



Te Kura o Heparā Pai

**Care Manaakitanga
Respect Whakautē
Honesty Pono**

Newsletter 12

03 Here-turi-kōkā / August 2023

From the Principal

Kia orāna everyone and welcome to **Epetoma o te reo Māori Kūki 'Āirani: Cook Islands Language Week**, with the theme this year 'Ātuitui'ia au ki te au peu o tōku kāinga Ipukarea, which means, "connect me to the traditions & culture of my homeland".

At Good Shepherd School we are blessed with a community of families who have come from all over the world to make Aotearoa their home. In fact, **Cultural Diversity** is one of the New Zealand Curriculum Principles that underpin all decision-making in our school. Our school reflects our linguistically and culturally diverse nation and our curriculum affirms our students' different cultural identities, incorporates students' cultural contexts into teaching and learning programmes, and helps students understand and respect diverse viewpoints, values, customs, and languages.

Our New Zealand Curriculum also has **Learning Languages** as one of the learning areas with a focus in primary schools on Te Reo Māori. We also acknowledge the many other beautiful languages spoken within our community through our Language Weeks, and encourage families to nurture home languages with their children.

Aere rā
Jane Hahn

Principal's Open Office

Don't forget to pop in to see Mrs Hahn in her office between 8.30am and 9.30am on Fridays if you have any questions about school life, or you just want to catch up.

Upcoming Dates

30 July-5	Cook Island Language Week
9 August	PTA Meeting
17 August	Netball Zones
3 September	Tongan Language Week
5 September	Catholic Schools Cross Country
15 September	Grandparents Mass
22 September	End of Term 3
9 October	Beginning of Term 4
18 November	GSS School Fair
15 December	End of Term 4

The following 2024 term dates were approved by the School Board:

Term	Start	Finish
1	Tuesday 30 January	Friday 12 April
2	Monday 29 April	Friday 5 July
3	Monday 22 July	Friday 27 September
4	Monday 14 October	Friday 13 December

Special Character

Good Shepherd Awards



John Joshy- You are a helpful and respectful student who is always keen to give things a try.
Felix Arrasco- Ward- You consistently demonstrate the GSS Way through your honesty and kindness towards others.

Sacramental Programme

Please keep in your prayers the children who are preparing for their First Holy Communion this term.

Remembering Celia Rose Gatt

A year ago we lost one of our precious tamariki and we send our loving support to Celia's whānau and friends on the anniversary of her passing. Celia will be remembered at the 9.30am parish Mass tomorrow morning and you are invited to light a candle for her in the Church at any time during the day.



Sport

Lunchtime Football Programme

On Tuesday 8 August the lunchtime football programme will begin. It will be on the school field from 1pm until 1.50pm every Tuesday for 5 weeks. You can still register and pay for your child to participate in this programme.

Term 3 Sporting Events are:

Netball Zones - Thursday 17 August

Catholic Schools Cross Country - Tuesday 5 September

Please Keep in Your Prayers....

We ask for God's blessing on all those members of our community who are suffering illness or loss in their families at this time. Please keep them in your prayers.

Good Shepherd Parish Mass times

We encourage all families to attend Mass together, particularly those children who have completed the Sacramental programme. Sunday Mass is at **9.30am**.

Catholic Caring Mass

This week our School Council leaders represented Good Shepherd School at the annual Catholic Caring Mass. This occasion is to give thanks to the men, women and children who make an outstanding contribution to caring and helping those in need in our diocese. Our students are very much a vital part of this community of care and Joanna, Thomas and Cassie represented all those in our community who have worked so hard to help others.

In & Around School

Room Six

Room 6 has been busy learning all about the Cook Islands as we celebrate 'Epetoma o te reo Māori Kūki 'Āirani – Cook Islands Language Week.

We have spent time reading about the principle of ra'ui and the importance of working together to protect natural resources. As we prepare for our assembly next week we have also been looking at the art of tivaevae and integrating this into our maths and art learning, here is a sneak peak!



Calling all Singers - Eden/Albert School Choir

This year we will be taking part in the Eden/Albert Schools Choir Performance. This will take place on 19 October at Holy Trinity Cathedral in Parnell. Ms Fengmei Li, our choir trainer, has been conducting auditions for senior students to be part of this choir and we thank you for encouraging your child to audition if they enjoy singing. It will be quite an experience!

