

# St Francis of Assisi School

St Francis of Assisi School Newsletter

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**Issue 7**  
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## Events Covered in our Newsletter

**Special Character**  
**Principal's Awards**  
**Kids Lit Quiz**  
**Library**  
**Last day of Term**  
**Sports News**  
**Policies and Procedures**  
**Fundraising**  
**Community News**

## Dear Parents and Caregivers

### Kia ora koutou

Kia ora Koutou

It was fabulous to have such great weather over the Easter break. I hope you all found some down time to spend with family and recharge the batteries - I know I did!

### **Special Character**

#### *Welcome to the Church*

*At the Easter Vigil, Shona Reilly (mum of Alex Wathne), Richard Keown (dad of Brynn and Ari) were baptised and confirmed as members of the Catholic Church. This marks a significant stage in their RCIA journey. We welcome them to the Church family and ask that you continue to keep them in your prayers.*

#### *First Reconciliation & Holy Communion*

*On Sunday, April 3rd around 50 students from our school community will be celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. This is an important part of their preparation for their upcoming First Holy Communion in late May. We pray for these students as they undertake further learning in their faith journeys.*

#### *Masses and Priest Visits begin*

*Due to the completion of Swimming and our Lenten celebrations we will begin Home Base and/or Team Masses. Students will attend the Thursday parish Mass at 9.15am. Teams will provide notification of the dates of your Home Base/Team Mass on their blog and you are most welcome to attend. Altar servers from the Year 7 & 8 team will serve alongside the priest at these masses.*

*Priest visits will also begin in home bases on a Wednesday from 10.35am. Each priest will visit the home bases throughout the team to speak with students, share teachings, answer questions and celebrate Religious Education learning. This is a core component of our parish-school partnership.*

### **Suzanne Newton DRS**

## Principal's Awards for Term 1

Noah Bennett	For always being polite and respectful to others
Philip Hayes	For his respectful and courteous manner
Chiara Domigan	For always showing kindness to all the new children starting school
Alexander Tino	For being a responsible, enthusiastic, conscientious role model in Year 5/6 learning environment
Caitlin Kent-McConigley	For living out Christian Values
Zach Harnett	For his caring and positive attitude that he shows towards his peers and Teachers
Tiana Purdon	For being a responsible, enthusiastic, conscientious role model in the Year 5/6 learning environment
Anna McKey	For her outstanding self-management skills and work ethic.
Jorja Walshe	For demonstrating the values and virtues expected from a student at St Francis of Assisi School
Zac Kelly	For demonstrating the values and virtues expected from a student at St Francis of Assisi School.
Jem Lilburne	For his caring, kind attitude towards others at school.
Neila Penrose	For demonstrating the values and virtues of St Francis

### Kids Lit Quiz

Congrats to our two Kids Lit Quiz teams who competed very well at the Regional Kids Lit Quiz held at Cobham Intermediate on Wednesday. We had great fun and it was pretty cool to compete alongside 65 other teams of students in the Sport of Reading.

Our Lit club has been active now for 5 weeks and I am thrilled with the numbers of students attending. It is held on a Tuesday at lunchtime and these students (more than 70) turn up each week with such enthusiasm - it is a pleasure to work with them. Everything that happens at Lit Club is recorded on our blog - take some time to have a look when you have a moment. Lit Club Blog link

### Library

We are working hard behind the scenes to get organised for our Library to be up and running in at least a temporary format by Term 2. To this end we intend to hold a working bee on Thursday 14th April from 9am onwards. If you can spare an hour or two please come and join us. Meet at the prefab next to the church at 9am.

### Last Day of Term

The end of term is approaching. We will finish at 3pm on Friday 15 April and reopen on Monday 2 May at 9am.

### Sport News

**Cross Country:** The date for the school cross country is Wednesday 4th May. This is for the whole school from 12-3pm at Walter Park. Students will be practicing for this during their PE time. The zone cross country for Years 5-8 will be held on May 18th. Please encourage your child to practice outside of school time for the cross country.

### Winter Sport

All our year 5-8 students will compete in the Primary Sport Canterbury Winter Sport held at Hagley Park. It is great to have this opportunity to compete against other schools and we are looking forward to this. In order for all our teams to travel we do need parent help with coaching / supervising teams. I know our students will be so grateful if we could get a few more parents involved so please let Scott Bermingham or Maree Scott know if you are able to help.

