



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

The season of Easter – Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Happy Easter. I hope you had a wonderful Easter break, despite the weather. We are now in the Liturgical Season of Easter – the time period from Easter Sunday, lasting for 50 days, culminating with Pentecost Sunday on the 8th of June. The Easter Season is a time of celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ, a time of joy, faith and hope.



The passing of Pope Francis – Our beloved leader, Pope Francis, died on Easter Monday at the age of 88. We mourn the loss of a man known for compassion, peace and mercy. Pope Francis advocated for migrants, the poor, the environment and worked very hard to lead systemic change with the Church, based on the ideals of love, courage and acceptance. We pray that the next person chosen to lead our communities will carry on the legacy of Pope Francis and work towards the future of our Church.

"The Church must be a place of mercy freely given, where everyone can feel welcomed, loved, forgiven and encouraged to live the good life of the Gospel."

(Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium #114)



Concern for the environment thus needs to be joined to a sincere love for our fellow human beings and an unwavering commitment to resolving the problems society.

Pope Francis
*Laudato Si':
On Care For
Our Common Home*



"HAVE THE COURAGE 'TO SWIM AGAINST THE TIDE'. AND ALSO HAVE THE COURAGE TO BE HAPPY."
-POPE FRANCIS

Parade



Holy Week Quiz Results -

1st place - Georgia B

2nd place - Jackson and Emily H

3rd place - Sio, Emilia and Levi

4th place - Pele, Ashley, Eddie D and Isla M

5th place - Elspeth, Georgia R, and Axel

6th place - Florentina, Henricho, Ayden, Asger, Auri, Lachlan G, Devon, Lillian, Otto and Stella

7th place - Nico, Riley N and Leonardo

Free Cafe Vouchers for Secondary School young women - Not that our young women need any encouragement, but we are offering a \$25 cafe voucher per term to all secondary school young women that complete a minimum of 10 Service Hours for our Parish per School Term. This can take the form of altar serving, being a Reader at Mass or running the Children's Liturgy on Sundays (with oversight by an adult(s) and full instruction and access to materials provided). Running Children's Liturgies earns a whopping DOUBLE service hours. Parents can reach out to Stuart on 027 818 2403 for those interested.



Catholic Diocese of Auckland
Te Taumata o te Hahi Katorika

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A co-operative
company representing
the Proprietors of Catholic
Integrated Schools in the
Catholic Diocese of Auckland.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE DUES - FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Financial assistance is available to assist families who may need financial support with the payment of Attendance Dues for preference students attending both primary and secondary Catholic schools in Auckland Diocese.

Families facing financial difficulties can contact their school office, their Parish Priest, or Auckland Common Fund Ltd at the Catholic Diocese of Auckland on 09-360-3040 for further information.

Application forms for this assistance are available from school and parish offices, or can be downloaded from the Catholic Diocese of Auckland Website:

<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/catholic-schools-2/>

Pink Shirt Day - Friday 16 May: doing our part to eliminate bullying by celebrating diversity and promoting kindness and inclusion. Kōrero Mai, Kōrero Atu, Mauri Tū, Mauri Ora - Speak Up, Stand Together, Stop Bullying!

Y5/6 Duathlon Results -

Year 5 Girls

1. Posey Sullivan
2. Emily Miln Harris
3. Stella Halpin

Year 5 Boys

1. Micah Fullerton
2. Harry Skeates
3. Charlie O'Donnell

Year 6 Girls

1. Isla Miskimmons
2. Alex Nicholas
3. Georgia Buchanon

Year 6 Boys

1. Gino Johnstone
2. Oscar Marshall
3. Nico Gagna Mariadas

Best Dressed boy - Caesar Holani

Best Dressed girl - Devon Sefuiva



Parent Meeting about Internet Safety - We have Andrew Cowie coming back on Thursday 8 May to do an Internet education and safety talk. The focus this time will be on social media and AI. Anyone who has watched "Adolescence" recently might find this particularly compelling! This is a PG session, open to Year 5's and above so we can all learn about these topics together and it gives the kids a chance to hear from someone who isn't their parent. Start time will be 6.30pm in Room 1 with expected finish 8.00pm. Year 5 and 6 students are invited to join in. Any other younger children can play in the library while the parents are in the meeting.

Cross Country - Tomorrow from midday.

As always, we are going to have the 'Friends of St Francis cafe' for parents. Thank you to all those people who have volunteered to provide baking. Please drop the baking off in the whanau room on the morning of the cross country. (Helpful hint from last year -bring your own container to stock up for baking for the weekend/ school lunches etc).

New Zealand Water Ski National

Championships 2025 -

written by Eddie Donald (Rm 2)

The 2025 New Zealand National Championships for Tournament Water Skiing were held at a private lake in Ashburton during the first week of the



school holidays. The weather was wet and freezing cold. I qualified for Nationals in both slalom and tricks and Jack Evans (Rm10) qualified in tricks. Jack is 6 years old and was the youngest competitor at nationals and skied really well. I made it into the finals in both my events. In my slalom final I skied a huge personal best and got 4th place in New Zealand. I got 5th in tricks and Jack got 6th. Both my Dad (James) and Jack's Dad (Cam) made the slalom final for over 35 men. Cam won gold and my Dad got bronze. Cam also got gold in over 35 men tricks. We had a great time and made lots of new friends. We can't wait for Nationals next year which is going to be in Auckland.

