



**4th August
2026**

NEWSLETTER

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

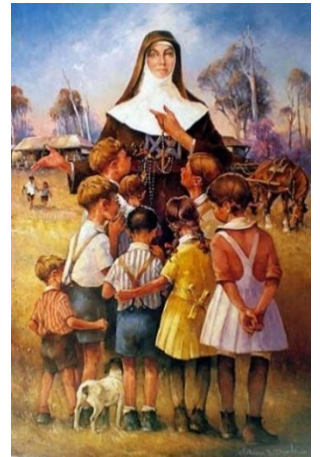
Kia ora whānau,

We invite you to share in the School Liturgy for St Mary of the Cross (Mary MacKillop) at St John's Church on Friday 7th August at 2:00pm.

STUDENT LEADERS

At the Liturgy, we will also be commissioning our Term 3 and 4 Student Leaders.

There are many ways for our Year 6 students to actively contribute to school life, and I'm excited to see the next group of young leaders' step into these important roles. Leadership is an opportunity to serve others, take responsibility, and grow in character. It begins with a strong understanding of our school values: Faith, Community, Respect, and Resilience. Through their words and actions, our student leaders have the chance to inspire, encourage, and support their peers as they work together to grow in faith and become the best versions of themselves.



A heartfelt congratulations to our Term 3 and 4 House Leaders, who have been elected by their classmates to represent our four houses. This is a proud tradition at St John's, and over the next two terms, these students will not only lead their houses but also provide an important student voice to the Senior Leadership Team.

For Keegan House;	Saoirse L and Cody T
For Liston House;	Alena J and San K
For Pierce House;	Carter G and Lachlan O
For Quinlan House;	Allegra C and Xavier H.

I also extend my congratulations to our Young MacKillops for Terms 3 and 4. These students were thoughtfully chosen by Mrs Mountjoy and their teachers for their strong values and willingness to serve. They play an important role in giving voice to social justice issues and work closely with our Director of Religious Studies to uphold and promote the Special Character of our school – especially through their leadership in liturgical celebrations and faith-based initiatives.

The Young MacKillops for Terms 3 and 4 are: Amanda C, Avril C, Patrick G, Thomas H, Bernard H, Elise K, Dominic K, Maggie-Rose K, Lorenzo M, Ernestine M, Christopher P and Zoe W.

RUGBY FESTIVAL

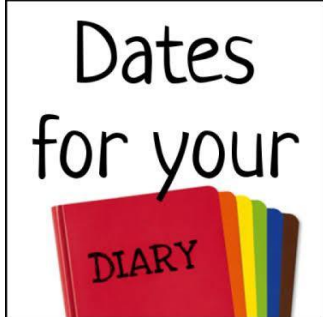
Congratulations to all the children who represented St John's at the second day of the North Harbour Rugby Festival. The teachers in charge commented on their great sportsmanship and the children told me that they had a lot of fun. Thank you to all the staff, parents and whānau supporters who helped with transport, coaching, management and sideline support.

PEACE WEEK

This week we are celebrating Peace Week. Mrs Whiteman and the Peer Mediators have many exciting activities planned for the lunchtimes and we look forward to hearing more in the next newsletter.

INTERSCHOOL HOCKEY

Yesterday two of our hockey teams represented us at the Interschool Hockey Tournament at North Harbour Hockey. We look forward to catching up with how they did.



Reminder that school will be closed for a **Teacher Only Day on Friday 28th August**.

Friday 11th September we will be having a Whānau Sharing time where the children will invite and host their whānau (any and all who would like to come) during the afternoon; sharing their learning and their favourite activities and spaces around the school. More details will follow, but we would love you to put it in your diary now.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

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

God bless,
Marina Binns, Principal – Tumuaki

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

ST. MARY MACKILLOP: A LEGACY OF COURAGE AND COMPASSION



Saturday, 8th August, is the Feast Day of St. Mary of the Cross. As the founder of the Sisters of St. Joseph, St. Mary MacKillop holds a profound significance for our school community. She isn't a distant figure from ancient history; she walked our lands, understood our pioneering struggles, and actively shaped the Catholic identity of the South Pacific. For us, Mary MacKillop is a tangible model of lived faith—proving that holiness is found in grit, practical action, and radical kindness.

