



Te Kura o Heparā Pai

*Care Manaakitanga
Respect Whakaute
Honesty Pono*

Newsletter 02

13 February / Huitānguru 2025

From the Principal

Kia ora e te whānau,

What an action-packed first three weeks we have had back at Good Shepherd! It has been absolutely wonderful to see our school grounds once again filled with the energy and enthusiasm of our amazing tamariki.

In the first week of term, our Year 6 students embarked on an exciting five-day camp at MERC Long Bay, where they had the opportunity to step outside their comfort zones and challenge themselves. For some, this was the longest they had ever been away from their families. They participated in a range of adventurous activities, including rock climbing and kayaking. Ka pai to our Year 6 students for their courage and resilience! A heartfelt thank you to our parent helpers, whose support in various ways made this camp such a memorable experience.

On Friday, 7 February, we gathered for a pōwhiri to welcome our new tamariki to Good Shepherd. It was an honour to have Kaumātua Bobby Newson guide us, with the excellent coordination of Matua Tainui and the support of Alice Ryan. We hope our new students

and their whānau are settling in well and already feeling a part of our warm and welcoming community.

Despite the hot summer weather, our students have remained active and engaged during break times. Thank you for ensuring your children bring their hats each day! Those without a hat are directed to play in the shade, so your support has made a big difference.

Returning to school this summer has truly highlighted the benefits of the improvements made to our school grounds last year. Students have been enjoying the sandpit under the shade sail, as well as the enhanced swimming pool area, which now features new turf, seating, shade, and improved fencing—all thanks to the incredible fundraising efforts led by our PTA. This initiative was student council-driven, and it has been so rewarding to see their ideas come to life! Additionally, children have appreciated the new shaded seating around our olive trees, made possible by our Board of Trustees. With 2025 being a School Fair year, we look forward to seeing what else we can accomplish together as a community.

This Saturday, we are excited for our first Community Mass of the year with our new Parish Priest, Father Martin Wu. He has generously arranged a sausage sizzle, ice blocks, and a bouncy castle for the occasion! The picnic begins at 5:00 PM—a wonderful opportunity for families to connect—followed by a bell at 5:45 PM signaling time to pack up and head into Mass. Children will attend in mufti and remain under their parents' supervision.

Participation in our Community Mass is an important part of our commitment to the Special Character of our school. If you are unable to attend, please email me at principal@goodshepherd.school.nz to let me know.

Looking forward to seeing you at the picnic!

Te Atua ki a koe / God bless,
Ben

Upcoming Dates

13 Feb	St Peters Music try out and presentation 3PM
14 Feb	Whole School Prayers Room 7, 2:45PM
15 Feb	Parish School Mass 6PM & 5PM Picnic
19 Feb	PTA AGM & Meeting, Staffroom, 7:30PM
20 Feb	Yr4-6 Swim Sports, Onehunga Jellicoe Pool
21 Feb	Whole School Assembly, Room 8, 2:15PM
26 Feb	Sacramental Program Parents, Yr4plus Meeting 6:30PM
27 Feb	Eden/Albert Swimming Zones
4 March	Eden/Albert Touch Zones
5 March	Ash Wednesday
18 March	Eden/Albert Cricket Zones

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

Special Character

Whole School Community Mass



Join Us for Our Term One Community Mass!

We warmly invite all families to our first Community Mass of the year at Good Shepherd Parish on the 15th of February at 6:00 PM.

Before the Mass, join us for a picnic on the school grounds from 5:00 PM. There will be a sausage sizzle, a bouncy castle, and ice blocks provided. Please bring a picnic and a picnic blanket. This will be a great opportunity to connect as a school community!

At 5:45 PM, a bell will ring to signal families to start making their way to the church. Children are to sit with their families and come dressed in mufti.

We look forward to celebrating together and hope to see you there! 😊 🏰 🎉

Baptism Programme - Expression of Interest

If you're interested in your child getting baptised please send an email to the parish office office@balmoralcatholic.org.nz.

