



18th June
2024

NEWSLETTER

Te Reo o te Kura o Hato Hoani
The voice of St John's School

Kia ora whānau,

I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed to making our Mini Olympics a resounding success. To our families and students, thank you for your enthusiasm and participation, which brought energy and excitement to the event. There was so much joy and excitement last Friday that even torrential rain at times could not dampen the high spirits and enjoyment.



Mini Olympics

To our dedicated staff and parent helpers, your hard work and commitment ensured everything ran smoothly. A special thanks to our generous donors and the PTFA for your invaluable support and contributions, which made this event possible. Together, we have created unforgettable memories and demonstrated the power of our community spirit.

The final count is an AMAZING amount of \$31,566. This is the largest amount the students have raised in a single fundraiser in school history. Congratulations, and thank you all!

CHECK OUT SOME PHOTOS FROM THE DAY - [LINK](#)

There were a number of prizes awarded following the Mini Olympics.

The individuals that raised the most money received their prizes at assembly last week.



- 1st prize went to Olivia K who won a \$100 Warehouse gift card donated by the Mairangi Bay Swim School.
- 2nd prize was awarded to Francis L. He received a karaoke microphone and voucher from Black Antler.
- 3rd prize went to Teddy W who won ear buds and a goodie bag from the Millennium Institute Swim School.
- 4th place winner was Harper B who received a Family Pass to the Auckland Zoo.

The classes that raised the highest amounts will receive their prizes on the last day of term, 5th July.

- The winning class, raising the highest amount, is Room 9. They win a pizza lunch sponsored by the PTFA, a movie with popcorn and 15 minutes additional playtime.
- 2nd place class is Room 11, winning a pizza lunch and 15 minutes additional playtime.
- 3rd place goes to Room 7, who win an ice block and 15 minutes additional playtime.



Throughout the Mini Olympic event, students were awarded tokens for their house. The winning house on the day was Liston. Their prize is **a non-uniform day for Liston House only** this Friday, 21st June

The PTFA also wanted to acknowledge the generosity of our parent helpers. There was a prize draw for all the helpers on the day, and the winner was Mrs Laura Mudford.

One final prize is a whole school prize. As an incentive, the students were told that if they reached a target of \$25,000, we would have an 'Opposite Day' where we will do formal learning during normal playtime and play during normal formal learning time. School Opposite Day will be on Wednesday 3rd July. Throughout the rest of the day, the students will learn through fun and games.

**TŪHONO
WHAKAPONO**

**TOGETHER
ONE FAITH
COMMUNITY**



NEW ZEALAND CATHOLIC EDUCATION CONVENTION

Today the Senior Leadership Team; Mrs Fuaaletoelau, Mrs Mountjoy, Mrs Perry and I, are heading to Wellington to attend the New Zealand Catholic Education Convention. This convention happens every three years and brings together Catholic educators and a range of others associated with our national Catholic education system.

The theme of the 2024 Convention is: Tūhono Whakapono: Together, one faith community. New Zealand Catholic schools make up 8.1% of the total schooling provision for New Zealand children, educating approximately 65,600 students. It is a high achieving sector aligned with the mission of the Church. At the Convention we will have the opportunity to be strengthened by our sense of community and renewed in our sense of mission.

SCHOOL FEAST DAY MASS AND MORNING TEA

You are warmly invited to join with us as we celebrate the Feast Day of St John the Baptist.

Mass will be on **Monday 24th June in St John's Church at 9:15am**. Following Mass, you are invited down to the school hall for morning tea; a time for fellowship and a cup of tea or coffee. We hope that you can join us.



FAREWELL MRS MARSH

We will be farewelling Mrs Jill Marsh on Thursday 27th June at a special assembly.

You are warmly invited to join us as we wish her well on her new adventures in Alexandra.

Assembly will begin at 2:00pm.



ENROLMENTS FOR 2025

Just a little reminder that enrolments are coming in for 2025 (and further). If you have not lodged an enrolment for next year, we encourage you to do so to ensure that you get a place.

Enrolment applications close on August 31st of the year prior to school starts but can be received at any time. Please contact michelen@sjmb.school.nz for any enrolment queries.

HOLY COMMUNION

Congratulations to all of the St John's School Communicants, who received the Sacrament of Eucharist on Sunday 9th June at St Francis Church. This special milestone marks a profound step in your spiritual journey, and we are incredibly proud of each one of you for your dedication and faith.



God bless,
Marina Binns - Principal/Tumuaki

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - FEAST DAY OF JOHN THE BAPTIST



We are blessed to have John the Baptist as our patron saint. His life and legacy serve as an inspiration for our community, guiding us in faith, humility, and service.