For Catholic New Zealanders, Mary calls us to a faith that rolls up its sleeves. She famously urged, *"Never see a need without doing something about it."* This is a direct mandate to look around our modern communities, recognise those on the margins, and act with courage.

For educators, her legacy is the ultimate blueprint. Mary was a trailblazer who believed that education was the key to breaking cycles of poverty. She calls our teachers to see the inherent dignity in every child, prioritising the vulnerable and teaching with a spirit of inclusivity. As a school, Mary MacKillop challenges us to not just fill minds with knowledge, but to form hearts for service, ensuring her enduring spirit lives on through our actions every day.

FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION

This year, the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary falls on a Saturday. Because it is the weekend, we will not be holding a school Mass. However, as the patronal feast of New Zealand, it remains a Holy Day of Obligation. Please check your local parish timetables to attend Mass on Saturday.

The Assumption provides a beautiful moment of inspiration. It celebrates Mary being taken body and soul into heavenly glory, reminding us of the ultimate hope of our own resurrection. Mary's "yes" to God changed the world; may her journey inspire us to say "yes" to our own divine callings.



DAFFODIL DAY: WALKING IN FAITH AND COMPASSION... OVER 20 YEARS OF DAFFODIL DAY AT ST JOHN'S



As a faith community, we are called to be the hands and feet of Christ, showing love, empathy, and comfort to those who need it most. For over 20 years, St John's School has proudly stood in solidarity with the Cancer Society through our annual Daffodil Day appeal.

Two decades of participation are a testament to the enduring generosity of our school community. Over these twenty-plus years, many of our own St John's families, staff, and friends have been deeply affected by cancer. In times of trial, our faith reminds us that we do not walk alone. Contributing to Daffodil Day is our collective way of putting our Catholic values into action—turning faith into love, and love into service.

Due to the Teacher Only Day on the 28th August, we will be celebrating Daffodil Day at school on Thursday 27th. Students are invited to wear a yellow item to school, and families are encouraged to donate to our St. John's School Fundraising page. This QR code links directly to our fundraising page. Please share this code with friends and family who may like to donate too.



Pictured above with students is our beloved, late colleague Dianna Elvin, who lived with cancer for many years.

"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ." — Galatians 6:2

MIHA MĀORI – MASS IN TE REO MĀORI AT HĀTO PETERA CHAPEL, NORTHCOTE



After a brief pause in the monthly Mass schedule due to vandalism, please join us to celebrate Miha (Mass) to reclaim our sacred place for prayer and worship. We are looking forward to celebrating Miha and praying together once again on Saturday 8th August at 5.00pm at the Hāto Petera Chapel, 103 College Road, Northcote.

You are very welcome. If you have any questions please email Manuel Beazley – ManuelB@cda.org.nz

Ngā mihi,
Cara Mountjoy – Director of Religious Studies

BLAKE VR EXPERIENCE

In Term 2, the Year 5 and 6 students went to the school hall, where we had the amazing opportunity to meet team members from the BLAKE organisation. Guess what? We even got to wear VR headsets!

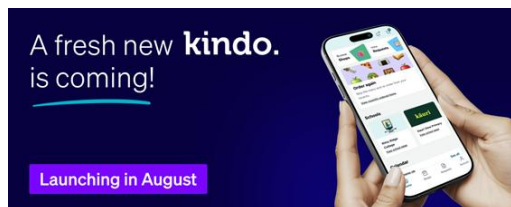
First, we got to know our two lovely coordinators. One of them, Lucy, showed us how to put on our headsets like scuba masks and adjust the straps so they fit comfortably, whether our heads were big or small. She also taught us the thumbs-up signal, which meant it was time to take the headsets off.

During the session, we learned all about marine life and the ocean environment—including whales, fish, sharks, coral, and penguins. At one point, a whole school of fish even popped up around us! We participated in three different experiences, each with its own unique personality.



