderful example of "grass roots" Catholicism and reminds me of attending Mass in the Albany hall in the 1970s. A small Catholic community doing everything they can to celebrate the Mass and sacraments together. I looked around and saw many people who had attended, are attending and are soon to attend St. John's School. Mr Philip Tapp, a foundation pupil, remembers Fr. Pierce coming to his family's home to ask his father's advice about purchasing the land the school is now on. He also remembered the great morning tea spread that would be served to those training to be altar servers!

St. Augustine, the great church writer said, 'become what you receive.' If we celebrate the Eucharist with each other and receive the Body and Blood of Christ, then we are called to be the Body of Christ, the Church today. And we are asked to be a missionary church. It was a joy to see St. John's families, past and present, celebrating the Mass together.



## TOWARDS OCTOBER 2024

A new consultation document prepared by the bishops as part of the Holy Father's Synod 2021-24 process has been sent to Rome. This document, titled *Towards October 2024*, follows the NZ Catholic Bishops Conference being asked to establish a consultation process to discern responses to specific questions related to the Vatican's *Synodal Church in Mission* report. That report was published after the First Session of the 16th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, held in Rome last October.

National Catholic lay organisations, agencies of the bishops' conference, religious, diocesan bodies, educational institutions, young people's groups, parish groups and groups involved in previous synodal processes took part in the consultation, between February and April this year. A statement about the document, and the document, can be read online: [TOWARDS OCTOBER 2024](#)

Ngā mihi,  
Cara Mountjoy  
Director of Religious Studies



We are so blessed (and overcome) by the support shown so far for this event. Thank you to all the whānau and friends who are getting behind the children and this awesome PTFA fundraiser.

### WEEKLY FUNDRAISING PRIZE WINNERS

Congratulations to the winners of the prize draws for the first two weeks of fundraising.



Week 1;

Penelope L, Walker S, Zack H, Ruby T, Janneke M, Teddy W, Bella K, Freddie W, Meesol T, Edward H, Carter G, Madison K, Summer A, Grace B, Avisha M, Jasmine B, Ayda W, Harley O, Kobe C, Ben N, Lexi-Jean C, Cody T, Lani H, Poppy C, and Brodie P.



Week 2;

Marcel A, Louie A, Wonai S, Alex M, Will T, Freddie W, Arlo M, Leo J, James B, Jossi B, Oliver K, Ruby B, Sadie M, Zara K, Hugo D, Teddy W, Maggie-Rose K, Mica L, Zoe P, and Lorenzo M.

There will be one more weekly prize draw this Friday as part of our normal assembly at 2:00pm.

### MINI OLYMPICS DAY

We are looking forward to Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June (Week 7) and are praying for favourable weather (although also planning for wet weather contingencies). You are warmly invited to come and share the day, or part of the day, with us.

We are looking for parent helpers to help run some of the events. If you are able to help for all or some of the time, please email [marinab@sjmb.school.nz](mailto:marinab@sjmb.school.nz)

**TIMINGS FOR THE DAY:** Each Year level will have specific times for participating in the organised events. Activities will be spread throughout the hall and the upper court area.

	Inside	Outside
9 - 9:30 am	Year 1 (Rooms 11 and 12)	Year 2 (Rooms 9 and 13)
9:30 - 10 am	Year 2 (Rooms 9 and 13)	Year 1 (Rooms 11 and 12)
10 - 10:30 am	Year 3 (Rooms 7 and 8)	Year 4 (Rooms 2 and 3)
11 -11:30 am	Year 4 (Rooms 2 and 3)	Year 3 (Rooms 7 and 8)
11:30 - 12 pm	Year 5 (Rooms 1 and 4)	Year 6 (Rooms 5 and 6)
12 - 12:30 pm	Year 6 (Rooms 5 and 6)	Year 5 (Rooms 1 and 4)
2:15 pm	WHOLE SCHOOL Celebration Assembly & Prizes	

**WHAT TO WEAR:** The students will be competing for their house, and we encourage students to come to school dressed in their school PE shorts and a t-shirt or top in their house colour. If they cannot source this, their normal PE top is fine.



