



St Brigid's School Newsletter

27 November 2018



www.stbrigids.school.nz

Phone: 478 6516

Dear Parents/Caregivers

We are almost at the end of this year and already much has been done to ensure that 2019 is well organised and gets off to a good start. The year is starting slightly later than it has in previous years (Monday February 4), which means that we will be ending slightly later next year (Wednesday December 18). If we continued to go with the dates we have been using the last few years, we would be finishing on December 13 – a nightmare for working parents!

I know that some of our families take long overseas holidays at this time of year to catch up with friends and family and this becomes a very special time for everyone. When you plan holidays it is good to ensure that you are back before school starts. The first week of school is such an important time for your child. They get to know their new teacher and classmates, discuss and decide the rules and climate of the classroom, start their first pieces of work for the year and share in the excitement and energy that a new year always brings. All these things help contribute to the “bonding” of a class and children who are not there can feel a bit left out.

The same principle applies to the start of each day. Children coming in to school late each morning miss out on catching up with friends and having the buzz of a bit of ‘social time’ before the day begins, they fail to get the initial outline of the day and miss the spiritual and grounding start that prayers gives them. For those who have had trouble being on time this year, it could be a great New Year’s Resolution!

God Bless

Linda Birch

Board of Trustees

The next Board of Trustees meeting is being held next week on
Thursday 6 December at 6.00pm in the school staffroom.

Parents are always welcome to attend.





School Assembly
(Hui-a-kura)

Our school assembly will be held this week on **Friday 30 November at 2.15pm** at the Johnsonville Community Centre.

Assembly will be taken by Rooms 2 and 12.

Parents are most welcome to join us.

Welcome

We warmly welcome new entrant student **Aleena Kulawardene** who has joined Room 2.

We hope all your new friends in Room 2 are helping you settle happily into school life here at St Brigid's.

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
	Monday 10 December	Wheels Day
Team Rua		
Team Toru	Thursday 6 December	Mt Kaukau Walk
	Monday 10 December	Year 8 Leavers Mass & Dinner
	Thursday 13 December	Christmas Presentation
Other Events	Thursday 29 November	Interzone Athletics - postponed
	Tuesday 4 December	Regional Athletics
	Wednesday 5 December	Food Fair Debrief Meeting
	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

News from the Board

The Board will be sad to see two of its members leave at the end of the school year, but also celebrates and is very grateful for their contributions over many years:

- Father Peter is retiring as Parish Priest and from our school Board. Father Peter has provided us with many years of Pastoral Care and spiritual guidance, and the Board will greatly miss his considered and thoughtful insights. He has been a great supporter of our school, and has been at the heart of the connection between our school and the Parish. Together with our other Proprietor's representatives, Father Peter has helped us to strengthen the special Catholic Character of our school and to ensure our Catholic Character remains at the forefront of our minds when decisions are made. The Board wishes Father Peter all the very best for his retirement, and he will remain in our prayers.



- John van den Heuvel has been a parent representative on our Board for 5 ½ years, and we will miss his knowledge, experience and calm approach. We're especially grateful for his time and efforts during the last year when his children had already left the school. We wish John all the very best for the future.

Our **Board election** will take place mid next year in June 2019. This means those entitled to vote (including all the school's parents) will vote for five parent representatives who will become Board members.

We will provide more details about the Board election next year but if anyone is interested in becoming a Board parent representative, and would like further details on the role and what it involves, please contact Carol Winter - carolwinter26@gmail.com. We encourage our parents to consider themselves for this role if they would like to contribute towards the governance of the school.

Teaching Staff for 2019

New Entrants - Angela Sheldon

Year 1 - Maggie Johnson

Years 1/2 - Nicky James (aka Mrs E)

Year 2 - Christine Strawbridge

Years 3/4 - Amanda Prowse

Years 3/4 - Lorna Webb

Years 3 /4 - Monika Goel and Stephanie Milne

Years 5/6 - Paul Murray

Years 5/6 - Claire Jolly

Years 5/6 - Erin Brennan

Years 5/6 - Bryony Waterman

Years 7/8 - Tania Fransen

Years 7/8 - Janet Valentine

Bryony and Erin will both be new to St Brigid's. Team 3 will continue to be led by Fiona Kearns, Team 2 by Amanda Prowse and Team 1 will now be led by Maggie Johnson, while Pauline Sharp dedicates more of her time to the SENCO role.

Save the Date

On **Thursday 7 February 2019** (week 1 of school) we will be having a "meet the teacher/dinner at school" evening from 5.30 – 7.00 pm.

We will have the BBQ set up, outside seating, games etc and classrooms will be open for parents to wander through and meet the teachers.

The Year 8 teachers will also use this opportunity to have a quick camp meeting at 6.30pm



Classroom Visits

All children will visit their new classrooms on Wednesday December 12. They will spend time in their new spaces with their teacher and others in their class. All children from Year 3 upwards have been placed in a class with at least one of the friends that they nominated to be with.

