



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

Parish News - Sacramental Programme 2025 - (important if you are expecting to send your child to a Catholic College in the future). Registrations are now open for this year's programme.

Criteria required prior to the programme commencing:

- Your child must be baptised Catholic, with a Baptism certificate
- Your child must have had their 9th birthday before the programme starts
- Your child must attend weekend Mass
- At least 1 parent must attend the adult sessions with Father John
- There will be no make-up classes so please ensure your child can make all the classes

Reconciliation (during Lent): Lesson 1 - 9 March, Lesson 2 - 16 March, Lesson 3 - 23 March, Service in the Church - 25 March @ 6.30pm

First Holy Communion: Lesson 1 - 1 June, Lesson 2 - 8 June, Lesson 3 - 15 June, Practice - 21 June in the Church @ 4.00pm, Mass - 22 June @ 9.00am

Confirmation: Lesson 1 - 2 November, Lesson 2 - 9 November, Lesson 3 - 16 November, Practice - 22 November in the Church @ 4.00pm, Mass with Bishop Steve - 23 November @ 9.00am

A donation of \$50 per child is required to cover the cost of resources throughout the programme.

Registration forms available from the back of the Church, the Parish office or the school office.

- The **"Buy the Brick" campaign** continues in order to replenish the Parish's building repairs & maintenance fund. So, be part of history, forever be immortalised and get yourself and/or your loved ones a Brick - refer below. We will be going to print with the next batch of plaques shortly (for donations of \$500+) - so please get in touch quickly with Stuart King and let him know what wording you want on it.



The St. Francis Parish bank account number is: 02-0108-0707331-003 and any queries, please contact Stuart on 027 818 2403. And remember, all donations attract a **33% tax refund**.

- **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, recommencing this weekend, 9 February, 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.
- **Parish Morning Teas** Our wonderful welcoming and friendly Parish Morning Teas following Sunday morning Masses has resumed (during the School term), with the first for 2025 this Sunday, 9 February - it's a huge hit with the kids and parents alike. Please contact Stuart if you would like to be rostered on to help out and feel free to bring along any home baking, etc.

Waitangi Liturgy by Emily, Alice and Lachlan - Last Friday we had a Waitangi Day liturgy. We were really excited because it was our first liturgy as Liturgy Leaders. Every Liturgy Leader had to read something or do a job. It was run by Mrs Jones. We only had two practices and it turned out really well.

Ash Wednesday - Ash Wednesday is coming up in a few weeks. You are welcome to join us at our liturgy at 2.00pm in the Church. If you have any palms from Palm Sunday last year can you please send them to school for burning (Ash Wednesday ashes are made from the Palm Sunday palms).

Messages from Miss Neary

- Auckland Catholic Teachers Dedication Mass - On Tuesday evening the staff attended the yearly Dedication Mass. It was a beautiful service and we were very proud to have recognised Jimin Kang as a fully registered teacher, all our teaching staff who completed the SC502 university paper on the New Testament and Lisa Bateman who has completed her Level 5 qualification in New Zealand Certificate in Christian Studies. Well done everyone!
- Borrowing wetsuits for Beach Education - The Year 6 students will soon be heading on their annual Beach Education trip. On Thursday 13th March we plan to learning lots about water safety at Muriwai Beach. For this students are expected to wear a wetsuit to prepare them for the ever-changing conditions on the west coast.



If any parents or anyone in the wider community are willing to lend any wetsuits that they won't be using during the week of the trip could you please contact Olivia Neary if you think you can help out with this. olivian@stfrancis.school.nz Your help with this is greatly appreciated!

- Laminating Party - As you will have seen in last week's newsletter the school is beginning to undertake their new maths programme, 'Maths No Problem'. For this new programme there are specific resources needed to be sourced or created for each year level. As you can imagine this is taking quite some time to organise. If anyone in the community is willing to offer their time we are organising a 'laminating party' to hopefully create lots of resources, no previous experience required! Laminating Parties this week will be: Thursday 13th February (2.00pm - 3.00pm) and Friday 14th February (2.00pm - 3.00pm) If you can support with this you can just turn up to either of the sessions and meet Miss Neary in the office/ Mary Mackillop room.

The Walking School Bus - even though the roadworks / traffic situation has returned to normal we are still going to carry on the Walking School Bus in the mornings, leaving from behind KFC. We will not be doing the Walking School Bus in the afternoons at this time.

If you would like your child to join the Walking School Bus, or if you would like to volunteer to help please contact Alice alice.larmer@gmail.com

Head Lice / Nits - A hot summer is the typical time for a nits outbreak. While lice is nothing more than a nuisance, it's important to keep on top of the problem. Follow the simple information from the Health NZ website -

<https://info.health.nz/keeping-healthy/healthy-homes-environments/pests-and-insects/head-lice-nits>

School Canopy update - it's happening!

