



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

Lent is a season of simple living. As the entire Church prepares for the great celebration of Easter, Catholics make special efforts to pray, do penance, and do good works. Every day of the forty-day Lenten season is an opportunity for our children to work towards their 'Lenten Promise' e.g. giving up lollies for Lent etc. Lent lasts 40 days from Ash Wednesday to Holy Thursday, excluding Sundays. Sundays are an important part of Lent, but we do not include them in the "40 days" because on every Sunday we remember and celebrate the Resurrection of Christ in the Mass. Lent isn't a countdown or something to "get through," but rather a chance to set aside distractions and focus on your relationship with Jesus. It is a small suffering that shouldn't be met with misery, but instead great joy as we have a better understanding of the giant sacrifice Jesus made for us!

Parish News

- Church Reno: All going well, contractors will commence underfloor piling on the 11th of March. This will take 2-3 weeks and Masses can still be held in the Church. After Easter (from Saturday, 6 April) our Weekend Masses move to the wonderfully air-conditioned Parish Hall (around the corner from the Church on the School grounds). At this stage, we anticipate the renovation to take around 3 months. Already 9 windows have been donated (only 2 left!) and with the End of Tax Year



11 BESPOKE
600 X 1.600MM
CUSTOMISED
CHURCH ARCHED
WINDOWS

CONTACTS

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Chairman
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Paula Betham
Parish Secretary
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PARISH BANK ACCOUNT

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

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 of 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.

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 – Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Forms are available at the school office. Due before the 28th of April. A MUST if you intend on sending your child to a Catholic College in the future.
- School/Parish Working-bee on Saturday, 6 April. We will be having a working-bee on Saturday, 6 April, from 9am at the Church to move the pews and other items to storage containers that will be placed on the Presbytery lawns just up the road. A dozen awesome helpers have already signed up – thank you so much. The more the merrier – refreshments will be provided at the Pt. Chev. Bowling Club afterwards. Kindly contact Stuart on 027 818 2403 for more information.
- Parish Easter Egg hunt from 10am in the School grounds after Mass on Sunday, 31 March. Kindly place any donated eggs in the basket at the back of the Church.

Term 1 Challenge Booklet goes home today.

30 days of Reading!!

Finish and hand in each Term Challenge booklet and receive a medal at the end of the year.

A few reminders from the Board of Trustees –

School pick up and drop-offs:

- Parents and drivers who drop off and collect ākongā please take care around our school zone.
- Do not U-turn on Montrose St, swing into or park across driveways.
- Be patient and take a moment to drive to the bottom of our road to turn safely.
- After school, turning left instead of right at Montrose St may add a few more minutes to your journey but it will ease traffic banking up along our street.
- These things will help us to avoid an accident and ensure the safety of our tamariki, pedestrians and ourselves.

Complaints and Concerns:

We are passionate about providing the very best educational environment for our ākongā and value our partnership with whānau. It's important you know you can discuss issues or concerns.

Here's our process for handling concerns and complaints:

Is this something that is happening in the classroom? It's important to address your concern with your teacher.

If you're not satisfied with the outcome, talk to the relevant team leader. They, along with the principal, make up the management team of St Francis.

If you are not satisfied with the outcome after talking to the team leader or if it is a more generic issue you should talk to the principal.

If it is a generic issue, or you are still not satisfied after talking to the principal, you should contact the board by sending a letter or email outlining your concerns for consideration and discussion. Your letter or email should be addressed to the Board of Trustees, c/o the Chairpeople, labelled 'In Confidence', and either emailed, posted or handed to the office staff who will pass it on unopened.

'One hour a day' of reading, writing and maths – St Francis, of course, already implements very successful literacy and numeracy programmes across our school, so this new focus from the government will make no change to our children's daily lives. In saying that, it is important to be informed about current educational policies, so materials about the initiative are available at <https://parents.education.govt.nz/essential-information/news-stories/one-hour-a-day-of-reading-writing-and-maths-for-years-0-8/>.

Message from Mrs Lengauer in the school office – Thank you to the parents using the School App for attendance this week. It's been great and has made my job a lot easier keeping track of who is away and who is here each day. Keep it up and hopefully more parents will join soon!!

