



3<sup>rd</sup> September  
2024

Kia ora whānau,

There have been so many highlights at school over the last two weeks, and the newsletter is full of recounts. I hope you take the time to make a cup of tea or coffee and enjoy reading about some of the happenings of our tamariki, kura and community.



### NEAREST AND DEAREST DAY

I want to extend my deepest thanks to everyone who made our Nearest and Dearest Day such a special occasion. It was truly heartwarming to see so many of our students' loved ones join us for this celebration, filling our school with joy, laughter, and a sense of togetherness.

Your presence and participation made the day memorable for our students, and it was a beautiful reminder of the strong, supportive community we are blessed to have. The love and care you all bring into our school is invaluable, and it was on full display during this special event. Thank you for your continued support and for being such an integral part of our school whānau.

*We hope you all enjoyed Nearest and Dearest. The children showed you around the school and played exciting games. Some students brought money, which was used to buy books from the book fair. I'm sure everyone enjoyed Nearest and Dearest. By Sam C*

### SCHOOL LEADERS

It was lovely to gather as a whole school for assembly at the end of Week 5, led by our student leaders. We prayed, listened, shared and sang together. A special part is always when we get to welcome students new to our school, just starting their learning journey with us.

I would like to acknowledge and thank our House Leaders and Young MacKillops for their regular service to our school.

I captured a moment in time, with them meeting with Mrs Perry to prepare their parts of the assembly.



### STUDENT LED CONFERENCES



This is a friendly reminder to book your time slot for our upcoming Student-Led Conferences on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September. These conferences are a wonderful opportunity for your child to take an active role in their learning by showcasing their progress and reflecting on their achievements.

The purpose of these conferences is to empower students to take ownership of their education and to strengthen the partnership between school and home. Your presence and support are invaluable in this process.

Bookings can be made online using this [LINK](#). Using the case sensitive code **pqfmw**. We look forward to seeing you there!

## WARM WELCOME

It is with great pleasure that we welcome Becky Buckley, one of our own school parents, as a student teacher this term. She will be joining our teaching team in Room 13 as she continues her exciting journey toward becoming a qualified teacher.

As a familiar face in our school community, Becky already brings a deep understanding of our values and a strong commitment to our students' well-being and education. We are blessed to have her with us in this new capacity, and we look forward to her ongoing contribution to our school.

## PASSING OF BISHOP BROWNE



It is with sadness that we share the news of the passing of Bishop Denis Browne, 5th Bishop of Rarotonga, our 10th Bishop of Auckland and Emeritus Bishop of Hamilton. Bishop Denis passed away at the Little Sisters of the Poor in Auckland late Monday evening, the 1st of September, after a long illness.

Bishop Denis was a loved priest and bishop, serving the faith community for over 60 years. May he now rest in the peace of the Lord he served so faithfully and well.

Please remember him and his whānau in your prayers.  
Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him.

God bless,  
Marina Binns - Principal/Tumuaki

## SOCIAL OUTREACH



Our school community has once again demonstrated the true spirit of generosity and compassion through your incredible support for Daffodil Day. The funds raised will make a significant difference in the lives of those affected by cancer, providing much-needed care and hope.

Your contributions are a testament to the values we hold dear as a Catholic community—love, kindness, and a commitment to serving others. Thank you for embodying these values and for making a positive impact on our wider community. Through your generous efforts we raised more than \$617.

## CANS FOR CHRISTMAS - COLLECTION THIS FRIDAY



Cans 4 Christmas was established in 2015 as a community-building project across the Catholic Schools in Auckland. It has now grown nationwide with schools in Wanaka, Alexandra, and Wellington joining in.

Over the past 3 years they have collected approximately 31,000 cans of Food for the St Vincent de Paul Society and The Mercy Hospice Centre. This has helped over 2000 families over the Christmas period.

Our collection period is starting now and goods can be donated up until our collection day, 6th September.

You may send cans to school anytime and there will be a collection box in your child's classroom.



