

St Francis Catholic School

We are a vibrant & empowering Catholic school, creating pathways of excellence for our tamariki.



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The Tau Cross - The cross's use dates back to St Francis of Assisi himself, who used it as his signature and personal seal. As a Franciscan symbol, the Tau, resembling the Cross, is a sign of conversion. For Francis, conversion implies a turning toward God and turning to one's brothers and sisters. It is called a "tau cross" because it is shaped like the Greek letter tau. Room 4 have been learning about the Tau Cross in their RE class recently.

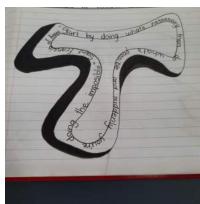


Upcoming Parish dates -

Father John's History talks - 6th, 20th and 27th of November Parish Morning Tea - 19th November Next Baptism Class - 2nd December

Christmas Mass Timetable -

- 23rd December 4th Sunday of Advent
- 24th December 6.30pm Family Christmas Mass
- 25th December 9am Mass
- 27th December Midday Mass



<u>Athletic Day</u> - Our new date is <u>Tuesday the 14th of November</u>. Parent Helpers: We are a couple of parent helpers short, particularly in the seniors. If you can help on the day please email Annalies - <u>annalies.donald@meshconsulting.co.nz</u>. Let's get those prayers going for some fine weather!

St Francis makes a Splash! It has been a great start to the Flippa Ball and Mini Ball season for Term 4 for our St Francis children. The Water Wolves competition has some strong skilful teams bringing some tough competition across the grades. Our teams have enjoyed a mix of learning from losses and celebrating some exciting wins. It is not unusual to have the crowd in the grandstand all excitedly up on their feet while supporting our teams!

It is great to see our St Francis children developing their skills and teamwork in the game - each week they just get better and better! This term we also have some new players join our teams who

are picking up the game very quickly. On Sunday all three of our Year 3 & 4 St Francis teams were in the pool at the same time – our Titans and Taniwhas playing each other in a very tight match, while at the same time our Orcas training before their game! It was fantastic to see so many active and happy St Francis children all in the water together! We can be very proud of our children always demonstrating great sportsmanship and representing our school with pride. We all look forward to the remainder of the season.



<u>Problem solving and team work at St Francis</u> -











Room 8 is the "light of the world" -

I am the light of the world because I know when someone is sad or happy but when they are sad I come to them and say "what's wrong?" They say the reasons and I say "who did that?" They tell me and I say "hmmm..... they probably had a bad day". They say "wow, you fixed my problem. You are a great person". I say "thank you." By Willow Poland.

I am the light of the world when I respect others and be kind to people who are sad, because I want to cheer them up to be kind and respect the teachers and other people. By Zoe Reid.

I am the light of the world when I respect the tapu of others and am kind. By Mia Jensen.

<u>Congratulations</u> - On 5th November, Finn Poland from Room 4, ran the 11km City to Surf race in Tauranga. Proudly running in his St Francis t-shirt, Finn came 12th in the Under 15 Years age group.



<u>A message from the Garden Club</u> - We are again selling our new product - worm castings. These super-charged castings help any

plant grow well. Only \$1 per 500 gram bag. These can be used on indoor or outdoor plants. The Garden Club is also selling 5 kowhai seeds in a packet for \$1. Locally sourced from our school. These trees attract birds and are native to Aotearoa New Zealand and now is the time to plant them. We are also selling Flower Aid, our own, school produced worm wee. It is very beneficial to plant growth. Buy castings, seeds and Flower Aid from outside the Whanau Room Thursdays after school Weeks 3 to 8. Money raised will be used to buy plants for the school.

A message from Mrs Mahoney in the library - Scholastic Book Orders: Apologies that these have not arrived. Apparently the company is holding our order back until some out of stock lines come into the warehouse. Hopefully it won't be too much longer.

<u>Uniform</u> - Our school office has School Hats available for purchase (\$17.00) in small, medium and large, as well as PE t shirts (\$29.00) and PE black shorts (\$22.50).