As some children find change slightly more challenging than others, parents might want to start talking to their children, reminding them how well they coped this year, sharing personal experiences of change and how they cope or creating a picture of the exciting things that they can look forward to in the new year. Teachers will also be introducing the idea of change and some of the feelings children might have about it.

CHRISTMAS PARADE

Christmas Parade Church Float

If there are any children who would like to be part of the Johnsonville Christmas Parade this weekend on **Saturday 1 December** please contact Kevin Rodrigues on 021 230 1422.

First Holy Communion

We congratulate **Katrina Ramos** who received the Sacrament of First Holy Communion, at St Mary of the Angels on Sunday 18 November.

School Library News

ALL SCHOOL LIBRARY BOOKS ARE DUE BACK THIS WEEK

Please look under beds, in your cupboards, on bookshelves and tables, then **PLEASE URGENTLY RETURN** all library books to the school library this week, ready for our library stocktake next week. Thank you



Library Books for Summer

In the past we have not let our school library books be borrowed over the summer break as it is a long time to keep track of them, particularly if they are taken away on holiday with students. However, it does seem a shame that all our beautiful books gather dust rather than being read.

Therefore we are going to try something new this year. We are happy for students to borrow up to five books each to read during the holidays, PROVIDING we have written permission from their parents/caregivers. If you are happy for your children to take library books out over the holidays and you will ensure they are returned at the beginning of Term 1 2019, please complete and return the permission form that is attached to this newsletter.



Scholastic Lucky Book Club - Issue 8

Orders from Issue 8 of the Lucky Book Club brochure need to be submitted by tomorrow - **Wednesday 28 November 2018**.

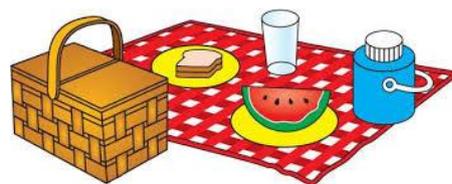
To purchase any books just note the 3 digit code next to the title, then visit <https://mybookclub.scholastic.co.nz/Parent/ClubManagement.aspx> type in St Brig and find St Brigid's School on the drop down list.



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 to let us know. We will contact you when the books arrive, so you can collect them from us.

School Picnic at Waikanae Pool

Tuesday 11 December from 10.30am until 2.00pm
60 Ngarara Road, Waikanae



On picnic day our hope is that all our students and as many families as possible will travel out to Waikanae to join together with school staff for fun in the sun. At present we are reliant upon families making their own transport arrangements to get to and from the pool - whether in your own car or carpooling with friends.

Teachers of our Year 4-8 students will be monitoring the transport arrangements for their class and will be seeking help for those students who will need a ride. **If you have any spare seats in your car** and would be happy to take extra students, we would be grateful if you would please email the class teacher so that they can link you up with other children in the class who require rides. Thank you.

All our teachers, as well as pool attendants, are always available at the pool to supervise students, but pool rules state that children under 8 years of age must be more closely supervised by an adult who is specifically looking out for them.

Ticket Sales: We will be running our pre-pay ticketing system again this year.

- A **ticket order form** will be sent home with your oldest child by the end of the week.
- Please complete and return your order form with the **correct money** to the school office.
- **There are no internet payments for this - cash only** (this will make it easier to reimburse if the picnic is cancelled due to poor weather).
- Your family's tickets will be allocated and sent home with your eldest child.



Team Tahi Wheels Day

Team Tahi will be having a "Wheels Day" on Monday 10 December. Children can bring **clearly named** scooters, bikes, roller blades or toys with wheels. **Helmets are compulsory and also need to be named.**

The wheels will only be used during class time with supervision.

Postponement day will be Thursday 13 December.



Team Rua Johnsonville Library Visits

The classes in Team 2 are going to visit the Johnsonville Library in the first week of December. We will be leaving for the library at 1:40pm and returning to school by 2:45pm. We would really appreciate some parents to walk to and from the library with us. Toddlers are also welcome to join us. If you are able to help please email your child's teacher.

Monday 3 December - Room 9
Tuesday 4 December - Room 10
Wednesday 5 December - Room 11
Thursday 6 December - Room 8

Team Toru Mt Kau Kau Walk

On Thursday 6 December Team Toru will be catching the 10am train to Simla Crescent and from there will make our ascent up Mt Kau Kau.

Depending on the weather, we will picnic at the top and then make our way down to Truscott Park. Once at the park we will play games.

Students are able to wear mufti which includes sensible walking shoes. They also need plenty of food and drink as well as a waterproof raincoat and a sunhat.

We would appreciate some help with supervision for this walk. If you can join us, please contact your child's teacher.



LOST - **Angelina Isaac** from Room 4, and **Madison Nguyen** from Room 9 have both misplaced their named school jerseys. If found, please return to them, or drop off to us in the office.

