

Newsletter – Week 8, Term 4

03 December 2019

Kia ora Whanau

“Advent increases our hope, a hope which does not disappoint.
The Lord **NEVER** lets us down” *Pope Francis*



As the year comes to a close, school seems to get busier and busier, finalising school reports, class lists, end of year meetings with staff and ensuring the school is organised for the coming year. It is whilst all this hustle and bustle surrounds us that as a staff we ensure that we remind ourselves to slow down and reflect upon the many gifts God has bestowed upon us during the year. At Mass on Waiheke this week Father George invited our congregation to see Advent as an opportunity to renew our personal encounter with Christ. So I extend this invitation to you, also. Look past the busyness, and encounter Christ.

Introducing your Principal for the Day ***(Winner of the Principal of the Day raffle for the gala)***

Yesterday Miss Bonnie Rice from Room 3 was Principal of St John's School for the day. Bonnie had a very busy day. She greeted our community as they came into the office in the morning. She elected a deputy principal, and together they visited classes to see who was working well. Bonnie attended the Graduation Mass practice and congratulated the school on a great practice. Bonnie and her Deputy then went off for a 'business luncheon' with Miss Binns and myself. Bonnie as Principal had control of a budget and went to Manna to buy a gift for the school in remembrance of her day as Principal. Bonnie was a very capable Principal and I'm sure she had a wonderful day.

Sick Children

Over the last couple of weeks we have had an extraordinary number of children with tummy bugs, particularly in the Pupuke Team (Year 3 and 4). I request that if your child complains of upset stomach symptoms please keep them at home and if they have had this virus please keep them home for 36 hours after the last time they vomited or had an episode of diarrhoea. Not only are our children catching this horrible bug but our poor teachers are also. Do take extra care and remind your children to wash their hands thoroughly regularly.

Staff News

At the end of this year we will farewell Mrs Gail Hardy and Mrs Adrienne Woodbury. Mrs Hardy has been at St John's for more than 20 years. In this time Mrs Hardy has improved the learning outcomes for many of our children and is so well loved. She has a vast knowledge of our school and does so much for all of us. Mrs Hardy will be truly missed but we know that she will love spending more quality time with her lovely grandchildren. Mrs Woodbury has also been with us for several years. Mrs Woodbury supports our children for whom English is their second language, she is extremely qualified and is so passionate about helping these children. I know that the children and families have been very grateful for the support that she has provided over the years. We are sorry that Mrs Woodbury will no longer be part of our team but wish her all the very best for the future.

Support Staff – NZEI Collective Agreement

Currently school support staff (Administrative, Sporting Co-ordinators, Learning Support Assistants) are lobbying the Ministry of Education for better work conditions and to be paid the living wage. St John's School has the most wonderful, dedicated support staff and we are well aware of just how valuable they are to the teachers and to the children. Our Board supports their claim and has shown this by writing to NZEI. We pray that the Ministry will value the important role that they play in our school and recognise them accordingly. If you would also like to show your support, in the same way our community was supportive of our teachers, please sign the open letter to the Minister for Education available here:

<https://campaigns.nzei.org.nz/support-staff/open-letter/>

Congratulations

This morning a very excited little Sienna Gunn from Room 8 came to tell me the wonderful news that she has received the sacrament of Baptism. We thank God for this beautiful gift and keep Sienna and her family in our prayers.

Viki Trainor – Principal

School End-of-Year Mass

and Year 6 Graduation Ceremony

*Tuesday, 10th December
at 11.00am*

St. John's Church

You are all most welcome to attend this special Mass as we celebrate the year and thank God for the many blessings we have received.

We also farewell our Year 6 children and wish them well for the next stage of their school life to Year 7 and beyond.

JUNIOR CHRISTMAS SHOW – CHANGE OF DATE



Please note the Junior Christmas show performance will now be on
Thursday, 12th December at 9.30am in the school hall



NOT 6th December as previously advertised.

CHRISTMAS ANGEL GIVING TREE

Both in the school office foyer and at St John's Church there is now a Christmas Angel Giving Tree for the collection of gifts for children who have family members currently in prison. Please place gifts under the tree in the school foyer **prior to Friday, 13th December** to allow enough time for them to be shipped for delivery by Christmas. Gifts should be marked with a tag 'boy or girl' and age suitability; under 2yrs, 3-5yrs, 6-9yrs, 10-12yrs and teenagers.



PTFA MEETING

The final PTFA meeting for this year will be held on **TONIGHT at 7.00pm** in the staffroom. If you have constructive feedback about the Gala, or the activities of the PTFA in 2019 then please come to share your thoughts. If you cannot attend then please email your ideas to sjmb.gala@gmail.com in advance of the meeting. We'll also be drafting the PTFA calendar for 2020.

SPORTS UNIFORMS

Please could those children that have been issued with St John's sports uniforms and/or fleeces ensure that they are washed and returned to school in a named bag as soon as possible after the relevant sports code season has ended. Mrs Dorrington will be doing an audit of all uniforms prior to the end of the school year so would appreciate early return.

SCHOOL SWIMMING POOL AND KEYS FOR SUMMER USE



The pool is now open for swimming. You are offered a family key to take advantage of the pool for family swimming. The cost is \$70 for the entire season plus a \$20 key bond [refundable]. The season end is flexible, around 31st March.

