



# St Brigid's School Newsletter

15 May 2018



[www.stbrigids.school.nz](http://www.stbrigids.school.nz)

Phone: 478 6516

Dear Parents/Caregivers

When I first started teaching (many years ago now), it was deemed that teaching was one of the most honourable and important careers you could have. Working with like-minded people to develop young minds, grow socially confident citizens and engage in work that was meaningful and important, was what drove us. The pay was OK and yes there were holidays.



Whilst the underpinning reasons for people choosing teaching as a career haven't changed, much else has! The demands of the job and workload have increased hugely; the needs of our children have become more complex; legislation requires a broader range of compliances; tracking student data and assessment has increased and there are constantly new initiatives for teachers to get their heads around. I work a 50 - 60 hour week; as do most teachers and principals. What hasn't changed is the remuneration we receive. Many passionate young people are training as teachers, then leaving after 4-5 years as the salary gap between themselves and their peers widens quickly.

Last week the DomPost had an editorial that examined teachers' pay and workload. Part of the article said:

*It's no surprise then that the sector is under severe stress, if not in crisis: there are significant teacher shortages around the country, and particularly in Auckland; not enough people are lining up to replenish an ageing workforce; early child education centres are increasingly regarded as risky for children and staff; and principals and senior teachers are under more stress than ever.*

*By many measures the quality of life for a teacher has gone backwards over the past decade. That decline is most noticeable in pay. Paul Goulter, general secretary of teacher union NZEI, says salaries have lagged behind rises in the median wage since 2008.*

*Increasing their pay is just one part of the puzzle; improving work conditions is another. But the former is an important piece if we are to not only retain good teachers but also recruit and inspire more. For many it is the most important piece. Many others would regard it as an investment, not only in our children but the system we have created to build better, smarter, highly skilled citizens. Link to the full article - <https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/103726975/we-cant-afford-to-stiff-our-teachers>.*

As part of our contract teachers and principals are entitled to attend two **paid union meetings** a year. These meetings are coming up in June and will provide feedback to teachers about the pay and condition claims currently being negotiated. The majority of our teachers will be attending a meeting on **Wednesday June 27, from 2- 3pm** in Porirua. Whilst the school will not officially be closed during the afternoon, we will have only a small number of teachers here to supervise children.

We are hoping that parents will be able to show their support for the campaign by making arrangements to collect their children at lunchtime on this day. The powers that be need to understand that this is an issue that will only get worse and that it affects the whole of society, not just a group of individuals. Thank you for your support with this.

God Bless *Linda Birch*

*Strength of character and gentleness of heart*



## Staff Changes

We have some staff changes coming up in Term Three.

A big **congratulations** to **Erica Bowe** (nee Bradshaw) who has been appointed as Team Leader at St Francis Xavier School in Tawa. It is wonderful for Erica but sad for us. Erica has been at St Brigid's School for the last 13 years and has made a fantastic contribution with her Sports Leadership, willingness to help others and in her role as a classroom teacher. We wish her all the very best. Erica's last day will be on Friday July 6.



**Congratulations** is also in order for **Steve Shallard**, who has been offered an amazing job as a Mathematics Facilitator with a company called Cognition. Steve is a real whizz at maths and will be using his extensive knowledge and expertise to support schools and teachers in the development of maths. Steve has been at St Brigid's for the last 9 years and is currently working three days a week providing classroom release time. We also wish Steve the very best in his new venture. Steve's last day will be on Friday July 6.

We also wish **Jane Aitken** (teacher in Room 3) the very best as she leaves us on Friday to take maternity leave. Jane's cheerful, calm and professional manner will be missed by children and staff alike.



## Welcome

We warmly welcome **Jamie-Lee Nolte and Tatiana Nolte** to our school. Jamie-Lee has joined Room 9 in Year 4, and Tatiana is a new entrant student who has started in Room 2 this week.

We hope all your new friends are helping you to settle happily into school life here at St Brigid's.

Parents are invited to join us for **Pentecost Mass** on Friday 18 May at 1.45pm at Sts Peter & Paul's Church.