Information for Whānau

Good Shepherd School Uniform

The children are in their winter school uniforms until Term 4. Uniforms are purchased through Elizabeth Michael Uniforms although we do keep a supply of second hand uniforms for purchase at the school for \$5 per item. Online orders can be made through Elizabeth Michael's website with the code GS132.

Can we please give special attention to footwear?

The uniform shoes are black, worn with black knee high socks. We encourage students to bring in and wear sports shoes for sports but they must wear their uniform shoes to and from school.

In winter and the colder weather, we strongly recommend that children wear the school uniform jumper and there is also a school jacket available. A warm singlet could also be useful. Please name all uniform items.

Finally, children are asked to bring in a change of clothes if they want to play on the field as it quickly becomes very muddy.

Second Hand Uniforms

We would appreciate it if whānau could bring in any uniform that no longer is in use. The school's second hand uniform cabinet is not only great for families to buy from (at the cost of \$5 per item of clothing), but also helpful for when children unexpectedly need a change of clothes.

Class WhatsApp Groups

We use WhatsApp and Facebook to facilitate communication among whānau. There is no obligation to join these informal groups, but whānau find them very useful for asking and reminding each other about school happenings - not to mention tracking down lost property! This document contains links to our groups, including classroom and PTA WhatsApp groups, and school and PTA Facebook groups.



[GSS WhatsApp and Facebook Information 2023](#)

Absence Notification

Please notify the school office of any student absences **before** 9:15 am on the day of absence by phone on 09 620 4962, by emailing admin@goodshepherd.school.nz or using the app to enable us to complete our school roll. Our school uses an app that is linked to teachers and our admin staff. Please download the app '@school' and contact the office on admin@goodshepherd.school.nz if you require your unique login information. Please also see a previous [newsletter](#) with the set up instructions.



Attendance Dues and Donations 2023

Attendance Dues are a compulsory payment approved by the Minister of Education under the terms of the Education and Training Act 2020. They are a condition of enrolment at Good Shepherd School, as they are in all Catholic schools in Aotearoa New Zealand. Attendance Dues are collected by Good Shepherd School on behalf of the school's Proprietor, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Auckland. Thank you to all of our families that have made payments already and to our families

who have made per term, per week and per fortnight arrangements.

Good Shepherd School also asks for **donations** from whānau. We rely on these donations to provide the extra learning opportunities, such as the *Opera in Schools* performance, and the exceptional resources available to our students, such as one-to-one devices in our classrooms. These donations include *Trips and Activities* and, where relevant, camp donations so that we can offer our students a range of rich education outside the classroom experiences. As a small school, we very much appreciate these contributions to our limited budget.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE DUES FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Financial assistance is available to assist families who may need support with the payment of Attendance Dues for preference students attending both primary and secondary Catholic schools in Auckland Diocese.

Families facing financial difficulties can contact their school office, their Parish Priest, or Auckland Common Fund Ltd at the Catholic Diocese of Auckland on 09-360-3069 for further information. Term 3 is a good time to start that process so please reach out for that assistance now.

Application forms for this assistance are available from school and parish offices, or can be downloaded from the Catholic Diocese of Auckland Website:

<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/catholic-schools-2/>

Enrolments at Good Shepherd School

If you, or anyone you know, are considering enrolling your child at Good Shepherd, please contact the school office as soon as possible on admin@goodshepherd.school.nz.

As always we appreciate your recommendations of our school to friends and whānau.

Dropping off and Picking up Children

This is just a reminder that children are under the care of their parents or caregivers after 3pm, unless they have been booked into our Out of School Care programme. They are, of course, supervised on the Church steps until approximately



3.15pm, by which time parents will have picked them up. Similarly, we have Out of School care between 7.30am and 8.30am for those children whose parents need to get away to work early. Children are not closely supervised in the playground before 8.30am.

Good Shepherd OSCA - Before & After School

The Good Shepherd OSCA programme is an important service that we offer to our school community. Below is a link to the booking form and OSCA Parent Information Sheet which outlines the operational details, and costs for the programme.

[OSCA 2023 Form & Parent Info](#). Forms can also be picked up from OSCA. OSCA is payable in **advance** to bank account 12-3067-0208272-03 on the Friday before the booking is needed.

- Please fill in all forms for OSCA accurately and keep us up to date with changing medical conditions for your child.
- Remember to let us know by email to admin@goodshepherd.school.nz if your plans change, for example if your child is being picked up by another parent.