## INTERSCHOOL HOCKEY CLUSTER DAY



On the 21st of August the top hockey team, the St John's Blue Sticks, competed in the interschool hockey cluster day.

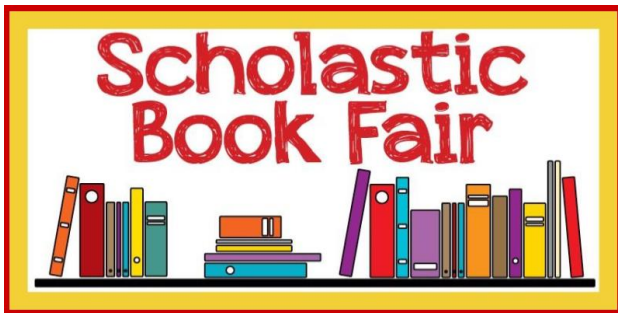
The St John's Blue Sticks competed in many different matches, some easy, and some really hard. Fast paced games, are intense.

One of the Blue Sticks players said the team is full of teamwork and different skill sets. Overall, all of the players had a great time representing St John's with pride.

By Brodie P

## SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

**Thank You! Thank you! Thank you!**



Thanks to the wonderful response and generosity of our St John's Community to our book fair, we have sold over \$5,000 worth of books. This is an absolutely amazing response!

What does this mean for our school? It means that Scholastic will give the school \$1,750 to spend at their store.

Lookout for all the new books coming to our library!

Ngā mihi  
Chantelle Dunn - Library Manager

## SCHOOL CALENDAR

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

## ST JOHN'S SCHOOL SHOW

### **Ahoy Matey! Te Ara o te Wai - The Way of the Water**

Join us as our Year 5 & 6 students set sail on an unforgettable adventure! 'Ahoy Matey! Te Ara O Te Wai - The Way of the Water' will take you on a thrilling journey across the high seas, dive deep into the mysteries of the ocean, and uncover answers hidden beneath the waves. Don't miss this spectacular show full of drama, excitement, and discovery.

Come aboard for a night of oceanic wonders!

Tickets on sale via Kindo soon!

Three evening performances; 24th, 25th and 26th September 2024 in the school hall.



# "AHOY MATEY!"



Te Ara o te Wai -  
The Way Of The Water

Tuesday 24th Sept  
Wednesday 25th Sept  
Thursday 26th Sept





## YEAR 5 and 6 KAPA HAKA

I am thrilled to share how wonderfully our kapa haka group performed at the North Shore catholic Schools Kapa Haka Showcase this past week. Their dedication, passion, and pride in our culture shone brightly on stage, and they truly captivated the audience with their powerful performance (and newly debuted uniforms).

This achievement would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of our teachers who prepared and guided our students every step of the way. We thank them for their commitment and expertise which helped our kapa haka group reach new heights.



We are so proud of our kapa haka group and grateful to everyone who contributed to their success.

We managed to capture a video of their performance and invite you to enjoy it too.





## WONDERFUL WĒTĀ

One of our basketball teams, our Year 3 students in Room 7 and our Year 1 students in Room 11 had an exciting and unexpected visitor this week — a curious wētā! The children were absolutely captivated by this incredible native insect (who they named Gary), and it provided a wonderful, hands-on learning experience about our local wildlife and the importance of respecting all creatures, big and small.



The wētā's visit sparked lively discussions and curiosity among the students, who were eager to learn more about its habitat, behaviour, and role in our ecosystem. It was a fantastic opportunity to connect with God's creation in a tangible way, reminding us all of the beauty and diversity of the world around us. We're grateful for these spontaneous moments of learning and discovery that enrich our students' education and bring our classroom to life.