Jana Navalta from Room 8's silver Razor handles is still missing (see attached name on it at the bottom on the base.



scooter with blue photo). It has her

SPORTS NOTICES

Inter Zone Athletics

This has been moved to the postponement date of Thursday 29 November. Could the parents that had offered to transport children to Newtown Park, please reconfirm availability for the new date by emailing Mike Schultz – mike@stbrigids.school.nz. Thank you.



Student Celebrations

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

Congratulations to:

Keith Nikolao as he will receive a Northern Suburbs Citizenship Award from Mayor Justin Lester, on Friday 30 November at the Johnsonville Community Centre. There were many reasons for Keith's nomination but he has been the chairperson of the Young Christian Leadership team and has willingly taken on other roles within the school. He is polite and courteous at all times and uses his initiative and takes his responsibilities seriously. He has been a positive Catholic role-model and has consistently displayed the values we uphold at St Brigid's School. We are proud of you and all you have achieved.



Amber Dano who last week took part in the North Island Primary School's Tennis Championships in Palmerston North. She played well and ended the tournament undefeated taking out first prize. She also played extremely well in the doubles and won a medal for that too. Well done Amber, the practise and effort you put into your chosen sport is the reason you have succeeded.



Peyton Luamanu won gold in the level 1-3 mini solo division at the National Cheerleading competition held in Auckland over the weekend of 10-11 November.

Billy-Terri Martin-Ropiha who placed 3rd boys division at the Johnsonville School Saturday 3 November.



in the Year 1 Triathlon held on



Former student **Jonty Nguon** who represented New Zealand, and came 4th in his division at the Matsushima Kyokushin Karate World Tournament in China.



St Brigid's School Friends & Family



FUNDRAISING

TEAM

Food Fair & Festival

Food Festival

The Food Festival made just under \$10,000. This was an awesome effort and when we looked at the same stalls from last year we realised we had actually made about \$1500 more. 2017 had 25 stalls, this year there were 10, so it was a very pleasing result. Once again a big thank you to everyone who supported this event. The money raised will go towards upgrading some of our classrooms.



Debrief Meeting

While it is still on top we thought it would be a good idea to hold a short de-brief for all those who organised or worked on a stall. This will be a short meeting to talk about what worked, what would be done differently next time etc. This will be on Wednesday December 5 at 3.15 in the staffroom.

Community News

A poster for a Christmas event. The title 'A Christmas To Remember' is written in a large, white, cursive font at the top. Below it, in smaller white capital letters, is 'A JOINT CHRISTMAS CAROL PRESENTATION BY THE MUSIC MINISTERS OF THE ST FRANCIS OHARIU PARISH'. The background is a dark, blurred image of a Christmas tree and lights. At the bottom, there are three colored boxes: a teal box on the left with 'Sts Peter and Paul Church, Johnsonville', a white box in the middle with 'Sun, Dec 2', 'Light tea: 6 PM', and 'Programme: 6:45 PM', and a yellow box on the right with 'Entry by Koha' and 'For details please contact Joel Sison 0276837808'.

Strength of character and gentleness of heart



Sisters of Compassion – Carols Around The Crib

We warmly invite you and your community to join the Sisters of Compassion at our Advent Family Day. This festive day is centred around setting up the nativity crib at 11am with Christmas carols for all to follow. Throughout the day, get creative with nativity arts and crafts or search for nativity rocks in the Christmas treasure hunt.

10am - 3pm , Saturday 1st December, Suzanne Aubert Heritage Centre, Our Lady's Home of Compassion, 2 Rhine Street (off Murray St), Island Bay. We look forward to seeing you there!

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 Brigid's 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.

Raroa Music Centre Enrolments For 2019

Raroa Music Centre offers Saturday morning group music lessons for primary school children at low cost. Classes include choir, keyboard, recorder, drums, ukulele, guitar, violin, cello, clarinet, saxophone, flute, trumpet and orchestra. To enrol for 2019 visit our website www.raroamusic.org.nz and enrol online. Enrolments open in December.

Term 1 2019 GYMNASTICS, TUMBLING, TRAMPOLINING, CHEERLEADING OR PARKOUR class bookings open from Monday 26 November online www.bigairgym.co.nz. Contact Bigair Tawa on 2323508, email office@bigairgym.co.nz.



Fifi Colston will provide students with an opportunity to learn from her amazing creative skills over four days in the January holidays next year.

What: Draw Like an Illustrator camp

When: 14 - 17 January 2019

Where: Raroa Normal Intermediate

Cost: \$220

For more information check out <https://drawlikeanillustrator.com/>



Marrzipan Drama

Marrzipan provide a programme designed to build confidence and communication through drama. Run by professional actors they teach children how to confidently share and perform to groups and build a range of skills.

It is structured as below and is run out of the school either before or after school

- 10 students per 45 minute class, 14 students per 60 minute class
- \$159 per student per term
- Payment plans available from \$25 per week
- 9 lessons per term including 2 performances every term (one to friends and one to parents)

Here's a link to the website for more information - <https://www.marrzipandrama.co.nz/>