By Flossie, Ava and Marcel.

KINDO



Kindo is getting a fresh new look from early August, designed to make paying and completing forms simpler.

Keep an eye out for the update and check your email for what's new. Learn more 🖱️ <https://bit.ly/4pAel6D>

What's new for your families?

- A clean, modern look that's easier to navigate
- A 'Hub' that brings outstanding requests from every school into one place
- Better visibility of key payments and forms
- A 'Pay All' option, so families can pay everything at once (with the option to deselect items)
- Clearer naming for wallet top-ups, autopay, and transaction history
- A recognisable home for your school, making key messages and events easier to see.

ENROLMENTS FOR 2027

Just a little reminder that enrolments are coming in for 2027 (and further through to 2031). If you have not lodged an enrolment for next year, we encourage you to do so without delay.

Enrolment applications close on August 31st of the year prior to school starts but can be lodged at any time. Please contact michelen@sjmb.school.nz for all enrolment queries.



Tonight's meeting, 4th August, 7:00pm in the School Staffroom

THIS MEETING HAS BEEN

POSTPONED

WE'RE SORRY FOR THE INCONVINIENCE



Donations Needed: If you have any pre-loved uniform items in good condition, we would love your support! Please drop off any donations at the school office prior to the sale. Thank you for supporting our school community! Please complete this [form](#) if you would like the school to sell items on your behalf.

Raising Boys in Today's World



Jo Robertson is Coming Back to
St. John's Primary School —
and You're Invited!

What do boys need most right now?

In a world filled with online influence, mixed messages, and increasing pressure on young people, many parents are asking the same thing:

How do we raise good young men?

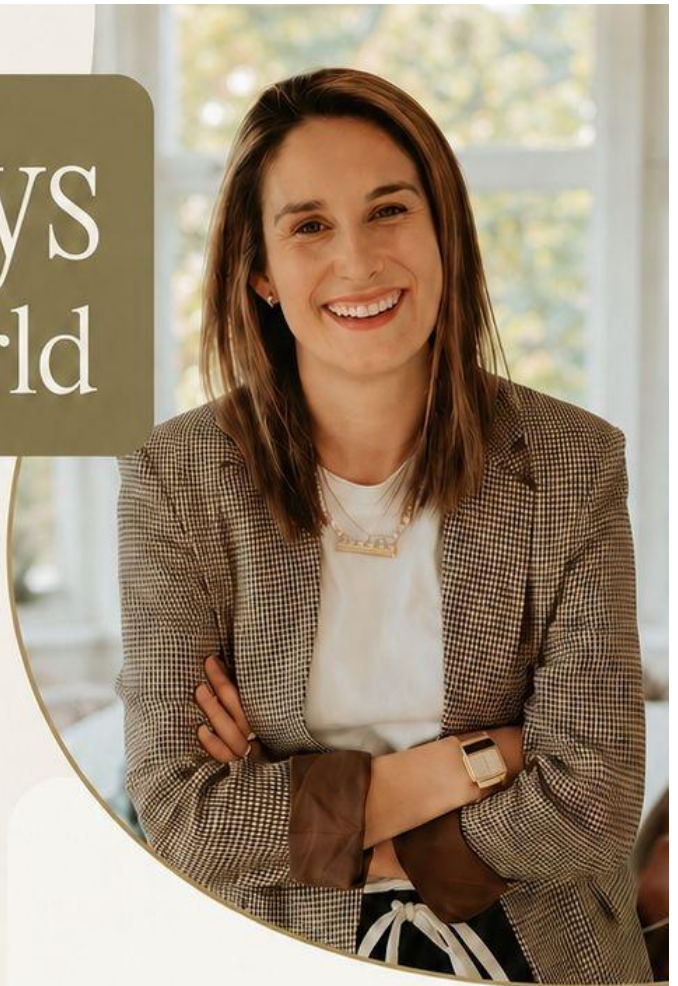
Join leading life educator Jo Robertson for a powerful, practical, and honest conversation about what boys need today — and how we can better support them as parents and communities.

