



St Francis Catholic School

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



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Cans 4 Xmas - Our Term 3 Social Justice fundraiser is Cans 4 Xmas. We hope all of our families can send in a canned grocery item. This enables the Mercy Hospice and St Vincent de Paul to replenish their food banks for those in need.



Parish News - Successful School Mass last weekend - What a great community celebration in our newly renovated Church last Sunday. Plenty of joy, singing and smiling faces and a wonderful shared morning tea to boot.



Church renovation update - The scaffolding has been removed and the painters should finish the external painting at the end of this week, depending on the weather. And with that, we're done! What a journey and fantastic community project. We remained within budget with regards to what we had planned to do. However, as noted in previous weeks, there have been some improvements and extras along the way, such as a new roof, new hand-crafted Kauri Stations of

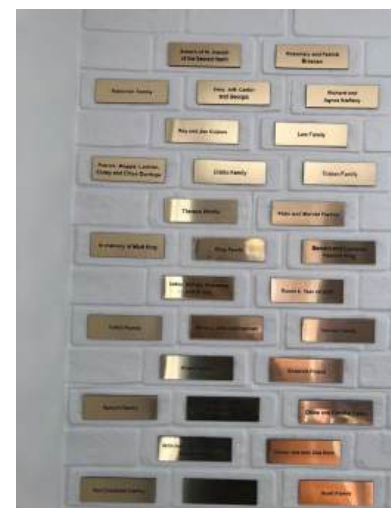
the Cross, 8 new internal/external doors, new swabs for the pews, extra detailing around the windows, new cornices, a hand crafted Kauri cabinet for the Sacred Oils and extra strengthening/piling work required, that we are utilising new brick donations for. As no doubt you have noticed, a few weeks ago we proceeded with replacing the rusty roof that required an additional \$25,000 that partly remains unfunded – so a Big call out to those who are able to contribute financially to please do so – the St. Francis Parish renovation bank account number is: 02-0108-0707331-003 and any queries, please contact Stuart King on 027 818 2403. And remember, all donations attract a 33% tax refund. So, be part of history and get yourself a Brick – refer below. We will be going to print with the third batch of plaques within the week – so please get in touch quickly with Stuart and let him know what wording you want on it.



Church Fundraising – BUY-A-BRICK – Our Parish Buy-a-Brick campaign remains well underway, with a \$500+ contribution receiving a named plaque. We are very grateful for those who have kindly contributed both previously and as recently as yesterday. Payments can be made by bank transfer to the Parish Building Fund Bank Account number 02-0108-0707331-003. Please contact Stuart if you have any queries.

Church renovation parking and H&S – A reminder that the painters will require parking in front of the Church. Accordingly, an area will be reserved for them and coned off in front of the Church as well as at the Presbytery. We thank you for your understanding and patience.

Children’s Liturgies (a break-out session for kids involving a wee bit of gospel and heaps of colouring in and fun discussion) during Sunday Masses is back on during the School Term in the Whanau room – so please come along and join our welcoming Parish community – it will be like a huge play date for the kids, plus there’s the yummy morning teas. We are always looking for more parent helpers to run the Children Liturgy sessions (you only need to do once a term), so please contact Stuart on 027 818 2403 if you’d like to join the Team – full guidance and instructions will be provided.



Attendance at school - While attendance at school is a problem across the country, St Francis has high rates of attendance, just like our high rates of progress and achievement (tooting our own horn!!!!). Keeping a close eye on attendance is extremely important because even moderate rates of attendance results in lots of lost learning opportunities - see the graph below:

If your child's attendance over their 6 years in Primary School averages at:

Attendance Percentages	Days missed per year	Days missed over 6 years	Equivalent missed school terms / years
90%	20	120	2.5 terms (over half a year)
85%	30	180	3.6 terms (nearly a whole year)
80%	40	240	4.8 terms (a year and a quarter)
75%	50	300	6 terms (a year and a half)

You can track your child's attendance on the school app or ask for a printed report for the year (or previous years) from the school office.