We are pleased to report that the canopy (*to cover the bottom 2 courts*) fabrication process has commenced, with final installation and Council sign-off planned before the end of April. Exciting times ahead!!!!



Touch Rugby – Term 1 2025 – Games are at Cox’s Bay, Westmere on Tuesday afternoons – starting Tuesday 18th February with the competition running for 7 weeks. There are grades for all year levels from Year 0 – 6. Spots fill up quickly and are on a first in, first served basis. No experience needed! This is a great summer team sport to be involved in! Fantastic for fitness, developing ball skills / coordination and teamwork! Children wear school PE gear and running shoes. Cost is \$450/team. We rely upon parents to help support the teams by coaching / managing – so would love to hear from anyone available. Please contact Annalies Donald on 027 467 7170 or annalies.donald@meshconsulting.co.nz



Year 5 & 6 Basketball – Friday Afternoons – Any Year 5/6 children interested in playing basketball this term please contact Kate Hanly at hanly.kate@gmail.com Games are Friday afternoons at Ponsonby Intermediate. Places on teams will be first in, first served basis.

Weetbix Kids Tryathlon – East Auckland – Sunday 30th March 2025 – Its time to Swim, Bike, Run & Have FUN!! The Weetbix Kids TRYathlon 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. The event capacity is 3,000 children and ALWAYS sells out, so if you are keen entries need to be done ASAP to



ensure you get a spot at this popular event! 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/>

Foodie Friday Helpers Needed for 2025 – We are looking for people who are keen to assist with our Foodie Fridays for 2025 – either as a one off or regular helper. Foodie Fridays are run a couple of times a term, however we have a large group of helpers, so it may only be once over the year that you assist, or as regular as you like – up to you! We require two parents helpers for each area of the school – Juniors / Middle / Seniors. It involves helping for approx. 1 hour from 12.30pm to set up, hand out pizzas and tidy up. Children love seeing family members helping, so please contact Annalies at annalies.donald@meshconsulting.co.nz if you would like to be involved to help with our Foodie Fridays for 2025!!





Free Quietspace Panels available - We have some leftover quietspace panels 1220mm x 2440mm of various thicknesses and colours from the School Hall ceiling soundproofing. They are also good for notice boards and can easily be cut. Pick-up from St. Francis School. Free to a good home - first in.



St Francis Whānau – Get Ready to Party!



Welcome to 2025—and what better way to kick off the year than with a School Disco!

Date: Friday, March 7

Theme: Summer Beach Party! Think tropical vibes, surfers, lifeguards, or anything fun that brings the beach to life. Adults, feel free to dress up too!

Bring your own picnic and drinks, or you can order Domino's pizzas and drinks via Kindo closer to the time. More details will be sent out about this in the coming weeks.

Disco Details

Families are welcome to stay from 3pm—bring a picnic and relax until it's time to disco.

Disco Sessions:

- Years 1-3: 5:30pm – 6:15pm (Pizza pick-up: 5:00pm – 5:30pm)
- Years 4-6: 6:30pm – 7:15pm (Pizza pick-up: 6:00pm – 6:30pm)

We Need Your Help!

We're still looking for helpers, especially from the junior school. If you can lend a hand, please reach out to Caroline Botting (021 300 205). If you have access to or own a classic car, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact Caroline. Parents MUST stay at the school disco. This is not a drop-off and pick up event..



Spanish lessons - The Foreign Language School are wanting to continue coming to St Francis for after school classes which will be based loosely around covering the NCEA Level 1 Spanish and activities, play and games focus. Whilst the day is not confirmed yet (as they gauge interest) if you or anyone you know at the school is interested please contact José Figueira (father of Sienna and Theo) via email: josecoaching@gmail.com with your son and/or daughters names, class and age.

Skills of Soccer with Billy Harris - Lunchtime Soccer lessons with form All White, Billy Harris - Text him on 0272799042 for info and prices.

Private Music / Instrument Lessons - Ignite your child's creativity next school term with our in-school music lessons! In collaboration with Auckland's leading music education provider, the Music Education Centre, we have professional music lessons right at our school. Each lesson is designed to inspire and nurture your child's unique musical interests while making learning both fun and rewarding. With lessons held conveniently at school, it's an ideal option for busy families. Limited spots are available for 2025, so don't wait! For more information on instruments and availability, contact the Music Education Centre at 0800 89 39 39. <https://musiceducation.co.nz/> Leaflets went home this week and are in your child's school bag.



Parent Helpers - wanted for the School Disco on Friday the 7th of March 2025.

