



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

A big issue parents often ask for more information about is sleep. Good sleep routines are unbelievably important for primary and secondary school students. Here is a link to a great article that was recently published in the NZ Education Gazette - <https://gazette.education.govt.nz/articles/sleep-an-important-piece-of-learning-puzzle/>

Parish News - Great news!! We have finally received Building Consent for our long awaited Church renovations. The parish are now in discussions with the builder to work out an estimated start date but we are hoping for ASAP. Already 9 windows have been donated (only 2 left!) and with the End of Tax Year coming up, now is a good time to make a donation before 31 March and get a tax refund. Some families have asked if they can join together to donate a window, which is fine.

2024 Sacramental Programme - For people 9 years and older. A MUST if you are considering Catholic Colleges!!! Registration forms at the school office. Due before the 28th of April. Reconciliation: May, Communion: June, Confirmation: October / November.



ST. FRANCIS & ST. THERESE PARISH FUNDRAISER

Personalised Engraved Church Windows

There is a unique and limited opportunity to participate in the upcoming transformative renovation of St. Francis & St. Therese Church.

For a minimum **\$5,000** investment, you can have a memorable customised engraved plaque under one on the new 11 spectacular arched windows.

Either go alone, combine as a family, or get a group of families together to seal your legacy and ensure the longevity of your Church. Demand is high so please get in early.

This fundraiser is in conjunction with the "Buy-a-Brick" campaign.

All donations are **tax deductible**.

We thank you and appreciate your continued support.

**11 BESPOKE
600 X 1,600MM
CUSTOMISED
CHURCH ARCHED
WINDOWS**

CONTACTS
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PARISH BANK ACCOUNT
Bank Name:
RC Bishop of Auckland (Pt
Chev)
Bank:
BNZ Auckland
Bank Account #:
02-0108-0707331-000

Shrove Tuesday - making pancakes in Room 10



Year 6 Beach Education trip - Last Friday the Year Six students went on a trip to Piha for Beach Education. In the morning all the Year Six children lined up and got in their groups. We were all super duper excited. Then we hopped in our cars and we drove to Piha. Finally we arrived. So when we arrived we sat down and met our lifeguards for the day. Their names were Beth, Ruth and Eddie; these were some of the lifeguards!

After we met the lifeguards we split into two groups, they were called the pink and yellow group. The pink went into the emergency room and learnt about all the equipment while the yellow learnt about all the signs on the beach and all the vehicles they had. We liked the jet ski the most because it looked cool and fast! Then we had morning tea, it was very yummy. Then we learnt about how to spot a rip and did a mini show on how to stay safe on the beach. We went to have lunch and put on our togs and wetsuits. Then we split into our groups and went to the beach and played some lifeguard games. We played some games in the water, it was scary and a lot of fun. That was our awesome day at the beach! By Nina Brown and Natalija Vuksich from Room 2.



Summer Touch Rugby - A great start to the Touch Rugby season last night. We wish all our teams the best of luck, and most importantly that all the children have a great time. Thank you to our amazing parents that help out with all the teams!



A message from Mrs Mahoney in the Library - Dear Parents, Book Week is coming in Week 7 March 11 - 15th. Join us for a fun week totally immersed in reading, books and literacy. Can each child start bringing in a pre-loved book that will be used during Book Swap in Book Week? And its Dress up day on Friday March 15th when children, preschoolers, parents and teachers are invited to dress as a favourite book character for the day. It's loads of fun.

Parent Meeting - On 14 March at 7.30pm we have Andrew Cowie returning for another internet safety and education session, this time focused on gaming which is likely to be a big focus in many households. This session is open to kids as well, primarily Year 5 and 6. Andrew is bringing with him a co-presenter, a Year 6 boy who will be able to speak to this topic from a kids perspective. Please come along for an interesting and informative evening! Any questions please see Oliva Neary or Lisa Dixon.