**Gary**  
the wētā

**I saw a wētā at my house.**  
conor

**The wētā has long legs.**  
molly

**The wētā is jumping. I was holding the wētā.**  
anton

**It felt sticky. It has a brown body and six legs. It can jump.**  
nathan

**I was holding Gary the wētā.**  
santiago

**Today I saw my first wētā. I felt a little bit scared. It looked like a huge ant. The wētā can jump far. The wētā also had long feelers.**  
hugo

Thank you Mr Ritson for bringing Gary for a visit to Tī Kōuka and sharing your knowledge on our beautiful NZ wētā.



## GARY THE WETA By Room 7



Today Mr Ritson found a wētā in the morning and let us see it. We went to Room 11. We all got to hold it. Mrs Little did not like it, neither did Mrs Shearer, but Mrs McGregor loved it. I had a try and it felt so slimy and pinchy I thought I would be scared of the wētā but I wasn't. I was stressed because I don't like bugs. It crawled up on Mrs McGregor's shoulder, but she didn't care. The wētā was climbing around everywhere it was very big. I kinda liked the wētā.

By Sadie

Today in Room 11 there was a wētā named Gary. He felt sticky and pinchy like a little grabber and his back claws were huge! They are spicy red like dragon's fire. Did you know that they are nocturnal? Mr Ritson found him at the corner of Room 4.

By Josh

Today, after morning tea we went to Room 11. Mr Ritson was there too. Mrs Shearer said that Mr Ritson is going to show us something cool and someone guessed "A wētā?" and Mrs Shearer said "yes" and Mr Ritson actually opened a lid from a little plastic cup and got a wētā out with a stick. Some kids touched it and I touched it too! It felt kind of tickly and a little prickly.

By Yesol

On a normal day, Mrs Shearer took us to Room 11 and Mr Ritson came with a wētā. It was named Gary. We could let it walk our hands. I didn't want to let it walk on my hands because its face looked creepy. He found the wētā outside Room 4's corner and there were small worms in the small plastic container. And was a small or giant wētā. Even some little people let it walk on their hands. And a few seconds later we went back to class.

By Cooper





## KAITIAKI GUARDIANS TRIP TO MURRAY'S BAY INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL



On Tuesday the 20th of August the Kaitiaki Guardians went to Murrays Bay intermediate to see what they've done with their composting. The first attraction was the composting bins. There was one composting bin for each classroom plus the library. We also went to the nature gully. They have planted a lot of native trees. While we were in the nature gully they showed us native plants they planted and which pest plants they had removed. They also showed us their rat traps, called the Ratminator and Ratatouille catcher.

By Luca.M, Finn.G & Bo.S





## YEAR 6 TRIP TO TE KAMAKA MARAE

On the 21st of August, Year 6 went to the Te Kamaka Marae in Northcote from 9am to 12pm. When entering the Marae, there was a pōwhiri in the morning. Year 6 learnt the new St John's Haka by Matua Maurice, Carmel College Māori teacher and learnt the history and culture of the Marae and heard some stories from Matua Mate from when he went to school at Hato Petera.

By Evelyn L



## RICHARD SCHOLES: MAGICAL WORLD OF CRAZY SCIENCE

On Monday the 2nd of September Years 4-6 embarked on an incredible journey learning interesting facts about science experiments and chemicals.

The show was humorous and engaging. Richard Scholes opened the show with a bit of magic connecting metal rings and undoing them. The students went wild over a classic science experiment using a catalyst that exploded with foam going everywhere. He showed us about chemical reactions and the names for them. We learnt that polymer was now a very common substance that plastic and rubber is made out of.



He then told us about nappies and how they work which was a laugh. One of the coolest things was when he sent smoke rings through the loud excited crowd. The last thing he showed us was making bubbles and ended with a huge bubble that left the crowd on a high.

Everybody had a blast and I am sure that they will try some of his experiments at home.

By Isaac R



On Monday, some students of St John's school experienced an amazing science show full of learning, experiments and chemistry all done by Richard Scholes.

The students saw many magical things and learnt about what you need to make fire and about how chemicals react if they are put together. The hour-long session was full of fun and entertainment. For the finale of the show giant bubbles were created and before that, there was elephant toothpaste, smoke rings and many other exciting phenomena. The students absolutely loved the show and they learnt so much.

