

St Francis of Assisi School

St Francis of Assisi School Newsletter

370 Innes Road, Christchurch 8052
Phone: (03) 595 0730
Email: admin@stfrancischch.school.nz



Issue 10
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Tena Koutou Katoa

We have had a fabulous first week of term - we had fantastic weather for the cross country, the hubs have hives of activity and all in all we have had a great week. There is quite a lot of information in this newsletter so please take the time to bring yourselves up to speed with everything that is going on around the place.

This week you should have all received a pack in the Mail from Canterbury Education Services regarding BOT elections. Take time to consider whether you are interested in standing for the Board of Trustees. There is information on the [school blog](#) in regards to what it entails.

I have had a few questions from people regarding the old Our Lady of Fatima playground and whether it will be put up again, and also questions about when the hall will be being built. I can assure you that as soon as I have any information I will let you all know the plans. A sub-committee has just been formed to begin moving forward with all of this so hopefully we will have something to report very soon.

Hope you all have a great weekend.

Nga mihi nui
Jo Earl

Reporting to Parents

As your child moves through the school we will report on their progress against the National Standards.

- **First Three Years of School**

National Standards in the first three years of school are talked about in relation to how many weeks your children have been at school. There is a National Standard for after 40, 80 and 120 weeks in Mathematics, Reading and Writing.

- **Interim Reports** - Interim reports will be sent home after 20, 60 and 100 weeks at school. Your child's teacher may or may not request a meeting to discuss this report. It may be that they see you often and don't need to meet over this report however you are always most welcome to make a time to discuss this.

20 week Interim reports

A 20 week interim report is a snapshot of where your child is at - measured against the standard they are expected to reach at the end of 40 weeks of school.

60 week Interim reports

A 60 week interim report is a snapshot of where your child is at - measured against the standard they are expected to reach at the end of 80 weeks of school.

100 week Interim reports

A 100 week interim report is a snapshot of where your child is at - measured against the standard they are expected to reach at the end of 120 weeks of school.

It is always good to remember at this point that they still have two terms to work towards achieving the standard.

- **Anniversary Reports**

Anniversary Reports will be sent home after 40, 80 and 120 weeks at school. These reports are more full and they detail next steps for your child's learning. Your child's teacher will make a time to meet with you over these reports.

Coffee Morning - Report Explanation for the Junior report

We intend to hold an information coffee morning on Monday 16 May at 9am where you can come along and find out more about the reporting process for the junior students and to give you a chance to ask any questions you may have. This will be held in the staffroom.

After the First Three Years of School

After your child has been at school for over 120 weeks, reports will be sent home at the end of Term 2 and the end of Term 4. The mid year report will report your child's progress and achievement towards the National Standard they need to reach by the end of that year. It is always good to remember at this point that they still have two terms to work towards achieving the standard.

Reports in 2016 will go home in Week 9 and Parent / Teacher Interviews will be held in Week 10. More information will come home about this soon.

An explanation about how to read the information on the senior report will come out with the report, however we will hold a coffee morning to explain the structure of the senior report later in the term.

Religious Education at St Francis of Assisi School

At St Francis of Assisi we are teaching Religious Education through a conceptual 'inquiry' programme that reflects current pedagogy. This differs from the old strand by strand teaching that occurred and allows for learning to be more authentic, relevant and student centred. Concepts from the strands will be integrated into our learning.

Term 2 Religious Education

Our focus for Term 2 is the Year of Mercy. Pope Francis announced the Jubilee Year of Mercy, that invites us to contemplate the mercy of God revealed to us in the face of Jesus, his Son. This year runs from 8 December 2015 to 20 November 2016. Students will be engaging in further learning about this year as the term progresses. The next newsletter will contain information on the logo and motto symbolising the year.

Catholic Schools Day 16 May 2016

On Monday 16 May Catholic Schools across the Diocese will be participating in a Circle of Prayer. St Francis of Assisi will be holding a prayer celebration at 9.55am and the Special Character team welcome any parents who wish to attend.

