

# St Francis of Assisi School

St Francis of Assisi School Newsletter

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Issue 34

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## Items Covered This Week:

Special Character  
Altar Servers  
Calendar of Events  
Staffing Updates  
Website Update  
Parent Education Opportunity  
Athletics  
Scholastic Book Club  
School fees  
PTA Notices  
Parish Notices  
Community Notices

## Kia Ora Koutou

### Special Character - Advent - Faith Facts

#### Did you know?

- Advent begins this year on **Sunday November 27**.
- Each Sunday in Advent has a particular theme. The first week is faithfulness, associated with Christ coming in final victory. The second and third Sundays, which feature the stories about John the Baptist, represent hope and joy. The fourth Sunday, which covers the events that led up to Pope Francis via [twitter](#) on Dec the birth of Jesus, represents love.
- We light a candle on an advent wreath each Sunday to represent each theme. The wreath is made of evergreen branches and holds four candles - three purple for the first weeks of Advent and a pink one for the last week. A white Christ candle is placed in the center and will be lit on Christmas.
- Advent starts the four Sundays before Christmas. Purple is the colour of the season and a sign of penance. The purple colour reminds the People of God to prepare.



*“Advent is a journey towards Bethlehem. May we let ourselves be drawn by the light of God made man.”*

21, 2013. (Yes that's right - even the Pope is on Twitter - you can follow him on @Pontifex - the official twitter page of His Holiness Pope Francis).

### **Altar Servers**

A second Altar Serving Training for students from Year 5 through to Year 8 will be held on Thursday December 1st at 11.30am. This is for any new servers who would like to be trained or any just recently trained who would like another run through. Please see Mrs Methven if you require a parent permission slip.

### **First Communion**

We congratulate the children in our school and wider Parish who are taking a significant step in their Faith journey this weekend as they make their First Holy Communion. Please keep these children and their families in our prayers.

### **Calendar of Events**

Friday 18 November	PTA Fish n Chip Tea
Friday 25 November	PTA Ethel and Bethel Bingo Night
Monday 28 November	Year 8 Retreat
Monday 28 November	Year 8 Dinner The Papanui Club
Friday 2 December	Kaupeka Hub Paddleboarding Day
Tuesday 6 December	Confirmation Mass
Wednesday 7 December	Central Athletics - Ashburton
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
Tuesday 20 December 10.30am	Final 2016 School Mass at St Gregory's
Tuesday 20 December 12.30pm	2016 School Year finishes

## **Staffing Updates**

We are currently working on staffing and placements for 2017. We can announce that we have a couple of new people joining us next year as some of our current staff are leaving to embark on different adventures.

Charlotte Parish will be leaving us at the end of the year as she takes some time to focus on her growing plumbing/gas fitting business.

Carly Burgess is moving to Melbourne to a new teaching position and Melissa Burtenshaw has accepted a permanent job at Marshland School and we congratulate her on this appointment.

We are welcoming some new staff Kathleen Roach, Nicola Smith-Palmer and Siobhan Cummings. We are also really pleased that Katherine Wilson and Mackenzie Kane have accepted permanent positions at St Francis and also that Angela Bailey has accepted a position here for 2017.

Next year Angela Shea will take over the Reading Recovery role as Ali Ward is leaving us for a position at Oaklands School.

You will be updated with the organisation for 2017 when it has been confirmed.

## **[Website update](#)**

A new page has been added to the website that outlines the ways we communicate to our school community. Instructions for downloading our school app can be found here and also links to the school blogs, twitter, facebook and newsletters.

## **David Kobler from 'Your Choicez' - Parent session on helping your teen navigate pornography.**

St Bedes College are hosting David Kobler next week, and he will be running a parent session on how to help our teens navigate pornography. St Bedes' are inviting the parents of Year 7 - 10 students from our Catholic schools to this session.

It will be held on Tuesday, 22nd November at Villa Maria College auditorium at 6.30pm - 8pm.

