



Te Kura o Heparā Pai

*Care Manaakitanga
Respect Whakautē
Honesty Pono*

Newsletter 03
27 February / Huitānguru 2025

From the Principal

Term 1 Week 4

Kia ora e te whānau,

Our Parish/School Mass took place on Saturday 15 February. It was heartening to see so many of our families and whānau at this celebration - it was an affirmation of our status as a parish school. It was exciting to have Fr Martin organise treats and a Bouncy Castle to make this event even more memorable. It was a great opportunity for the children to attend their first Mass with Fr Martin.

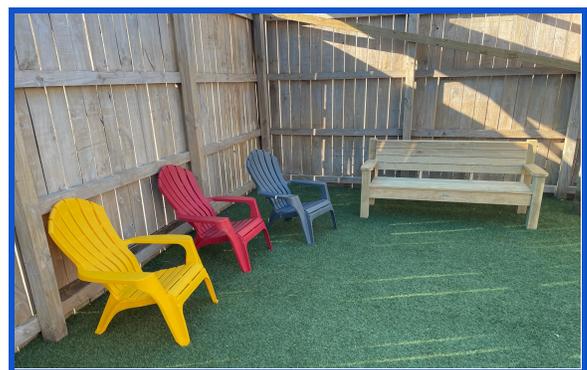
Teaching staff attended the annual Dedication Mass at Christ the King Church, Owairaka on Tuesday 11 February. On this occasion all Catholic primary and secondary and early childhood centres in the Diocese gathered with Monsignor Bernard Kiely celebrating and dedicating their work for the new year.

Last Thursday 20 February Year 4-6 swimmers gathered to compete in our annual swimming sports competition at Jellicoe pools in Onehunga. It was an excellent day and the weather certainly played its part! Our sincere thanks to Heather McLeod for her

excellent organisation and all the staff and parents who supported on the day.

No doubt you are very aware of the introduction of the new English and Mathematics curriculums. It is reassuring to know our classroom teachers have been guided over recent years by expert facilitators so there are no big surprises for our community. However parents often ask what is something they can do at home to support their child’s learning at school? My advice is **Reading**. Reading each day, reading for enjoyment, the child reading out loud to a parent / caregiver or a parent reading a fun or interesting book to their child. Regular reading increases your child's vocabulary and enables them to understand different aspects of school life better also.

Below are a few snaps of improvements to the school grounds over the last year. Thank you to our wonderful PTA, Board of Trustees and families for making these great additions possible - it is the children who benefit most!





3	Monday 14 July	Friday 19 September
4	Monday 06 October	Friday 12 December

Special Character

Our sacramental programme for 2025 has begun. Please note a change of date - The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be on Tuesday 1st April. Here is the [updated timeline for 2025](#).

Season of Lent

Whole school attends 9:30 am Mass - Please join if you can

On Ash Wednesday we begin the Liturgical season of Lent - a time of preparation for the Risen Lord (Easter). This involves looking deep within ourselves and making promises to God in the hope of becoming better people who make better choices like the Good Shepherd. Jesus loved the world so much he sacrificed himself so that we too could reach eternal life with Him in Heaven. Good Shepherd children will be learning all about Lent through their RE lessons in class.

Good Shepherd Parish Mass times

We encourage all families to attend Mass together, particularly those children who are participating in the Sacramental programme. Sunday Mass is at **9.30am**.

Attendance Dues and School Contributions

Attendance Dues are set by the Auckland Catholic Diocese and will be **\$532 annually** (\$133 per term) for 2025. [Special Character](#) contributions collected on behalf of the Catholic Diocese remain the same at \$60 per year. Trips and Activities contributions will increase in 2025 for year groups 0-3 now \$92.00 and year groups 4-6 to \$110.00. Accounts have been emailed to Parents and Caregivers this week.

Please don't hesitate to contact Ilana in the school office to arrange payment plans as regular payments (or per term) are required by the Catholic Diocese.

Te Atua ki a koe / God bless,

Ben

Upcoming Dates

27 Feb	Eden/Albert Swimming Zones
4 March	Eden/Albert Touch Zones
5 March	Ash Wednesday
7 March	Football Coaching Sessions
7 March	Swimming Sports Certificates Assembly
13 March	Y4-6 Fun Swim Morning
14 March	Whole School Prayers Room 5, 2.45pm
18 March	Eden/Albert Cricket Zones
19 March	St Joseph's Day
21 March	Whole School Assembly, Room 9, 2.15pm
25 March	Three way conferences 2PM (early finish)
26 March	Three way conferences 3PM
28 March	Whole School Prayers Room 3, 2.45pm
4 April	Whole School Assembly, Room 4, 2.15pm

Please look carefully, as some of these dates have changed

Term Dates 2025

Term	Start	Finish
1	Tuesday 28 January	Friday 11 April
2	Monday 28 April	Friday 27 June

School Gate (beside office)

This gate will be locked between the hours of 9.00am and 2.30pm everyday from now on. Parents and caregivers coming into school will need to enter the school through the office during these times. This is to ensure the safety of our students at all times.