Curriculum Focus Term 2

Science and Technology

This term we have a schoolwide focus on Science and Technology. Each team will be providing the students with different learning opportunities that will be shared with you on the team blogs.

Over the next two weeks the Year 7/8 team will visit the Mindlab to participate in Robotics and Rockets. I imagine this will be a pretty engaging session and look forward to seeing the students in action. Next week, after all three sessions we will post some videos on facebook and some photos in the newsletter so that you can see what they all have been up to.

Junior Kapahaka

We have decided to split the junior Kapahaka into two groups as the number of interested students is over 100! That's a fantastic problem to have and we are delighted with the response.

Junior Kapahaka (Year 3/4) will begin on Monday at lunchtime. The students are really looking forward to it and so are we!

Junior Jr Kapahaka (Yr 1/2) will take place in class time once a fortnight. Maire Bowler, Sarah Burrowes and I will be taking this and we are really looking forward to getting this started in week 3.

Helping Hands - Pastoral Care

So many times we want to give more to those that need help. Here is our opportunity. We can give by helping others. Everyone can give something whether it is time, money or some other way of helping others. Helping others includes the times when you visit the sick, run a message for someone who is unable to or even when you just offer your umbrella to someone on a rainy day.



John 15:12 "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you..."

Our Helping Hands initiative is all about looking after each other in our St Francis School Community. We are keen to set up a database of people who are willing to help out in different ways. It may be that you can help with...

- baking for a family that can do with some support (new baby, sickness...)
- making a meal for a family in need (sickness, new baby, death in family)
- transport to school
- school drop off and pick up
- visiting someone who just needs some company
- other things we may not have thought of!

How will this work?

People who are willing to help will fill out a form and submit their names to a database managed confidentially through the school office.

When a need comes to notice you will be approached to provide the service you have offered.

For example: You may be asked to bake or make a meal for a family who have a new baby... Names will not be used - you would deliver the baking or meal to the office and we will arrange to have it delivered or picked up.

"Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others." Philippians
2:4

Fill out the [form on this link](#) or the form attached to this newsletter and we will place your name on the database of helpers.

If you know of a family that would benefit from a helping hand please contact Jo Earl principal@stfrancis.ch.school.nz or Charlotte Robb char.robb@gmail.com. This will be handled with the utmost confidentiality.

Cross Country

We held our inaugural cross country at Walter Park on Wednesday. Perfect running conditions greeted the runners and the students didn't disappoint the pleasing number of parents who turned up by putting in sterling efforts! The overall level of commitment and fitness from the students was high and SFOA will be sending a competitive team to the zones on May 25. Results will be posted next week and photos can be found on the school facebook page.

Winter Sport

Winter sport commences on Thursday 19 May. Winter sport is for all students in Year 5 - 8. We have entered multiple teams in football, netball, hockey and one rugby team. We are very grateful for the parents giving up their time to help coach and manage the teams on a Thursday. All games except hockey (Nunweek Park) will be played at Hagley Park. It is imperative that students have the correct protective equipment or else they will not be able to play. Mouthguards are needed for hockey and rugby, shinpads for hockey and football and rugby/football boots are advisable for rugby and football. The weekly draws will be posted on the school's facebook page.

Basketball

With the Year 3/4 Bishopdale YMCA season on hold until term four, it's now the turn of the Year 5/6 and 7/8 teams. Games commence next Thursday (Yr5/6) and Friday (Yr7/8) and the draw is up on the school's facebook page. A big thankyou to Philippa Grey, Brendan Fahey and Kelvin Fisher for coaching the teams. We are still looking for two more players. Please contact Philippa 027 3443261 if interested.