Keys are numbered and must be returned at the end of the season when the refund of the bond will be given back to you. If keys are not returned by the close of the season, the refund is forfeited as these keys need to be refigured and replaced each year. Keys can be purchased at the school office up until noon, Friday, 20th December when the office closes for the year.

2nd HAND UNIFORM SALE

The last sale for 2019 will be **THIS Thursday, 5th December, 2.30 – 3.00pm** in the school hall
The first sale in 2020 will be on **Thursday, 13th February, 2.30 – 3.00pm**

We wish to congratulate all the students from Years 3 to 6 who participated in the ICAS assessments.

These are external international assessments that are administered and marked in Australia. All students who participate receive a certificate and assessment information.



A special congratulations to the students who were awarded High Distinction Certificates, given to the top 1% of participants, and Distinction Certificates, given to the next 10% of participants.

High Distinction in English;	Oscar Reade and Zachary Walpert
Distinction in English;	Lila Gilchrist and Michael Popov
Distinction in Mathematics;	Alexander Al-Sammak, Imari Chua, Joseph Howard and Oscar Reade
High Distinction in Science;	Zachary Walpert
High Distinction in Writing;	Oscar Reade
Distinction in Writing;	Alora Francis, Zoe Scott and Zachary Walpert

FOUND

Ring found on school grounds, come to the office with a description to claim it.

CONGRATULATIONS TO...

PLAYERS OF THE DAY... Carlos Poledniok, Zoe Scott (Touch), Oscar Reade (Basketball), Rachel Qazan chy (Netball) ALSO TO... Xavier Smith (Swimming), Fernanda Tirado (3 gold, 1 silver at CNW Champs Athletics), Molly-Kate Smith (Art)

PARISH NEWS



*This week we give thanks
for... Mrs Mountjoy who
sings like an angel, all the
St. Johns teachers and
staff who are angels and to
their students who are angels
with training wheels.*

Feliz Navidad Concert - St John's Church, Mairangi Bay; Sunday, 8th December 1pm
Come & join us for a fun afternoon of Christmas Cheer with our youth performing a Nativity Play, followed by a variety of well known talented solo Artists performing Christmas songs & Carols with afternoon tea, please bring a plate of finger food to share. **Entrance:** Gold Coin Donation. **Dress up theme:** Christmas. For more information please contact: Jenny Kingham 027 465 2271; Fr. Marchellino 021 1131 855



ECB FOODBANK ITEMS REQUIRED: Pasta sauce and jelly: St Vincent de Paul Society ECB are really appreciative of all the donations to the Foodbank.
If you want a Food parcel - contact Parish Office

COMMUNITY NOTICES

The Conscious Kids Social Enterprise is inviting your children to a 100% play-in-nature school holiday programme. Nature play has proven physical, emotional and social health benefits. Our supervised programme allows kids to lead their own activities - mudslides, tree climbing, puddle splashing, hammock and hut building etc. Apart from the obvious safety restrictions and respect framework, there are few instructions for kids. Our number 1 'rule' is to have fun! Staff are present for supervision and support, but children follow their innate 'readiness meter' to make their own decisions before getting involved in any new situation. Such child-led play enhances creativity, problem-solving, communication (including listening!), collaboration and many other 21st century skills.

The programme will run for 2 days before Christmas (20th and 23rd December) and for 3 weeks over the Summer Holidays (14th - 30th January), at a cost of \$65 per day or \$175 for 3 days. Daily programmes run from 9am to 4pm and are designed for children aged 5 - 12 yrs old. For booking and more information, please visit <http://www.consciouskids.co.nz>

RECENT SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Year 5 Trip to Corban Art Centre

Last Tuesday the Year 5 classes, Room 4 Kauri and Room 7 Tarata, visited the Corban Art Centre in Henderson. We were led into our workshop by some very helpful ladies who explained what we were going to do. We had to make Waka Huia (treasure boxes) out of clay! Year 5 were then split into two equally sized groups. My group was the first to be shown some of the amazing ways we can use our hands to shape clay. Meanwhile the other group sketched out their design. After one of the ladies had shown us how to shape our box, we swapped with the other group. Later we went in for another session to learn to create a lid and handle for the box. For their handle most people made animals. I did a penguin. Finally we had to leave. I had a spectacular time and would love to go back there again.

By Oscar Reade



On Tuesday morning, the 26th of November we travelled to the Corban Estate Centre in Henderson by bus. It was about a half hour journey which was quite long, but we all managed to entertain ourselves! When we arrived, everybody seemed to love the outdoor scenery. A lady named Jean guided us into the Arts Centre and told us to sit on a woven mat. She introduced the people and told us that we would be making our own waka huia out of clay. What is this? A waka huia is a small container were people keep their treasures. Māori traditionally made waka hui out of wood and these would be raised up with string (flax) tied around the side handles into the rafters of the meeting house for safe-keeping. It would normally hold a feather from the extinct Huia bird.

We all jumped on a stool and designed our waka huia out of clay. Another lady named Kairava Gullatz, who was the clay artist took half of the class and showed them her secrets to shaping the clay. My design was a Māori boat, a waka, with a soccer ball as the handle and white and black dots for decoration. After 2 hours of entertainment and creativity we eventually had to get back on the bus and the screeching began once again...

By Jackson Henry

Visiting Orchestra

We were fortunate enough on Wednesday 27th November to have a visit from the North Shore Junior Youth Orchestra who played for the children. Some of them were even lucky enough to try out some instruments and conduct the orchestra.



Lego Masters Club

