

# St Francis of Assisi School

St Francis of Assisi School Newsletter

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Issue 4  
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## Events Covered in our Newsletter

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## Dear Parents and Caregivers

Kia ora koutou

### Lent - [What's the story with Lent?](#)

The season of Lent was originally a time of intense prayer and study for those who were to be baptized for the first time and were to join the Church community at the Easter Vigil. Because these new members were to be received into the Living Body of Christ, the whole community was called to preparation. Today, Lent is a time of fasting, almsgiving and prayer (the three pillars of Lent) in preparation for the Paschal Mystery (the crucifixion, death and resurrection of Christ).

(Family Faith on the Go, March 2014)

**POPE FRANCIS' FIVE FINGER PRAYER**

1.) THE THUMB IS THE CLOSEST FINGER TO YOU. SO START PRAYING FOR THOSE WHO ARE CLOSEST TO YOU. THEY ARE THE PERSONS EASIEST TO REMEMBER. TO PRAY FOR OUR DEAR ONES IS A "SWEET OBLIGATION."

2.) THE NEXT FINGER IS THE INDEX. PRAY FOR THOSE WHO TEACH YOU, INSTRUCT YOU AND HEAL YOU. THEY NEED THE SUPPORT AND WISDOM TO SHOW DIRECTION TO OTHERS. ALWAYS KEEP THEM IN YOUR PRAYERS.

3.) THE FOLLOWING FINGER IS THE TALLEST. IT REMINDS US OF OUR LEADERS, THE GOVERNORS AND THOSE WHO HAVE AUTHORITY. THEY NEED GOD'S GUIDANCE.

4.) THE FOURTH FINGER IS THE RING FINGER. EVEN THAT IT MAY SURPRISE YOU, IT IS OUR WEAKEST FINGER. IT SHOULD REMIND US TO PRAY FOR THE WEAKEST, THE SICK OR THOSE PLAGUED BY PROBLEMS. THEY NEED YOUR PRAYERS.

5.) AND FINALLY WE HAVE OUR SMALLEST FINGER, THE SMALLEST OF ALL. YOUR PINKY SHOULD REMIND YOU TO PRAY FOR YOURSELF. WHEN YOU ARE DONE PRAYING FOR THE OTHER FOUR GROUPS, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO SEE YOUR OWN NEEDS BUT IN THE PROPER PERSPECTIVE, AND ALSO YOU WILL BE ABLE TO PRAY FOR YOUR OWN NEEDS IN A BETTER WAY.

(This is a prayer making the rounds that is being attributed to Pope Francis)

**Thumb:** pray for those closest to you,  
**Pointer Finger:** pray for your teachers,  
**Middle Finger:** pray for our leaders,  
**Ring finger:** pray for the weakest ones in our world,  
**Pinky finger:** pray for your own concerns.

Close the **Five Finger Prayer** with silence, to allow God to speak to you.

## Communication

We are very keen to communicate well with you all and to this end have many different ways for you to get information:



### Our Website

We are continually updating our website with new information about our school for you. On the website you can access the school calendar which we are trying really hard to keep up to date for you. Over time we will add information about the teaching and learning that is happening in our environment. You can access all the school blogs under the Our Learning Tab. You can also access the newsletter under the Our News Tab. In the vent of an emergency – e.g. an earthquake we will post information on the front page of the website and our facebook page as soon as we are able.

**Newsletter** – At present the weekly newsletter is emailed to you. This week we have decided to send it out in hard copy in order to ensure that everyone gets this communication. Next week we will be going back to email – there will be some hard copies in the office for those who are unable to receive the newsletter via email. If this is you – please feel free to come in and get a newsletter – if you don't come in on a Friday send your child to the office to collect it for you. Newsletters are also placed on the website.

### Our Blogs

#### Learning Team Blogs

Each learning team has a blog – the main purpose of these blogs is to showcase some of the learning that is taking place however information about upcoming trips or team events will also be placed on each blog.

#### St Francis of Assisi School Blog

The school blog can also be found on Our Learning tab. From time to time we will post information about our school and the learning that is taking place for staff and students on this blog. There is a follow by email gadget on this blog so you can submit your address and then whenever a post is submitted it will be emailed to you.

#### Lit Club Blog

The Lit Club Blog is new! This blog documents the Lit Club session that takes place every Tuesday lunch time.

**Email** – From time to time you will receive emails from us through our student management system. This will be used when we need to get a notice out and it is too long to wait for a newsletter. You can contact your child's teacher via email if you need to. All emails are set up like this [firstname.lastname@stfrancis.ch.school.nz](mailto:firstname.lastname@stfrancis.ch.school.nz)

**Facebook** – you can access our facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/stfrancis.ch.school>) - From time to time we will post photos or messages or links. You can set up facebook to notify you when this happens.

*And then of course there is always...*

**Face to Face** – You are most welcome to approach your child's teacher to ask any questions you may have about your child's learning.

#### What else?

We are investigating other options for communication and we will let you know when new forms of communication will be used.

We are trying really hard to communicate well with you but from time to time we may get it wrong. If we do please feel free to send suggestions and/or any positive feedback to [admin@stfrancis.ch.school.nz](mailto:admin@stfrancis.ch.school.nz)

## What's new this week?

### Swimming

The swimming lessons have been going very well at the Graham Condon Pool Complex. Thanks to those parents who are helping out in the junior classes – it is very much appreciated. Check out the classroom blogs for photos.