By Teresa R



On Monday, Richard Scholes came to St John's School to perform crazy science, like elephant toothpaste and bubbles that you can touch, to a hall of year 4-6 students!

At the start he said that he would do magic based on science and science based on magic. He did not disappoint. The first thing he did was the classic magic trick of making hoops magically join together, as well as making little balls come out of nowhere!

The next thing he did was make elephant's toothpaste. We learned that the main ingredient was harmful to drink and can cause death, but with some other ingredients we can use a chemical reaction to create elephant's toothpaste. This usually takes 2 days but with the magic ingredient, a catalyst, we can change 2 days into 15 seconds!

Finally, he created some bubbles... that can be touched! Yes, bubbles that you can physically hold! All in all, it was an amazing experience.

*"It was definitely worth the hour show" - Fynn.*

By Toby A.





### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE YEAR 4 SHORT STICKS HOCKEY TEAM

🏆 St John's Short Sticks: Champions of the Albany Primary School Competition, Winter 2024! 🏆

We are thrilled to announce that our team, St John's Y4 Girls Short Sticks, has emerged as the champions of the Albany Primary School Competition, Winter 2024 in the Year 3-4 category!

Our girls showed exceptional skill, determination, and teamwork throughout the competition, securing the top spot on the ladder with an impressive 40 points. With 10 wins and just 1 loss, the Short Sticks have proven to be a formidable force on the field.

Our success is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our players, coaches, and supporters. Every game was a showcase of our team's commitment to excellence, and we are incredibly proud of what we've achieved together. Thank you to everyone who supported us along the way. Your encouragement and enthusiasm have been invaluable, and we couldn't have done it without you!

Let's continue to build on this success and aim even higher in future competitions. Go, St John's Short Sticks! 🎉

COACH: Bryan Hehir

MANAGER: Renoh Chalakkal

PLAYERS: Alba M, Allegra C, Amelia B, Caoimhe H, Charlie A, Irene R, Pippa A, and Rocio D.

### TEAM PHOTOS



Reminder that tomorrow, Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September, the photographers will be taking Sport team photos. This includes all St John's School Netball, Basketball, Flippaball and Hockey teams and the school representative teams for Cross Country, Rippa, Swimming, and Tennis.

All teams will be photographed in the uniform that they competed or play in except for Flippaball, who will be in full PE gear. We ask that children wear their trainers and short white sports socks (Hockey, please wear your navy hockey socks).

If teams were winners or runners up in their grades for our various sports during the winter season, can they please bring along any medals, certificates or trophies that they were awarded.

Coaches and managers are welcome to be included in the team photo, however we are unable to give you a specific time. If you are wanting to be included in the photo or have any questions, please email Karen Dorrington [karend@simb.school.nz](mailto:karend@simb.school.nz) ASAP.

Mrs Dorrington - Sports Co-ordinator





# NORTH HARBOUR SOFTBALL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



St John's School

THURSDAYS AT LUNCH TIME

ON SCHOOL FIELD

6 WEEK PROGRAM STARTING THURSDAY 24TH OCTOBER 2024

COST \$95 PER PERSON

REGISTER HERE:

[HTTPS://WWW.SPORTY.CO.NZ/VIEWFORM/305066](https://www.sporty.co.nz/viewform/305066)

## NORTH HARBOUR SOFTBALL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

North Harbour Softball will, once again, be offering their lunchtime Development Programme at our school. This opportunity is open to students who are keen to develop their softball skills, learn from experienced coaches, and enjoy being part of a fun and supportive team environment.

The programme is designed to cater to all skill levels, whether your child is new to the game or looking to enhance their existing talents. It's a great way for students to stay active, build confidence, and make new friends.

For more information or enrolment please visit the Harbour Softball [website](#).