Hockey

It was very pleasing to see a number of NE-Yr2 SFOA students at Marist Park last Saturday morning for the first session on hockey "fun sticks". If there are any more students interested in joining please contact Phillipa Grey dmpcgre@gmail.com or visit www.maristhockey.co.nz

Library

A huge thank you to all the wonderful parents who gave up their time to come and help in the Library in the school holidays. We are extremely appreciative of all the help we have been given from so many people. A special mention also to the fabulous Marian College girls who offered their services in the holidays for a day as well. We are very close to getting

the Library up and running now and we couldn't have achieved what we have without our holiday library fairies.

Winter Uniform

Girls – Long-sleeved Blouse; Pinafore for Year 1-4 Skirt Year 5-8 Navy tights or knee-high navy socks

Boys – long sleeved grey shirt; Grey Winter Shorts Knee-high grey socks with red and blue stripes

Please note - Skivvy's are not included in our school uniform.

We are introducing a tie for Year 5-8 boys and girls. **Please note:** It will become compulsory in term 3 which will give people time to make this purchase. The tie has even stripes navy and red. We have one at the school office that you can look at if you are unsure. In 2016 Year 8 boys and girls will not be required to wear the tie however they are most welcome to should they wish to.

Mainland Uniforms have informed us that the ties have been ordered and are available now to purchase.

2016 Board of Trustee Elections

In May nominations will be called to become members of our Board of Trustees. Key dates are as follows.

By Friday May 6th Nomination forms will be posted to all persons on the schools caregiver roll.

Friday 20th May NOMINATIONS CLOSE – 20th May at noon. An election will be held if the number of nominations exceed vacancies. For our school the number of vacancies is 5.

Wednesday May 25th Voting papers will be sent by post to all on the school caregiver roll.

Friday 3rd June Voting closes at 12 noon.

Thursday 9th June Votes are counted and candidates advised of the results.

Friday 10th June New Board takes office

We look forward to all our parents/ caregivers being involved in the process.

School fees

Just a reminder that there are still many swimming lesson fees outstanding. Please make arrangements for payment as soon as possible. PLEASE NOTE NEW BANK ACCOUNT NUMBER AT THE BOTTOM OF YOUR STATEMENT.

Scholastic Book Club

Brochures have gone home today. Ordering online is now open - just follow the steps for a quick and easy way to order. Orders close Friday 20 May.

PTA News

Upcoming Events

Junior Disco - 27 June @ Mairehau High School Hall. Year 1-4 5.30 - 7pm and Year 5-6 7.30pm til 9pm. More information coming home soon.

Senior Disco - 10 June - Year 7/8. More information to follow soon.

[Entertainment Books](#)

Order forms for entertainment books will be coming home in the near future or you can order your entertainment book on the above link.

Sock Fundraiser

PTA Fundraiser - School Winter Socks - last day for orders Friday 13th May, forms will come home this evening with your child. Order forms are also available on the PTA page of the website - all enquires please: contact kellyvw@gmail.com

St Francis Helping Hands Database

- Please place me on the Helping Hands Database.

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

I am happy to help with...

- baking

- making a meal
- school drop off /pick up
- visiting
- other (please specify)

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI SCHOOL SOCK ORDER FORM

Family Name _____

Please deliver to _____ in Year _____
(Eldest Child's Name)

Boys Winter Sock

All \$10.50 each

Sizes	Quantity	Total
10-12 Junior		\$
13-2		\$
3-5		\$
6-8		\$
9-11		\$
Total		\$

Girls Navy Winter Sock

All \$10.50 each

Sizes	Over the Knee	Under the Knee	Total
10-12 Junior			\$
13-2			\$
3-5			\$
6-8			\$
9-11			\$
Total			\$

Grand Total

Boys & Girls

\$

Internet Payment

Cash Payment

Please return this order form back to school by Friday **13 May 2016**
with the correct cash payment
or internet bank into Westpac PTA account 03-1700-0288855-000
using your child's surname as reference.

There will be a box at the Office to receive orders.

Any queries contact Kelly Van Wieren 021-352-244 or email kellyvw@gmail.com