### Sports Coordinator

We are thrilled to welcome Maree Scott to our staff. Maree started with us this week and will be working three days a week working alongside Scott promoting sporting opportunities in our school. Maree is passionate about children being active and providing sporting opportunities for children. I am sure you will all make her very welcome in our school community. You can contact Maree on [maree.scott@stfrancis.ch.school.nz](mailto:maree.scott@stfrancis.ch.school.nz)



### Lit Club

This week we had our very first session and it was so exciting to see so many children turn up! There were at least 60 children from the Year 5-8 area who wanted to participate and I am thrilled with the response. Each week we will post the session that was held on the Lit Club Blog so parents can catch up with what we are doing should you wish to. The Lit Club blog is a new addition to our website and can be found under the Our Learning Tab.

### Year 7/8 Lit Quiz

We have registered two teams in this regional quiz that will be held at Cobham Intermediate on 31 March. Selection for the teams will take place next week.



### Student Leaders

All of our Year 8 students have been placed in Leadership Groups for the year. The Leadership areas are Special Character, Student Council, Media, Growing Minds, Environment and PALs (Physical Activity Leaders). Each group of children will be presented with many opportunities to grow their leadership skills in our school.

Special Character	Student Council	Media	Growing Minds	Environment	PALs
Amy Oli Taylor Hunter Phillip Malaika Kimberley	Caitlin Saskia Aidan Lily A Caleb Shuji Olivia	Zachary Jasmine Grace Charles Avalon Ruben	Finn Alex Sophie A Danielle	Jem David Learna Ebony Maria	Adam Oliver Michael Louis Tom Bella Sophie M Josh

### Assemblies

Full school assemblies will occur fortnightly on a Friday starting in Week 7 at 10.40am. You are all most welcome to join us for these celebrations.

### PTA

The St Francis of Assisi Parent Teacher Association (PTA) was established this week. Thank you to those who came to the meeting and who now make up the committee.

At the meeting we went through the constitution – made a few amendments to this and elected the office bearers. At the next meeting the new constitution will be adopted after the amendments have been made.

**Chairperson:** Kim Goggin

**Vice Chairperson:** Andrea Wall

**Treasurer:** *position yet to be filled*

**Secretary:** Maire Webb

All parents are welcome to attend these meetings and join the team – Meetings will be on the first Wednesday of each month in the staffroom at 7.30pm. Next meeting is Wednesday 6 April

### **BOT - Governance Workshop Wednesday 16 March 7-8.30pm**

Interested in standing for election for the BOT? Interested in finding out more about the BOT works? We are running a workshop on the evening of 16 March at 7pm for those interested in hearing more information on this subject. The Meeting will be held in the staffroom.

### **Scooters**

It is great to see so many active children using scooters to get to school. When they get to school they need to park the scooter – they are not to be used in the playground. The playground is a very busy place – we have had several accidents and we want to remove this risk. Thanks for your support with this.

### **Car Parking**

Another reminder: Please do not park in the Church/Parish carpark when dropping off and picking up your children. It is dangerous. Please also do not park on the yellow lines on either side of the road out the front of the school. When you do this you obstruct the vision of the students on road patrol and this too is dangerous. Help us keep your children safe!

Hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Nga mihi nui  
Jo Earl

### **Community Notices**

#### **Prayer group**

We would like to invite you on Friday mornings 9am for 15 minutes of prayer with other parents from school. During this prayer we will follow what the children are doing in RE. It will also be an opportunity to meet with other parents and all faith backgrounds are welcome. Pre schoolers welcome. Beginning Friday 12th in the staff room. See you there Clare, Charlotte and Debra



Fabulous fun for the whole family. Food, Stalls, Live Music, Auction, Games, Raffles and much more.

**ST PATRICK'S SCHOOL, SUNDAY 20TH MARCH**  
**CNR IDRIS & JEFFREYS RD, 1130am-3.30pm**  
**Come One, Come all. Rain or Shine!**

THE JP2 CENTRE FOR LIFE

would like to invite you and your family to

# Family Box Kart Making and Derby Day

Saturday 19th March

from 1pm - 5pm at

St Teresa's School Hall, Riccarton

Tickets cost \$25 per family  
(1 Box cart per family)  
Please bring a drill, phillips  
screw driver and a plate for  
a shared afternoon tea.

\$1 Sausage sizzle will be  
available at race time.

To register please contact Ben  
and Juanita at  
[kearnsynz@netaccess.co.nz](mailto:kearnsynz@netaccess.co.nz) or 339 876  
Bookings close 13th March 7pm



# MARIST HOCKEY CLUB

## 2016 JUNIOR CLUB REGISTRATION / OPEN DAY

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> March 12.00-1.00 @ Marist Park

Marist Hockey Junior Club welcomes all our returning and new players for the 2016 season

Teams are available in all grades for Years 3-8 and Fun Sticks Programme for Years 1 & 2

Come along to:

- Register for 2016 season
- Meet your 2016 Marist Hockey Committee, club captain and grade coordinators
- Full information on grades available
- Subscription Fees can be paid by cash, Eftpos
- Duxton Dental are offering superb deals for custom made mouthguards – single colour \$70, multi coloured \$80, extra thickness superior protection \$95. Please text Hayley Hall 021553245 to arrange a time
- Just Hockey will be present with start-up packs, sticks, Marist socks etc
- Boys Adidas socks available for purchase
- Marist hoodies available to order/purchase and merino polyprops for sale

Sausage Sizzle

Turf will be open for any players to have a run around

For pre-season skills and trail information please go to Marist Hockey Club [www.maristhockey.co.nz](http://www.maristhockey.co.nz) and like us on Facebook

**Registrations are now open for 2016 season**, so please go to our website - Registration Login link:

- Returning Players – Log In then Registration Renewal
- New Players – click on New Registration

We look forward to seeing you and if you have any queries please contact Junior Club Captain, Philippa Grey [dpmcgre@gmail.com](mailto:dpmcgre@gmail.com)