



# 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

## **2025 is a Jubilee Year in the Catholic Church** Theme: Pilgrims of Hope.

*"We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us, and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision. The forthcoming Jubilee can contribute greatly to restoring a climate of hope and trust as a prelude to the renewal and rebirth that we so urgently desire; that is why I have chosen as the motto of the Jubilee, Pilgrims of Hope." - Pope Francis*



**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).

**A visit from Brother Phillip** - Last week we joined with our friends from Christ the King School to listen to Brother Phillip from the St Francis Retreat Center. Here is the reflection Room 4 wrote about the visit: *Brother Phillip lives at the Franciscan Friary in Hillsborough. He was dressed in a brown robe and sandals just like St Francis did. He knew lots of stories about St Francis. Brother Phillip spoke to St Francis and Christ the King School about St Francis of Assisi. He told us why St Francis had holes in his hands and feet just like Jesus did when he died on the cross. St Francis loved creation. He talked to the animals and called the sun and moon, Brother Sun and Sister Moon.*

**Parish News** – **Sacramental Programme** forms are available at the school office.

The **“Buy the Brick”** campaign continues in order to replenish the Parish’s building repairs & maintenance fund, as well as to fund the proposed new deck and built-in surround seating. 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 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.



**School Canopy Update** – A great wee impromptu working-bee last weekend removed the old pergola awning in front of Rooms 4 and 5 in preparation for the new canopy. We managed to raise \$1,500 from the sale of the old metal frame (which will be repurposed), with the funds going towards protection pads for the new canopy poles and the new canopy sound system. As noted last week, the fabrication process for the new canopy commences this month with final installation and Council sign-off planned before the end of April.



**Next planned project: Decking and Seating next to the School upper court and Church**

- In conjunction with the Church, we are planning on decking the currently unused no-man's land between the School upper turfed court and the Church. The plan is to have built-in bench seating around the perimeter of the deck and around the existing Kauri tree. This will utilise this great space for the School Community parents and kids as well as the Church parishioners for socialising. Accordingly, we are seeking much needed donations to fund this



exciting new project, which again are tax deductible, and can take the form of a "Brick(s)" (refer above). The rudimentary picture above is a "non-artists" impression from Stuart.

**A message from the Junior teachers about Healthy Lunches**

- St Francis Catholic School encourages healthy lunches with vegetable pieces, fruit, sandwiches or a bun, wrap, sushi, or dumplings to sustain them throughout the day. Including a small sweet treat is fine. Water bottles to be filled with water only, no other drinks needed. Water is best for teeth and hydration. As we know some of our children travel a distance to get to school and have early breakfasts, we have a brain break/snack at around 10am. Please make sure your child knows how to open any wrappers, packets and bottles. Cheese or yoghurt is great if the twist top has been loosened. We send home any peels, wrappers or packets to reduce rubbish around the school grounds.



**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](mailto:annalies.donald@meshconsulting.co.nz) if you would like to be involved to help with our Foodie Fridays for 2025!!



**Kids Football at Western Springs** - We have a St. Francis Year 5 Football Team registered at Western Springs. The kids would be in the 10th grade (born in 2015). It's a 7-a-side on the turf. 2 x 25-minute halves with a 5 minute half time. \$230 per player for the winter season and games are on Sundays at either 8am, 9am or 10am. The season is 6 April 2025 till 7 September. No football on the following holiday dates: 20 April, 27 April, 1 June, 22 June, 6 July. Anyone doing the Sacramental programme will only find it hard to play on 8 and 15 June - but we could ask for the earlier game of 8am those weeks. The current players in the Team are Leonardo, Harry, Raystan, Axel, Charlie, Taavi and Micah. Ideally, we are after another 2 players, including a dedicated goalie. Anyone interested, please contact Stuart on 027 818 2403.

**Garden to Table** - Making dumplings to celebrate the Chinese New Year



**Weetbix Kids Tryathlon – East Auckland – Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:annalies.donald@meshconsulting.co.nz) For further event information, for times & distances etc please visit - <https://tryathlon.co.nz/>

**Welcome Assembly** - In previous years we used to welcome new students with a Welcome Assembly. We stopped doing this due to covid restrictions and then we didn't reinstate them because we were worried about getting the tikanga wrong. Now that our Te Reo and understanding of tikanga has greatly improved we are starting up Welcome Assemblies again. At the next assembly we will be welcoming all of the new students that have started with us in 2025. I acknowledge that this means there are many students over the last 3 years (about 120 children) that have missed out on the official welcome. While we can't go back and welcome them, if your child would like a 'Welcome Certificate' please let us know and we will send one to their classroom for their teacher to present to them.

### **St Francis Whānau – Get Ready to Party!**

**Date: Friday, March 7**

Dress up 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 from next week.

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](mailto: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.



**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>)

**St. Francis Dads' Support Group Endless Summer pub crawl** - Back by popular demand and before the end of daylight savings, the St. Francis Dads will have a pub crawl on Friday, 4 April - for all new, existing and past St. Francis Dads - everyone is invited. The fun and shenanigans will commence at the Pt. Chev. Bowling Club from 5pm, where it will be onwards and upwards to Amblers, Nomads, Cupid Bar and of course Wapiti. To find out where we are on the night and for any queries, please contact Stuart on 027 818 2403.

**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 maybe average, but it's awesome fun - the more the merrier. Please contact Stuart on 027 818 2403 for more details and to join the Dads' 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](mailto:Marisa@ironbridge.co.nz) 022 633 5095 [www.ironbridge.co.nz](http://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](mailto:mike@solacefinancial.co.nz) 021 765 223 [www.solacefinancial.co.nz](http://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  
(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](mailto:lisab@stfrancis.school.nz) or [principal@stfrancis.school.nz](mailto: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.

**GAIN FUTURE READY SKILLS:**

- STEAM EDUCATION
- PROBLEM SOLVING
- CREATIVITY
- CRITICAL THINKING
- COLLABORATION
- ADAPTABILITY
- RESILIENCE

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**JUNIOR ENGINEER** Years 4-5 (Years 4-5) **PHILOSOPHY** Junior Engineer Year 3-5

Start date: 23 October

Class time: 3:30pm to 6:15pm

Location: Garden to Table (Session 4 only \$18)

[www.bricks4kidz.co.nz](http://www.bricks4kidz.co.nz) | 0800 LEGO 4 K | [info@bricks4kidz.co.nz](mailto:info@bricks4kidz.co.nz)

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**MUSIC LESSONS AT SCHOOL!**

The Music Educational 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 individualised lessons that're both fun and educational. Learning music supports all areas of learning through developing confidence, creativity, concentration and so much more!

Enrol, please visit [www.musiceducation.co.nz/years1-13-enrolment](http://www.musiceducation.co.nz/years1-13-enrolment)



**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](http://www.stmaryak.school.nz)  
11 New Street, Pansyok, 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  
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www.rwptchevalier.co.nz

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.  
stfrancisptchev@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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Starting in week 2 every term



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