

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



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Dear Parents and Caregivers

Kia ora koutou

Thanks so much to those of you who were able to come along to the Official opening last week. It was just wonderful to have such amazing support.

This week was our first full week and has been very busy. Your children may have told you that there has been a fair bit of testing and assessments and that is true! We have been gathering data to ensure we can build programmes that will cater for each and every one of their needs in all areas.

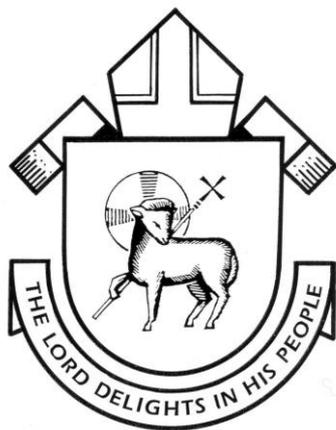
Bishop Barry Jones

There have been some very special liturgies carried out this week to celebrate the life of Bishop Barry Jones.

Bishop Barry was born in Rangiora on August 29, 1941, and began his schooling at St Joseph's, Rangiora before attending college at St Bede's. He studied for priesthood at Christchurch's Holy Name Seminary and Mosgiel's Holy Cross College and was ordained a priest in Rangiora on July 4, 1966.



He served at various parishes and ministries in Timaru, Christchurch, Akaroa, Burnham and the West Coast.



Bishop Barry Jones was installed as the ninth Catholic Bishop of Christchurch Diocese in 2007.

Bishop Barry's motto was, "The Lord delights in His people." (Psalm 149.4) and he was a great role model for all of us.

Cardinal John Dew, said Bishop Barry was a man of "great and unwavering faith". He also said that, "The suffering and distress of those living in Christchurch during and after the earthquakes was always close to mind for him and he would often express to those of us outside of Canterbury the kind of challenges and daily stresses that the people of Christchurch were experiencing.

Bishop Barry was renowned for always being mindful of the needs of his people, especially the most vulnerable, such as his empathy and pastoral nature. For him this Maori proverb was always to the forefront of his ministry as Bishop:

He aha te mea nui o te ao

He tangata, he tangata, he tangata

What is the most important thing in the world?

It is the people, it is the people, it is the people

Lent

Our Lenten season has begun with the celebration of Ash Wednesday. Lent is the season in which we prepare for the mystery of Easter. It is a special time of forty days in which we joyfully embrace a conversion of heart. In this time of penance, three activities occur: fasting, giving to the poor and prayer. Lent is a period of self discipline, generous concern for those in need and prayerful reflection.

Altar Servers

With our new school working closely with the parish we would like to extend a warm welcome to any students, Year 7 & up, who wish to serve as altar servers. Full training will be provided. Please contact Kirsten in the parish office on 3853459 or see Mrs Newton for more information.

First Reconciliation & First Holy Communion Programme - Year 4 and above

The programme for 2016 begins on Sunday 28 February with a parent meeting in the Church. Please put your child's name on the clipboard in the church foyer if you are wanting them to take part. For further information or questions please feel free to see Mrs Newton.

Congratulations to Mrs Mulholland on her Papal Award

On Sunday 14 February, Mrs Mulholland (St Paul's DRS and parish organist) received the Croce Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice for her exceptional service as a teacher of the faith and organist. A top honour from Pope Francis for an outstanding contribution. We extend our congratulations to Mrs Mulholland.

Fish n' Chip Tea and Meet the Teaching Team Meetings Wednesday 24 February (3.15pm and repeated at 6.15pm)

Next week we will hold the "Meet the Teaching Team" meetings on Wednesday 24 February. These will be team meetings where you can meet all the teachers in the teams that are working with your children, at the same time. They will give you information about the programmes we are running and expectations for the year.

We will repeat the meetings at 6.15pm so that those who are unable to come straight after school get the chance to meet the teachers as well. We also thought that it would be a great chance for the community to get together for a fish n' chip tea in the school grounds.

So... bring along your fish 'n' chips from 5pm onwards, go to a class meeting to find out about life at St Francis of Assisi School then... send the family home and stay on for the next meeting to find out about our proposed new Parent / Teacher Association or Parents and Friends Association – information below.

