

St Francis of Assisi School

St Francis of Assisi School Newsletter

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Issue #2
3 February 2017

Items Covered This Week:

Welcome
Meet the Teaching Teams Fish n Chip Night
Communication
EOTC Blanket Consent
Publishing Information Consent
Camp - Yr 5/6 and Yr 7/8 information
Digital technology Guidelines
1:1 Chromebook Programme
Lunch Online
Kaphaka
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- St Francis of Assisi Netball Club

Kia ora koutou e te whānau

This reflection was shared at our Beginning of the Year Mass today

What will this year bring?
We do not know;
It will bring its usual times of work and play,
Experiences of success and failure,
All the things that are part of school life.
It is a new beginning;
The planting of a seed that will grow for a year,
The seed of fruit that will blossom in times to come.
It is new hope;
Hope for good work, for successful results,
For friendships, for fun, for learning.
In this coming year, may there be learning, prayer and fun.
May there be hard work, faith and friendship.
May no one in this school be lonely;
May no one be left out in class;

May no one suffer through the others here.
As we begin this year in hope, in prayer and in friendship,
May the Lord begin it with us, be with us during it,
And successfully bring it to its conclusion.

Thanks so much to Fr Paul for celebrating Mass with us today - what a fantastic way to start the year.

We ask you all to keep Father Simon's mother Joan in your prayers as she is very unwell at present.

Welcome

This year we have welcomed some new staff to our school after farewelling staff at the end of last year.

Welcome to: Ms Jane Brittenden, Mrs Kath Roach, Ms Nicola Smith-Palmer, Mrs Tracey Bryce, Mrs Siobhan Cummings. I know you will make them feel very welcome in our community.

We also welcomed many new students and their families - Welcome to our wonderful school and Parish - I know that you will all really enjoy your time here with us.

The term has started really well - there is a real sense of purpose in all the learning spaces. We are looking forward to a really productive year.

Meet the Teaching Teams Fish n' Chip Night

On Tuesday 14 February we will be holding 2 sessions per Hub where you can meet the teaching teams. The first session will be held at 3.30pm and the second at 6pm. Families are welcome to bring a fish n' chip tea on this evening as well. Looking forward to seeing you all.

Communication

We are aiming to be paperfree this year - this is no mean feat - it means that we are changing our systems in many areas e.g changing our permission slips and using google forms to get your consent in many areas.

It also means that the onus is on us to communicate well with you all. We have many different ways to communicate with you however we realise that it can get a bit overwhelming when there are too many and you are not sure where to go for the information.

Newsletter

This newsletter is posted to the website every Friday afternoon. We then send a text alert to remind you. You can access the newsletter from the app or from the website.

School App



The school app is a fantastic way to keep on top of what's happening around the school. Information about how to download the app can be found on our website <http://www.stfrancischch.school.nz/our-school/communication/school-app/>

Take time to subscribe to the groups your children are in. We can send out notices to select groups e.g. Choir parents, Year 5/6 for camp reminders... If you are not sure how to subscribe pop into the office and we can show you this feature.

Please note: you can read the blogs off the app but you won't get an alert from the app to say a new post has been written. If we send out a post that is really important you will receive an email to let you know that there is a new post.

Facebook

Our school facebook page is a great way for us to send out reminders, links to blogs, PTA fundraising notices, and much much more. We also like to share some of our learning on facebook from time to time. If you are on facebook head over to <https://www.facebook.com/stfrancischchschoo/> and LIKE our page!

Blogs

Blogs are a fabulous tool for sharing more in depth notices and celebrations of learning. Each Hub has a blog and this is where you can find information about the learning that is taking place, notices about upcoming events. By entering your name in the "Follow By Email" space on the blogs you can get an alert in your email anytime anything new is published on the blog. **Please note: you can read the blogs off the school app but you won't get an alert from the app to say a new post has been written. If we send out a post that is really important you will receive an email to let you know that there is a new post.** The links to the Blogs can be found on our website.

Email

We also use email to communicate with you. For this reason it is important that you keep your contact details up to date at the office. Over the next couple of weeks we will send home a copy of your contact details and we ask that you check these are correct and send back any changes to us as soon as possible.

Website

Our website is a work in progress. We are updating it at present however you can still access a lot of information from the site.

Google Forms

Thanks for your patience and understanding - we have been asking you to complete a lot of forms this week.