### 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](http://www.stbrigids.school.nz/?page_id=420)

<b>Team Tahiti</b>	<b>Tuesday 22, 29 May</b>	Gymnastics
	<b>Thursday 17 May</b>	Island Bay Marine Education visit
<b>Team Rua</b>		
<b>Team Toru</b>	<b>Monday 14 May - Thursday 17 May</b> <b>Monday 21 May - Thursday 24 May</b>	Swimming
	<b>Tuesday 12, 19, 26 June &amp; 3 July</b>	Year 7 & 8 ASB Sessions

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<b>Other Events</b>	<b>Friday 18 May</b>	Pentecost Mass
	<b>Thursday 24 May</b>	Board of Trustees Meeting
	<b>Monday 28 May</b>	Year 3 - 8 School Cross Country
	<b>Monday 4 June</b>	Queen's Birthday Public Holiday - School Closed
	<b>Tuesday 5 June</b>	Northern Zone Cross Country
	<b>Thursday 14 June</b>	St Mary's College Open Day
	<b>Thursday 21 June</b>	Curriculum meeting for parents

### **Team Tahi Trip - Island Bay Marine Education Centre**



Team Tahi have a trip planned to the Island Bay Marine Education Centre **this week on Thursday.**

**Remember to send your child with:** a warm jacket and warm hat and a big lunch!

Teachers will email parents if there are any changes made, due to weather.

Online safety is more important now than ever. As young people begin to spend more time online, it's important that parents start to teach them how to stay safe. Each week, we will share some ideas and links from **Netsafe** to help you have conversations with your child.

#### **PARENT'S ROLE IN BUILDING DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP**

##### **SET A GOOD EXAMPLE**

How often do you use your laptop or smartphone at the dinner table? How many angry posts have you published? Take a look at the way you use technology while young people are around. If you see something that troubles you - change it.

How good is your knowledge around online safety, privacy settings and even online shopping? Be better equipped to help by expanding your own knowledge - [read the Staying Safe Online Guide.](#)

**Curriculum Evening** - Now that we no longer report against the national standards we are going back to the New Zealand Curriculum (NZC) documents to measure student progress against.

The New Zealand Curriculum



- **Are you familiar with NZC?**
- **Would you like to be?**

We are running an evening on **June 21** for parents who would like more information on the New Zealand Curriculum and some of the work that the school is doing. Keep the date - more details later.

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## **2018 Great Kiwi English, Science and Mathematics Competitions**

This year parents may enter their Year 5-8 children into online competitions called Kiwi Science, Kiwi Maths and Kiwi English. These competitions were launched last year and received great feedback. They are organised by the University of Canterbury and will replace the ICAS tests that our school has previously participated in.

The New Zealand competitions are written by New Zealand teachers and are based on the New Zealand curriculum. They will be run in the last three weeks of Term 2 and cost \$8.50 per examination. All participating students will be awarded a certificate and prizes will be awarded to top students in each year group.

If you would like your child to take part in these competitions, please complete the entry form attached to the newsletter, and return to the school office with money included. Entry forms are also available at the school office. **Entries will be accepted until Tuesday 22 May 2018.**



## **Artsplash! Choir 2018**

Practices for the Artsplash Choir will start this week on **Thursday 24 May**, and will be held each Thursday at lunchtime for half an hour from 12.50 - 1.20pm.



## **Scholastic Lucky Book Club - Issue 3**

Copies of the 2018 Issue 3 of the Lucky Book Club brochure will be sent home with students this week. To purchase any books just note the 3 digit code next to the title.

Then visit <https://mybookclub.scholastic.co.nz/Parent/ClubManagement.aspx> type in St Brig and find St Brigid's School on the drop down list. Any orders need to be submitted **by Friday 25 May 2018.**



If you are purchasing any books as gifts and would rather they were not sent home with your children, please message [office@stbrigids.school.nz](mailto:office@stbrigids.school.nz) to let us know. We will contact you when the books arrive, so you can collect them from us.