Parent Teacher Association / Parent and Friends Association

We are keen to establish a St Francis of Assisi PTA or PFA as soon as we can and we have a number of ideas for fundraising projects. I have scheduled an information evening for those who may be interested in being part of this group for Wednesday 24 February at 7pm in the staffroom. I will outline what the purpose of this group will be and some ideas about future projects that we need community support for at the meeting.

You do not have to make a commitment to join the group just because you are at the meeting – there will be no pressure – it would be great to have a good turn out for this meeting so please consider coming along.

Swimming

On Tuesday 23rd we will be holding our inaugural swimming sports for Year 5 - 8. The event will be held at Jellie Park aquatic centre, beginning at 9.45am. We hope to be finished by 1pm. All students will be bused to and from Jellie Park. Please make sure your child is at school no later than 8.55am on Tuesday. The cost for transport and pool hire is \$6 and this will be added to your Term 1 account.

Students are encouraged to wear their swimming costume under their uniform to save time when we arrive at the pool. We are also encouraging our students to wear swimming caps and goggles. Students have submitted their entries online at school and are very much looking forward to the swimming sports. There will be a range of activities to cater for all abilities. Outstanding performances may result in a place at the Canterbury Primary School North Zone's swimming meet on March 14. Parents are most welcome to attend on Tuesday.

Swimming Lessons

This year swimming lessons have been organised for weeks 5 and 6 of the term. We have been extremely lucky to have secured some funding from Water Safety NZ. This equates to \$24 per child so this is a significant reduction in the cost for you all.

A timetable and more information will be sent home next week.

The junior classes will need parent helpers so please see your child's home base teacher if you are available to help.

School Donation/ Contribution

The establishment Board of Trustees (eBOT) encourages every family to contribute to funding the school via payment of the School Donation. The eBOT has set the 2016 donation at \$25 per term per child (up to two children per family). This financial contribution is a tax deductible donation. These funds enable the purchase of sports equipment, additional library books and information technology equipment, along with other items for the benefit of students. Your School Donation will be used to provide your child with the very best in education at St Francis of Assisi School. This donation will appear on the Term 1 account.

School Accounts

All extra-curricular activities incur a separate charge and this will be invoiced at the beginning of each term. It has taken a bit of time to fully merge the two school databases and for this reason the Term 1 accounts will be sent home in week 5. However we will aim to send accounts home as early as we possibly can each term.

Payments can be made online and account details will appear on the invoices. You are also welcome to set up automatic payments should you wish to.

Anyone experiencing difficulty with making payments please feel free to contact me. This will be treated with the utmost respect and confidentiality.

Costs For Term 1

School Donation - \$25 per child per term (up to two children per family)

Swimming Sports Yr 5-8 \$6 (bus and pool entry)

Swimming Lessons \$25 per student (10 lessons and bus transport)

Technology - Year 7/8 only \$45 per child - we realise that you have been billed for this separately from Te Waka Unua School - ignore this notice as we will invoice you for this on the Term 1 account. (If you have already paid this - that's no problem - we will have a record of this.

RE Digital Resource - approx \$7 per child. I will confirm this next week.

Kapahaka

This week we sent home information about the Kapahaka groups for this year.

Senior Kapahaka

Our Senior Kapahaka group (Year 5-8) began practising this week.

We have hired a tutor (Matua Maaka Tau) for the senior group and the practices will be at 8am on Thursday mornings for 50 mins. I know that this is early and I stress that this timing is a trial. We will ask for feedback on the timing at the end of Term 1.

Please fill out the form on this link - [Senior Kapahaka](#) - if your child is interested in joining this group. We will give the students a couple of weeks to get a feel for whether this is something they want to commit to, however after they have committed it will be an expectation that they turn up each week for the practice.

We are happy to have parent helpers join us at these practices - please note on the form if you are willing to help out.

Junior Kapahaka

Our Junior Kapahaka group will begin in March. Notice of the actual start date and practice times will be advertised soon.

The Junior group tutors will be Helen Simanu and myself. Children are welcome to join this group to find out what it is all about and whether they will enjoy being a member - they will not be expected to commit for any length of time - we just want them to be able to come and enjoy the experience.

The Junior group will perform at school events and assemblies. Parents will be notified of any performances. It would be great to have parent helpers for this group as well and once the day and time has been decided you can let us know if you are willing to get involved and help out.