A message from Mrs Mahoney in the library -

- Scholastic Book Club brochures have been sent home this week. Orders can be placed online on LOOP (instructions on the last page of the brochure) or placed with Ms Mahoney in the library for cash payments. Orders are to be placed by Wednesday May 14th
- With our local Point Chevalier Community Library out of action until at least June, parents are warmly invited to use the school library to get home reading material. We have a gorgeous modern collection and plenty of books - we would love to see more books issued to families. Come in before or after school on a Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday with your children to choose some great books.
- Upcoming Pukapuka Events - For our senior readers, the long awaited Book 4 in The Trials of Morrigan Crow series is being launched at Dorothy Butler Bookshop Wednesday 30th April at 4pm.
- Pukapuka Adventures for children as part of The Auckland Writers Festival - Free activities for children Saturday and Sunday May 17th and May 18th at Aotea Centre from 10- 3.30 pm. More information and times of author talks from our library or writersfestival.co.nz

Silverborn Party this Wednesday



Urgent 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 or leave your details at the school office if you can help in any way. meganw@stfrancis.school.nz

Reading Challenge – Congratulations to the following children who completed their term challenge on time:

- Room 1 Lucas, Nell, George, Emmy, Oliver, Luca, Salesa, Jett
- Room 2 Zoe, Caio, Alex, Gino, Jackson, Alice, Marco, Oscar, Eddie, Victoria, Axel, Florentina, Dante, Riley, Georgia, Emily, Maxwell, Gien, Declan, Nico, Elspeth, Caesar
- Room 3 Ranveer, Reann, Anthea, Cooper, Connie, Auri, Asger, Yi, Thomas, Eva, Bhuvanesh, Clara, Finn, Molly, Miles, Edward
- Room 4 Maeva, Mia, Isla, Dominic, Anthea, Zach, Markus, Otto, Sio, Tom, Georgia, Emily, Harry, Fletcher, Leonardo, Lachlan, Keanu, Ashley, Posey, Thomas, Taavi, Petra, Ruby-Leigh, Flossy
- Room 5 Alice, Addison, Isla, Devon, Lucy, Ketan, Sam, Leona, Emilia, Charlie, Lillian, Max, Pele, Stella, Veida, Xavier, Samuel, Jack
- Room 6 Jeeanna, Katina, Sebastien, Georgia-Rose, Ashley, Ryley, Archie, Harper, George, MacKenzie, Juliette, Austin
- Room 7 Effie, Evan, Riley, Emma, Emily, Lachlan, Jacob, Finley, Rylee, Thomas, Lily, Mac

- Room 8 Eliana, Lochlan, Luca, Ayden, Poppy, Eden, Eva, Eddie, Brennan, Henricho, Marko, Sienna
- Room 9 John, Awa, Cruz, Lucie, Austen, Harrison, Jemima, Ezekiel, Emerson, Bruno, Ari, Edie, Theo, Sasha, Hayley
- Room 10 Lucy, Lily, Bennett, Mila, Milana, Josh, Zinnia, Jack, Max, Luka, Angelo, Lucy, Afuafu, Titus, Zoe
- Room 11 Aidan, Emilia, Ethan, Felicity, Brooke, Hudson, Ellarose, Maximus

Canopy Update -



We are almost there! Just a few little tweaks to be made to the guttering, and we are still waiting on the correct speakers (still on their way from overseas). Once we are 100% ready to go we will advertise an official "opening".

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

Due to School Holidays, the next stupendous darts session will be on Thursday, **29 May**, at the Pt. Chev. Bowla from 8pm. Contact Stuart on 027 818 2403 to join the Dad's Whatsapp group.

Playball after school - For our younger students, Playball is on every Thursday from 3.00pm - 4.00pm. Enrolment details - <https://www.playballkids.com/index>

Skills of Soccer with Billy Harris - Lunchtime Soccer lessons with former 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.



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 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 next term -

Thursday 1 May - School Cross Country Day

Tuesday 6 May - Year 1/2 Jesus Meal 10.00am - 11.00am

Thursday 8 May - Y5/6 Interschool Cross Country Comp, Internet Safety Parent Meeting 6.30pm

Friday 9 May - Y5/6 Mother's Day Breakfast, 9.15am Easter Mass

Friday 16 May - Foodie Friday, **Pink Shirt Day**

Tuesday 20 May and Wednesday 21 May - Junior School Art Trip

Friday 23 May - 2.15pm Welcome Assembly, led by R5 and R6

Monday 26 May - Wednesday 28 May - Y1/2 Stepping Out NZ Police safety programme

Tuesday 27 May - Board of Trustees Meeting

Thursday 29 May - Y5/6 InnerCity Swimming Comp, Ascension Thursday

Monday 2 June - King's Birthday Weekend

Tuesday 3 June - Friday 6 June - Cultural Week

Thursday 5 June - Y5/6 Inner City Rugby League Comp

Friday 6 June - Pentecost Mass

Monday 9 June - School Photos day

Friday 13 June - 2.15pm Assembly, led by R3 and R9, Foodie Friday

Wednesday 18 June - 6.00pm Pasifika Mass @ Grey Lynn

Thursday 19 June - Mid Year Reports sent home

Friday 20 June - Matariki Public Holiday - No School

Tuesday 24 June - Parent Interviews, Board of Trustees Meeting

Wednesday 25 June - Parent Interviews

Friday 27 June - Last day of Term 2, 2.15pm Assembly, led by R1 and R8

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



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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

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