



17<sup>th</sup> March  
2026

# NEWSLETTER

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

Kia ora whanau,

## HAPPY ST PATRICK'S DAY!

Today the church celebrates the Feast of St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland and a towering figure in our faith.

While many associate the day with shamrocks and green attire, we also remember Patrick for his incredible resilience and humility. After being brought to Ireland as a slave, he eventually escaped, only to return years later to share the Gospel with the very people who had held him captive.



- **The Trinity:** Legend says Patrick used the three leaves of a shamrock to explain the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – showing us that even the most complex mysteries of faith can be found in the beauty of nature.
- **Courage:** He reminds us to follow God's call, even when it leads us into challenging or unfamiliar places.
- **Service:** His life was a testament to "loving your enemies" and serving others with a joyful heart.

As we celebrate, let us carry the spirit of St. Patrick's prayer in our hearts: *Christ beside me, Christ before me, Christ behind me.*

## INTERSCHOOL TENNIS

Last Thursday 8 students represented our school in the Interschool Tennis Tournament held at Campbells Bay Tennis Club.

Congratulations to the team; Nova A, Amanda C, Avril C, Xavier H, Aaron M, Daniel S, Marnie S and Freddie W.

Thank you to Mrs Dorrington for her organisation for the day and thank you to all the whānau who helped with transport and support on the day.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY – PENZANCE ROAD, END OF DAY

If you would like to collect your child from the Penzance Road entrance to the school, then please park and walk up to the gate to meet them and escort them back to your vehicle.

For Health and Safety reasons, children will not be allowed to walk to waiting vehicles without written permission.



## HEALTH AND SAFETY – CHURCH CAR PARK

A couple of reminders about how we use the Church carpark...

- Please only park in the accessible parks if you have a permit to do so.
- Please DO NOT double park in the car park and block other cars or block the access for church drop-offs and emergency vehicles.
- Please also note that the covered area under the portico (the porch at the rear of the church) is not a parking space and must always be left clear and accessible for emergency access.
- Just a reminder that the driveway from the Church directly to East Coast Rd is a private driveway and is not for school use. Please use the driveway from Hastings Rd to enter and exit the carpark.

## EASTER LITURGY

This year Easter falls within the school holidays. School will **close for the holidays Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April** 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. You are welcome to join us in the school hall at 2:00pm.

In the spirit of remembering Christ's journey, we ask that no photos be taken to allow you and the children to be present in the moment. There will be no applause at the end, and the children will leave the hall in silence.

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.

God bless,  
Marina Binns

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

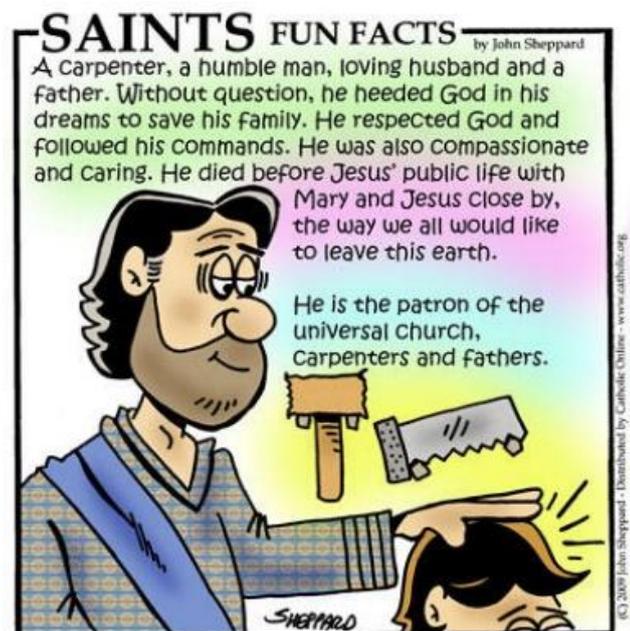
### MASS FOR THE FEAST OF ST JOSEPH – 19<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

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 19<sup>th</sup>.