Grandparents Day is coming up - Friday the 6th of September - Next Friday

9.15am - Mass in the Church for all Grandparents and the Year 3 - 6 students

10.15am - Morning Tea and Art Exhibition in the hall for all Grandparents, visitors and staff

11.00am - Classrooms open until midday for Grandparents to visit and spend time with the children

- There is wheelchair access around the whole school. Please let the office know if you need help with this.
- Many families and Grandparents have already asked if there will be another opportunity this year to make a donation to the school on Grandparents Day e.g. sponsoring a new book for the library or buying new equipment for their grandchild's classroom etc. This was very popular with Grandparents last year.

Writing from Room 6 – What is peace?

Peace is when you have colourful dreams. Peace is when your heart beats in love. Peace is when you're reading calm stories. Peace is when your parents sing songs. Peace is when you feel free. – Eden Fellows

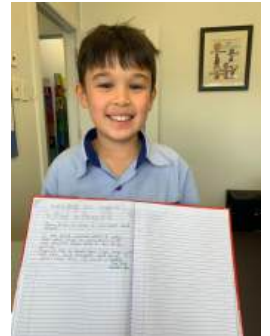
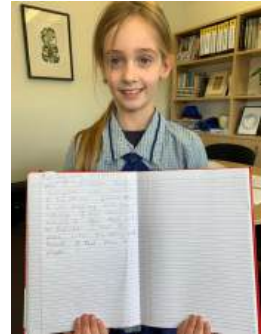
Peace feels like when I'm just floating in the clouds all quiet. I feel peace when I'm just about to fall asleep in bed. Peace is when I'm just doing my homework with quiet music playing. – Eddie Marshall

Peace to me is when I pray to God or when my Aunties dog licks me! Peace is when I sleep in my cosy bed. I feel peace when I read books and give my mum and dad hugs and kisses! I feel peace the most when I am with my family. – Poppy Lenehan

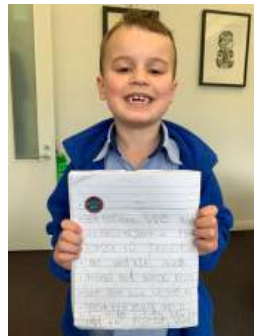
Peace is a calm feeling everyone can feel. I feel at peace when I am playing with puppies and dogs. I feel calm when I play music. I feel peace when I am with my family and friends. I feel peace at prayer time. – Connie Pickering

Peace to me is when I am calm and relaxed. I am most peaceful when I play lego and listen to Miss Albrecht's music when I am writing. Peace is like an invisible wave that sweeps away all the bad thoughts and brings the good ones into my head. – Finn Connellan

Peace to me is when I am in a quiet space. Peace is when I feel relaxed and cosy in bed. Peace is when I'm under a blanket, all warm and cosy, all alone, reading a quiet book. Peace is listening to quiet music or playing piano or guitar. – Reann Luis



Science in Room 10 – States of matter Science lessons, integrated with measuring in Maths and retelling an experiment in Writing.



Thank you - to the Year 12 St Mary's College girls who completed their annual service hours last week by helping in our Junior School classrooms. Photo - Amber and Alisha (former St Francis student) did a brilliant job cleaning out the garden to table pantry and reorganising!



Pastoral Care - Meal Train - Hi, St Francis school community!

I thought it timely to introduce or remind people of our St Francis Pastoral Care Meal Train Group. St. Francis Pastoral Care Meal Train Group is for those in need.

- *Why does St Francis Catholic School have a Meal Train?* There are times in our lives when friends and family ask, "What can I do to help out?" The answer is usually to help them with a meal or baking. When many friends give a meal, this is a Meal Train.

- *How does it work?* This Group uses mealtrain.com which is a free meal calendar tool that makes planning meals among a wide group easy and less stressful.

- As a member of the group you can help as and when it suits you, so not a major commitment.

- A Meal Train is created for a family or person in need (maybe as a result of a birth, a bereavement, an illness in the home, a parent travelling extensively for work, family separations/divorces, etc.). An email is then sent to the Group with a link to the Train included. The name of the family/children in need can be kept strictly confidential.

- For those in need, please reach out to Lisa Bateman directly as you have an awesome St. Francis School Community here ready and willing to help and support you and your child/children during whatever challenging times you may encounter.