Please contact Caroline Botting if you would like to help - carolinebotting@gmail.com or 021300205. There will be a Disco volunteers meeting at Nomad Bar (just across the road from school) this coming Tuesday, the 11th of February, at 6.30pm.

2025 Class Reps - It's that time again.....we're looking for a class rep for each class. It's a really nice part of the school community and fabulous for meeting other parents, arranging birthday parties and playdates and checking on school activities. It's a fairly low key commitment.....in the next few weeks I can forward you a class list and you just set up a WhatsApp group. Then through the year it's all about posting or re-posting messages that come up relevant for your class. There might be a few a week or none at all. If you are interested please let Lisa Dixon know 022 121 9537 or lisa.dixon01@gmail.com with your email address and classroom number

School times -

- Children can be onsite from 8.00am
- 8.30am - The bell rings letting children know they can go into their classroom to get ready for the day ahead
- 9.00am - The school day starts with prayers - Parents are welcome to join in
- 11.00 - 11.30am - Morning Tea
- 1.00 - 1.50pm - Lunch
- 3.00pm - School finishes. The children walk up to the top court to be collected by their parents. All unsupervised children need to be offsite by 3.15pm

Inner City Auckland Schools cluster free event
Cybersafety parents talk hosted by Bayfield School, Herne Bay

We want our school and our community to be a safe place for all children. Our tamariki are growing up in rapidly changing times, and the risk, frequency, and severity of online harm are increasing. We need to tackle this as a community.

As such, we have organised Filmmaker, Author, and Speaker Rob Cope, Producer of the documentary "Our Kids Online" to come and give what promises to be a humorous and eye-opening evening talk to our parent community.

His talk will cover:

- **Cyberbullying** - How bullies can reach our kids 24/7
- **Social media** - How social media is affecting the mental health in 3 out of 5 children. FOMO, depression, anxiety
- **Gaming and the developing brain** - An oversupply of dopamine leading to dopamine deficiency, synaptic pruning, and the underdevelopment of social skills and empathy
- **Online predators** - The methods they use, how to spot them
- And other more adult topics that aren't appropriate for this newsletter

Solutions

- **Filters** - Which filters are best and how to install them
- **Smartphones** - How to lock down a smartphone to make it a safe phone
- **Boundaries** - How to put good boundaries in place around device use
- **3 golden rules** - The 3 golden rules that will keep your kids safe
- **Talking to your kids** - How to have difficult conversations with your kids
- **Challenging our own phone and device usage** - Reconnecting as a family.

Here is a promotional video for you to watch [Our Kids Online Parent Evening](#).

The talk will be held at Bayfield School on Monday the 3rd of March from 7 pm-9 pm. Light snacks will be available. Please note this talk is for **adults only** and is **not suitable** for children or teens to attend.

"We have now reached the point where it is irresponsible of us as parents, teachers, health professionals, and policymakers to continue to put these devices, which are designed to elicit addictive-like qualities, in our kids' hands and then expect them to be accountable for their own wellbeing." Dr Samantha Marsh - University of Auckland Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, July 2023

Included in your free ticket is a one-year complimentary subscription to "Parenting in an Online World 101" from Rob and team at Our Kids Online. This is a cybersafety parenting course, designed specifically for NZ families. It usually costs \$99 per family. So show up and get it for free! Course details can be found here [Parenting in an Online World 101](#)

Please sign up here to RSVP

<https://www.eventfinda.co.nz/2025/our-kids-online-parent-evening/auckland/herne-bay>

Term 1 Challenge Booklet – 40 nights of Reading. To receive a medal at the end of the year the children need to complete all 4 term challenge booklets within the expected timeframe. This is an opportunity for the children to take responsibility for themselves and persevere throughout the year.

St Francis Dads Support Group aka Darts Night – last Thursday of the month – The first darts session for 2025 will be on **27 February** from 8pm at the Pt Chev. Bowling Club. The quality of the darts playing may be average, but it's awesome fun – 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.

Iron Bridge – 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 022 633 5095 www.ironbridge.co.nz



Solace – Your Local Life Insurance Experts Wow those holidays whizzed past! Or did they drag on?? Either way, you've hopefully got a little more free time now to focus on life admin and getting the year off to a good start. This is the perfect time to check in on your financial goals and make sure that everything is in order. Life can be unpredictable, but having the right insurance in place can bring

peace of mind knowing you're prepared for whatever comes your way. At Solace we specialise in helping families like yours find the best life cover and health insurance options to fit your needs and budget. If you're not sure where to start, or just want to review your current coverage, we're here to help! And as previously promoted, if you (or anybody you refer) ends up taking out a protection plan following our guidance, Solace will make a contribution to our St Francis School Canopy project for the covered courts which is still looking for further support. Please spread the



word on this opportunity, as we would love to ensure that our St Francis whanau are well protected from unexpected health events, as well as helping us to reach our targets for the covered courts.