Here is a summary of what we have asked for so far:

- All students

EOTC Blanket Permission for Low Risk Activities

<https://goo.gl/forms/jYxzsZniS6OkeCbF3>

Student Information Sharing Consent

<https://goo.gl/forms/eKR1ssn35RBTPaww1>

- All Year 5 - 8 Students

Digital Technologies Guidelines (Year 5- 8)

<https://goo.gl/forms/keuPG3jUtOolUJgE3>

- Year 5 - 8 Students (if they are bringing their own Chromebook)

Bring Your Own Chromebook (BYOC) Agreement

<https://goo.gl/forms/uwuZGTgxLZeJicOB3>

- All Year 5 - 6 Students

Camp Permission - <https://goo.gl/forms/sjoSnzQXAHDqXM6l1>

Camp Health Profile - <https://goo.gl/forms/MgeMN6CNGoJo9ypB2>

Next week we will be sending the Digital Technologies Guidelines (Year 1-4) Google Form home for those who have students in these year levels. You will only be asked to complete this form twice while your child is at our school. Once on enrolment for the first 4 years and then again in Year 5 when you child moves into the 1:1 environment in Year 5-8.

1:1 Chromebook Environment

This week we rolled out 1:1 Chromebooks in the Tumu and Kaupeka Hubs. There has been a buzz of excitement around everyone being able to be on a device and we thank you for the support you have given us to make this happen. Digital literacy has been a major focus this week and will continue to be next week, with the students focusing on the basic and responsible use of Chromebooks and Google Apps For Education (GAPE).

Lunch Online

<http://www.stfranschch.school.nz/our-school/lunch/>

On Fridays children are able to order lunch from a menu provided by Sydenham Bakery. The instructions for creating an account can be accessed on the link above. For those who already have an account please edit your details online so the lunches get sent to the correct Hubs when they are delivered.

Kapa Haka

This year we will continue to hold Kapa Haka on a Thursday morning before school at 8am. This is for students in Year 4-8. Our tutor is Matua Maaka Tau. He tutored our group to a very high standard last year and this year will be no different! We are putting a new programme together. Our first performance will be at the life and food festival held by the Parish on Sunday 12 February. We will send information about this in the near future.

Choir

Our school choir is looking for more enthusiastic singers! Children from Year 3 to 8 are welcome to come along on Wednesday lunchtimes in the library. Today we had a great turnout and all children had a fun time singing together. This year we have lots of opportunities planned for the choir to perform. Please encourage your children to come to choir next week if they are interested in joining.

Code Club

This year we will be running Code Clubs for all ages. There will be an after school Club for Tumu and Kaupeka students that will run on Tuesdays after school starting in Week 5, and two lunchtime clubs that will run across all year levels of the school. More information will be coming soon about this, so look out for it.

Welcome Wednesdays

This week we ran our first Welcome Wednesday - thanks to those who came to the session. This topic was google forms - we will be running sessions on Wednesdays in the staffroom and the topics will vary. We will advertise these in the newsletters, facebook and on our school app. Next week the topic will be Communication.

Parent Education Evening

For those of you unable to make our Wednesday sessions we will also be holding a parent education evening where we will discuss the things covered in the Wednesday mornings as well as some learning on Chromebooks and Google Apps for Education. Our first evening will be on Monday 27 February at 7pm.

Te Reo Māori

For those that have put their names down for this course we will be holding an Expression of interest evening very soon. As soon as I have confirmation of this date I will let you all know. It could be as early as an evening next week.

Scholastic Book Club

Issue 1 has been sent home. If you got a \$2 voucher with your December order, don't forget to use it as it can only be spent on this issue. Also with this issue only - orders placed through LOOP online will be in the draw to win 20 books for yourself and 50 books for our school. ***Orders will close on Wednesday 15 February.***

PTA News

Second Hand Uniform Sale to be held next Friday 10 February from 2.30 - 3.15pm. Gold coin donation.

Ngā mihi

Jo Earl

PTA News

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Parish News

First Reconciliation/First Holy Communion Programme Children who have been baptised and are in Year 4 and up are invited to prepare to make their First Reconciliation and First Communion. Please sign up on the clipboard board in the church foyer.

Community Notices

St Francis of Assisi Netball Club



If your child is interested in playing netball for the 2017 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

As we are a 'Club', we can accept players who are not students at our school, so please feel free to ask friends and family who may like to join our club also.

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 will also need to fundraise to supplement the player fees. If you or someone you know is interested in sponsoring a team or our club it would be great to hear from you.

NOTIFICATION OF AGM

Please note that the SFOA Netball Club will be holding our AGM on Monday 13th February from 7.00pm in a meeting space at St Francis of Assisi School (room to be confirmed). All past and future parents/supporters are welcome to attend this meeting.

For any questions or comments, please contact Chantelle McCrostie
chantelles@rocketmail.com