



*Te Kura o Heparā Pai*

*Care Manaakitanga  
Respect Whakaute  
Honesty Pono*

**Newsletter 22  
12 December / Hakihea 2024**



**From the Principal**

Kia ora e te whānau,

It's hard to believe that we are now just one day away from completing the 2024 school year at GSS. This year has been incredibly eventful, filled with much to celebrate.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to the wonderful staff at GSS, who meticulously plan enriching learning opportunities both inside and outside the classroom for our tamariki. It is our children who truly benefit from this vibrant learning environment, evident in numerous ways: through excellent academic progress and outcomes, the outstanding sporting and arts opportunities, and the inspiring classroom environments created by our talented teachers.

The daily prayer and the values instilled in our children through the teachings of Jesus, Religious Education, and regular attendance at Mass provide a

strong foundation for their growth into responsible and compassionate citizens. Our identity as a special character school sets us apart and strengthens our sense of community.

I would like to share one final staffing update with you. We send well wishes to Megan, our long-standing and highly valued Deputy Principal, who has made the decision to pursue other opportunities for her personal and professional growth. Megan has dedicated an immense amount of time and energy to supporting the students and staff at Good Shepherd over the years, playing a pivotal role in many of the school's successes. Her leadership in professional development, as well as her commitment to fostering students' academic and personal growth, has been instrumental in shaping the positive culture of GSS.

As we look forward to 2025, we are pleased to welcome back Heather McLeod, who will serve as a Deputy Principal. Peyton Evans will continue as the classroom teacher for room 6 she and will also assume Deputy Principal responsibilities. Both Heather and Peyton have performed their roles with great success this year, and we are fortunate to have their leadership continue.

As a community, your unwavering support of GSS has been remarkable. Thanks to your commitment and generosity, our children have enjoyed incredible opportunities that would not have been possible otherwise. We look forward to building on this momentum in 2025 and seeing what more we can accomplish together.

I hope you and your families enjoy a joyful and restful holiday season.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,

Te Atua ki a koe / God bless,

Ben Fahey

**Upcoming Dates**

12 Dec	Christmas Concert 6pm- Children arrive at 5:30 Term 4 Ends - Last Day of School <b>School finishes at 2pm</b>
13 Dec	

*Please look carefully, as some of these dates have changed*

### Term Dates 2025

Term	Start	Finish
1	Tuesday 28 January	Friday 11 April
2	Monday 28 April	Friday 27 June
3	Monday 14 July	Friday 19 September
4	Monday 06 October	Friday 12 December

#### Quick Links

[Term Dates](#)

[Whats app Groups](#)

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[Good Shepherd Term 1 Overview](#)

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**Reminder: School Closes Early Tomorrow, Friday, 13 December, at 2 PM.**

OSCA will still be operating as usual from 2 PM onwards.

As the festive season approaches, we wish everyone a wonderful Christmas and a joyful, safe, holiday season! See you all back at school on **Monday, 28 January 2025.**

**Note for 2025 Year Six Tamariki:** Our Year Six students will be heading off to camp on **Monday, 27 January 2025.**

Enjoy your break and we look forward to seeing you in the new year!



### Christmas Concert TONIGHT



You are warmly invited to the Good Shepherd Christmas Concert on Thursday night. All classes will perform a Christmas item and we hope you will join in the carol singing in between items.

**5.30pm children report to teacher - concert to begin at 6.00pm. Children can wear Christmas themed clothing.**

So come along with your picnic rugs, and join us as we celebrate this special time of year with the children of Good Shepherd. Once the concert is finished, children will be under the supervision of their parents.

**YEARBOOKS WILL BE ON SALE AT THE CHRISTMAS CONCERT TONIGHT BRING YOUR CASH!!!**

**EVERY SINGLE GSS CHILD FEATURES IN THE YEARBOOK. DON'T MISS OUT ON YOUR COPY!! THEY ALSO MAKE GREAT GIFTS!**

**ONLY \$25**



**Year Six End of Year Pool Party - TOMORROW!**

**GSS GRADS POOL PARTY**

FRIDAY 13 DECEMBER | *Last day of school*  
2.30-5.00pm @ Pt Erin Pools, Herne Bay

Scan QR to join group & RSVP for your child

**PIZZA, DRINKS, SNACKS & LOTS OF FUN**  
\$13 per child

PARENT HELPERS NEEDED FOR TRANSPORT & SUPERVISION  
Qs? CONTACT ANNA SHAW / 02102970532 annalshaw@gmail.com

**Congratulations to recent past students**



**Special Character Mural Blessing**

Have you seen the amazing new mural outside the pool yet? On Tuesday, Monsignor Bernard blessed this beautiful artwork, painted by the incredibly talented Bridget Spencer. We're so lucky to have her share her creativity with us, and now we have this vibrant mural to enjoy for years to come!