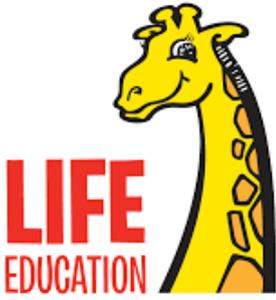
We celebrate this as a special day at our school because St John's School was founded in 1961 by the Sisters of St Joseph.

On Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March we will be celebrating Mass together as a school. You are welcome to join us in this celebration at 9:15am in the church.



St. Joseph

## LIFE EDUCATION VISIT



Next week, 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 year group and classroom programme. We look forward to having Harold come and join us at St John's.

There is a small charge for these visits which has been added to your Kindo account.

## YUMMY APPLE SPORTS GEAR PROMOTION

The promotion is on again... Collect the 'Yummy Stickers' and 'cut-out labels' from Yummy 1.5kg apple bags. Yummy apples are available at New World, Pak'n'Save and participating Four Square stores.

The more stickers we collect, the more sports gear for our school!

We are starting early...collection is ongoing throughout Terms 1, 2 and 3. Please stop in at the office to get a collection sheet if you want to participate.



Double points for Sweet Tango, Lemonade and Ambrosia varieties.

## SWIMMING SPORTS

Despite not having the best weather last Tuesday for our annual Swimming Sports the day was a great success. I was very impressed by the resilience displayed by our children in the less than perfect conditions. I was also impressed by the great school spirit as I heard many cheering not only for their own house but also children from other houses too.

I would like to thank the children for their participation, the teachers and learning support team for their preparation of the children and assistance on the day and all the whānau who came along to support the children, cheering them on from the bank. A big thank you to Mr Craig Ritson for keeping our pool in such sparkling condition.

Congratulations to **Pierce** House, winners of the Nicola Jack Memorial Cup for 2026.

Congratulations to **Liston** and **Keegan**, joint winners of the Rangitoto Team



## SWIMMING POOL CLOSURE / RETURN OF KEYS



**OUR POOL CLOSSES FOR THE SEASON ON THURSDAY, 2<sup>ND</sup> APRIL AT 3:00PM**

Pool key bond refunds are now available from the office.

To receive the bond refund, keys must be returned before 3:00pm, Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May.

I would like to thank Mr Ritson for his work over the whole swimming season keeping our pool in such a great condition for our students and the community to enjoy.

# SJMB BOOK BATTLE

Next week (Week 8) marks the start of the Book Battle. This is optional for all students in Years 5 and 6.

The students are required to read 5 books. A copy of each will be available in their classroom.

The children may need adult assistance to find alternative copies (perhaps at local libraries or borrowing from friends) as these books will be in high demand this term. The children also need a broad knowledge of nursery rhymes and traditional stories.

All children will have access to the Book Battle Google Classroom, which is filled with digital escape rooms, Kahoots, and quizzes you might enjoy doing as a family.

There will be small prizes for the children who make up the Top 15 as decided by a quiz in Week 5 of Term 2.

From this challenge, the top 10 will form two teams (two teams of four plus two reserves) who will represent St John's School at the North Shore Book Battle which takes place at Northcross Intermediate in June.

Parents, look out for an email coming on Monday 23rd March, with extra details.

If you have any questions, please email the teacher-in-charge, Mrs Blind, [janetb@sjmb.school.nz](mailto:janetb@sjmb.school.nz)

## SCHOOL FEES AND CONTRIBUTIONS

### SCHOOL DUES – IRD Tax Receipts

Please email Michele Nash, Principal's PA, [michelen@sjmb.school.nz](mailto:michelen@sjmb.school.nz) if you would like a one-page full year tax receipt to support your IRD tax deduction donation claim to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026. Provided School Dues for Term 1 2026 have been paid and the receipt dated on or before 31<sup>st</sup> March, that amount will show on the receipt and can be processed in the tax year 1 April 2025 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026. Alternatively, if you are missing a receipt, please ask for a replacement, it is no trouble at all to duplicate. Attendance Dues are the only fee item that are **not** tax deductible.

Attendance Dues are paid monthly over to the Diocese Auckland Common Fund Ltd and should be paid in full at least two weeks before the end of any school term. In that regard, please feel free to contact Michele Nash [michelen@sjmb.school.nz](mailto:michelen@sjmb.school.nz) if payment of Attendance Dues will be delayed. Attendance Dues are receipted first from any payments parents make. He waka eke noa – we're all in this together and financial assistance from the Diocese is available for families who may be having trouble with paying the Attendance Dues if they have demonstrated an effort has been made to make payments at a level they can afford.