Sports

GSS Year 4-6 Swimming Sports

We had a fantastic morning at Jellicoe Pools for our swimming sports last week. Lots of amazing swimmers and children showing perseverance when completing the races.

On Friday 7 March (week 6) we will have a special sports assembly to acknowledge the place getters at this event and hand out certificates. This will begin at 2.15pm on the turf.

Eden/Albert Touch Zones Year5/6

Next week Tuesday 04 March a group of our Year 5 & 6 students will be representing our school in Touch Zones. We wish them all the best. Have fun and enjoy the experience.

Jake Siave
Sam Erickson
Teaki Rogerson
James Gallagher
Max Madarasz
Siaki Sundin
Roman Wilson
Madison Laika Momoisea
Silongou'a Fotofili
Kyrie Leger
Luke Butcher
Freddie Power
Matthias Kautoke
Ezra Montague
Willem Greenhough
Aaron Liu
Dominic Carter
Honour Tuitama
Talei Elbourne

Netball Season Approaching

Register Now for Year 5 & 6 Netball!

Registrations are now open for the Auckland Netball Winter Season 2025! If your child is keen to play, please complete the registration form by Friday, March 28 to secure their spot.

Season Details:

-  Location: Windmill Park
-  17 Game Day: Wednesdays
-  Game Times: 4:00 PM | 4:45 PM | 5:30 PM | 6:15 PM
-  Season Dates: May 14 – September 3 (with breaks for school holidays)
-  Estimated Fee: \$80 per player
-  Ideal Team Size: 8-9 players
-  Open to Boys & Girls!

Netball is a fantastic way to build strength, agility, and teamwork—plus, it's loads of fun!

We're also looking for coaches and managers to support the team. Let us know if you can help!

 [Click here to register:](https://forms.office.com/r/eHBhxYtttu)

<https://forms.office.com/r/eHBhxYtttu>

Registrations close Friday, March 28, so don't miss out!

Register Now for Year 3 & 4 Netball!

Registrations are now open for the Auckland Netball Winter Season 2025! If your child is keen to play, please complete the registration form by Friday, March 28 to secure their spot.

Season Details:

-  Location: Windmill Park
-  17 Game Day: Thursdays
-  Game Times: 4:00 PM | 4:55 PM | 5:50 PM
-  Season Dates: May 15 – September 11 (with breaks for school holidays)
-  Estimated Fee: \$70 per player
-  Ideal Team Size: 7 players
-  Open to Boys & Girls!

Netball is a fantastic way to build strength, agility, and teamwork—plus, it's loads of fun!

We're also looking for coaches and managers to support the team. Let us know if you can help!

📌 Click here to register:

<https://forms.office.com/r/eHBhxYtttu>

Registrations close Friday, March 28, so don't miss out!

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out.

Ngā mihi,
Aimee Greenhough
021763002

🏐 Year 0-2 Netball – Fun & Fundamentals! 🏐

We're excited to offer Year 0-2 Netball as a fun introduction to the game! This is a relaxed, school-based session where kids will learn the basics of netball in a supportive and playful environment.

Session Details:

- 📍 Location: Netball courts at school
- 📅 Day: Thursdays
- 📅 Season Starts: Thursday, May 8 (Term 2) and runs for the term
- 🍏 Afternoon tea first, then play!
- 🕒 Time: Afternoon tea at 3:00 PM, session runs 3:15 – 4:00 PM
- 💰 Cost: \$20 for the term
- ☀️ Open to Boys & Girls!

This is a great way for our youngest players to develop coordination, teamwork, and confidence—while having heaps of fun!

No experience needed, just enthusiasm! Parents are welcome to stay and watch.

We'd also love a netball mum or dad to help run these sessions! If you're keen to get involved, let us know—it's a great way to support the kids and have some fun too!

📌 Click here to register:
<https://forms.office.com/r/eHBhxYtttu>

If you have any questions, feel free to get in touch. We'd love to see your little ones on the court!

Check this out if you're interested in upgrading your skills!



NETBALL IS BACK
Come along to our Junior Netball 'Give it a Go' days. Everyone welcome!