A special mention to the hardworking and amazing PTA for making this happen as part of our pool updates project. This wouldn't have been possible without your awesome fundraising efforts! Thanks again to everyone for your ongoing support.

Well done especially to the following past recent students of Good Shepherd who were awarded prizes at their respective schools end of year prize giving's. We know this list is not complete and all of our students go on to great things! Many congratulations to all of our past students for all of your endeavours.

**Baradene College**

- Naomi Buddell
- Phoebe Carlsen
- Eva Craig Rivera
- Ava Elbourne
- Elizabeth Harkison-Merrick
- Ava Hodgson
- Charlotte Kennerley
- Harriet Russell
- Siena Woods

**Marist College**

- Anastasia Kautoke
- Sharelle Lemalu
- Maddison McLeod
- Kalo Sundin



Genevieve Vogels  
 Kayano Vogels  
**St Peters College**  
 Henry Katongo  
 Gavin Lin  
 William Moulder  
 Hao Nguyen  
 Patelesio "Sio" Sundin

**Sports**

What an amazing year of Good Shepherd Sports! Lets keep our tamariki active. Thank you to all parents that have coached & managed teams. Helped with transport and care. Bring on 2025!



**In and Around School**

**Thank you to our amazing PTA**

We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to our incredible PTA for their unwavering dedication and hard work this year. Your efforts in fundraising and, more importantly, in making improvements to our school for the benefit of all our precious tamariki are truly appreciated. From the wonderful Grandparents Mass lunch to the successful Quiz Night, the exciting updates to the pool (wait until you see what's happening behind the fence!), the sandpit shade sail, and the new crosses on the tennis court fence – you have brought so much to our school community.

The new sports equipment for our tamariki, the vibrant line markings around the school (HOW COLOURFUL!), and the thoughtful Year 6 leavers' presents are just a few examples of how your hard work is benefiting our students. Your organisation of the Matariki breakfast was such a special touch, bringing us all together in celebration.

We know that behind all of these events and improvements, there is a huge amount of planning, communication, and organisation – all balanced with the demands of family and work. Your generosity of time, energy, and spirit has not gone unnoticed by the GSS staff, and we are so grateful for everything you do.

We encourage all our GSS whanau to get involved in the PTA meetings. As the saying goes, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." Together,



we can continue to create a positive and thriving environment for our children.

Thank you once again for everything. Your commitment truly makes a difference.

### Caring Committee - Heartfelt Thank you

Every year comes with highs and lows, it's a privilege to not only share the joy of succeeding together as a community but also being pillars when whānau are in need of some help. 2024 proved that Good Shepherd School as a whole has a huge heart to help. We are fortunate to offer this service of help because of the hands that help prepare services and acts of kindness. This can only be accomplished through volunteers, so please sign up to the caring committee in 2025 - it's a *'when you can help'* service, and it really does change families day/week/month/year when they receive thoughtfulness.



### Garden Club

For our final Garden Club of the year, we celebrated by making edible Christmas trees using ice cream cones, green icing, sprinkles and strawberries and edible flowers from the garden!

We have potatoes and tomatoes growing in the garden and are hoping for hot chips with homemade tomato sauce after the holidays if these manage to grow over the summer holidays.

A great big thank you to Andrea Hannay for her invaluable role at Garden Club this year. We are so grateful to her for all her help.



### Information for Whānau

#### STOP THE SUMMER SLIDE!

#### Raumati Reads - Summer Reading

Joining the library is free for all residents of Tāmaki Makaurau. Join [online](#) then pick up your library card.



Try these three steps to help your child improve their reading during the summer and beyond.

1. **Six books to summer success**
2. **Read something every day**
3. **Keep reading aloud**

### Nice Blocks!

Thank you for your support in our journey to become more sustainable. The tamariki are enjoying their new plastic-free ice blocks!

Ice blocks are able to be ordered through Kindo and are set up for the term. The cost of the new ice blocks is still **\$2**.



You can order ice blocks for as many weeks in advance as you like. Ice blocks orders close at 8.30am on the day of the orders. You can cancel an ice block order up until 8.30am on the day of delivery

### Sushi, Pizzas

A huge thank you to all our amazing parent volunteers who helped with the sushi and pizzas this year! Your support truly made everything possible, and we couldn't have done it without you. We are so grateful for your time, effort, and heart.

As the Bible says in Galatians 6:9, "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." Your dedication has made a difference, and we appreciate you more than words can express!

Thank you again for everything

Sushi will still be available to order for the last day of school tomorrow.