Sacramental Programme 2025

Enrolments for the Good Shepherd Parish Sacramental Programme for 2025. We are accepting enrolments from families who are parishioners at Good Shepherd Parish and/or attending Good Shepherd School. If your child is in Year 4 or above and you would like them to be involved in the Sacramental programme please look at the attached [timeline](#) and [application form](#). If you have any questions. Please contact the school office admin@goodshepherd.school.nz

Back to School Uniform

A reminder that, as we continue to experience warm weather, please ensure your child brings their school hat every day. The hat must be a wide-brimmed, navy blue hat only. If your child does not have a hat that meets the school's uniform whether it be an alternative style or color, they will be encouraged to play in the shade during break times. **All children must leave school at 3pm wearing correct school uniform including school shoes.**

GSS Year 4-6 Swimming Sports

This week your child would've brought home a notice about the swimming sports event that is happening on Thursday 20 February (next week). This is only for competitive swimmers and teachers have recorded the entries for those children who want to compete. All other children will have a normal school day. On Friday teachers will communicate with whānau who will be participating in the swimming sports. The event will be held at Jellicoe Pools in Onehunga from 9.45am until 1.30pm.

School Gate (beside office)

This gate will be locked between the hours of 9.00am and 2.30pm everyday from now on. Parents and caregivers coming into school will need to enter the school through the office during these times. This is to

ensure safety of our students at all times.



Bikes and Scooters

All children (including pre-schoolers) and parents must walk their bikes and scooters until they are fully outside the school grounds - **that includes the up top playground and paths.** There has been a serious injury to a student due to a collision with a child on a bike near the up top playground. Please ensure your child isn't riding a bike or a scooter before and after school. We have a high number of whānau who walk out that way after school.

Garden Club Update

It has been lovely to be back in the garden, even though things are looking rather thirsty and dry! We are delighted to have some new members come along too! Last week we harvested the potatoes we planted last spring and this week we had a good clear out of the garden beds and began preparing the soil for some new planting later in the term.



Holey Fathers

The Holey Fathers are a group of Good Shepherd Dad's who periodically get together to socialize, support each other and help out with working bees and other jobs at the school. If you'd like to catch up with other Good Shepherd Dads over a drink, hear what we have planned for this year and see where you can lend a hand, please join us for the first catch up of the year at the Lord Kitchener in Sandringham on Thursday, 20th February at 8pm. We'd especially like to welcome any new Dads to the school. If you'd like more information, please email holeyfathers@gmail.com.

PTA Meeting & AGM

Our first PTA meeting and AGM for 2025 will be held next **Wednesday, February 19th, 7:30PM in the staffroom**, and we'd love to see you there!

All parents and caregivers are automatically part of the PTA, so everyone is welcome. These meetings are a fantastic way to connect with other parents and stay informed about what's happening at the school. Plus, with this being a **Fair Year**, there are lots of exciting plans ahead!

We also have an **opening for a Treasurer** on our committee. The role includes:

- ◆ Managing day-to-day finances
- ◆ Keeping records of PTA financial activity
- ◆ Reporting on finances at meetings
- ◆ Arranging floats for events

You don't need to be an accountant—this role is straightforward and well-supported.

Being part of the PTA committee is a fun and rewarding way to give back to our awesome GSS community!

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to nzgoodshepherdpta@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you next week!

Music Lessons - NZ Modern School of Music

Music lessons with NZ Modern School of Music have started this term. If you are interested in your child learning Piano or Guitar during school hours please fill out the form on this [link](#) or collect it from the school office. Limited spaces are available.

St Peter's After School Music Programme

Now accepting new enrollments for 2025. Please join us for a presentation / try out afternoon on **Thursday 13th February at 3pm**. Please enrol via google form <https://forms.gle/zWTfgW1UZPt24AVb6> alternatively, please email stpetersprimarymusic@gmail.com for more information.

Receptionist/Administrator – Catholic Social Services, Auckland.