Entry is by gold coin donation please. A flyer for this event will be emailed out with this newsletter.

## **Athletics**

On Monday 7 November 71 students represented St Francis of Assisi School at the North Zone Athletics, at Rawhiti Domain. It was a great day with all students competing well and representing our school with pride.

The following 22 students came 1st, 2nd or third in their events and will now be representing St Francis of Assisi at the Canterbury Primary Schools Athletic Championships on Wednesday 7 December, at Ashburton Domain, Beth O'Donovan, Reuben Ngariki, Lily Walter, Joshua Cusin, Liana Borkus, Ruby Merry-Lees, William Coombes, Oliver Ellenbroek,

Bella Houghton-Smith, Lily Armstrong, Malaika Sequeira, Anna McKey, Matthew Mun, Josh Coe, Oliver Lyons, Henri Webster, Jasmine Hamilton, Sophie Music, Michael Flanagan, Ruben Walker, Charles Allen and Tahlor Cahill.

A huge congratulations to all the students who competed at the North Zones event and we wish those going further all the best for their upcoming event.

### Chinese Prizegiving



Last night several of our students were awarded prizes at the Confucius institute. These students were acknowledged for their effort and achievement this year in their Chinese lessons. Congratulations to Connor Grey, Charlotte Lyons, Millie Perrett, Adam Walker, Alex Tino, Tiana Purdon, Corbin Fisher, Oli de Vries and Michael Flanagan.

### Parents Prayer Group

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

Term 4 accounts went home last week. Thank you to those parents who have already paid. 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 your account in full before the end of term please give Pauline a call to discuss.

## **SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB Orders in by next Wednesday 23 Nov please**

### **PTA Notices**

#### **Ethel and Bethel**

With only one week to go till our PTA Ethel & Bethel Fundraiser for our school hall fit-out we have 49 tickets left up for grabs please see the office for details on purchasing tickets.

We have now thanks to all your wonderful donations created our raffles and these are on display in the office; tickets are available even if you're not attending on the night they are \$2 each or 3 for \$5. These will be available to purchase on the night as well.

We have some fantastic Auction Items up for grabs so to be sure to get your hands on these items you will need to be there.

TICKETS will be issued to those who have paid from next week. Any questions about the event please speak to the PTA members tonight at our Fish and Chip evening.



#### **Family Fun Night - Fish n Chip Tea Friday 18 November - Today!!!!**

Come along to have tea in the school grounds and join in the fun and games. This is meant to be a fun get together, games will be run on the field after people have had their tea. Hope to see you there.

### **Parish Notices**

#### **Sunny 4 bedroom home for rent in Burwood**

Sunny modern 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom and 2 living area home available to rent in Burwood from late November. It's easy to heat as it is insulated, double glazed, north facing and has a heat pump. The living areas and master bedroom open onto a fully fenced lawn and garden so it's ideal for families. Please contact Melissa on 021 129 1510 for more information.

#### ***A date for the Diary:***

*We are pleased to announce that the Parish Life and food will be held on Sunday February 12<sup>th</sup> 2017. (cancellation date is February 19<sup>th</sup> 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!

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**ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI PTA FUNDRAISER**  
Proudly sponsored by



Come along for a fun night of Bingo, Auctions, Raffles and Chocolate Wheels

TICKETS: \$15 provides you with supper and 1x Bingo Card  
Cash Bar (R18) Event  
Extra Bingo Cards at \$2 per card or 3 for \$5 on the night  
Thanks to all our sponsors all spots are now filled

**Tickets are now on sale and selling fast..... limited number available Please see the office to add your name to the list**  
All funds raised are to help fit-out our new school hall

Friday 25th November 6:30pm arrival 7:30 kick off  
Heaton Intermediate School Hall



Thanks to all our sponsors



Ray White Bishopdale - Inline Realty  
Karen Ellis - 021 519 275

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## 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](mailto:rebecca.snelgar@anz.com)