



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

This week we are celebrating **Catholic Schools' Day**. The theme for Catholic Schools' Day this year is: *"You Will Shine Like Stars in the World / E tiaho ana koe hei rama i te ao"* Phil 2:15. In the Auckland Catholic Diocese we have 45 primary schools and 9 secondary schools (where 23,500 students attend) creating those shining stars. Our whanau are to be commended and thanked for choosing to send their children to Catholic Schools and for their tireless support and commitment to Catholic Education.

Catholic Schools provide students with opportunities to encounter Christ in their daily lives and to grow in the knowledge of Christ, His teachings and the teachings of the Catholic Church.



Road Safety on Montrose Street

Despite the shock of one of our children being hit by a car on Montrose Street recently, our parents are still swinging into driveways without checking for pedestrians. Please don't U turn into driveways, go to the bottom of Montrose and turn around.

You are putting our children at risk, just to save yourselves 2 minutes!!!

Changes in curriculum, assessment and reporting – Recently education has been a hot topic in the media, with large-scale changes in the English and Mathematics curricula, budget announcements and discussions around learning support. Regardless of political pressures, a high standard of teaching and learning continues at St Francis Catholic School. One big change that is beginning to affect us is the lack of assessment resources that have been produced to match the new English and Mathematics curricula. I am sure that eventually these new documents will be well supported by robust, nationally normed assessment tools, like the ones we have been using for the last 20 years, but for now we are without a framework that compares our students progress and achievement to an expected standard. So, it is important that teachers are able to confidently judge where a student is working within the curriculum levels (now called phases). This is done by triangulating their assessment data using standardised assessment tools (developed through research by experts, not politicians).

What does this mean for our teachers and students right now? Our teachers are making judgements using internal, in-class work produced through Term 1 and Term 2. This information is then used to inform the 'mid year' reports. Thankfully we have excellent, experienced, professional teachers, who are easily able to make these OTJs (overall teacher judgements), but I imagine some schools will really be struggling.

The new curriculum documents have higher expectations of progress than previous years. While this is fantastic in the long run, it is going to be difficult for many of our children to achieve at that level so quickly. It will take some time, not just for the children to adjust, but also for our teachers to get used to this new structure. We expect that our usually very impressive 'mid year' and 'end of year' academic data will not necessarily be as amazing (and accurate) as it has been in the past.

What we aren't changing just yet is our 'reporting to parents' systems. At the end of this term you will receive a 'mid year' progress and achievement report just like always, and it will be based on the "old" system. It will include the "old" curriculum level, "old" curriculum expectations and tracking of the key competencies on the back page (key competencies are the 'big picture' skills our children need to become functioning members of society – currently in limbo in the new curriculum documents!). We are planning to refresh our reporting templates once we have more guaranteed information about future expectations, hopefully for the 'end of year' achievement and progress report.

Information about booking in for parent interviews will come out in next week's newsletter.

- Reports sent home via the app – Thursday 19 June.
- Parent Interviews – Tuesday 24 June and Wednesday 25 June. All families are expected to attend on one of these afternoons / evenings.

Canopy Opening – Thank you to everyone who attended the Grand Opening of our canopy. Thank you to Mrs Lengauer and Mrs Skinner for decorating the canopy, the Y5/6 teachers for organising the Kapa Haka groups, and to all the families who stayed late on a Friday afternoon to celebrate with us.



Cultural Week – We are all very much looking forward to our 'Cultural Week' celebration, which we will be celebrating next week (Tuesday 3rd June – Friday 6th June).



Cultural Dress – Just a reminder that children can wear cultural dress throughout the week next week if they choose to. Our big celebration is on Friday, so we strongly encourage this, particularly on this day!

Cultural Day Mass and Performance – A reminder that our Pentecost Mass, followed by cultural performance, is on Friday 6th June. The Pentecost Mass will begin at 9.15am, followed by a long morning tea to get children dressed into costume if needed. We will aim to begin the performance at around 11.00am. We would really appreciate it if parents would help us with getting children changed during the extended break as we are aware this may be time-consuming.



We have sent home notices on Monday if children need to bring in something to wear on the day. If you can please ensure they are brought to school by Tuesday next week as we plan to do a full dress rehearsal then. We are all looking forward to another exciting cultural celebration next week!



School Holiday Programme – Hello dear Parents/Caregivers, Skids is looking at reopening for the School Holiday Programme from the 30th June to 11th July. If you are interested in booking for the HP please contact Jackie on 021 975642 before the 3rd of June and state how many children you will be booking in? Please note we would need to have a minimum 12 children booked in order to be able to run the HP. We will let you know by Tuesday 3rd June if we have received enough interest and will contact you directly to arrange booking for you.