Living the spirit of St Francis - Well done to Di and Gus who were spotted by a teacher picking up rubbish at their bus stop on Great North Rd after school, and well done to Gus and Otto who are champs at caring for the Oakley Creek Te Auaunga. We are so proud of these boys!



School Hours -

- School grounds open from 8.00am (strictly no unsupervised children before 8.00am), Classrooms open from 8.30am, School starts at 9.00am
- Morning Tea 11.00am - 11.30am
- Lunch 1.00pm - 1.50pm
- School ends at 3.00pm, Unsupervised children need to be offsite by 3.30pm, After School Care open until 6.00pm
- Parents, please don't wait outside the classrooms between 2.30pm - 3.00pm. It is very distracting for the children. Please wait with the other parents on the top court, near the office / library area.

New School App - We have 129 parents successfully logged in and using the school app!! That's an awesome uptake already. Over the next few days and weeks we will be uploading more and more to the app, so get logged in!

Check out the app for:

- The 2024 overall consent form - filled it out online under the permission slips tab
- Up to date school fees info under the accounts tab
- Weekly newsletters under the newsletters tab etc etc



Friends of St Francis beginning of the year messages -

- **Meeting** - Rather than having one person in charge of the Friends of St Francis (the workload puts people off!) we have decided to give interested people one responsibility each throughout the year. This workload is much more manageable and means that many people can contribute to the St Francis community. Jobs include the disco, individual fundraising events, pastoral care opportunities, Foodie Friday, 2nd hand uniforms etc. Meeting to allocate individual roles - **Tuesday 20 February 6.00pm in the Whanau Room**

Foodie Fridays are back for 2024! – Once a month we will be offering the ability to order slices of Domino’s Pizza for lunch! An exciting lunch time treat for the children, a bonus for parents to reduce the number of lunch boxes made in a month and as a spin off that all proceeds will go towards the school’s fundraising! Winning all round!

Slices are \$2 per slice and order options are:

- Ham & Cheese
- Cheese
- Gluten Free Cheese
- Gluten Free / Vegan Cheese



There is the option to also order a Just Juice box for \$2.50, and to also ‘Donate a Slice’ which is an additional donation towards the school fundraising. Pizza will be delivered to school just before lunchtime on the Fridays, and orders will be handed out in Junior / Middle / Senior school groups by our parent helpers and Year 6 students.

Orders must be made and paid for using the ‘My Kindo’ App or My Kindo website, which you will need to register for and load each child individually – connected with their new 2024 classroom classroom. Then complete & pay for their orders. 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

- Our first ‘Foodie Friday’ for 2024 will be on Friday 23rd Feb
- Orders open today (Wednesday 14th Feb – Wednesday 21st Feb) via ‘My Kindo’ or through the school app
- Please make sure your child is allocated to their new 2024 classroom in the app for their order to go to the right place
- Orders close Wednesday 21st Feb

After School Extra-Curricular Opportunities:

- Monday – Art Lessons <https://www.creativematters.co.nz/>
- Tuesday – ****NEW****– Spanish Lessons – Spanish lessons at St Francis by the Spanish Institute. Mixed ability Spanish lessons Tuesdays, 3.00pm–4.30pm in the Whanau Room, Starting 13th February. Our tutor will provide Spanish snacks for the first lesson. \$180 for a 9 week term, message Justina 0273670500 for a link to sign up on their website: <https://www.spanishinstitute.co.nz/spanish/spanish-children-classes.html>
- Thursday – Playball <https://www.playballkids.com/index>
- Friday – Bricks4Kids <https://www.bricks4kidz.co.nz/>

Lunch time Soccer Skills with Billy Harris – Billy is an ex All White and full time football coach. He's been coaching in the school for a few years. His classes are starting up again on Tuesday and Thursday lunchtimes. The classes are for boys and girls of any ability in years 1-4, and will improve their confidence, coordination and skills. Most of all, the classes are fun, and many kids in his programme around Auckland have attended over 100 classes, some even reaching 200!
Text Billy on 0272799042 to enrol or organise a trial class. See his website www.billyharris.co.nz

St Francis Dads Support Group aka Darts Night – last Thursday of the month – The first phenomenal darts session catch up for 2024 is on Thursday, **29 February**, from **8pm**, at the infamous Pt Chev Bowling Club – Lock it in! The quality of the darts playing maybe average, but it's awesome fun. This is a great venue for new Dads to the School to mingle with other Dads – 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.