Request from the Senior School - if you have any children's wetsuits sizes 8 - 14 or small adults wetsuits that we could possibly borrow on Thursday the 23rd of November we would really appreciate it. Please contact olivian@stfrancis.school.nz with details.

Big Foot Adventures - In the last 2 days some people from Big Foot Adventures came to see us. They were here to talk about bikes. On Monday we first went through a quick check of what we should wear, we all passed that test. Then we got our bikes checked and then we split into two groups, the advanced group and the beginners group. I was in the advanced group. We played some games and learnt different skills.

On Tuesday I was getting extremely excited because I knew we had more time to do things. First we did our 4 s' test then our ABCCDQ test, I passed all those tests. We played a box game on Tuesday. I won the first round, then Lulita won the second round. We also played some games with our gears where we had to choose a gear and see who could go the slowest on their bike without touching the ground. I definitely didn't win that.

We then rode around the field a couple times, most of us ended up going the wrong way. We also had coaches whose names were Liam, Kate, and Maisie. I had Maisie the whole time because she was the leader of the advanced group. If you're wondering what ABCCDQ means it stands for air, brakes, control, chains, drop test, and quick release. The 4 s' stand for straps, shell, styrofoam, and stickers. I really enjoyed biking, I hope we can do it again. By Olivia Halpin









Netball - The year 5 netball team are loving the summer competition. Winner winner chicken dinner!!







Friends of St Francis Neon Disco





























A huge thank you to all the helpers who decorated the hall so magnificently, organised the amazing DJ and the lighting, ordered and handed out loo's of pizzas, drinks and glow sticks, sold ice blocks and ice creams, and a special thank you to those people who stayed behind at the end of the evening to clean up!!!!!!!!

Our kids are so fortunate to have a community so willing to help!

Friends of St Francis Fundraiser -

We have an exciting fundraiser this term. Oxford pies are supplying us with a delicious range of family size pies, savoury and sweet and also 5 x packs of lunch pies. Orders are open on Kindo now and close on Tuesday 14 November. All proceeds to go to the Canopy!

Family pies are \$15.00 each and 5x pack of lunch pies are \$20.00 each.

Family pies:

- Mince and Cheese
- Steak
- Bacon and Egg
- Creamy Veg (V)
- Apple
- Apricot
- Blackberry and Apple



5x pack of lunch pies:

- Mince
- Bacon and Egg
- Steak and cheese

Pies will be collected from the Whanau Room on Thursday 23rd November after school. It would be very much appreciated if there were a few people available from 2–4pm on Thursday 23rd to help handout the pies. If you can help with this or if there are any questions please see Lisa Dixon lisa.dixon01@gmail.com or 022 121 9527.

St Francis Dads Support Group aka Darts Night – The Last spectacular Dad's darts night for 2023 will be held on Thursday, **30 November**, from 8pm, at the Pt. Chev. Bowla. With Richard Wager unavailable, we all have a good chance to take home the trophy, remembering that the first Darts session for 2024 won't be till 29 February, so the winner gets to gloat and have the illustrious trophy on the mantle piece for a whopping 3 months. Lock it in! The more the merrier. Please contact Stuart on 027 818 2403 for more details and to join the Darts WhatsApp group. No darts experience required.

St Francis Dad's Christmas pub crawl - The ridiculously fun end-of-year Dad's Pub Crawl Christmas Edition will be held on Friday, 24 November, with proceedings commencing from 5pm at the Pt Chev Bowling Club, where cheap food and drinks are plentiful. This year we've booked 5 pool tables at the Ponsonby Pool Hall from 8-10pm - so it will be game on as the competitive gentry embarrass themselves with a pool cue. A string of pubs along Ponsonby Road will see in the remainder of the evening. Contact Stuart King on 027 818 2403 for more details and to join the WhatsApp group.