St Francis off to a Splashing Start – Our St Francis Flippa Ball and Mini Ball Teams are off to a splashing start in the Water Wolves Water Polo competition for 2024. Our two Year 3/4 teams, the Orcas and Taniwhas, have both won all their games so far. They have come back together as teams so well that it looks like they never even had a break over summer!! Fantastic strong playing by all players! Our Year 4 Mini Ball Titans team have made the huge step up from the shallow to the deep water, and our children are doing a great job of mastering this big step – Well Done! Our Mini Ball Makos are continuing on their strong play from last year and are playing cohesively together as a team! Well Done to all our players in the pool this term! Our children play at St Cuthbert's College on Sundays (11.30am – 3pm) and do a half hour game, and half hour training skills session. For any children interested in playing Flippa Ball (Year 3/4) in the future please contact Annalies at annalies.donald@meshconsulting.co.nz and for any children keen to play Mini Ball (Year 5&6) please contact Richard Knowles at riccardoknowles@gmail.com



Y5/6 Girl's Cricket - Any Year 5/6 girl wanting to try out Grafton Cricket girls blitz program please get in touch with Mr Wright at danielw@stfrancis.school.nz

Blitz Details: Coxs Bay Reserve, Thursdays (29 Feb - 21 March), 3:45 - 4:30pm, Grade: 5&6, 7&8, Format: Teams of 6 playing in Round Robin Format, Fee: \$25, All Skill Levels Welcome!!

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.

PMP helpers needed - Parents and grandparents we are starting our popular and highly valuable PMP programme on Thursday and Friday mornings in Terms 2 and 3. We need YOU! Commit to a weekly or less frequent casual slot. Perceptual Motor Programme (PMP) is a parent led programme at St Francis School. It develops Y0-2 children's perceptions and understandings of distance, height and space as well as memory. PMP is a step-by step programme based on physical and sensory activities that are repeated over two sessions. Teachers observe the children and note areas for development through the parallel classroom programme. PMP prepares the brain for learning. A consistent and varied "diet" of physical and sensory experience is the key to developing perception and co-ordination. The store of experiences when those perceptions and reactions become automatic leaves the brain free for higher thinking tasks.

We need a roster of 8 to 12 parents or grandparents to monitor and explain the activities to children and help with equipment pack up. The commitment is 8:30 to 11:10 Thursdays and Fridays in Terms 2 and 3. Training is given to the helpers at the end of Term 1. Classes come to the Hall for 25 minutes and move through the 4 stations for the day. Stations develop fitness, locomotion (moving the whole body), hand-eye and balance. You don't need to be fit just check the children do the activities correctly and safely while the teachers assess the children and support you.

We need a Parent Co-ordinator as well. This role just requires someone to set up the roster and to remind the parents each week. Last year we had a WhatsApp PMP group which could be a way this could work again. Please email Ms Wishart megan@stfrancis.school.nz or leave your details at the school office if you can help in any way.

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.

St Peter's College Parent's support WhatsApp group – Dear all. My name is Marcela, and I'm the mother of Thomas, Year 5 and Jacob, Year 2. I have recently been made one of the administrators of the SPC (St Peter's College) Parents support WhatsApp group for the St Francis community; this was started a few years ago by Eleanor, a previous St Francis mum that some of you may know.

The majority of the group is made up of Year 7 SPC parents who joined it when their kids were still at St Francis. If you are planning on sending your son to St Peter's College and wish to be part of this group, please contact me on 021 126 6048 so I can add you to the group. Anyone may leave the group at any moment after joining if they change their minds about it.

New School App – We have 152 parents successfully logged in and using the school app!! That's an awesome uptake already.

For those of you who haven't used the app yet, I will send you a new email regarding logging in tomorrow (the initial email would have timed out by now!)



Foodie Fridays – Pizza Lunch – Orders Close TODAY (21st Feb)! Orders close

today for 'Foodie Friday' for Pizza's for lunch this Friday! \$2 per slice. Orders need to be made & paid for via the 'My Kindo' App/Website, and please make sure you have linked your child/ren to their new classrooms in the app so that their orders are the right place for them! For any questions or queries, or to be involved in helping with future Foodie Fridays please contact Annalies Donald at annalies.donald@meshconsulting.co.nz

in



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 – 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 –



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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/>



Y5 Problem Solving Challenge – building teamwork and independence



2024 Junior Tough Guy & Gal Challenge

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. Entries are now open and the event sells out, so please contact Annalies Donald ASAP at annalies.donald@meshconsulting.co.nz or 027 467 7170 if you would like to be involved.



School Canopy for lower courts – Ray White Point Chevalier – are

supporting us to raise funds for our St Francis School Canopy project. 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.



Attendance Dues – Statements and Tax Receipts are available on the school app. If you would like a paper copy of your statement please let the office know. Remember that school fees can easily be paid in instalments, if this is more convenient for your family.

Please let us know if you require financial support with school fees. There is help available if you need it.



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: Friday 22 March

Public Holidays – School Closed: 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

Friday 23 February – Foodie Friday

Tuesday 27 February – BOT meeting

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

Monday 18 March – St Patrick's Day Dress Up Walking School Bus 8.00am

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

Tuesday 26 March - BOT meeting

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 5 April - Easter Mass, All welcome

Friday 12 April - Foodie Friday, Easter Dress Up Walking School Bus, Last day of Term 1

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

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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.
stfrancispchev@skids.co.nz
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