Private Instrument lessons in school time – Year 3 up –



**MUSIC LESSONS
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To enrol, please visit:
www.bit.ly/MECPPRIMARY



Weetbix Kids Tryathlon – Sunday 24th March 2024

It's time to Swim, Bike, Run & Have FUN!! Want to keep the kids active & motivated over the summer holidays? Enter them into our St Francis School

Group to be part of the fantastic Weetbix Kids Tryathlon! This is a great iconic NZ kids event (ages 6 – 15 years old) with the focus on participation and completion – every finisher gets a medal!

There is also the option for children to enter as teams if they would prefer to do it with friends, or don't feel comfortable doing all three disciplines. If you would like more info or to join our school



team, please contact Annalies Donald at annalies.donald@meshconsulting.co.nz For further event information, for times & distances etc please visit - <https://tryathlon.co.nz/>



SAVE THE DATE!! 2024 Junior Tough Guy & Gal Challenge – Tuesday 6th August –

Come along and join us for an epic event full of physical challenges, mud, sweat,

and most importantly smiles and a great time. Think Cross Country with obstacles and LOTS of Mud! The event is Tuesday 6th August in Kumeu for Year 3 and above students. Cost is \$30 per student. For more info or to register your interest in joining our school team please contact Annalies Donald at annalies.donald@meshconsulting.co.nz or 027 467 7170.



Info from our new community police officer, Constable Taufa, about parking around schools –

Safety at the School Gate

For more information visit aucklandtransport.govt.nz

Park safely outside schools

Before and after school is a busy time for everyone. Parking rules help protect our children and keep them safe. Drivers who park illegally put our kids at risk. This term parking officers will be on patrol outside your school to issue tickets to those who are illegally parked.

Fines for illegal parking include:

• Parked on the footpath	\$40
• Parked across or within 1m of a vehicle entrance	\$40
• Parked within 6m either side of an unmarked bus stop	\$40
• Parked within a marked bus stop	\$60
• Parked within 0.5m of a fire hydrant with no one in the car legally capable of moving it	\$60
• Parked within a designated bus lane, transit or cycle lane	\$60
• Parked on a clearway	\$60
• Double parked	\$60
• Inconsiderate parking to other road users, including pedestrians	\$60
• Parked on or within 6m of an intersection	\$60
• Parked on a pedestrian crossing	\$60
• Parked on a broken yellow line	\$60

These parking offences are detailed in the New Zealand Road Code.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Auckland Transport
An Auckland Council Organisation

Upcoming events this term

Tuesday 20 February - Friends of St Francis meeting in the Whanau Room 6.00pm

Friday 23 February - Foodie Friday

Thursday 29 February - Inner City Cricket Comp Y5/6

Monday 11 March - Book Week

Thursday 14 March - Netsafe Parent Meeting - Gaming

Friday 15 March - Book Week Dress Up Parade

Thursday 21 March - Odd Socks Day, Inner City Softball Comp Y5/6

Friday 22 March - Teacher Only Day - School closed, Skids open

Sunday 24 March - Palm Sunday

Monday 25 March - Holy Week begins

Friday 29 March - Good Friday - School closed

Saturday 30 March - Holy Saturday

Sunday 31 March - Easter Sunday

Monday 1 April - Easter Monday - School closed

Tuesday 2 April - Easter Tuesday - School closed

Friday 12 April - Foodie Friday, Last day of Term 1

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
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