John the Baptist, the forerunner of Jesus Christ, is a pivotal figure in Christian history. Born to Zechariah and Elizabeth, he was destined for greatness even before his birth, heralded by angelic proclamations. His mission was clear: to prepare the way for the Lord.

John lived a life of simplicity in the wilderness, clothed in camel's hair and sustained by locusts and wild honey. His simple lifestyle and unwavering commitment to his calling embody the virtues of humility and sacrifice.

John's central role was to baptise those who sought repentance and to announce the coming of the Messiah. His powerful preaching and call to conversion drew multitudes to the Jordan River, where they were baptised as a sign of their renewed commitment to God. John's baptism of Jesus marked a significant moment in salvation history, affirming Jesus' divine mission and setting the stage for His public ministry.

What makes John the Baptist particularly relevant to our school community is his courage and integrity. He spoke the truth without fear, even when it led to his imprisonment and martyrdom. His steadfast faith and moral conviction remind us to stand firm in our beliefs and to live our lives with integrity.

As students, staff, and families of this school, we look to John the Baptist as a model of faith and virtue. His life encourages us to prepare our hearts for Christ, to seek repentance and renewal, and to serve others selflessly. In our daily activities and educational pursuits, we strive to embody the same spirit of dedication and humility that John exemplified.

Let us celebrate our patron saint by fostering a community rooted in faith, hope, and love. May we, like John the Baptist, be courageous heralds of truth and witnesses to the light of Christ in all that we do.

Ngā mihi,
Cara Mountjoy - *Director of Religious Studies*

ESOL MUSEUM TRIP

A report from our Senior Students...

The senior ESOL students spent an interesting day at the Auckland Museum, visiting different exhibitions. Here are some of the highlights of their trip.

In the Discovery Room we saw cobras eating other snakes and venom rising in a jar. I was scared of the dead tarantula and the scary tiger fearlessly staring down at me (Mark Juma).

In the volcano section, we went into the shaking house. At first we were bored while we waited for the eruption, but when the house shook we felt scared. Lewis got so scared he hugged me! I learnt that you can't stay indoors during an eruption. If Rangitoto erupts, you must take the nearest ticket to the South Island (Avisha Munasinghe).



In the War section we saw an enormous plane that helped us when we were at war. We also saw a dark trench that the soldiers fought in (Lydia Kim).

We were the last group to visit the Whare (meeting house). We learnt the different parts of the Whare and that every piece of art on the walls tells a different story. We learnt how to weave an X with string and at first I was nervous because I didn't know how to do it. We had to concentrate hard and it was very exciting as we learnt a new skill (Mark Juma).

We enjoyed our day with our friends.



A report from our Junior Students...

On Monday June 10th, 63 English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) students, some Teachers and some Parents went to the Auckland War Memorial Museum.

First we went to the Hotunui Meeting House and we met Gabriel, the Teacher. He told us about the parts of the Whare. These parts are named like parts of the body. The spine (tahuu) holds the whare up so it's strong just like our spine keeps us from falling down.

Then Gabriel asked if we had Values at St John's. Some of us told him our values of Faith (Whakapono), Respect (Manaakitanga), Resilience (Manawanui) and Community (Whanaungatanga). Gabriel told us the weavings (tukutuku), carvings and paintings represent values like our school values. He showed us how to weave on a panel. The children wove a cross pattern in the front with lines at the back.

We felt excited and we learnt lots of new information about the Whare. Finally we came back to school on the bus with all of us feeling a bit tired.

Written by Agnes Chung, So-Eun Kim, Maxene Guevarra and Bernadita Detomasi on behalf of all the Junior ESOL Students.



SCHOOL CALENDAR

Reminder the Friday 28th June is a Public Holiday for Matariki and the school will be closed.

Keep up to date with school events through downloading and linking the SJMB Community Calendar.
[Link to download calendar](#)

INTERSCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY

Last Thursday, a team of 46 Year 4-6 students represented St John's at the Mid Bays Interschool Cross Country. Congratulations to all the students who competed in the cross-country event. Your hard work, determination, and team spirit have made us all proud, and we celebrate your achievements and sportsmanship.

Congratulations to our Year 4 team; Jude B, Felipe J, Nico J, San K, Dominic K, Lachlan O, Daniel S, Freddie W, Amanda C, Rocio D, Caoimhe H, Maggie-Rose K, Arlo M, Janneke M, Irene R and Serena S.



Our Year 5 team; Matthew C, Bronson C, Lewis D, Aiden K, Sean J, Elijah M, Hugo S, Albert W, Oonagh B, Nixie C, Lani H, Silvia K, Rosie K, Emma M, Bo S and Brooklyn V.



and our Year 6 team; James B, Frano M, Yousif N, Fynn P, Craig S, Lucas Y, Sophie H, Zara K, Isla M, Martina M, Madeleine M, Isabella M, Teresa R, and Molly-Kate S.