- If you are keen to support your school community then join this amazing St. Francis Meal Train Group, and if you have any queries please feel free to get in contact via email at dharris123@xtra.co.nz Thanks, Donna Harris (Parent of Emily Miln-Harris - Year 4)

Friday Fun Day - Over \$1300 raised - Thanks to donations from parents and money raised at the Senior School Fun Friday event, we have been able to financially support some St Francis students to attend the Year 6 Camp and the Year 5 Sleepover. These events are amazing opportunities for our children so we are very grateful for all the support we have received from the community.

St. Francis School Dads Support Group aka Darts Night - last Thursday of the month

The next stupendous darts session will be on this Thursday, 29 August, from 8pm, at the infamous Pt. Chev. Bowling Club - where Jeremy Halpin will be desperately attempting to hold onto the coveted trophy he won earlier this month. With Richard Wager away overseas, any muppet has a chance to win.

The quality of the darts playing maybe average, but it's awesome fun – the more the merrier. Please contact Stuart King on 027 818 2403 for more details and to join the Darts WhatsApp group. No darts experience required.



St. Francis School Dads Support Group Pre-Xmas pub crawl (CHANGE OF DATE – NOW 15 NOVEMBER) – Due to an unforeseen clash and an important birthday celebration, the highly anticipated pre-Christmas pub crawl has moved a week earlier to Friday, 15 November, from 5pm at the Pt. Chev. Bowling Club, followed by stints at Ambler, Nomads, Cupid Bar and of course some fantastic karaoke and shenanigans at Wapiti Bar as in previous years. Please contact Stuart for details and to track where we are on the night.

sKids After School Care and Holiday Programs – The in-house sKids Holiday Programme will be on again these upcoming School holidays – please book early. The sKids Programme @ St Francis School is where the safety and care of your child is the number one priority. If you're looking for a safe, structured and fun environment for your children then sKids is the answer. Contact the sKids Office on 021 0251 4172, or Jackie on 021 975 642. Email: stfrancisptchev@skids.co.nz



Programme Hours: After School Care: 3:00–6:00pm; Holiday Programme Care: 8:00am–6:00pm.

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.

Dates for 2024:

- 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

Dates for 2025:

- Term 1 – Monday 3 February – Friday 11 April
Public Holidays – School closed: Waitangi Day – Thursday 6 February
(Easter Holidays and ANZAC Day are in the school holidays)
- Term 2 – Monday 28 April – Friday 27 June
Public Holidays – School Closed: King's Birthday – Monday 2 June, Matariki – Friday 20 June

- Term 3 – Monday 14 July – Friday 19 September (Note: there will be a Teacher Only Day on a Friday in the middle of Term 3 – Date coming soon)
- Term 4 – Monday 6 October – Wednesday 17 December
Public Holidays – School Closed: Labour Day – Monday 27 October

A message for Year 6 families – Save the Date – Year 6 Graduation Mass and Dinner – Friday the 6th of December. End of Year Prizegiving at St Benedict’s Church – Tuesday 17 December.

Coming up:

Wednesday 28 August – Year 6 Speech Finals

Thursday 29 August – ICS Netball Comp, Onewa Courts – change of date

Friday 30 August – Y5/6 Father’s Day Breakfast, 2.15pm Assembly led by R4 and R6

Thursday 5 September – Art Exhibition – during the day and evening

Friday 6 September – Grandparents Day – Mass, morning tea and class visits

Tuesday 10 September – Year 6 Graduation committee meeting

Wednesday 11 September – Catholic Schools Cross Country @ Monte Cecilia Park

Thursday 12 September – ICS Boys Football Comp, Seddon Fields

Friday 13 September – Foodie Friday – Pizza, 2.15pm Assembly led by R1 and R2

Monday 16 September – Te Reo Maori Language Week

Thursday 19 September – Maori Mass @ Christ the King Church, ICS Girls Football Comp

Monday 23 September – Cultural Week – celebrations and activities all week

Tuesday 24 September – BOT meeting

Friday 27 September – Cultural performances, Last day of Term 3

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

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