### ICE CREAMS FOR SALE

The PTFA will be selling ice cream on the day of the Mini Olympics.

\$3.00 for a vanilla ice cream with sprinkles in a cup.

These can be pre-ordered through [Kindo](#).

## PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

Written progress updates will be coming home on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June. These will be followed up with Parent Teacher Conferences on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June between 1:00pm – 7:30pm. To provide the opportunity for all parents who wish to attend a conference to do so, **school will be finishing at 12:00pm on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June**. You are asked to make arrangements to pick your child(ren) up promptly at this time. School buses will not be available.

**CONFERENCE FOCUS:** The purpose of the Term Two Parent Teacher Conferences is for parents and teachers to discuss how your child is progressing and their next steps in Reading, Writing and Mathematics as well as how parents can help at home. If time permits other curriculum areas and key competencies may be covered during this time. Conferences will be 10 minutes in duration. If, after 10 minutes, you feel further time is required with the teacher than please arrange another appointment.

Bookings are now open for the upcoming Parent Teacher Conferences.

### TO BOOK A CONFERENCE TIME

- Use the QR code, use the [LINK](#), or visit the website [www.schoolinterviews.co.nz](http://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz) and enter the code **nsx3y** (it is case sensitive)
- An email confirming the time of your conference(s) will be sent directly to the email address entered at the time of booking.
- If you do not have internet access, please contact the school office by phone: 09 478 7734 or via email on [office@simb.school.nz](mailto:office@simb.school.nz) and they can make a booking on your behalf.





## MATARIKI CELEBRATIONS

This year we are looking forward to hosting an early morning community event on the last day of school. We are hoping that it will be an informal opportunity to see the Matariki star cluster, remember our departed friends, give thanks for our garden and food, set our intentions for the coming year and enjoy waiata and kai together.

Between 7:00am and 8:30am we invite you to join us for some exciting experiences including;

- Star gazing on the Top Court (telescopes, sparklers and a fire BBQ for toasting marshmallows). If you have a telescope that you would be happy to share, please email Helen Perry [helenp@sjmb.school.nz](mailto:helenp@sjmb.school.nz)
- Silent memorial in the Church to light a candle for those who we hold dear who are no longer with us.
- View our harvest display and some Matariki Art in the Hall. We also invite you to take some seeds/seedlings to plant at your home.
- Share in kai (food) and time together in the Hall. There will be hot soup, tea and coffee in the hall. Please bring a travel mug for your soup.
- Participate in the planting of harakeke in the school grounds.
- Share some Matariki stories and sick and string games in the library.

To end this special time together, we will gather in the Hall for waiata led by the children.

## WINTER WARM UP - SOCIAL OUTREACH



On the last day of this term, our Matariki Celebration Day, we will also be having an opportunity for social outreach. Students are encouraged to wear their pyjamas to school in exchange for a gold coin donation or new or used winter warm up items to donate to those in need. Funds raised and items collected will be distributed through the charitable organisation, Give a Kid a Blanket.

We welcome donations of excellent quality pre-loved and new items; blankets, duvet inners and covers, sleeping bags, infant sleep sacks, NEW pillows, NEW hot water bottles, warm infant, child, teen and adult clothing, pyjamas, robes, socks, beanies, jumpers, track pants, hoodies.

We also love receiving donations of hand-crafted items such as crocheted blankets, and knitted infant and children's jumpers and cardigans, and beanies in all sizes.

**Items for donation can be brought in anytime during the last week of Term 2, 1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> July.**

There will be collection boxes in the school office.

## GARDEN TO TABLE: A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT WITH BUNNINGS SILVERDALE



On Tuesday, May 28th, Bunnings Silverdale visited St. John's with an assortment of goods for our Garden to Table area. The day began with our Kaitiaki Guardians meeting their team and welcoming them to our school.

The Men's Shed in Silverdale had built four new garden beds for us, with materials supplied by Bunnings. Alongside our students from Years 4 - 6, the beds were installed with great enthusiasm.