### SCHOOL ATTENDANCE DUES – Financial Assistance

Financial assistance is available to assist families who may need financial support with the payment of Attendance Dues for preference students attending both primary and secondary Catholic schools in Auckland Diocese. Families facing financial difficulties can contact the Auckland Common Fund Ltd at the Catholic Diocese of Auckland on 09-360-3069 for further information. Application forms for this assistance can be downloaded from the Catholic Diocese of Auckland Website:

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

## 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.



# SECRETARY WANTED

• JOIN THE PTFA •

- ▶ ATTEND THE PTFA MEETINGS
- ▶ TAKE MINUTES
- ▶ CHECK EMAILS
- ▶ SUPPORT THE CHAIR

**APPLY NOW!**

[PTFA@SJMB.SCHOOL.NZ](mailto:PTFA@SJMB.SCHOOL.NZ)

## Your Support Means Everything

When you buy through our special link, you'll pay just \$59 instead of \$79 — saving \$20.

At the same time, \$20 from your purchase goes directly towards our school!

**Your generosity helps us achieve our goals — thank you!**

**DISCOVER DEALS FROM AUCKLAND'S BEST**

- ✓ Save \$20 with coupon code
- ✓ Over 100 Auckland Businesses
- ✓ Over 300 Coupons
- ✓ Over \$7,000 in offers
- ✓ \$20 from every sale is donated
- ✓ Support local businesses
- ✓ Discover new places

### DISCOVER DEALS

The PTFA is pleased to offer the purchase of these wonderful books from [Local Treasures](http://LocalTreasures.co.nz). They are perfect for keeping the children entertained and engaged and are packed with great ideas and discounts that are just right for the upcoming school holidays.

You can get \$20 off the 'Family Memory Maker' book. When you buy using our code: STJOHN, the book will cost \$59 instead of \$79. In addition, the company will give \$20 to the school.

Please feel free to share this code with your friends and family too — it's a great way for everyone to benefit while supporting a local business.

[www.localtreasures.co.nz](http://www.localtreasures.co.nz)  
**Coupon Code: STJOHN**

Please check out their website for more information or pop into the office to see an example of the book.

ezlunch.

Forget chocolate eggs.  
**Win Kindo credit!**



This Easter, the Ezlunch bunny isn't delivering chocolate. It's delivering Kindo credit!

From now until the end of term, every Ezlunch order your family places goes into the draw to win. No sign-ups. No extra steps. Just order lunch as usual.

#### What you could win:

- 🍷 \$100 Kindo credit (5 winners)
- 🍷 \$25 Kindo credit (20 winners)
- 🍷 \$10 Kindo credit - the cost of a lunch, on us (50 winners)

#### How it works:

1. Order Ezlunch for your children like normal
2. Every order = one entry into the draw
3. Order more often = more chances to win

That's it. Winners will be announced in the first week of Term 2, and credits go straight into your Kindo account.

Happy ordering (and good luck!).



## Splash to smash

Luca Cataloni

St John's Swimming Pool Mairangi Bay

On the 10th of March 2026, the 4 houses of St John's School: Pierce, Quinlan, Keegan, and Liston competed against each other at their annual Swim Sports competition.

These houses swam with technique and fury to compete for the Nicola Jack memorial cup. The Nicola Jack memorial cup is a cup that was donated by the parents of Nicola Jack, who had a passion for swimming at St John's. Unfortunately, she tragically died in a car accident. The St John's community remembers her each year.

When the first race was about to start, all the parents got out their cameras to get ready if something amazing was going to happen. Everybody clapped and cheered all around. All the houses cheered for anybody who was in the race. When the competition was around half-way, principal Miss. Binns announced, *"Just a little heads up of the standings, in 4th we have... Quinlan! In 3rd place... Liston! 2nd is... Keegan! And in first place is... Pierce!"* The swimmers were jumping up and down as though they'd already won it.

