



St Brigid's School Newsletter

6 March 2018



www.stbrigids.school.nz

Phone: 478 6516

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Last week we had the Education Review Office in at school from Monday till Thursday, evaluating the work the school has done over the last few years. Whilst the report will not be out for some time, they affirmed the quality of teaching and learning that is evident in our school and commented on the confidence and respect our children show.

During the week the Senior Leadership Team were involved in many formal and informal discussions with the ERO Team. One of the areas that we talked about was the importance of providing parents with opportunities to engage with the school in a range of different ways, to strengthen the partnerships between school and home. We will be looking at a range of ways we can increase opportunities to connect with our diverse parent community.

We have, in the next couple of weeks some events that will give us opportunities to connect with our families:

- **Netsafe Evening** - *The balancing act between the social and the safe online – ways we can support our children and young people as they navigate online opportunities, challenges and complexities.* **Wednesday 7 March @ Crofton Downs School Hall 6.30 – 7.30**
- **Book Fair Week** - March 12 – 16 finishing with a "dress up day" on Friday March 16. The theme is the Wild West, so children can dress as a Wild West or favourite book character. **On Friday 16 March, we are inviting families to bring their takeaway dinner to school around 5.30** and have a look at the book fair display in the library.
- **Goal Setting Meetings will be held on March 21 and 22.** These will be an opportunity for parents, teachers and students to help students plan what they will need to do this year to ensure that they make progress with their learning. We will let you know when the booking system opens for these meetings.

I look forward to working alongside our community this year to further grow and strengthen our school.

God Bless

Linda Birch

Strength of character and gentleness of heart





School Assembly
(Hui-a-kura)

There will be **no school assemblies** during Term 1, due to the building work being undertaken at the Johnsonville Community Centre.

Welcome

We warmly welcome Harmony Ta'ala, who joined Room 8 last week.

Harmony joins her cousins Dayne and Jeremiah Fogava'a here at St Brigid's. We are sure they are both helping Harmony settle happily into school life.



Sacramental Programme

There will be a Reconciliation practice this **Friday 9 March at 4.00pm**. Please bring your homework to hand in.

The First Reconciliation service will take place on **Sunday 11 March at 2.00pm** at St 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

Team Tahi	Wednesday 28 March	NZSO concert
Team Rua	Mon 5 Mar - Thurs 8 Mar	Johnsonville Library Visits
	Wednesday 28 March	NZSO concert
Team Toru		
Other Events	Tuesday 13 March	Northern Zone Football Tournament
	Mon 12 Mar - Thurs 15 Mar	Book Fair open until 3.30pm in the School Library
	Friday 16 March	Book Fair, Dress Up Day and Family Takeaway Night
	Thursday 29 March	Easter Liturgy
	Tuesday 3 April	Easter Tuesday - School Closed
	Thursday 5 April	Board of Trustees Meeting



News from the Board

On Thursday 22 February, the Board met for the first meeting of 2018.

- A warm welcome was extended to Ferdie Gomes who has joined the board as a proprietor's appointee.
- Carol Winter was re-elected as the board chair for 2018.
- Linda presented her Principals report with the following points of note:
 - Maggie Johnson has been appointed to the DRS role.
 - An overview was provided of the 2017 National Standards results. Reading continues to be a particular strength with 94% of all students at or above the National Standard. Our maths results have also increased over the past years with 93% of students at or above the National Standards. Writing is also strong at 92%. Writing will be a focus for 2018. The board acknowledged the efforts of the entire school community in these very positive results. As people may be aware, the school is no longer required to report on National Standards. However, the school will continue to report regularly to parents on their child's progress and assessment of achievement against the NZ Curriculum. The quality of education offered by St Brigid's will not change. More information will be provided in due course on the proposed assessment framework.
 - The board is continuing to look at the school grounds and areas for improvements.
 - Meg Davies was selected as a Parent Representative at the Board meeting. Meg has a daughter in Year 2. A warm welcome is extended to Meg.



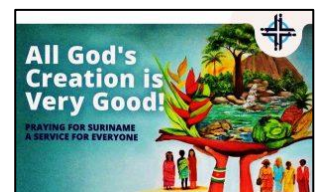
The Board would like to acknowledge all the hard work and effort put in by the school staff in preparing for the Education Review Office visit last week. In particular, we are very grateful to Linda, Fiona, Pauline and Amanda who spent a lot of extra time and effort making sure the ERO team had all the paperwork they needed and meeting with the ERO team throughout last week.