I would also like to thank Mrs Dorrington, for organising and managing the team, and our generous parents, who came along and supported during the day; marshalling out on the course and also encouraging on the sidelines.

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

Written progress updates will be coming home on Friday 21st June. These will be followed up with Parent Teacher Conferences on Wednesday 26th June between 1:00pm – 7:30pm. To provide the opportunity for all parents who wish to attend a conference to do so, **school will be finishing at 12:00pm on Wednesday 26th June.** You are asked to make arrangements to pick your child(ren) up promptly at this time. School buses will not be available.

Conferences will be 10 minutes in duration. If, after 10 minutes, you feel further time is required with the teacher than please arrange another appointment.

Bookings are now open for the upcoming Parent Teacher Conferences. Bookings will close on Tuesday 25th June at 3:15pm. Any changes to bookings after this time must be made by contacting the office.

TO BOOK A CONFERENCE TIME

- Use the QR code, use the [LINK](#), or visit the website www.schoolinterviews.co.nz and enter the code **nsx3y** (it is case sensitive)
- An email confirming the time of your conference(s) will be sent directly to the email address entered at the time of booking.
- If you do not have internet access, please contact the school office by phone: 09 478 7734 or via email on office@sjmb.school.nz and they can make a booking on your behalf.



The SLT would like to invite you to pop into the staffroom before, between, or after your interviews if you would like to stop for a cup of tea or coffee.

MATARIKI CELEBRATIONS

This year we are looking forward to hosting an early morning community event on the last day of school. We are hoping that it will be an informal opportunity to see the Matariki star cluster, remember our departed friends, give thanks for our garden and food, set our intentions for the coming year and enjoy waiata and kai together.

Between 7:00am and 8:30am we invite you to join us for some exciting experiences including;

- Star gazing on the Top Court (telescopes, sparklers and a fire BBQ for toasting marshmallows). If you have a telescope that you would be happy to share, please email Helen Perry helenp@sjmb.school.nz
- Silent memorial in the Church to light a candle for those who we hold dear who are no longer with us.
- View our harvest display and some Matariki Art in the Hall. We also invite you to take some seeds/seedlings to plant at your home.
- Share in kai (food) and time together in the Hall. There will be hot soup, tea and coffee in the hall. Please bring a travel mug for your soup.
- Participate in the planting of harakeke in the school grounds.
- Share some Matariki stories and stick and string games in the Library.

To end this special time together, we will gather in the Hall for waiata led by the children.

WINTER WARM UP - SOCIAL OUTREACH



On the last day of this term, our Matariki Celebration Day, will also be an opportunity for social outreach. Students are encouraged to wear their pyjamas to school in exchange for a gold coin donation or new / used winter warm up items to donate to those in need. Funds raised and items collected will be distributed through the charitable organisation, Give a Kid a Blanket.

We welcome donations of excellent quality pre-loved and new items; blankets, duvet inners and covers, sleeping bags, infant sleep sacks, NEW pillows, NEW hot water bottles, warm infant, child, teen and adult clothing, pyjamas, robes, socks, beanies, jumpers, track pants, hoodies.

We also love receiving donations of hand-crafted items such as crocheted blankets, and knitted infant and children's jumpers and cardigans, and beanies in all sizes.

Items for donation can be brought in anytime during the LAST week of Term 2, 1st - 5th July.
There will be collection boxes in the school office.

Matariki information report - Vlad

Matariki symbolises the Maori new year and now is a public holiday. Matariki is a cluster of stars that can be seen in the Aotearoa night sky during winter.

Matariki and it's sisters:

There are nine stars in Matariki. Their names are Ururangi, Matariki, Tupu-a-rangi, Waipuna-a-rangi, Tupu-a-nuku, Hiwa-i-te-rangi, Waiti, Waita and Pohutukawa. You can see them from late May early June at pre dawn (5.30-6.30).

Creation stories:

One of the creation stories is that Tawhitmatea had got angry at his brother Tane Mahuta and he got so angry at him that he ripped his eyes out and crushed his eyes then he threw his eyes into the sky. That is one of the creation stories. Another story on how Matariki was created was that Tane the god of light rescued seven fish and that they went up into the air and then became Matariki.

How people celebrate Matariki:

People celebrate Matariki by having Matariki soup and also having hangis. Another way to celebrate Matariki is by singing songs and going to festivals.

Matariki is an important celebration to Maori, so we need to celebrate it more enthusiastically.

Matariki information report - Created by: Mason T

Matariki is a special occasion for Maori people. Matariki is a family of 9 stars. There are more than 500 stars in the Matariki cluster but only nine are visible. Matariki is special because we have feasts and plant vegetables and host events.