Lachlan, a Year 6 student, said, *"it was a really fun day and I won 3 races."*

The relays were tight but at the end of the competition, **Pierce** just nudged it.



House captains of **Blue** house lift the trophy

## Spectacular Splash!

By: Amanda Chow ~ St Johns school

On Tuesday the 10th of March St John's school, located at Mairangi Bay, held their annual swimming sports in their school pool where students in their houses compete in swimming and win points.

The students were sitting in their house colours which are blue, red, green and yellow. There were also parents and caregivers watching the students swim at the grassy bank nearby. It was rather windy and chilly out there. Every year they held this swimming competition to win a trophy called the Nicola Jack trophy. This is named after a girl who loved swimming but sadly passed away.



Avril Chung, a senior year 6 student, said, *"It was windy, cold and cloudy!"*

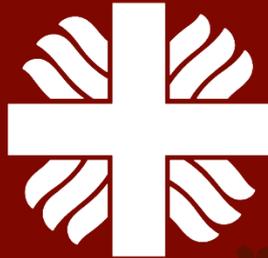
In the end, **BLUE** house won!

Despite the cold and windy weather every student still enjoyed the swimming sports and had fun.

*The students all full of joy and excitement.*

# PARISH BBQ

Sunday 22nd March  
St. John's Church after 9am Mass



Caritas

All Donations go Towards Caritas  
Organised by the East Coast Bays  
Parish Young Adults Group, Come and  
Meet Us There!

ARE YOU AGED BETWEEN  
5 - 9 YEARS?  
COME AND HAVE SOME FREE  
HOLIDAY FUN!



YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR COMMUNITY  
SCHOOL HOLIDAY EVENT AT

OUTRAM HALL MURRAY'S BAY  
WEDNESDAY 8 APRIL 10-12 NOON

A MAGICIAN, BOUNCY CASTLES, FACE  
PAINTING, BALLOONS, AND MORE!

CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED  
BY AN ADULT

ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE RING CHRISTINE 027 632 8861  
ORGANISED BY THE MURRAY'S BAY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION



\$ 60 Full day

## Kids Choice Autumn Holiday Programme

6th April to 17th April 2026  
Open 7.30am til 5.30pm Monday to Friday



\$ 60 Full day

\$ 60 Full day

\$ 60 Full day

\$ 60 Full day

Mon 6th  
Easter Monday

NO  
Programme

Tue 7th  
Magic Loft  
Grip socks

Wed 8th  
Easter Egg craft

Thurs 9th  
Bush walk—picnic

Friday 10th  
Wheels Day

**DAY**

Mon 13th April  
Mystery Day

Tue 14th April  
Takapuna Playground

Wed 15th April  
Pizza

Thurs 16th  
Magician

Fri 17th  
Face Paint—Party  
Movie



# SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMMES

Build confidence, creativity and academic excellence

- ✓ Creating videos using AI
- ✓ Develop Games with Roblox
- ✓ Let's learn Makey Makey
- ✓ Introduction to Developing Websites
- ✓ Learn to Code in Python
- ✓ Learn to code using Scratch
- ✓ Let us Learn 3D Printing
- ✓ Minecraft - Develop your own Mods
- ✓ Building Games with Gamemaker
- ✓ Code that Robot using Edison
- ✓ Minecraft Modding Junior
- ✓ Let Us Code
- ✓ Code that Robot using Mbot
- ✓ Machine Learning for Kids



Discover the joy of coding and the world of technology!

**APRIL 7<sup>TH</sup> - 17<sup>TH</sup>, 2026**

28 William Pickering Drive, Albany, Auckland



(09)815 0825



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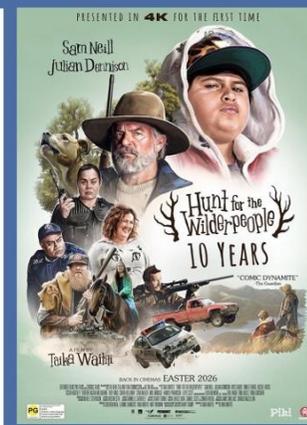
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Weekdays before 5pm



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10 Children, 2 Adults, Popcorn & Drinks  
FROM \$240



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