Contact Mike or Mareesa (parents of Finn and Archie) for more details:

mike@solacefinancial.co.nz 021 765 223 www.solacefinancial.co.nz Check out our 5 star reviews here: <https://tinyurl.com/Solacefinancial>

Dates for 2025: (2 more government mandated Teacher Only Days to include soon)

- 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
- Term 4 - Monday 6 October - Wednesday 17 December
Public Holidays - School Closed: Labour Day - Monday 27 October

Coming up this term -

Tuesday 25 February - BOT meeting

Wednesday 26 February - Year 5/6 Bike Skills

Friday 28 February - 2.15pm Assembly, Year 5/6 Bike Skills

Wednesday 5 March - Ash Wednesday liturgy at 2.00pm - All welcome

Thursday 6 March - Year 5/6 Interschool Cricket Comp - Victoria Park

Friday 7 March - School Disco

Sunday 9 March - The first Sunday of Lent

Thursday 13 March - Year 6 Beach Education Day

Friday 21 March - 2.15pm Assembly

Tuesday 25 March - BOT meeting

Thursday 27 March - Year 5/6 Interschool Softball Comp - Cox's Bay

Friday 11 April - 2.15pm Assembly, last day of Term 1

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

bricks 4 kidz ST FRANCIS SCHOOL

AFTER SCHOOL LEGO STEAM CLASSES

Bricks 4 Kidz After School STEAM programmes are essential in equipping students with future-ready skills and a strong educational foundation which empowers them to excel academically and thrive in an AI-driven, technology-focused world.

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JUNIOR ENGINEER
Term 4 Topic: Prehistoric Perspectives
History | Science | Problem Solving | Engineering skills

In Term 4, our Junior Engineers will explore Prehistoric Perspectives, transforming into historians and paleontologists while mastering hands-on engineering. Students will dive into STEAM concepts and bring History to life by building motorised models of prehistoric creatures and artifacts with robotic LEGO®.

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Start date: 25 October
Class time: 3:15pm - 4:15pm
Location: Garden to Table
Lesson Cost: \$28

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EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION OF INNOVATORS & PROBLEM SOLVERS

Creative Matters

AFTER SCHOOL ART CLASS
At St Francis Catholic School

MONDAYS 3-5pm
Starting in week 2 every term

for more information and to book:
creativematters.co.nz

MUSIC LESSONS AT SCHOOL!

The Music Education Centre offers specialist music tuition for a range of instruments including Piano, Guitar, Drums and more!

IT'S CONVENIENT!

Have your child's music lesson right at their school and give them the opportunity to develop their skills through our individualised lessons that're both fun and educational. Learning music supports all areas of learning through developing confidence, creativity, concentration and so much more!

To enrol, please visit www.musiceducation.co.nz/pages/mis-enrolment

175
1850 2025
St Mary's College

ST MARY'S COLLEGE
2025 OPEN DAY
Thursday 6 March 2025

Two sessions available, commencing 2.30pm & 6.00pm
Both sessions deliver the same information

Join our Mercy Family
Enrolments for 2026 open Monday 10 February for Year 7 and Year 9 students and a limited number of places at other year levels

St Mary's College has no zoning restrictions
Enrolment and application information are available on our website
www.stmaryak.school.nz
11 New Street, Ponsonby, Auckland
A CATHOLIC SCHOOL FOR GIRLS - YEAR 7 TO YEAR 13

MARIST COLLEGE
Catholic Girls School, Years 7 to 13

Open Day Tours
Thursday 6th March and
Friday 7th March 2025
Tours at 9am

A centrally located non-zoned
Catholic girls secondary school, Years 7 to 13
www.maristcollege.school.nz

BARADENE COLLEGE - OPEN DAY TOURS - Tuesday 25, Wednesday 26 & Thursday 27 February 2025. BOOKINGS online REQUIRED (bookings open 9.00am Tuesday 18 Feb), Tour times: 9am and 10am each day. Book at www.baradene.school.nz - 2025 Open Day Tours. Book your time by 3.00pm Monday 24 Feb. Enrolments for Year 7, 2026 and for limited places in other Year levels are being accepted now and will close at 3pm on Friday 14 March, 2025.

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Lawrence von Sturmer | 027 227 9294
Jo de Beer | 027 469 4148
Semanie Cato | 021 803 137



After school care 3.00 - 6.00pm Mon to Fri
Holiday programme 8.00am - 6.00pm Mon to Fri
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.
stfrancispchev@skids.co.nz
www.skids.co.nz/locations/st_francis_pt_chevalier

To Enrol: www.skids.co.nz & Select Find your local Skids



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MONDAYS 3-5pm
Starting in week 2 every term



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