

St Francis Catholic School

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

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<u>Please do not block our neighbours' driveways.</u> <u>We get regular complaints about this and it is very embarrassing.</u>

On Monday one of our lovely neighbours was not able to get their child to Starship Hospital because one of our parents was blocking her driveway. A tow truck was called, but the parent left before the truck arrived.

Please do not block our neighbours' driveways.

Upcoming Parish dates -

Father John's History talks - 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, led by the children of the Parish/School. Contact Stuart King on 0278182403 if your child is interested in participating in readings, prayers, offertory or wants to dress up in the Nativity costumes provided.
- 25th December 9am Mass
- 27th December Midday Mass

This Friday - Teacher Only Day - School closed

Athletics Day -Thank you to all our amazing parent helpers for our school Athletics Day. We know that most parents have to take leave or juggle work and commitments, and we really do appreciate the effort you make to help. The day would not have been possible without your help and support, and the children love having you there.

A huge thank you to Adam, Annalies, Donna, Tiffany, Victoria, Angela, Mike, Lucy, Philip, Stuart, Sarah, Matt, Stephanie, Jeremy, Justina, Adrian, David, Ryan, Greg, Chrissy, Bridget, Jeff, Claire, Catherine, Debbie, Justin & Jacelyn. A big thank you to Mr Wright for the organising & planning, and our teachers and teacher aides for helping and supporting all the children on the day.



<u>A message from the school library</u> - Could all school library books please be returned to school at the start of Week 8, November 27th, so that the End of Year stocktake can start on time.

<u>A message from Mr Wright</u> - please return all school sports shirts ASAP (mostly used for Inner City Sports Cluster competitions by Year 5 and 6 students).

End of Year Reports - this will be sent home electronically at the end of next week. If you would like a printed copy please email the school office - <u>office@stfrancis.school.nz</u> The teachers will be in contact with any parents they need to meet with before the end of year for progress discussions, goal updates, Individual Education Plans and transition visits etc. If you don't hear from the classroom teacher you can be assured that everything is going well and in hand for a successful transition to the 2024 teacher.

End of Year Prizegiving Mass

- Tuesday the 12th of December at St Benedict's Church 1 Saint Benedicts Street, Eden Terrace.
 Mass starts at 6.00pm. Year 6's need to be there at 5.30pm, everyone else at 5.45pm.
- All Year 3 6 students are expected to attend, Year 0 2 are welcome to attend but it is not compulsory. Correct school uniform please. Year 6's will attend Mass at St Benedict's during the day and practice for the prizegiving afterwards.
- Mass will be celebrated by Father John, and then will be followed by Prizegiving Trophies and awards for the graduating Year 6 class, academic awards for the top student in each year group and classroom certificates for Year 0 – 5: for embracing growth and progress, for following in the footsteps of St Francis, and for striving for 'pathways of excellence'.

<u>A big thank you to</u> - the Year 6 Graduates for our fantastic school branded marquee (and a special thanks to the Graduation Committee who made this happen!!). Our new shade and shelter option will proudly help promote St Francis and build on our fantastic school team spirit! We loved having it standing at our athletics day, and look forward to taking it to our Piha excursion and inner-city events kicking off next year. Another HUGE thank you to the Graduation Committee's massive efforts in organising the delicious bake sales that helped make this special gift happen, and for their efforts in making and packaging the beautiful cupcake invitations. Year 6's will officially gift the marquee to the school at the Graduation Dinner on Friday December 1st.









<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.

<u>Support group for Year 6 parents starting St Mary's College in 2024</u> – If you're keen to join a what's app group (I know, not another one....) where we can trade info/ideas/knowledge/learnings as we embark on the St Mary's College journey etc please let me know. We did the same for St Peter's College parents and it's really useful. Open to students heading to other schools also if

you're interested in keeping the girls connected, & parents with older students at St Mary's who could pass on wisdom & girls starting 2025. Contact Helen Gilligan-Reid: helenoftroyis@hotmail.com



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. AFTER SCHOOL ART CLASSES AT YOUR SCHOOL SECURE YOUR SPOT AND BOOK NOW FOR TERM 1 2024 for more info and to book:

creativematters.co.nz

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. Due to a robust scientific poll, the overwhelming decision was to revert to the trusted Pt Chev. pub crawl – we can always head to Ponsonby Road after we've done the Chev. So kick-off will be from 5pm at the Bowla on Friday, 24 November, then Ambler, Nomads, Cupid Bar and Wapiti. Message the group or text Stuart to find out where we are at if you plan to join us later. 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 (<u>http://www.chickennthings.co.nz</u>), 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

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

Thursday 16 November - Inner City 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 Friday 24 November - Assembly @ 2.15pm led by Room 2 and Room 3 Sunday 26 November - Confirmation Mass for candidates and their families Tuesday 28 November - BOT meeting @ 6.30pm Friday 1 December - Year 6 Leavers Mass and Dinner Friday 8 December - Junior School trip to Eric Armishaw Park 10am - 2pm, Foodie Friday ice blocks 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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