Thank you to Alex and his team for all the good work you do in OSCA.

Winter health and vaccination reminders

Te Whatu Ora encourages whānau to vaccinate their tamariki for pneumococcal disease, Meningococcal B, measles, and flu, alongside their three COVID-19 vaccines to provide the greatest level of protection heading into winter.

Tamariki aged six months to 12 years are eligible for free flu vaccinations. For more information, visit:

[Flu immunisation for tamariki – KidsHealth](#)

[Measles, mumps, and rubella \(MMR\) vaccine – Te Whatu Ora](#)

[COVID-19 boosters for over 30s and those at increased risk of severe illness – New Zealand Government](#)

You will still need to isolate for seven days if you have COVID-19 to reduce the risk of spread. For further information:

[If you have COVID-19 – New Zealand Government](#)

Please inform the school if your child has tested positive for COVID-19.

GSS PTA

Sushi, Pizza & Moosies

Sushi, Pizza and Moosies Can Now All Be Ordered On Kindo!

Sushi and Moosies are available for lunch most Fridays in Term 3. Pizza is available as an alternative to sushi twice this term on the dates noted below.

Due to a recent price increase from our supplier, the price of each sushi pack will increase by 50 cents effective from next week.

As Friday 15th September is Grandparents' Mass, sushi will be available on Thursday 14th instead. Orders are taken online only via [Kindo](#). You will need to set up a Kindo account if you are ordering for the first time. Orders will close at 8.45am on the day of the sushi delivery. You can order weekly or for as many weeks in advance as you like. You are also able to cancel sushi orders up until 8.45am on the day of the delivery. Remember if your child orders Teriyaki chicken on rice, please send them to school with a fork in their lunchbox.



Pizza orders will close at 6pm on Thursday 10th August.

Sushi and pizzas lunches are scheduled for the following dates this term:

Friday 4th August (sushi)
Friday 11th August (sushi)
Tuesday 15th August (pizza)
Friday 18th August (sushi)
Friday 25th August (sushi)
Friday 1st September (sushi)
Friday 8th September (sushi)
Thursday 14th September (sushi)
Tuesday 19th September (pizza)
Friday 22nd September (sushi)

Moosies are sold for two dollars, and are managed by our Year 6 House Captains. If you prefer your child to pay for their Moosie with a coin, please instruct them to keep it in a safe place before

lunchtime. Don't send tamariki with large amounts of money, as change can easily get lost at school.

If you have ordered your child's Moosie on Kindo please remind them that they must line up for it next to Room 2, straight after they finish eating their lunch. **House Captains will not search around the school for missing Moosie customers.**

Thanks to all our wonderful volunteers and House Captains, who help make this lunch service possible.

SCHOOL FAIR NEWS

The PTA will once again celebrate our community by hosting the **Good Shepherd School Fair on 18th November 2023.**

[Fair Newsletter- Issue 1](#)

Please join the facebook school fair page by scanning the barcode below or search '**Good Shepherd School Fair 2023**'



Caring Committee

Good Shepherd PTA, as part of its school community focus, has a Caring Committee that gives support to families that are in need for a variety of reasons such as sickness, loss of a family member or wakeful newborns. This service is usually given as meals or baking for the family. When the committee gets notified of a family, an email is sent out to everyone on the committee, and whoever can help on a certain day for a meal then you get rostered for that day. No conditions or pressure even if your name is on the committee, only help when you can. If you are interested in being on the email list, please email sashamadas@hotmail.com



JOIN THE MOTHER SUPERIORS

The Mother Superiors is the mum's version of the Holey Fathers. There was an amazing turn out last week of about 25 Good Shepherd mums at this year's first Mother Superiors event. Thank you to all the wonderful mums who braved the cold weather and attended. We look forward to hosting more events this year. If you are interested, please add yourself to the Whatsapp group or keep an eye out in the newsletter for the next event.

[Mother Superior's WhatsApp Group](#)

Join the Holey Fathers

The Holey Fathers are a group of Good Shepherd School dads, who get together from time to time for social catchups and to help out at the school with the occasional working bee. We'd love to welcome some new faces to the group, especially dads who have just joined the Good Shepherd School community. It's a great way to get to know other dads at school and have a bit of fun along the way.

Please contact holeyfathers@gmail.com if you're keen to join us.