We would like to send two Year 5/6 rugby teams as we have quite a few students who want to play rugby however we are in desperate need of coaches who are willing to go with these teams. Ideally this

will be people who have already completed the Rugby Smart course this year or who would be able to complete this course in early May as this course is compulsory for all coaches of all rugby teams.

### Hockey Coaching

Yesterday was the first of four coaching sessions run by Canterbury Hockey. The students were very responsive and enjoyed the session. The remaining three will be held on Tuesday 5th, Thursday 7th and Tuesday 12th with a "Festival of Hockey" on Thursday 14th at school. We are looking to create a playing pathway for SFOA students through the Marist Hockey club. If your child is interested in playing hockey this year please feel free to contact Phillipa Grey [dpmcgre@gmail.com](mailto:dpmcgre@gmail.com) or visit [www.maristhockey.co.nz](http://www.maristhockey.co.nz)

### Basketball

We have entered two Yr5/6 teams and one Yr7/8 team into the Bishopdale YMCA Friday night competition run by Canterbury Basketball. If you can help out with coaching please make contact with Scott Bermingham or Maree Scott.

### Policies and Procedures

Each week in the newsletter I intend to highlight one of our policies so that over time you can become conversant with them. This week follows on from Informal complaints last week.

### Formal Complaints

If an informal meeting does not resolve your concern or complaint, you can make a formal complaint. In the interests of fairness, any formal complaint or serious allegation must be made in writing and resolved in a timely fashion. All parties should respect confidentiality.

Follow this process:

Responsibility	Action	
<b>Complainant</b>	1.	Put your concerns in writing, either as a signed letter or an email. Give as many details as possible, including details of efforts that have been made to resolve the issue. Include names and contact phone numbers.
	2.	Send the letter marked Confidential to the school principal or, if the complaint is about the principal, to the chairperson of the board of trustees. The contact details are available from the school office.
<b>Principal</b> (if complaint is about a staff member)	3.	Acknowledge receipt of the complaint in writing or by email to the complainant. Give a copy of the complaint to the staff member concerned.  Inform the chairperson of the board of trustees.
<b>Board chair</b> (if complaint is about the principal)	4.	Acknowledge receipt of the complaint in writing or by email to the complainant. Give a copy of the complaint to the principal.

If the interim response does not resolve matters, or the matter is deemed sufficiently serious, an investigation may take place.

When a formal complaint is received, the school may choose to investigate it if it is deemed serious enough to warrant it after considering the initial response from the person the complaint is about. Not all complaints require an investigation but all written complaints should be disclosed to the staff concerned at the earliest opportunity.

Relevant collective employment agreement provisions for dealing with complaints and discipline must be observed including allowing representation of staff at any meeting to discuss a written complaint.

## **School Fees**

Many thanks to those who have paid the children's fees so far. Please ensure that the swimming fee of \$25.00 and the Swimming sports fee of \$6.00 for years 5-8 is paid by the end of Term 1 as we have pool costs to pay. A reminder that Attendance dues are payable to the Parish.

Nga mihi nui  
Jo Earl  
Principal



## **PTA Entertainment Books**

Our PTA are selling the well loved entertainment books as one of their first fundraisers.

Contact Kim Goggin on 0210702770

[goggins@vodafone.co.nz](mailto:goggins@vodafone.co.nz)

if you have any queries - Please support this fundraiser - 20% of every membership sold contributes to our fundraising for the development of the school hall.

Help us achieve our goal by sharing this link with your Friends and Family. You can watch our progress towards our goal on this link also. Thanks for your support!

Link to Online Order Page: <https://www.entertainmentbook.co.nz/orderbooks/1341q64>

## **Community Notices**

### **Christ the King Dance**

Christ the King School would like to invite Year 7 and 8 children from your school to attend a dance at Christ the King School, on Friday 8 April from 7.30pm to 9.30pm.

Supervision will be provided by parents and staff from Christ the King School, and once inside the hall, children will not be permitted to leave. If a child wishes to leave early his or her parent will be required to come into the hall to collect them.

Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased from the office at St Francis of Assisi School. There will be no door sales.

Parents are asked to ensure suitable transport is arranged at 9.30pm to take children home.



**The PTA will be running a Subway Lunch on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April.**

Order forms will come home with each child on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April.

Complete one order form per child please 😊.

Order forms and correct cash (no cheques or IOU's) in a sealed envelope to be placed in the Subway Orders Box in the office by 10am on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April.

**Delivery Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April lunchtime.**

**SUBWAY**  
**eat fresh.™**