The result of their hard work was some very positive verbal feedback about the thorough and effective teaching practices at St Brigid's, the inclusive and welcoming environment, and the teamwork displayed throughout the school. ERO's written report will be available for parents/caregivers to read in due course

World Day of Prayer

On Friday, six Year 5/6 students, Conor, Liway, Victoria, Dayne, Gerard and Charlize attended an ecumenical service at St John's Church in Johnsonville. The prayer's theme was "All God's Creation is very good".

Each year a different country is the focus - for 2018 Suriname which lies in the north-eastern part of South America. The prayer had a big focus on caring for God's creation with prayers, songs, readings and dramas all about this theme. We met lovely people from many churches and shared a wonderful morning tea.





The Life Education van will be visiting Team Tahī students shortly.

Schools have a range of options to choose from to best meet the current learning needs of their students. This time, we have decided on a focus around developing resilience, emotional regulation, and building conflict resolution skills.

Kapa, the educator explained that when children can name how they are feeling, this helps them to manage their emotions; this is something we'll be working on.

You can read more about the Life Education programme by following the link:
<http://www.lifeeducation.org.nz/>

Students will visit the van Monday to Wednesday, 12 - 14 March.

The van is open for parents to visit after school 3.15-3.45pm on Monday and Tuesday 12 and 13 March.

Kapa will be there to explain the programme and answer any questions.

The van will be parked in the Softball clubrooms in Phillip Street.



Rarotonga Coin Trail

Monday 19 March is St Joseph's Feast Day, and on that day we are holding a Coin Trail to raise some money for one of our Pacific Island neighbours, The Cook Islands. St Joseph's is a full primary school in Rarotonga.

The money raised will be used for sports gear and art supplies and will be taken in person by Marie Eastwood later this month.

Please support this very worthwhile cause.



Strength of character and gentleness of heart



Scholastic "Wild West" Book Fair

We will be holding a book fair in our Library next week. The Library will be open after school Monday to Thursday until 3.30pm. There will be lots of books and posters for sale at great prices and every book sold earns points that our school can use towards buying more beautiful books for our school library

....and then on Friday we will have....

- **Dress Up Day**

Come along dressed up as someone from the Wild West or your favourite book character

....and then later bring your family to our....

- **Family Takeaway Night 5.30pm Friday 16 March**

Come and join other families with your Friday night takeaways and have a fun and relaxing evening catching up with other parents while the kids play. At the same time, pop into the Library and check out our Wild West Book Fair. The Book Fair will be open until 7pm.



SPORTS NOTICES

Northern Zone Football Tournament

Coming home today with some children will be a letter for Northern Zone Football. Could you please fill in and **return it to Mrs Bowe by Friday this week**. Thank you.



Movin' March

The month of March is known as Movin' March. Try and think of ways that you will be able to encourage your child to come to school - parking further away from the school gates and walking, biking to school, or scootering. Let's see if we can start moving some more.



Student Celebrations

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

Congratulations to:

Zach Fairless who represented Wellington in Softball in the U13 boys division last weekend in Whanganui. The team placed 3rd and Zach was recognised with a Merit Award for Achievement.

He has also been selected by the NZ International Softball Academy to represent New Zealand in the U13's in Los Angeles and Canada in July.

We are very proud of you!!



Lost

Andre Medina from Room 6 is missing his Spalding basketball, amber-brown in colour. His name used to be on it, but has smudged off over time. It went missing last Friday from the big courts.

Kate Medina from Room 2 is missing her jersey (named Andre / Kate Medina), and two named drink bottles - one purple and the other with a red lid.

If found could you please return to Andre or Kate, or drop off to us in the school office. Thank you.

Community News

West Fest - West Park School's Annual Gala

Come along to West Fest 2018 this Saturday, 10 March from 11.00am to 2.00pm at West Park School. There will be all the traditional gala highlights including fantastic food, great entertainment, second hand goods for sale, face painting, crafts and a great range of activities will also be on offer to entertain the whole family.



Northern United Junior Hockey Club

The Northern Suburbs' home of six-a-side hockey for school years 3-6. 2018 Registrations (online) closing soon! Register now! Players of all skill levels welcome, including beginners. Pre-season training: Mon afternoon, 5-6 pm, 19 Feb to 26 March. Official 2018 season runs from start of term 2. Details: www.nujhc.org.nz.

