

St Francis of Assisi School

St Francis of Assisi School Newsletter

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Issue 37

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Items Covered This Week:

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Prizegiving
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Kia Ora Koutou

Third week of Advent: Joy

The Third week begins with what is known as Gaudete Sunday. The day takes its common name from the Latin word *Gaudete* which means "Rejoice".

In his 2014 Gaudete Sunday homily, Pope Francis said that Gaudete Sunday is known as the "Sunday of joy," and that instead of fretting about "all they still haven't" done to prepare for Christmas, people should "think of all the good things life has given you."

In churches that have an Advent wreath, the rose coloured candle is lit in addition to two of the violet.



Reverse Advent Calendars

Thank you for your contributions. The response to this has been amazing. Seeing the children bring their gifts forward during prayer time is a true sign of advent and the inward joy one receives from an outward act.

Upcoming Events

Thursday 15 December	Kākano and Paiaka Hubs Fun Day - Halswell Pool
Friday 16 December	Tumu and Kaupeka Hubs Fun Day - Halswell Pool
Monday 19 December	School Prizegiving 6pm Aurora Centre
Tuesday 20 December 10.30am	Final 2016 School Mass at St Gregory's
Tuesday 20 December 12.30pm	2016 School Year finishes

Central Athletics

On Wednesday 7 December 22 of our students travelled down to Ashburton to compete at the Canterbury Primary Schools Athletics Championships. We are so proud of the way they represented St Francis of Assisi. They not only competed to a high standard, but displayed outstanding sportsmanship when competing and by the way they encouraged their fellow athletes between events.



There were a number of students who achieved personal bests on the day. A special mention to Tahlor Cahill who placed in the top 3 of his event, coming 2nd in the 13 Years Boys Discus. We would like to say a big thank you to the parents who assisted us with transport to and from the event, we really appreciate your support.

Staffing Update

You will be notified of your child's homebase teacher on December 16th.

Senior Leadership Team	Year 1/2	Year 3/4	Year 5/6	Year 7/8
Jo Earl	Paula Brown	Helen Simanu	Melissa Dungey	Whitney Hansen
Maire Bowler	Angela Bailey	Kate Parker	Ally Kearsley	Tracey Bryce
Rebecca Methven	Mackenzie Kane	Nicola Smith-Palmer	Kath Roach	Katherine Wilson
	Cath Shaw	Cat Gill	Jane Brittenden	Siobhan Cummings
	Louise Mackay			

Winning House Term 4

Congratulations to Kakariki House. You are the winning house this term. Those children in **Green house** can wear Mufti to school on **Wednesday 14th December**.

Halswell Pool trips.

These trips are to celebrate the first year of St Francis of Assisi and allows the children to have a fun time together before the year ends.

Years 1 - 4 Thursday 15 December. Leaving school by bus 11:15 and returning by 3:00pm

Years 5 - 8 Friday 16 December. Leaving school by bus 11:15 and returning by 3:00pm

Please ensure that your child has appropriate swim wear, sensible mufti including a warm layer and sunblock.

Prizegiving Monday 19 December 6pm

We are looking forward to holding our very first prizegiving. We are holding this at the **Aurora Centre at Burnside High School**. This prizegiving is for all students and all parents. All students must wear their school uniform. The children need to be brought to the Aurora centre by 5.45pm. The teachers will be there waiting for them and will take them to where they will be seated with their class for the event.

There are awards for each home base so it is really important that all students are present. Our Kapahaka group will perform as will the choir. We expect the event to take no longer than one hour and 15 minutes.

End of Year Mass Tuesday 20 December

We will be travelling by bus to **St Gregory's** for our final Mass. The Mass is at **10.30am** and then we will be travelling back to school together for the final farewells. No children will be picked up at St Gregory's - All children will come back to school with their class.

Kapa haka Tour

We were very proud of our Kapa haka students yesterday. We visited St Albans Catholic, Isleworth School and Breens Intermediate. Our students were polished and the three performances were of a high standard. Well Done to you all!



Lost Property

Jake Hernandez has lost his named school jersey, this has been missing since the start of Term 4. Please return if found.