Supporting our school:

Chicken 'n' Things School Fundraiser - We are super excited to have the wonderful support of Saj Philips (Alice from Room 11's Dad) and Chicken 'n'

Things for our continuing School fundraising efforts. St. Francis School families and their friends can unlock a 5% discount when purchasing from the Chicken 'n' Things website (http://www.chickennthings.co.nz), including fresh poultry, lamb, beef and pork products, by using the Specific Voucher Code at Checkout: **stf5** Feel free to spread the discount code around to other parents/ family/ friends and the wider community. Every time someone makes a purchase online and uses the code at checkout, not only will the customer receive a 5% discount, but the School will receive an additional 5% of the purchase price by way of a donation from Chicken 'n' Things.

School Canopy for lower courts - Ray White Point Chevalier - are supporting us to raise funds for

our St Francis School Canopy project. They have been market leaders for years in Pt Chev for 26 years with almost 2000 local sales and are a family business run by Ross Brader and Lawrence von Sturmer. If you're looking at selling, please contact the Ray White Point Chev. Team directly on (09) 846 8996 and let them know that you are from St. Francis. Please



also let Stuart King know (027 818 2403) so we can keep track of the approaches.



Sponsorship Through Referral Programme: Property Management Services

Managing Executive Residential Property

St Francis Catholic School is excited to share a unique 'Sponsorship Through Referral Programme' offered by Iron

Bridge Property Management. Through this special initiative, Iron Bridge – a family owned company – are offering discounted residential property management services to friends and family of the school community, while at the same time helping St Francis School. How It Works:

• Refer someone who becomes a client for Iron Bridge Property Management services. The school will receive a \$500 cash contribution.

• Plus, the new client gets a generous 20% discount on our standard management fee.

We encourage the school community to spread the word about this opportunity through various channels. Please quote 'ST FRANCIS PRIMARY SCHOOL / IRON BRIDGE PARTNERSHIP' when referring potential clients. Contact Marisa Johnstone (school parent) for more details:

<u>Marisa@ironbridge.co.nz</u> or 022 633 5095 <u>www.ironbridge.co.nz</u>

Dates for 2024:

• Term 1 - Wednesday 31 January - 12 April

Teacher Only Days - School Closed: Monday 5 February and Friday 22 March

Public Holidays - School Closed: Waitangi Day: Tuesday 6 February, Good Friday: Friday 29

March, Easter Monday: Monday 1 April and Easter Tuesday: Tuesday 2 April

• **Term 2** - Monday 29 April - Friday 5 July

Public Holidays - School Closed: King's Birthday: Monday 3 June, Friday 28 June: Matariki

- Term 3 Monday 22 July Friday 27 September
- Term 4 Monday 14 October Wednesday 18 December

Public Holidays - School Closed: Labour Day: Monday 28 October

Upcoming events this term

Tuesday 14 November - Friends of St Francis Pie Fundraiser - Kindo orders close

Thursday 16 November - Year 5 and 6 Athletics Competition

Friday 17 November - Teacher Only Day - School closed (Skids open all day)

Monday 20 November - End of Year Progress and Achievement Reports go home this week

Wednesday 22 November - Weetbix tryathlon

Thursday 23 November - Year 6 Beach Education Day at Piha Beach, Friends of St Francis Pie

Fundraiser - orders to be picked up from the Whanau Room

Sunday 26 November - Confirmation Mass for candidates and their families

Friday 1 December - Year 6 Leavers Mass and Dinner

Friday 8 December - Junior School trip to Eric Armishaw Park 10am - 2pm

Tuesday 12 December - Prizegiving Mass @ St Benedict's Church, Middle School trip to the

Pumphouse, Y6 visiting St Ben's / St Pat's during the day

Wednesday 13 December, Thursday 14 December - Visiting new classes for 2024

Friday 15 December - Last day of the term - School finishes @ 1.00pm

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

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We Care When You

Holiday programme

8.00am - 6.00pm Mon to Fri WINZ OSCAR Subsidy Available

Can't Be There After school care MSD Approved 3.00 - 6.00pm Mon to Fri Children safety - Onsite care with qualified staff

Venue - School half is comforting venue for the children For all enquiries contact: Fun - Interactive and stimulating activities, including afternoon tea and homework assistance Jackie Arroyo Sports - Kids keep fit playing soccer, rugby, cricket, basketball, badminton, and other sport activities.

M 021 975 642 stfrancisptchev@skids.co.nz

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