## **Pita Pit Lunch Orders – CHANGES TO ORDERING SYSTEM**

**From Friday next week** (25 May) the ordering system for Pita Pit lunches will change.

If you wish to purchase Pita Pit for your children on Fridays you will need to make your order online at [www.lunchonline.co.nz](http://www.lunchonline.co.nz) **prior to 9.00am. There will be no orders picked up from the school office.** The lunch will be delivered to school before lunchtime at 12.30pm. Further information is attached to the newsletter email.



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## SPORTS NOTICES

### School Cross Country

A reminder that Year 3 - 8 School Cross Country is coming up on Monday 28 May. It would be great to see people outside training. The event will begin at 11.00am at Alex Moore Park if parents are wishing to come and watch.



### Parents/Caregivers/Students

Please come and check through the Lost Property, in Room 6 on Thursday after school. There are lots of items which are not named. All the uncollected items will be given to charity next week.

Thank you - Mr Murray

St Brigid's School Friends & Family



FUNDRAISING  
TEAM

### 2018/19 Entertainment Book

#### Support St Brigid's School and you'll be rewarded!

We are raising funds and you can help. Order the NEW 2018 | 2019 Entertainment Book or Entertainment Digital Membership and you will receive hundreds of valuable offers for everything you love to do, and you will also be supporting us.

Click on the box below to place your order.

**SUPPORT US NOW**

**Please note** that this year we will not be sending a book home to every family - so you will need to use the link above if you would like to order a book.



## Community News



**Supporting success in your school.**

If you are a parent, staff member or member of the school community and you draw down a new ASB home loan of \$250,000 or more, ASB will donate to your chosen participating school:

**\$500**

ASB lending criteria and terms apply. Fees may apply. To be eligible for this donation your new home loan application must be received, approved and then documented in a facility agreement, along with the completion of a school donation voucher, between 1 July 2017 and 30 June 2018. A minimum of 20% equity is required in the security property provided to ASB. This home loan offer is only available on loans secured by an owner-occupied residential property. Only one donation will be given per customer. Donations will be made by ASB on behalf of the customer to the chosen school upon full draw down of the new home loan. This offer excludes loans for business purposes and bridging.

ASB Bank Limited 56290 12478A 0997

### St Mary's College Open Day

Guildford Terrace, Wellington. All Welcome. Thursday 14 June 2018 - 9am or 11.30am.  
We'd love to see you there!

### Paparangi School Reunion

CELEBRATE 50 YEARS WITH US! Friday 1 June - Saturday 2 June 2018. To register click on the [Paparangi Reunion Registration Link](#) or visit the School Website/Reunion Facebook page.

### Book Fair

**Ngaio Town Hall - Saturday 26 May 2018 - 9.00am to 4.00pm.**

We would love you to come and buy books, DVDs and CDs.

Children's books are \$1, adult books are \$3 (\$2 each, after the first five books purchased) and 'coffee table books' are \$5.

All proceeds (about \$10,000 last year) will go to the Blue Dragon Children's Foundation, which helps to break the poverty cycle for Vietnam's poorest children. This includes street kids, children with disabilities, children from rural families living in extreme poverty, and victims of human trafficking and slavery.

If you have books, DVDs or CDs to donate, please contact Dinah Dobson, trustee, on 475 7371 or 027 686 4554. *Blue Dragon New Zealand* [www.bluedragonnz.wordpress.com](http://www.bluedragonnz.wordpress.com).



### Space and Science Festival

The Space and Science Festival returns to Onslow College on Saturday 19 and 26 May! Limited tickets so don't miss out this year! Check out <https://spacesciencefestival.org/> for more information and to purchase tickets and take home kits.

### Conscious Discipline - Workshop For Parents

Come along to learn what conscious discipline is and how it encourages our children to co-operate more, allowing us to discipline them less. Leave with a variety of practical and respectful strategies to keep in your back pocket ... and have more ease and joy with your children. Wednesday 27 OR Thursday 28 June, 7:30-9:30 at Khandallah Town Hall. To book or find out more go to [www.julielouisson.com/workshops/](http://www.julielouisson.com/workshops/).

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