FREE SESSIONS

Learn new skills, play netball, and have fun! Free sessions - no registration required. Guest appearances from Northern Mystics & Stars players!

ST JOHNS VENUE	WINDMILL PARK VENUE
7 Allison Ferguson Drive, St Johns	48 Windmill Road, Mt Eden
Date: 8 March 2025	Date: 15 March 2025
Time: 1pm - 3:30pm	Time: 1pm - 3:30pm
Years: 1-8 (Boys & Girls)	Years: 1-8 (Boys & Girls)

Scan the QR code carefully and ensure it directs to aucklandnetball.co.nz. Beware of scams - Auckland Netball will never request sensitive information or payments via unofficial sites.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
Caitlin Smardon, Development Program Officer
T: 09 280 4129
E: development@aucklandnetball.co.nz

Auckland Council
AUCKLAND NETBALL

In & Around School

Room 8

Room 8 would like to thank everyone who came to support us at our assembly. We had so much fun sharing our artwork, which is now displayed in our classroom window. Feel free to stop by and take a look at our rainbow collage fish!

We've had an awesome time settling into school and enjoying our learning inside and outside the classroom. Swimming has been a highlight, whether during school lessons or at swimming sports.

A big thank you for all the support we've received so far, we can't wait for more learning adventures throughout the year!



Te Reo Lessons with Matua Tainui

What an awesome opportunity for our Good Shepherd School Community to take part in. Matua Tainui is generously offering the chance to learn Te Reo Māori. The basics of reo to carry with you beyond our school gates. Welcome to ALL levels, this is to encourage everyone. Kia Kaha te Reo Māori!!

[SIGN UP HERE](#)



Waste Free Lunches at GSS

A reminder about the Waste Free Lunchbox initiative at Good Shepherd School. Please review the attached flyer for our guidelines on this. It was great to see the enthusiasm and pride that the tamariki approached this initiative with last year, and it would be wonderful to see this continuing/increasing in 2025.

[How to pack a waste free lunch box](#)

Information for Whānau

Attendance – Every Day Counts, Every Minute Matters!

At GSS, we know that regular attendance is key to your child’s learning, friendships, and future success. That’s why we are passionate about monitoring our student's attendance. We encourage every student to be at school at least 90% of the time. We’re proud to have achieved 94% attendance in the first half of Term

1, but now the challenge is to keep it up or even improve! Missing a few days can affect learning—each absence means fewer chances to improve children's results academically including testing days, resilience, and socialising skills. If a student misses one day every two weeks or one week per term, that adds up to a full year of lost schooling by the time they turn 16. Being just 10 minutes late every day adds up to an hour a week of lost learning. Over a year this adds up to one week of school missed in a year

We’ve noticed an increase of students taking Fridays or Mondays off for unjustified reasons under the Ministry of Education's attendance coding. While this might seem small, it has a big impact on their learning and relationships. We understand that sometimes absences are unavoidable, for a funeral/ tangi or medical reasons, for example. But family holidays or non-school activities aren't valid reasons to miss school. If you're struggling to get your child to school, please talk to us, we're here to help.



All parents and caregivers are automatically part of the PTA, so everyone is welcome. These meetings are a fantastic way to connect with other parents and stay informed about what’s happening at the school. Plus, with this being a **Fair Year**, there are lots of exciting plans ahead!

We also have an **opening for a Treasurer** on our committee. The role includes:

- ◆ Managing day-to-day finances
- ◆ Keeping records of PTA financial activity
- ◆ Reporting on finances at meetings
- ◆ Arranging floats for events

You don't need to be an accountant—this role is straightforward and well-supported.

Being part of the PTA committee is a fun and rewarding way to give back to our awesome GSS community!

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to nzgoodshepherdpta@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you next week!

PTA Minutes & Principals Report

[Feb 2025 PTA Minutes](#)

[Feb 2025 Principals Report](#)

[Letter from Fr. Martin](#)

Sushi/Pizzas/Ice-Blocks

Sushi is available to order for your child most Fridays for lunch. Ordering is taken online only, via [Kindo](#). Orders need to be placed before 8.30am on the Friday that you are ordering for but you can also choose to order in advance for as many weeks in the term as you like. Orders may be cancelled up until 8.30am on the Friday that you have ordered for. Sushi is supplied by Nagoya Sushi in Morningside, with the following options:

- Teriyaki Katsu Chicken on Rice \$8.50
- 4 Pack Tuna Sushi \$6.00
- * 4 Pack Chicken Sushi \$6.00
- 4 Pack Vegetarian Sushi \$6.00
- * 4 Pack Salmon Sushi \$6.50
- 6 Pack Tuna Sushi \$7.50
- * 6 Pack Chicken Sushi \$7.50
- 6 Pack Vegetarian Sushi \$7.50
- * 6 Pack Salmon Sushi \$8.00
- 8 Pack Tuna Sushi \$9.00
- * 8 Pack Chicken Sushi \$9.00
- 8 Pack Vegetarian Sushi \$9.00
- * 8 Pack Salmon Sushi \$9.50

Please note that the sushi lunch service is run by parent volunteers. Please look out for requests to help with collecting and distributing the sushi on a Friday if you are available. The PTA is also looking for a volunteer to take over the administration of sushi and pizza day service. Please email Emma Chan chanemmanz@gmail.com if you are interested in this role.

Nice Block Ice-Blocks

Ice-blocks are available for the children on most Fridays at lunch time. They can be ordered online via Kindo or your child can come to school with a \$2.00 coin. This service is run by our Year 6 House Captains. If you have ordered online, the House Captains will come around before lunch to give your child a stamp on the hand and then they need to collect their ice-block after the bell has gone at the end of lunch eating time. It is the child's responsibility to go and collect their ice-block and House Captains are not able to search the playground for children who have forgotten to collect their ice-block. The ice blocks come in a range of flavours from [Nice Blocks](#).

Pizza Day

This Term, we will be having Pizza Day on Tuesday 8th April. Pizzas are supplied by Dominoes Sandringham. Orders for pizzas will always close **at 6pm, 5 days before Pizza Day** and it is not possible to accommodate any orders once they are closed. **Orders for our upcoming Pizza Day will close at 6pm on Thursday 3rd April.**

Please note that Pizza Day is run by parent volunteers. Please look out for requests to help with collecting and distributing the Pizzas on a Tuesday if you are available. The PTA is also looking for a volunteer to take over the administration of sushi and pizza day service. Please email Emma Chan chanemmanz@gmail.com if you are interested in this role.



The poster for St Paul's College Open Day features a dark blue background. At the top is the school's crest, a shield with a cross and four quadrants. Below the crest, the text reads "ST PAUL'S COLLEGE" in large white letters, followed by the motto "CONFORTARE ESTO VIR" in smaller white letters. Underneath, it says "YEARS 7-13 CATHOLIC CHAMPAGNAT MARIST SCHOOL FOR BOYS". The main event is "OPEN DAY" in very large, bold white letters. Below that, it states "Enrolments for Years 7, 8, and 9 in 2026" and "Limited enrolments at other levels". The date and time are "Thursday 6th March 2025 | 9:30am or 1:45pm". The location is "Assembly in the College Chapel, followed by a tour of the school". At the bottom, the website "STPAULSCOLLEGE.CO.NZ" and address "183 RICHMOND ROAD, PONSONBY" are listed, with a note "(Parking available on-site)".



ST MARY'S COLLEGE 2025 OPEN DAY Thursday 6 March 2025

Two sessions available, commencing 2.30pm & 6.00pm
Both sessions deliver the same information



Join our Mercy Family

Enrolments for 2026 open Monday 10 February
for Year 7 and Year 9 students and a limited number of places at
other year levels

St Mary's College has no zoning restrictions
Enrolment and application information are available on our website

www.stmaryak.school.nz

11 New Street, Ponsonby, Auckland

A CATHOLIC SCHOOL FOR GIRLS - YEAR 7 TO YEAR 13



2025 JUNIOR REGISTRATIONS



REGISTRATIONS ARE NOW OPEN
FROM 5TH GRADE TO SENIOR SOCIAL!

- Boys & Girls
- Girls-only team options in all grades
- Play with your friends from local schools

FOR MORE INFORMATION HEAD TO OUR WEBSITE!

Location: Auckland United F.C (Keith Hay Park, Mt Roskill)
Register online at www.aucklandunitedfc.org.nz

PLAY FOOTBALL WITH AUCKLAND UNITED!



MARIST COLLEGE

Catholic Girls School, Years 7 to 13

Open Day Tours

Thursday 6th March and Friday 7th March 2025

Tours at 9am

A centrally located non-zoned
Catholic girls secondary school, Years 7 to 13

www.maristcollege.school.nz



NETBALL SKILLS CLINICS

AFTERSCHOOL

St Johns
Tuesday afternoons
Years 1-8
18 Feb - 25 Mar

Windmill Park
Monday afternoons
Years 1-8
17 Feb - 24 Mar

WEEKEND CLINICS

St Johns
Sunday afternoons
Years 1-8
23 Feb - 30 Mar

Windmill Park
Saturday mornings
Years 1-8
22 Feb - 29 Mar