Y5/6 Inner City Sports Cluster Softball Comp –



Upcoming Teacher Only Days – School closed

Friday 15 August

Friday 24 October (Labour Weekend)

Stepping Out – The Junior School enjoyed learning from Constable Richard about traffic and car safety this week. Parents, expect your kids to be checking up on your parking and how you get them out of cars from now on!



ENTRIES NOW OPEN!!! 2025 Junior Tough Guy & Gal Challenge – Tuesday 29th July

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! Event is Tuesday 29th July in Kumeu for Year 3 and above students. Cost is \$32.50 per student. Entries are now open and the event sells out, so please contact Annalies Donald at annalies.donald@meshconsulting.co.nz or 027 467 7170 if you would like to be involved. *(Parents need to transport and supervise to / from and at the event in its entirety).*



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.

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.

Private Music / Instrument Lessons – 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 Whilst our area of specialty is insurance, we can also assist any families who need advice on mortgages. We work alongside a number of fantastic local Mortgage Advisers who can provide free, no-obligation advice to our St Francis whānau.



For anyone working hard to buy their first home, there are a number of tips that we can provide, as well as potential pitfalls to avoid. And for any of you who are already home owners, if your mortgage is approaching the end of its fixed term, it's a great time to look at your options, as a number of the banks are offering great incentives for new customers. And as previously promoted on the insurance side, if you (or anybody you refer) ends up taking out a new mortgage following our guidance, we will make a contribution to the school for any new projects, now that the covered courts have been completed. Please spread the word on this opportunity, as we would love to ensure that our St Francis whānau continue to be well protected and are getting the best financial advice possible. 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:

- Term 2 – Monday 28 April – Friday 27 June
Public Holidays – King's Birthday – Monday 2 June, Matariki – Friday 20 June
- Term 3 – Monday 14 July – Friday 19 September **Teacher Only Day – Friday 15 August**
- Term 4 – Monday 6 October – Wednesday 17 December **Teacher Only Day – Friday 24 October**. Public Holidays – School Closed: Labour Day – Monday 27 October

Coming up -

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

Monday 2 June - King's Birthday Weekend - No School

Tuesday 3 June - Friday 6 June - Cultural Week

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

Friday 6 June - 9.15am Pentecost Mass, 11.00am Cultural Performance

Monday 9 June - School Photos day, Y5/6 Proclaiming the Word Comp

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

Wednesday 18 June - 6.00pm Pasifika Mass @ Grey Lynn, Y3/4 trip to the Zoo

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



Creative Matters
AFTER SCHOOL ART CLASS
AT ST FRANCIS CATHOLIC SCHOOL
MONDAYS 3-5PM

Bookings now open for term 2
Starting in week 1 next term due to Kings Birthday on a Monday

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



ST FRANCIS PRIMARY SCHOOL

bricks 4 kids

LEGO AFTER SCHOOL STEAM CLASSES

Bricks 4 Kids 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: HANDS ON LEARNING, PROBLEM SOLVING, MANIPULATING OBJECTS, UTILISING DIGITAL & INNOVATION, ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY & CARE, WELL-BEING & SELF-EXPRESSION

EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION OF INNOVATORS & PROBLEM SOLVERS

Junior Engineering (Years 0 - 6)

Programming | Engineering | Critical Thinking | Creativity | Experimentation

Students will enter the hands-on fun of model-building, from concept to completion. While exploring principles of engineering, students will develop growth mindset for the future. Their class is a fun, working experience for your child. Building new projects each week based on a variety of themes.

FRIDAYS Junior Engineering

Class time: 3:15pm - 4:15pm
Location: Garden to the Table room
Lesson Cost: \$30

centralwestaki@bricks4kids.nz +64 28 8522 0554

EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION OF INNOVATORS & PROBLEM SOLVERS

Ray White

RAY WHITE PT CHEVALIER

Premium service is our priority. Your locally based team bringing unmatched knowledge and a stellar track record, ensuring seamless property solutions tailored to you. Trust us for the best outcome in renting, buying & selling.



338 Pt Chevalier Road
team.ptchevalier@raywhite.com
www.rwptchevalier.co.nz



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



We Care When You Can't Be There

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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www.cbmnz.org.nz/kyle

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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

**Your children are amazing
already. We just help
them prove it.**

Grey Lynn Ph 360 0816
numberworksnwords.com/nz

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'nWords**

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& MATHS**
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