The first group of students had the unique opportunity to help drill two of the beds together. Bunnings also provided a raised vegetable bed, which the students built up lasagna-style by layering leaves, rotten branches, cardboard, clay, and mulch. This bed will later be covered with compost and soil and planted with additional plants provided by Bunnings.



Throughout the morning session, students were engaged in various tasks. Some dug holes, weeded, and cleared the ground for the new garden beds, while others filled the beds with soil and compost, and raked the soil. Students also used wheelbarrows to transport mulch to the larger garden bed in preparation for further planting. By the end of the morning, we even managed to plant some new vegetables in one of the beds.

The activity lasted over three hours, with classes taking 30-minute time slots to contribute to the new gardens. By the end of the session, Mrs. Moore and I saw many happy faces among the students, proud of their hard work and contributions to our school's Garden to Table project. Additionally, Bunnings provided us with 20 Harakeke plants to beautify some areas around St. John's.



A big THANK YOU to Bunnings Silverdale for their generous support and to our wonderful students for their hard work!

Written by Carrie Mercer and Andrea Moore.





## SCHOOL CALENDAR

Keep up to date with school events through downloading and linking the SJMB Community Calendar.  
[Link to download calendar](#)

## PTFA

St John's



# PTFA MEETING

**Date: 4th of June**  
**Time: 7.00pm**  
**Location: St John's staffroom**

Come join us in sharing ideas and building a vibrant community within our school! Let's come together to support one another and make new connections. Whether it's virtually or in person, let's collaborate and create positive change together!

# DON'T MISS OUT!

## ST JOHN'S SECOND HAND UNIFORM SALE

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**Date: 5th of June 2024**  
**Time: 2:30pm**  
**Location: School Hall**



## FUNDRAISING THERMOMETER

Last week the team from Cube came to install our PTFA fundraising thermometer... keep track of our progress towards the COLA at the entrance by the school carpark. We are well on the way now!

Thanks to the PTFA for this initiative and the team from Cube ([www.cube.org.nz](http://www.cube.org.nz)) for seeing it into reality.

## COLLECTION OF OLD GLASSES - SOCIAL OUTREACH

DONATE YOUR OLD GLASSES



THANK YOU

Please bring your old glasses to Room 5

Hello, I am Meesol Tak, a Year 6 student in Room 5, and I have a question for you.

Do you think everyone should have access to prescription eyewear?

Unfortunately, many people don't. Therefore, I am asking you to donate your old, unused glasses. If you have eyewear you no longer need, please drop them off in Room 5.

These will then be donated to the Lions Club. They accept prescription and reading glasses, sunglasses, and plastic and metal frames. The Lions Club processes and redistributes eyewear to where it is needed.

Thank you for your support.