The names of the Stars are: Matariki, Waita, Tupu a nuku, Waiti and Pohutukawa, Tupu a rangi, Waipuna a rangi, Hiwa ia rangi and Urangi. Pohutukawa represents the afterlife. A tradition is that people yell out the names of people who have died when Matariki rises.

Matariki is the Maori new year. If the Matariki stars are shining brightly, then it is good luck for farmers meaning that the plants and crops will sprout soon. If there are no stars there then it is bad luck meaning they won't grow/sprout. Matariki is very important for farmers.

Matariki is celebrated on the 28th of June this year and it is also happening on a Friday. Matariki is believed to be the wind gods (Tawhitmatea) eyes that he ripped out of its sockets and threw into space.

Matariki is cool to see if you are awake early in the morning you will see the beautiful 9 stars in the sky. The biggest one is Matariki of course.

Matariki is awesome to see and shocking, Matariki is a very special occasion.

Matariki information report - Cody

Matariki is the Maori new year and the beautiful Matariki stars shine brightly in the night sky in Late May and early June.

There are nine stars the names of the Matariki stars are waiti, waita, Wiporingi, Tupu-a-nuku, Tupu-a-rangi, Pohutukawa, Hiwa-i-te-rangi, Ururangi and Matariki.

If the Matariki stars shine bright the Maori people will have a good season and lots of crops. However, if they do not shine bright it will be a bad season.

The Maori celebrate Matariki by dancing and seeing family. They also eat kai together, think about the people that have passed and prepare for the next year.

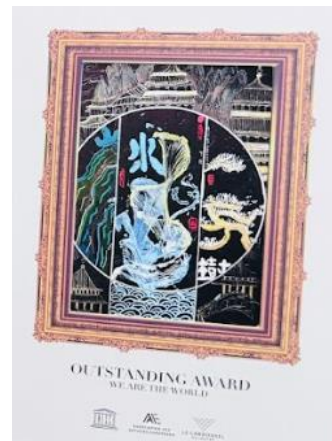
Matariki is one of the closest clusters to Earth. It is also the shoulder of Taurus, the bull. Many people think that there are only 7 stars but there are actually 9 stars.

Matariki is a celebration of the Maori new year where they get together for some kai, they also go out early to see the stars and enjoy a mid winter feast with whanau.

CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to Annabelle who entered the "We are the World" International Children's art exhibition. Her work is invited to exhibit in the Carrousel of Louvre in Paris, France.



FROM THE PARISH

PARISH AGM

AGM & Parish Celebration of the Feast of St John the Baptist on Sunday, 23 June, 11.30am.

ALTAR SERVER TRAINING

They Parish will be running a training programme for those who wish to become Altar Servers. 3:00pm on 30th June, 7th July, 14th July and 21st July. For more information, please contact the parish office (office@ecbcatholic.org.nz).

CATHOLIC SCHOOL PREFERENCE FORMS

Fr Carlo will be available to sign the forms on Wednesdays, 10am - 12 noon & 1 - 3pm for a 15-minute slot. Please make an appointment through: office@ecbcatholic.org.nz

MONTHLY CHILDREN'S MASS

3rd Sunday: 9.00 am Mass St. John's Church. Contact Lindy lindy@willplan.co.nz

NEWSLETTER

For more information from the Parish, please see [their regular newsletter](#).



JULY HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

KIWI KICK STARS



KEEP ON KICKING THESE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS WITH KIWI KICK STARS!!!

Our awesome programme get kids exercising through super fun activities based around football and storytelling. Kids build confidence while improving their motor skills and coordination, learning how to play with others, focus and problem solve. Our friendly, experienced coaches have a hands-on, relatable approach and a passion for fun!

In case of a rainy day, we will have an indoor facility available
Sunny or rainy the FUN doesnt stop!!
Everyone's a winner at Kiwi Kick Stars!

When:
Week 1: Tuesday 9th, Wednesday 10th, Thursday 11th July
Week 2: Tuesday 16th, Wednesday 17th, Thursday 18th July

Where: Hobsonville school fields
(104A Hobsonville Road)

Time: 9 am to 3 pm

Cost: Individual day = \$55
Full week (3 days) = \$150
Second child discount = 10%

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER GO TO
WWW.KIWIKICKSTARS.COM




CREATURE COVE CRAFTS WORKSHOP







12:30-4:30 PM
10TH & 17TH JULY
RANGITOTO COLLEGE
RECOMMENDED FOR YR3-6 STUDENTS

\$5 PER PERSON
PLEASE BOOK A SPOT AT:
RANGI.ARTCLUB@GMAIL.COM

Explore the extraordinary world under the sea with crafting ocean snowglobes, jellyfishes, and many more!

A Student-Run Event By Rangitoto College Art Club