Together, we'll explore:

- open conversations without shame
- healthy masculinity and respectful relationships
- emotional wellbeing and connection
- navigating online influences and counter-narratives
- what boys truly need to thrive in today's world



*For parents, caregivers, and anyone
wanting to raise thoughtful, empathetic,
well-connected young men.*



EVENT DETAILS



St John's
Primary School



Wednesday
12 August



7:30 PM –
8:30 PM

BOOK YOUR SPOT



Scan the QR code to book
via Eventbrite

email: ptfa@sjmb.school.nz

🌈 Go Deli Half Price and Big Savings Promotion – Thank You for Your Support 🌈

Go Deli has proudly provided healthy and delicious school lunches for over 15 years. To thank schools and parents for their continued support, we are continuing our Big Savings Promotion, which has been running for three terms and is very popular with students. This term, we have also added new products to provide even more choices and value.

The Big Savings Promotion section will continue to be updated each term to bring students more variety.

This term we release the Half price meal every day at 6pm, quick order for large saving.

Please also look for our “Nourishing” label – these items meet the Heart Foundation checklist or higher healthy food standards, are nutritionally balanced, and are recommended for growing children.

Please share this on school news board, so busy parents can easily find us!

Thank you for your continued support.

this term's PROMOTION menu items go-deli

20% OFF Includes Spicy Teriyaki Chicken, Fresh Grapes, Brownies, and Yogurt

SUSHI COMBO Assorted Sushi, Chicken, Maki, and Tuna

CHICKEN COMBO Assorted Chicken, Macaroni, and Tomato Sauce

15% OFF Butter Chicken, Macaroni & Cheese, Mini Pizza, Teriyaki Chicken Roll, Avocado Roll, Karage Chicken, Pork & Apple Schnitzel, Katsu Chicken

NEW! 20% OFF

ORDER NOW on ezlunch.co.nz

*Prices for each item will differ between schools based on each school's fundraising percentage

BFW Ltd. ©

go-deli

NEW HALF PRICE MEALS

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25		

50% OFF! everyday!

LIMITED QUANTITIES EVERYDAY 6pm!

50% School Lunches – Every School Day!

Grab a nourishing & delicious Go-Deli lunch for **50% OFF** every school day! A different meal is featured daily, with limited quantities released at 6:00 pm the day before on the ezlunch.co.nz ordering website. Be quick! Once they're gone, they're gone!

ORDER NOW on ezlunch.co.nz

*Prices for each item will differ between schools based on each school's fundraising percentage

BFW Ltd. ©

how to make SUSHI go-deli

nourishing & healthy for children?

Healthier. Fresh foods support students' overall wellbeing, improving their concentration, behaviour, and performance at school. Making nutritious choices every day helps build healthy habits for life.

HEALTHY SUSHI

Cooking methods make a big difference! Instead of deep frying, boiling or baking meats avoids unnecessary fats.

Limiting the use of sugar in seasonings.

UNHEALTHY SUSHI

Sushi rice often uses rice vinegar with excessive amounts of sugar.

Sauces contain hidden amounts of fat, salt, and sugar.

Deep fried foods are higher in fat.

ORDER NOW on ezlunch.co.nz

NOW FROM GO-DELI

Nourishing ✓

BFW Ltd. ©

introducing our new HEALTHY food label go-deli

Nourishing ✓

Keep an eye out for this label

what does the label mean?

Our menu now features healthy food labels! These labels highlight items that are wholesome, meet the Heart Foundation's Healthy Eating Recipe Checklist, or have a Health Star Rating greater than 3.5.

These labels make it easier to identify the most nutritious options on our menu. Look out for the Nourishing labels on the ezlunch.co.nz website when ordering to see which items support healthy eating for children.

ORDER NOW FROM go-deli on ezlunch.co.nz

CHECK OUT heart foundation's Checklists

BFW Ltd. ©

CONGRATULATIONS



TEAM SPIRIT & TOUGH COMPETITION

Both Year 4 netball teams participated in a mid-season tournament in the last holidays. Both the Sunflowers and the Daisies superbly won all their games and topped their grade on the day. What a fantastic effort by the girls.