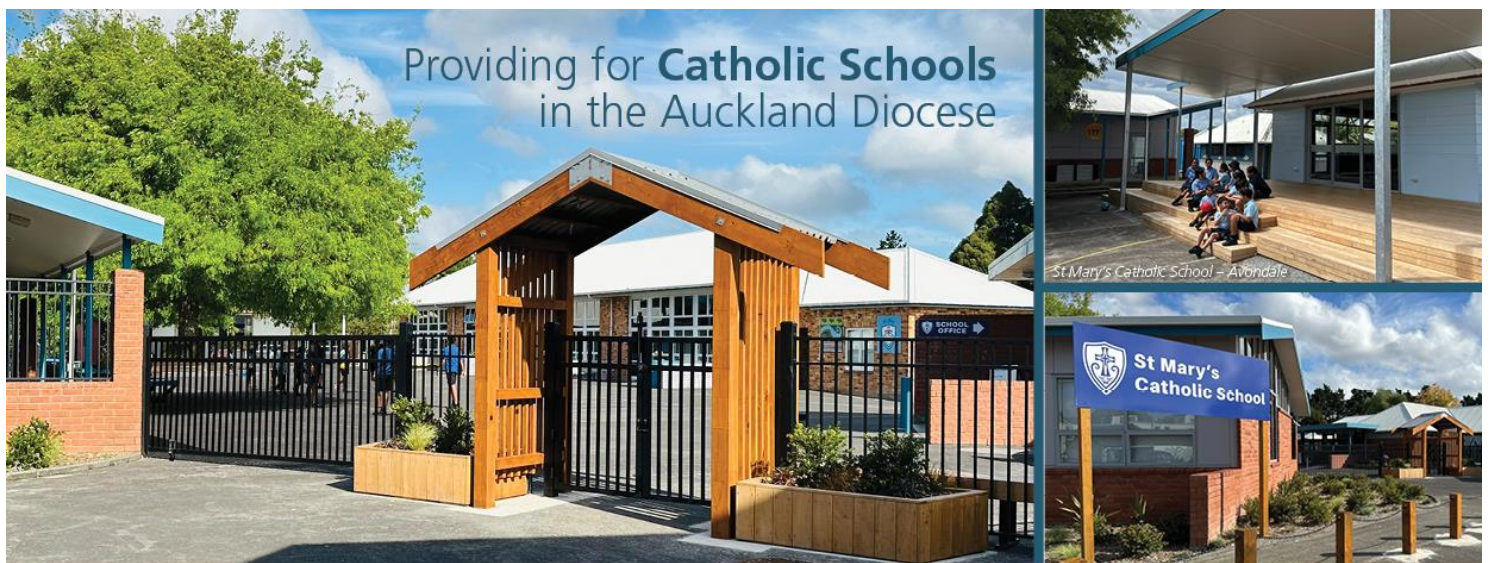


## Come work for us – Advocacy Lead at Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand

Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand is the Catholic bishops' agency for justice, peace and development, part of a global federation. We're on the hunt for an Advocacy Lead to join our team and bring about positive social justice through education, advocacy, and Māori engagement.

The ideal candidate will have strong writing and research skills, experience in an advocacy and/or policy position, and a relevant tertiary qualification. Reporting to the Chief Executive of Caritas NZ and the Regional Coordinator of Caritas Oceania, they will be responsible for contributing towards the establishment of the advocacy function and framework for Caritas Oceania and Caritas NZ and coordinating programmes aligned to the Caritas mission. This role offers an exciting opportunity within a close-knit Wellington-based team. Visit <https://mclaren.co.nz/vacancies/?ja-job=4240637>

## ATTENDANCE DUES AND SPECIAL CHARACTER CONTRIBUTIONS



## ATTENDANCE DUES

Attendance Dues are used to pay for building related costs at Catholic Schools in the Auckland Diocese.

Paying Attendance Dues is a condition of enrolment for all students attending New Zealand Catholic Schools.

Attendance Dues are compulsory – there is a legal requirement for parents and caregivers to pay Attendance Dues under the Education and Training Act 2020.

### ATTENDANCE DUES ARE:

2024	PRIMARY STUDENTS	SECONDARY STUDENTS
per year (incl. GST)	\$516	\$1,016
per term (incl. GST)	\$129	\$254

### For more information:

<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/catholic-schools-2/>

Phone: (09) 360 3040

Email: [acfl@cda.org.nz](mailto:acfl@cda.org.nz)





# Catholic Special Character Contribution

## SUPPORTING CATHOLIC EDUCATION IN OUR SCHOOLS



The Catholic Special Character contribution is used to fund the staff and services provided by the Catholic Education Services Board who are responsible, on behalf of the Proprietor, for safeguarding and strengthening the Catholic Special Character of our schools.

The contribution is \$15 per term per student or \$60 per student per year.

The contribution is tax deductible and a 33% refund can be claimed from the IRD.

**For more information:**

[www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/catholic-education-services/](http://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/catholic-education-services/)

**Phone:** (09) 3603091 **Email:** [ces@cda.org.nz](mailto:ces@cda.org.nz)

### FROM THE PARISH

#### YOUNG PARENTS GROUP



June the 7<sup>th</sup> will be the last meeting of the New Mum's coffee/friendship group. Lack of support or interest in this group has made us come to the conclusion it is not needed.

Our thanks go to Sandra Armstrong who has been so good about being there on Fridays to welcome those who have been able to attend or are interested in supporting this initiative. For more information contact Judith (0278252319)

#### 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](#).