



St Francis Catholic School

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



P 09 846 4696 | office@stfrancis.school.nz | www.stfrancis.school.nz | 2 Montrose St, Pt Chevalier, Auckland | PO Box 44177

Congratulations - to our students who are making the Sacrament of Confirmation on Sunday at 9.00am: Elliott Davies, Joshua Dixon, Marcellus Jones, Harry Lewis-Cranwell and Caitlin Reid. You are welcome to join us on Sunday, to celebrate! Thank you to Father John, Alicia, Annie and Leisel for preparing the children for this sacrament.



Upcoming Parish dates -

Christmas Mass Timetable -

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

Christmas Eve Children's Mass - This year's Mass will be celebrated at 6:30pm on 24 December and will be led by the children of the Parish/School. Should your child be interested in participating in altar serving, Reading, Prayers of the Faithful, Offertory or want to dress-up in the Nativity costumes provided, please contact Stuart King on 027 818 2403.



Aspiring Artist Workshop - On Monday Noah and I from Te Arataki senior school went to an art workshop at Pasadena Intermediate School. We designed, spray painted and used acrylic markers to colour a truck. It took quite a while!! We also enjoyed creating a Christmas display in the Pasadena office. It was a thrilling day and we'd dream to go again! By Mila Hanly



Teacher Only Day - thank you to the St Francis community for keeping the children home last Friday. The teachers spent the morning completing their year long mental health and wellbeing professional development through the Mitey Programme, and then spent the afternoon planning in their 2024 teams.

Mental health and wellbeing teaching / learning has been a big focus for St Francis this year, and we are very proud of the steps we have taken towards giving our children age appropriate tools and strategies to discuss their emotions and work through effective ways of dealing with many different scenarios. We will continue with this focus next year, as it is a major aspect of our 2023 - 2025 Strategic Plan.

MITEY LEARNING OUTCOMES

LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe important aspects of my identity. Recognise the ways I am the same as and different to other people. Identify my role in my whānau. Explore and share ideas about relationships with friends. Identify different feelings that I experience and describe how I experience these feelings in different situations. Explain that not everyone feels the same at the same time or feels the same about the same things. Recognise when myself or others need help with feelings, and that it is important to ask for help with feelings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and share important things that make me 'me'. Listen to others and support their needs and feelings and share my own. Share ideas about the way our classroom environment contributes to the mental health and wellbeing of class members. Share ideas about how to show respect, manaakitanga, and aroha. Share ideas about how to seek support for myself and others. Develop problem-solving strategies for dealing with emotions, challenges and change. Describe emotions and identify when, how and with whom it is appropriate to share emotions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe personal characteristics and aspects of my life that affect my self-image. Identify factors that affect my wellbeing, describe my personal characteristics, and develop skills to manage changing relationships. Identify ways to report abusive behaviours and access support for myself and others. Describe bullying and its impact on my own and others' mental health. Support others in my class room and in the school in times of discrimination. Describe and affirm my feelings and beliefs about myself and others. Participate in a school event that promotes the acceptance of body appearance and celebrates diversity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examine how things they value are an expression of their self-identity. Identify the qualities of friendship and the impact of changing friendships on mental health. Identify ways to manage changing relationships. Identify strategies to support themselves and others in difficult times. Identify ways you I support the mental health of others. Demonstrate feelings in a range of ways and in a range of situations. Identify what gets in the way of maintaining and promoting mental health. Challenge attitudes and values that lead to stereotyping and discrimination.

MITEY.ORG.NZ



Thank you - A big thank you to the parents who have been taking the safety of Montrose Street so seriously. We have had a couple of visits from the Auckland Transport Parking Officers lately, thanks to concerned parents (AT are sick of hearing from me 😊!!) Just a reminder:

- U turns near the top of the street are very dangerous as unseen children may be walking on the footpath. It is much safer to turn at the bottom of Montrose.
- Don't park on the yellow lines or block driveways as this makes our neighbours very upset.
- Children should always cross at the crossing.
- To ease congestion consider drop off / pick up on Pt Chev Road or around the corner on Alberta Street or Miller Street. Walking to school (even if it's just a little walk) builds independence, resilience and self confidence.



Next Foodie Friday 8th December – Ice blocks at Lunchtime - Our next Foodie Friday will be Ice Blocks at lunchtime on Friday 8th December. Orders open next Wednesday 29th November. \$2 per ice block with the opportunity to also donate an ice block for another child – our aim is to get enough orders and donations so every child at St Francis can enjoy an ice block as we come close to the end of term! Junior school ice blocks will be delivered to their class trip location. For any questions or queries, or to be involved in helping with this exciting initiative please contact Annalies Donald at annalies.donald@meshconsulting.co.nz

Weetbix Tryathlon - Congratulations to the students who represented St Francis Catholic School today at the tryathlon - Eddie Donald, Dominic Franich, George Franich, Dean Milina, Jack Milina, Marcelo Palmiro King, Isabella Snedden, Oscar Wager, Gus Knowles, Otto Knowles, Harry Lewis-Cranwell, Emily White, Leith Fullerton and Micah Fullerton.



A message from the school library - 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.

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

Year 3 and 4 Robotics - Every second year our Year 3 and 4 students cover the 'Computational thinking for digital technologies' and 'Design and developing digital outcomes' strand of the Technology Curriculum through robotics, supplied by MOTAT.



The robotics kit we use helps students to learn the language of coding and how to use this knowledge to program the robots to complete tasks.

The resources and activities in this learning activity are designed to encourage our students to work collaboratively, communicate effectively with each other, problem-solve, and self-manage their time.



End of Year Reports - this will be sent home electronically at the end of this week. If you would like a printed copy please email the school office - office@stfrancis.school.nz

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'.

A message from the Garden Club – 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.

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. 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 (<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

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:

Marisa@ironbridge.co.nz or 022 633 5095 www.ironbridge.co.nz

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 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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For all enquiries contact:
Jackie Arroyo
M 021 975 642

MSD Approved
 Children safety - Onsite care with qualified staff
 Venue - School hall is comforting venue for the children
WINZ OSCAR Subsidy Available
 Fun - Interactive and stimulating activities, including afternoon tea and homework assistance
 Sports - Kids keep fit playing soccer, rugby, cricket, basketball, badminton, and other sport activities.

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