



ST JOHN'S SCHOOL

— Te Kura o Hato Hoani —

MAIRANGI BAY, AUCKLAND

St John's Parents, Teachers and Friends Association

"Nāku te rourou nāu te rourou ka ora ai te iwi."

With your basket and my basket, together we will thrive.

COVERED OUTDOOR LEARNING AREA (COLA) - Update May 2024

Kia ora e te whanau! Hello 안녕하세요 | **Hola!** مرحبا **Dia dhuit** 你好 **Mabuhay** Dzień dobry

Hopefully you will soon see the new COLA fundraising thermometer installed near the turning circle. A big thank you to Cube for supporting us with this.

The PTFA (Parents, Teachers and Friends Association) works to advance education by supporting the school through fundraising to improve and provide opportunities and facilities.

Our children currently benefit from PTFA projects completed in the past. One of the first major PTFA projects was the school pool in 1973 followed by support for the library upgrade, additional classrooms, resource rooms and more recently the playground Orex Spinner, the tiger turf and gully playground.

PTFA Goals set November 2023

Following the completion of the Orex Spinner project, the PTFA resolved the following goals:

1. Short term (annual contribution):
 - a. Subsidise educational programs including Athletics and Maths Buddy.
 - b. Contribute to the Principal's discretionary fund
 - c. Contribute to the cost of the Year 5 and 6 school camps
 - d. To provide a discretionary one off amount of up to \$300 per class for resources that the class teachers felt would benefit their classrooms outside of current resources.
2. Medium term
 - a. Fund new senior Kapa Haka uniforms when the Kapa Haka group is re-established (this may not be in 2024)
3. Long term
 - a. Contribute towards the cost of a Covered Outdoor Learning Area (COLA)

What is the Covered Outdoor Learning Area (COLA)?

The COLA is a large open roof structure. The area selected for the COLA is the top netball courts. On this site, it would be designed to cover approximately 33.5 x 19 meters.

The covered outdoor learning area would extend learning spaces for the school, provide an all-weather area for lunchtime and outdoor assemblies, and enable great use of the area by sports teams. Sports practices need not be cancelled because of the rain. It would also provide an area that could be accessed by local community groups for sports training and other outdoor activities.

Why was this selected as the long-term goal?

New Zealand has one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world. Melanoma cases are increasing and it is anticipated that in the next 18 years we will see a 50% increase in case numbers. Our top courts, where a lot of sports activities are undertaken, has no sunshade which puts our tamariki at

increased risk of developing this deadly disease. A covered area on the top courts would also provide the children with a sizeable, protected outdoor space to play during the summer months, whilst also giving them access to the outdoors during those winter months when the rain comes, relegating them in the past to the confines of the classroom.

COVID has taught us many things, least of all the importance of children learning in well-ventilated environments. What better place to work and learn than in the outdoors protected from the elements. The winter months always see an increase in sickness due to the children spending more time together inside the confines of a classroom. A COLA would enable classes to be held outside, even when the rain is falling, and ensure that the children get their daily dose of fresh air.

COLA structures have been installed at a large number of primary schools throughout Auckland. As a state-integrated school however, St Johns does not have access to Ministry of Education funding for a COLA in the same way as other local state schools may, so the installation of a COLA must be funded by the school and its community.

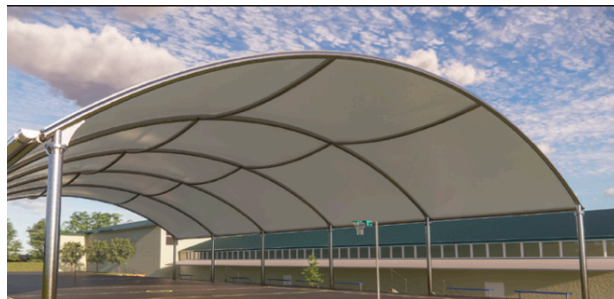


Image 1: An image of what our proposed COLA might look like

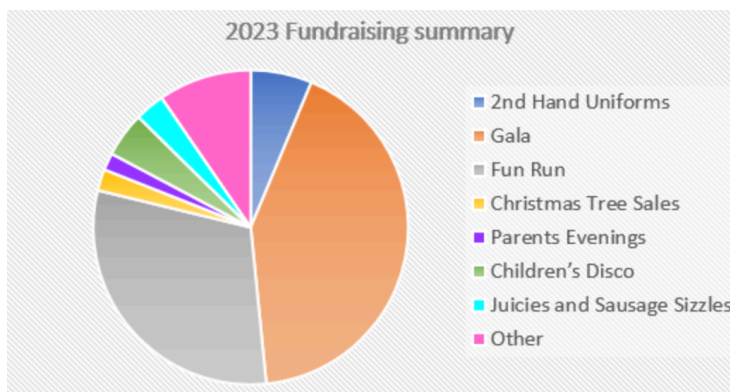
What will it cost?

Quotes provided to date put the range for the COLA (on the top courts) at \$350,000 - \$450,000. The School Board has committed to fund half of the cost, with the remaining half needing to be raised by the PTFA. Hence our PTFA goal of \$200,000.

Where are we at?

Whilst the lofty COLA goal has been set, the PTFA also continues to support the other commitments made. In 2023 a total of \$38,044 was raised, of this, \$17,635 was committed to short term goals. Adding the remainder to existing funds the PTFA holds, close to \$50,000 is available for the COLA.

How did we raise this?



What do we have planned for 2024?

The aim of the PTFA is to run activities across three primary focus categories throughout the year:
1) Children's events (i.e. disco),
2) School community events (ie bingo and quiz nights)

3) Specific fundraising activities (i.e. mini-Olympics and school gala).

Event categories (1 and 2) are kept affordable and accessible to remove the barriers for attendance and to bring the school community together. Whilst not the primary focus we do anticipate that we would generate some (fundraising) income from these events.

In 2024 the PTFA have resolved to plan and run a number of events and activities including, but not exclusive to:

- Mini Olympics
- Calendar raffle
- Children's movie night and disco
- Gala – of course!
- Quiz and Bingo nights

With this our target fundraising for 2024 is \$50,000. We have committed funds of around \$15,000 on short term/ annual commitments. By the end of the year we aim to have a COLA fund of \$85,000.

Our hope is that closer to commencement of the project we may be able to access some grant support for the COLA, but in the absence of this, the projected fundraising is expected to take till 2026/2027 to reach our goal. We like to aim high, so optimistically we are going to strive for 2025/2026.

How to get involved

We are setting up a sub-committee for the COLA. If a covered learning area for your child/ren is something that you feel passionately about, please put yourself forward for this committee by contacting us: ptfa@sjmb.school.nz.

Throughout the year the PTFA also needs support when running our various fundraising events. Calls for help and support will come via your Class Liaison Parents (CLPs).

Additionally, we are also looking for prize donations and services that may support any of our events. If you know of any businesses that would like to support any of the events, please let us know at ptfa@sjmb.school.nz.

This is a big goal. We cannot do this on our own. We need the entire school community to get behind this venture. With your help and support we CAN do this!

On behalf of the PTFA, I thank you for your ongoing support.

Ngā mihi nui



Amanda Dixon-McIver
Chair, St John's PTFA