



St Brigid's School Newsletter

13 November 2018



www.stbrigids.school.nz

Phone: 478 6516

Dear Parents/Caregivers

I would like to sincerely thank all those parents and families who supported our Food Festival on Sunday. I know that a number of our parents worked really hard to ensure that the day was successful, and spent many hours buying, preparing and cooking delicious food from their culture.

There were also the "behind the scenes" people who organised advertising, found sponsorship, collated and purchased stall requirements, organised and collected tables, supplied us with power, organised floats and made themselves useful on the day. It couldn't have happened without you all.

I would also like to thank our amazing Kapa Haka and Pasifika groups who provided some great entertainment for us (we have some wonderful photos on the school Facebook page), and the parents and teachers who helped prepare these children for the performances. Special thanks to Matua Wayne and Tagi, Tasi for the special role that they play in our school. Room 13 made it a very special day with the thoughtful Armistice Day Service to open the Festival.

Finally I would like to acknowledge the support of our children, parents and wider family who came, spent and enjoyed a couple of hours relaxing and socialising in the sunshine. It was certainly a team effort!

We have yet to get an amount raised. The ASB Bank team, who are very kindly counting it for us, will let us know as soon as possible, and once we have reconciled it with expenses to get a total, we will let you know.

Here is the list of our amazing sponsors whose generosity helped make the day a huge success.

God Bless
Linda Birch

Sponsors of our Sumo, Bouncy Castle & Bumper Balls

Other sponsors of the Festival:

Strength of character and gentleness of heart





School Assembly
(Hui-a-kura)

Due to the strike on Friday, there will be **NO ASSEMBLY** this week.

Welcome

We warmly welcome new entrant student **Kiarna Kairau-Mathie** who has joined Room 2.

Kiarna joins her older sister Shontae here at St Brigid's. We are sure she is helping Kiarna settle happily into school life.

KEY DATES TO NOTE ON YOUR CALENDAR

Further details about these and other events can be found on the school calendar on the website http://www.stbrigids.school.nz/?page_id=420

Team Tahi	Wednesday 5 December	2019 start of year New Entrants visit
Team Rua		
Team Toru	Friday 23 November	No Technology Sessions today for Yr 7/8
	Thursday 6 December	Mt Kaukau Walk
	Monday 10 December	Year 8 Leavers Mass & Dinner
	Thursday 13 December	Christmas Presentation
Other Events	Tuesday 27 November	Interzone Athletics
	Tuesday 4 December	Regional Athletics
	Thursday 6 December	Board of Trustees Meeting
	Tuesday 11 December	School Picnic at Waikanae Pool
	Friday 14 December	End of Year Mass
End of Term 4 - School finishes at 1pm		

Strike Day

A reminder: The teacher strike is going ahead on Friday (16 November), and for safety reasons, **the Board has decided to close the school for the day.** Please make alternative arrangements for the care of your children on Friday.

School Photos

The photos have now arrived, and will be sent home with your children tomorrow.



News from the Board of Trustees

- Student performance in writing is currently at 77% of all children who are a combination of at (including confidently at) and above NZ curriculum expectation. The target is to have 90% of all our children to be at this level by end of this year. While this is the case it is amazing to learn how much work is being done by our teachers and teacher-aides in order to help our kids (including targeting the reluctant ones amongst others) to become better writers.
- It is good to know that 600 SENCO (Special Education Needs Coordinator) roles will be funded by the Ministry in 2020. This means additional support is to be provided for the school's current SENCO role and hopefully this will help address the growing needs of the school supporting kids with diverse and complex learning skills.
- It was pleasing to know that we had a high attendance rate of students attending school regularly as of Term Two this year, in comparison with similar schools in the Wellington area. With percentage of year 5s attending regularly being greater than in all comparison groups and the highest attending ethnic group Maori with 95.5% of students attending regularly. This is a good sign that our children look forward to being and enjoy learning in our school.
- As we will have our school's parent representative Board elections next year, the board is looking at what further skills, community/cultural group representation that could be had that will further enhance the board's effectiveness in governing and looking after the school, our staff and our children. More information will be coming via our school's Facebook page and the school newsletter, so watch this space.

Attendance

A reminder that **the school day starts at 8.55am each morning**. Children should arrive at school with plenty of time to get themselves organised, as well as have some time to socialise with their friends before the bell goes.

If your child arrives at school **after the bell has rung** (whether they are running late, or arriving after an appointment) they are **required to visit the office** to collect a late pass. The office will then update the attendance register.

SPORTS NOTICES

Tennis

Congratulations to **Amber Dano** from Room 5 who took part in the Regional Tennis Tournament in Palmerston North on Wednesday 31 October. She played amazingly well and **came 1st!** What an achievement! Amber now qualifies for Nationals which are to be held in Wellington, with a date to be confirmed.

We are so proud of you Amber!



Johnsonville Op Shop

To all the mums and dad's and grandparents at school

Do you have a **couple of hours once a month** to spare to volunteer at the Op Shop?

We have positions available for the clean-up and sorting crew on Monday as our ladies who are in their 80's are retiring at Christmas.

Plus we need volunteers for Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday when we are open.

We also need a volunteer to do the roster as I will be stepping down at Christmas too.

This is an easy fundraiser for your children and we are a friendly bunch.

To volunteer, please contact Yvette on 021 605 754, 938 7372 or ycelliston@gmail.com.

Student Celebrations

This column is to acknowledge and congratulate any of our students who have achieved in other pursuits outside of school.

Congratulations to:

Former St Brigid's students **Min Xin Lee** and **Sarah Downs**, both now at St Mary's College:

- Min Xin was awarded Dux and a scholarship to Otago University.
- Sarah has been appointed a Deputy Head Girl for 2019.



Food Fair & Festival

Sweets

We have a few bags of sweets remaining after the Food Fair.

These will be sold to our Team 1 students (as many missed out recently at the senior market day) on **Thursday afternoon for \$2 per item**. There will be a limit of **one per student**, and these will be placed in their school bag to take home with them.

Found

A number of hats were handed into the office after the Food Fair. If you have misplaced yours, please come and see us in the office.



Community News

Challenge 2000 – Workshop and Reflection Day – Better off Together



Saturday 17 November from 10.00am – 4.00pm at Bishop Viard College, 20 Kenepuru Drive, Porirua.

‘Raising awareness,

Discussing issues of poverty in Aoteraroa

Acting together to make a difference’.

For further information please phone: Gabrielle on 021 131 8489 or Pelasio on 021 0816 0396.

Weet-Bix Kids TRYathlon



Entries are now open for the 2019 Weetbix Kids Tryathlon which will be held on **Sunday 17 March** at Kilbirnie Park. The event is open to children aged between 7 and 15 years, on the day of the event.

To register your child for the TRYathlon and link them to the St Brigids school group, click on the link:

<https://www.registernow.com.au/secure/Register.aspx?E=31847&G=68736>.

Kids can enter the TRYathlon as an individual completing all three legs by themselves, or they can enter as a team of two where one team member does the swimming leg, one member does the cycling leg and both members complete the run section.

If you have any queries on the TRYathlon, there is lots of useful information on the [Sanitarium Weetbix Tryathlon website](#) or feel free to contact Christine Glass our school co-ordinator on cglass9@outlook.com.

Registrations close in mid-February but the Wellington event is always filled before closing date so it would be a good idea to register your child before the end of this year so as not to miss out on the event.