The feedback from the Daisies was "The tournament was challenging but fun at the same time. What I loved the most was spending the whole day with my team. I'm really proud that we won all our games. I loved celebrating the team's success together at McDonald's afterwards. It was a special moment."

Thank You to Mrs Dorrington for getting us registered, visiting us on the day and for giving me (the coach) some coaching guidance as it was my first tournament.

On the last day of the holidays, The Sunflowers had another successful tournament. Our first game was against Hauraki Hearts. All their players were really good, but we still managed to win, 14 – 0. Soon, later, after the first game we played against Bayswater School. They were quite a tough team, although we won 11 – 1. The second to last game was against Snells Beach School. They were a really hard team, but luckily we were able to pull a great win! The last game we played was against Pinehurst, it was a game of two halves, we went up 5 – 0 in the first half but in the second half Pinehurst got 3 points, but then our amazing defence switched and kept us in the lead. At half time our enthusiastic Centre Felicity climbed the fence to get the score right on the scoreboard for the Sunflowers. We could have never done it without Saeron. We tied first with Browns Bay because there was no final. After the game with Pinehurst the Sunflowers ran to the office to see if there was a prize. But there was no prizes. We had a wonderful time! Sadly Bella was away in Korea for a holiday, but it was great that Saeron was with us. The netball tournament was amazing and perfect for us. We had a wonderful time and did lots of great intercepts and would like to go again.

By the Sunflowers: Erin, Felicity, Grace, Kate, Lola, Maxene, Saeron and So-Eun.

GLIDING INTO GREATNESS: ICE SKATING HIGHLIGHTS

Many congratulations to Annabelle (Rm4) who recently competed at the following ice figure skating competitions:

11 July Auckland Ice Figure Skating Club Competition 2026

- Pre Elementary U12 Group: Silver medal (2nd place)

26 July Glenburn Figure Skating Club Competition 2026

- Pre Elementary U12 Group: Gold medal (1st place)





ST JOHN'S GYMNASTS SHINE DURING THE TERM BREAK HAMILTON AND AUCKLAND COMPETITIONS

During the recent school term break, Catherine R and Irene R, two of our talented St John's students who compete for North Harbour Gymnastics, delivered outstanding performances across two major gymnastics competitions.

At the Hamilton City Gymnastics Competition (July 12th), Catherine claimed an impressive 1st Overall title, while Irene finished a fantastic 5th Overall.



The pair continued their success at the North Harbour Gymnastics Competition (July 19th), where Catherine placed 2nd Overall, and Irene secured 6th Overall. Irene was also recognised with the Highly Commended Artistry Award for her elegant beam routine.

These excellent results reflect the girls' dedication, perseverance, and countless hours of training. Congratulations to Catherine and Irene on their remarkable achievements. We are incredibly proud of you both and wish you continued success in the competitions ahead!

FROM THE PARISH

CATHOLIC SCHOOL PREFERENCE FORMS

Fr Carlo will be available to sign the forms on Wednesdays. 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](#).

BUILDING OUR COMMUNITY: PASSIONIST FAMILY GROUPS



At our school, we are proud to support the **Passionist Family Group Movement**—a fantastic parish initiative designed to bring families together and build a strong, supportive community. Guided by the motto "*A Family for All*," these groups offer a warm, extended family atmosphere where parishioners and school families of all ages can connect, support one another, and share in Christian life.

Groups usually gather once a month for simple, low-cost, family-friendly social activities—like potlucks, park outings, or shared lunches. It's a wonderful way for our tamariki to see faith in action, forge lasting friendships, and feel a true sense of belonging in our wider parish whānau.

Whether you are new to our school community or have been here for years, everyone is welcome—married, single, young, or old. **Interested in joining or learning more?**

Please contact our Parish Coordinators Shelley & Graham Ward, gandsward@xtra.co.nz or 0273886114 to get connected. We'd love to welcome you!

New Dawn Counselling

Counselling for all ages now available at St John's Church, if you would like to know more or arrange an appointment, please contact the [office](#), Rand at randpetros@gmail.com, or [visit](#)