Team Blogs

Team blogs are now up and running and can be found under the Our Learning Tab on our website. Keep up with what is happening by checking in on them every now and again.

BOT Elections

Election to a School Board of Trustees is one of the most significant democratic processes in New Zealand.

School communities around the country select a group of people to govern their school. NZSTA in partnership with the Ministry of Education, supports boards and returning officers through the election processes.

The St Francis of Assisi School community will be going through this process in Term 2. We are hoping that some of you will consider putting your names forward to be considered for election to the first Board of Trustees for our school.

To this end we will be running a workshop on Trusteeship on Wednesday 16 March. More information will come about this next week - in the meantime - have a think about whether you want to be involved and **Save the Date!**

2016 Trustee Triennial Election

The suggested common election date is Friday 3 June 2016. This would allow the election to be held within the school term and meet the time frame. This is a suggested timeframe.

Select returning officer by Wednesday 27 April 2016
Close main roll noon Wednesday 4 May 2016
Call for nominations by Friday 6 May 2016
Close supplementary roll noon Wednesday 18 May 2016
Nominations close noon Friday 20 May 2016
Voting papers sent by Wednesday 25 May 2016
Close poll election day noon Friday 3 June 2016
Count votes Thursday 9 June 2016
Board takes office Friday 10 June 2016

Lit Club is coming...Exciting!

Watch out for news about our Lit Club - More information next week!!!!

Nga mihi nui

Jo Earl

School Community Notices

St Francis of Assisi Netball Club

If your child is interested in playing netball for the 2016 winter sports season please complete the online registration form at the following link. [St Francis of Assisi Netball Club - Home](#) or www.sporty.co.nz/sfoa

This registration form is for club netball which is played on Thurs/Fri evenings and Saturday mornings. Please be aware that games/practices are not played during school hours. As per all Christchurch Sports Clubs a registration fee will be payable before the first game and this is likely to be in the vicinity of \$50-\$100 depending on age of child and team numbers. Payment plans will be available. The fees payable to the club assist with the general running costs of a club including; Chch Netball Association fees for entering the teams into the local competitions at Hagley Park, upkeep & purchase of club owned uniforms, balls, bibs, prize giving's and trophies for example. The club is busy planning our fundraising as we require new uniforms, bags, balls etc.

If you or someone you know is interested in sponsoring a team or our club it would be great to hear from you – tania@aae.net.nz

SUPER SUMMER SPORTS

Cricket – Touch Rugby – Athletics – Volleyball

WHERE

St Francis of Assisi School

Meet on the field (If raining check your mobile for cancellation)

WHO

Year 0 - 4 boys and girls

WHEN

Thursdays, 25 February - 7 April

8:00 am - 8:55 am (we will finish right on 8:55 am to allow the students to be in class on time)

INFO

At Kelly Sports, we give children the opportunity to learn a range of fundamental skills used in all sports. We aim to develop & enhance co-ordination skills, spatial awareness and team work. Children have so much fun that they don't realize how much they are learning!

COST

Only \$65

~~Early bird~~ rate (\$5 discount) will be available in Term 2.

ENROL

Online - www.kellysports.co.nz

Click on 'Events' and search for Christchurch North Central OR

email rick@kellysports.co.nz



Like us on Facebook

[facebook.com/KellySportsNewZealand](https://www.facebook.com/KellySportsNewZealand)

Email rick@kellysports.co.nz if you're interested in the Kelly Sports OSCAR holiday programme at [Wakakel School](http://www.stfrancischh.school.nz).

Nga mihi nui

Jo Earl



Marist Hockey Club
Boys Open Evening Years 1-6
Friday 4th March 4.30-6.30

Join us at Marist Park Turf @ St Bedes (Entrance off Momorangi Crescent) on Friday 4th March 4.30-6.30 where our Marist coaches will take you for a fun hockey session

We have spaces available in all grades for new players to join Marist Hockey Club for the 2016 season. All registration and player information will be available at this session or visit our website www.maristhockey.co.nz for trial dates and updated information.

Just bring along your sports shoes, mouth guard, shin pads and we will provide everything else.

For further information please contact Junior Club Captain Philippa Grey dpmcgre@gmail.com