

NEWSLETTER

St Francis Catholic Primary School

Mission Statement

"Providing a catholic education
that develops the whole person"

Vision Statement

"To provide challenges for all students
enabling them to develop as well rounded
individuals and socially responsible
catholics"



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Ash Wednesday: The season of Lent begins today with Ash Wednesday. Ashes, made by burning palms blessed the previous Palm Sunday are placed on our forehead as a public sign of our faith. We proclaim - "Turn away from sin and be faithful to the gospel." (Mark 1:15).



Lent, which is 40 days, not counting Sundays, is a time of fasting and repentance prior to the celebration of Easter.

Tips to help your children understand the importance of the Lenten Season:

- Highlight the significance of the forty days. Tell your child that Lent lasts for forty days because that's how long Jesus wandered in the desert, fasting, while he resisted temptations. Explain that your child has an opportunity, during the forty days of Lent, to be like Jesus. They too can resist temptations and use this time to become closer to God.

- Explain “fasting”. During Lent, we “fast” in various ways to connect with and honor Jesus, who fasted for forty days in the desert. Note that during Lent, “fasting” may not always involve food. There are other ways to practice sacrifice and strive for closeness with God.
- You don’t have to expect your child to make a huge, symbolic sacrifice for forty days. But you can certainly teach the concept and encourage your child to try it, perhaps by giving up lollies or video games.
- This period of fasting is also a good time to show solidarity with people who do not have enough food. Take your child with you to donate to a food bank or perform a community service.
- Encourage repentance. Teach your child that repenting for their sins will lead to a closer relationship with God. They may not understand the value of seeking forgiveness at first. However, by encouraging your child to admit to and apologize for their mistakes (fighting with another child, saying bad words etc), you can help them grow into a more mature person.



Purple - the colour of Lent

Sacramental Programme:

Reconciliation Classes 3rd, 10th, 17th of May. Ceremony Tuesday 19th of May 6pm.

First Eucharist Classes 2nd, 9th, 16th August. Practice for the ceremony 19th of September 4pm. Ceremony 20th of September 11am.

Confirmation Classes 23rd, 30th of August. Practice for the ceremony 17th of October 4pm. Ceremony 18th of October 11am.

For further information please contact Marena Hubbers [via marena@nzohs.co.nz](mailto:marena@nzohs.co.nz)

A message from Father John: Converted Catholic or just want a refresher?

An open invitation to join Father John as he gives a series of talks (for adults) on various aspects of Catholicism:

Tuesday nights 7.00pm - 8.30pm in our Church

14th of April - The Church

21st of April - The Sacraments

28th of April - The Eucharist Part 1*

5th of May - The Eucharist Part 2*

26th of May - Penance

*New Ministers of Holy Communion, please attend sessions 3 and 4 for formation.

St Paul’s College Open Day: Thursday 5th of May 2020. Sessions - 9.30am and 1.45pm.

183 Richmond Road, Ponsonby. Assembly in the College Chapel, followed by a tour.

Enrolments for Year 7, 8 and 9. *Building Men of Courage since 1955.*

“We highly recommend it.” - St Francis Parent that attended last year.



Walking, Scooting and Biking to and

from school: We are thrilled with the amount of children walking, scooting and biking to and from school recently, so much so that we need to look into getting more bike racks!!!! Just a reminder that because of the crazy traffic in our area (and because of an increasing amount of minor issues with members of the public!!) we encourage our younger children to travel with an adult or a Year 5 and 6 sibling/friend. Teachers are on patrol at the Pt Chev crossing and the Montrose Street crossing from 8.15am - 8.45am in the mornings, and 3.00pm - 3.10pm in the afternoons.

St Francis Catholic School Ski / Snowboard Team: Training at Snow Planet on Tuesday afternoons.



Next Friends of St Francis Meeting - Monday 9 March @ 7.30pm in the school Whanau Room. All welcome. Check out the Friends of St Francis facebook page - Friends of St Francis Catholic School.

St Francis Father's Support Group: Our next **Darts sessions** at Pt Chev Bowling Club on Dignan Street will be this Thursday from 8.00pm - all St Francis Dads welcome, contact Stuart King @ stuart_patrick_king@hotmail.com for further details.

Finalised Academic Data Results from 2019 (Year 2 - 6 students only, New Entrants and Year 1 are not included as we would prefer they focus on developing good routines and work habits before they start dealing with the pressures of formal assessments!!!):

- 97% of St Francis students achieved at or above the expected curriculum level in Reading
- 94% of St Francis students achieved at or above the expected curriculum level in Writing
- 97% of St Francis students achieved at or above the expected curriculum level in Mathematics (The national norm in 85 - 90% at or above)

2020 Data Targets for Year 2 - 6 students:

- 95% (or more) of St Francis students will be achieving at or above the expected curriculum level in Reading, Writing and Mathematics by the end of 2020
- 100% of St Francis students will move one or more sub stages in Writing throughout the year
- 90% (or more) of St Francis students will make the expected amount of progress throughout the year in Mathematics
- Data will be collected and analysed by gender and ethnicity, as well as classroom and year level. Patterns will be identified.

Message from the Board of Trustees: last night at our first meeting of the year we re-elected Callie Fell and James Murphy as our co-chairpersons. They did a fantastic job leading us throughout 2019 and we look forward to their governance in 2020.



Callie Fell



James Murphy

Cricket Mad @ St Francis: Good luck to the Year 5 and 6 teams participating in the Inner City Schools tournament tomorrow at Vic Park.



Upcoming Teacher Only Day: Friday 6th of March

Skids will be open on this day (if they reach the minimum requirement of children). Book by the 4th of March. Open from 8am - 4pm. Parents who are regular users of Skids have already been emailed by Jackie.

Contact Details: *Jackie Arroyo - Skids St Francis Pt Chev*
Mobile: 021 975642. Email: stfrancisptchev@skids.co.nz
Website: <https://www.skids.co.nz>

Coming up this term:

Thursday 27 February: Inner City Sports Cluster Cricket competition - Year 5 and 6 - Vic Park
Friday 28 February: Assembly lead by Room 5 and Room 12 @ 2.15pm
Friday 6 March: Teacher Only Day - no school - Teacher are on a Professional Development course
Monday 9 March: Friends of St Francis Meeting
Friday 13 March: Assembly lead by Room 4 and Room 11 @ 2.15pm
Tuesday 17 March: St Patrick's Day Walking School Bus Dress Up
Tuesday 24 March - Wednesday 25 March - Year 6 Overnight stay at Tawharanui Regional Park
Thursday 26 March: Inner City Sports Cluster Softball competition - Year 5 and 6 - Cox's Bay Reserve
Friday 27 March: Jesus Strand Assembly to Welcome New Children lead by the Middle School @ 2.15pm
Sunday 5 April: Palm Sunday
Thursday 9 April: Holy Thursday - Last day of Term One - Assembly lead by Room 6 and Room 7 @ 2.15pm
Friday 10 April: Good Friday
Sunday 12 April: Easter Sunday
Monday 27 April: ANZAC Day
Tuesday 28 April: Term Two begins

Lisa Bateman lisab@stfrancis.school.nz or principal@stfrancis.school.nz



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