If anyone finds a black and blue fleece jacket from pumpkin patch please return to Charlie Lingard in Room 10. It was unnamed and lost last Friday.

Jude Brodie Grottis has lost his named school jersey. Please return if found.

Shuji Lee has lost her named sports top, please return if found.

Parents Prayer

We invite you to join us on Fridays 9am to pray for our school community. We gather for 15 minutes in the staff room. Everyone is welcome.

Next Year's Term Dates

Term 1 Monday 30 January Thursday 13 April (Holiday includes Easter and ANZAC Day)

Term 2 Monday 1 May Friday 7 July

Term 3 Monday 24 July Friday 29 September

Term 4 Monday 16 October Friday 15 Dec (TBC)

School Fees

PLEASE PAY YOUR ACCOUNT BY SUNDAY 11 DECEMBER

Thank you to those parents who have already paid. A reminder that the donation portion of your account (\$25.00 per term) is a voluntary payment however the rest of the fees paying

for activities your child has participated in need to be paid by 11 December. If you are unsure of the amount you may owe on your account please phone the office.

PLEASE NOTE Year 7/8 water activity -as this was unable to proceed your accounts have been credited. If you have yet to pay please do not pay this amount (\$33).

Please remember if paying online to use the account number at the bottom of your statement (this differs from the Parish account for Attendance Dues).

If you think you will not be able to pay your account in full before the end of term you must give Pauline a call to discuss.

PTA Notices

The PTA would like to say thank you to all who attended the Ethel and Bethel fundraiser there was a great turn out and everyone had a great time. We are still working on final numbers but hope to have these for you next week.

Thank you to everyone that bought in donations and supplies for our raffles we couldn't have held a successful event without you all helping out.

We would like to thank our sponsors as well

VIP Steel, Malia Bathrooms, Moa Lawns, Stanton Builders, Butler & Co, Ray White Bishopdale, Fairview Windows and Doors and Drivingskool without all your fantastic donations we wouldn't be able to host these events.

Next year we will be having many more great events; if you think you would like to be a part of the PTA or want to find out more then please feel free to be in touch with us- we love having new members.

The PTA want to thank everyone for all your support this past year and we are looking forward to many more fun years ahead.

Congratulations to our winner of the Wheelbarrow Raffle- just so happened it was her birthday that same day to! Congratulations.



Parish News

There are plates left from Confirmation supper in the school office, please collect.

End of Year Altar Servers Get-together. All Altar Servers are invited to an evening of fun and games and a fish n chip dinner on Friday 16th December at 5pm. Meet in the Portacom beside the church. Any queries to Charlotte on 385 2152

A date for the Diary:

We are pleased to announce that the Parish Life and food will be held on Sunday February 12th 2017. (cancellation date is February 19th 2017.) This is a day of celebration of the various cultures in our Parish Community and a chance to taste some of the fantastic cuisine on offer. If you wish to be involved in supporting your ethnic community in providing or helping at a food stall please contact Steven 027 530 8787 or Marina on 3234465. Pop this date into your diary for a great opportunity to gather as a Parish family in a fun and relaxed setting. It is not to be missed!

Community Notices

ANZ Olympic Schools Programme

Dear Parents and Caregivers

OPPORTUNITY TO EARN POINTS TOWARDS SCHOOL EQUIPMENT

ANZ is encouraging people within school communities to support their local school when taking out an ANZ home loan. I am emailing all St Francis of Assisi Catholic School parents and caregivers about this opportunity, as we could really benefit from the ANZ Olympic Schools Programme.

For those of you in the St Francis of Assisi Catholic School community about to draw down a home loan – please consider nominating St Francis of Assisi as ‘your school’. We will earn credits from the ANZ Awards Centre for sports equipment or computers and our students benefit.

An eligible home loan drawn down of \$50,000 by somebody ‘nominating’ St Francis of Assisi will entitle our school to 800 credits and approximately \$400 of spending power at the ANZ Awards Centre. Please contact our local ANZ Representative Rebecca Snelgar on Ph: 3683988, Email: rebecca.snelgar@anz.com