### FROM THE PTFA



The disco was held on the 23rd of August and was a huge success. Everybody got an LED light, and my friends and I danced so hard to win the DJ's attention. It was amazing!

By Meesol T

## REMINDER!

### ST JOHN'S SECOND HAND UNIFORM SALE

DATE: WEDNESDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER

TIME: 2:00PM

LOCATION: SCHOOL HALL



St John's PTFA Presents

**ADULTS only!** **QUIZ NIGHT** **???**

Bring coins for paper planes/wine bottle roll

Dancing and Music after the Quiz!

**FRIDAY | 6 SEPTEMBER, 2024**

St John's Hall  
Doors Open At 7:00pm  
Quiz starts at 7:30pm

Tickets cost \$10 per person- Available on KINDO  
Bring BYO drinks and nibbles to share  
Teams of 6-8. Come as a team or on your own.

Prizes include: Winners will win \$200 voucher at **Pocha Albany**

Other Sponsors: **Whittabets**, **Parakai Springs**, **farro**, **AS colour**, **FAS**, **HALLERTAU**



## BREAK A LEG

The phrase "break a leg" is a popular expression used in the performing arts to wish actors good luck before a performance. Despite its seemingly negative wording, the phrase actually conveys a positive sentiment.

The origins of "break a leg" are somewhat unclear, but several theories exist. One suggests that the phrase originated in the theatre, where it's believed that wishing someone good luck could actually bring bad luck, so people began to wish the opposite in the hopes of bringing good fortune. Another theory points to the practice of "breaking" the line of the leg while taking a bow or curtsy, indicating that the actor has performed so well that they deserve multiple curtain calls. Some also trace the phrase back to the vaudeville era, where performers hoped to be so successful that they would have to "break a leg" of their chair or prop due to overuse.

Regardless of its exact origins, "break a leg" has become a widely used and cherished part of theatre tradition.



Ashton, one of our Year 6 students has been working extremely hard preparing for the stage production of Matilda - the Musical being performed at the Bruce Mason Centre in the October school holidays between Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September and Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October. Ashton will be performing in various shows throughout the season as Nigel.

- Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> Sept 7.30pm
- Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> Sept 2.00pm
- Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> Sept 4.00pm
- Weds 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct 7.30pm
- Friday 4<sup>th</sup> Oct 7.30pm
- Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> Oct 7.30pm
- Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> Oct 7.30pm
- Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> Oct 7.30pm
- Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> Oct 2.00pm
- Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> Oct 2.00pm

Ashton, we know you'll do great - break a leg!

Also in this stage show is Maggie, a Year 6 student from last year.

Tickets are on sale at [Ticketmaster](#)

## FROM THE PARISH

### 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](mailto:office@ecbcatholic.org.nz)

### MONTHLY CHILDREN'S MASS

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

### NEWSLETTER

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



love tennis  
www.lovetennis.kiwi



FIND A CLUB NEAR YOU

FREE  
EVENT

EVERYONE  
IS WELCOME!

8 SEPTEMBER 2024  
10-2PM

AT MAIRANGI BAY TENNIS CLUB

All equipment provided. Prizes, giveaways, BBQ & more.

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY



AOTRAVEL  
& EXPERIENCES

ASB CLASSIC

Mental Health Foundation  
mairangi\_fm, mairangi\_arn  
www.mentalhealth.org.nz

# MAIRANGI ARTS CENTRE JULY HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

CREATIVE ART PROGRAMMES FOR AGES 5-17!

GET \$10 OFF  
USING OUR CODE!  
**MAC4ART**



Scan to Book!



Book now at:

[Bookwhen.com/mairangiarts](https://www.bookwhen.com/mairangiarts)



Dates

30 Sept - 11 Oct

mac  
MAIRANGI  
ARTS CENTRE  
ART FOR THE COMMUNITY

[mairangiarts.co.nz](https://www.mairangiarts.co.nz) | [info@mairangiarts.co.nz](mailto:info@mairangiarts.co.nz) | 20 Hastings Road, Mairangi Bay