Catholic Social Services is looking for a part-time (20 hours - 3 days – hours can be negotiable) Receptionist/Administrator based in Ponsonby. As a faith-based professional service Catholic Social Services provides social work, counselling, out-reach and support to individual people and families.

The successful applicant would be required to provide efficient, effective, and professional reception and administrative services to the team at Catholic Social Services.

For further details please go to our website www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz, Diocesan Services and staff vacancies.

Waste Free Lunches at GSS

A reminder about the Waste Free Lunchbox initiative at Good Shepherd School. Please review the attached flyer for our guidelines on this. It was great to see the enthusiasm and pride that the tamariki approached this initiative with last year, and it would be wonderful to see this continuing/increasing in 2025.

[How to pack a waste free lunch box](#)

Sushi/Pizzas/Ice-Blocks

Sushi is available to order for your child most Fridays for lunch. Ordering is taken online only, via [Kindo](#). Orders need to be placed before 8.30am on the Friday that you are ordering for but you can also choose to order in advance for as many weeks in the term as you like. Orders may be cancelled up until 8.30am on the Friday that you have ordered for. Sushi is supplied by Nagoya Sushi in Morningside, with the following options:

- Teriyaki Katsu Chicken on Rice \$8.50
- 4 Pack Tuna Sushi \$6.00
- * 4 Pack Chicken Sushi \$6.00
- 4 Pack Vegetarian Sushi \$6.00
- * 4 Pack Salmon Sushi \$6.50
- 6 Pack Tuna Sushi \$7.50
- * 6 Pack Chicken Sushi \$7.50
- 6 Pack Vegetarian Sushi \$7.50
- * 6 Pack Salmon Sushi \$8.00
- 8 Pack Tuna Sushi \$9.00
- * 8 Pack Chicken Sushi \$9.00
- 8 Pack Vegetarian Sushi \$9.00
- * 8 Pack Salmon Sushi \$9.50

Please note that the sushi lunch service is run by parent volunteers. Please look out for requests to help with collecting and distributing the sushi on a Friday if you are available. The PTA is also looking for a volunteer to take over the administration of sushi and pizza day service. Please email [Emma Chan chanemanz@gmail.com](mailto:emmanz@gmail.com) if you are interested in this role.

Nice Block Ice-Blocks

Ice-blocks are available for the children on most Fridays at lunch time. They can be ordered online via Kindo or your child can come to school with a \$2.00 coin. This service is run by our Year 6 House Captains. If you have ordered online, the House Captains will come around before lunch to give your child a stamp on the hand and then they need to collect their ice-block after the bell has gone at the end of lunch eating time. It is the child's responsibility to go and collect their ice-block and House Captains are not able to search the playground for children who have forgotten to collect their ice-block. The ice blocks come in a range of flavours from [Nice Blocks](#).

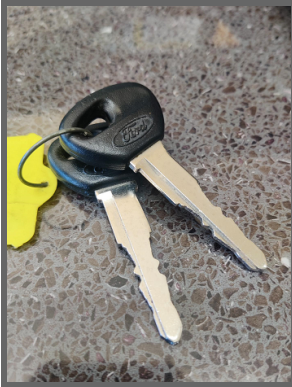
Pizza Day

This Term, we will be having Pizza Day on Tuesday 25th February and Tuesday 8th April. Pizzas are supplied by Dominoes Sandringham. Orders for pizzas will always close **at 6pm, 5 days before Pizza Day** and it is not possible to accommodate any orders once they are closed. **Orders for our upcoming Pizza Day will close at 6pm on Thursday 20th February (and later date, Thursday 3rd April).**

Please note that Pizza Day is run by parent volunteers. Please look out for requests to help with collecting and distributing the Pizzas on a Tuesday if you are available. The PTA is also looking for a volunteer to take over the administration of sushi and pizza day service. Please email Emma Chan chanemmanz@gmail.com if you are interested in this role.

Lost Items

Are these yours? Please come and reclaim them from the school office. Keys found near the sandpit. Clothing at "Up top" playground.



Baradene College

OPEN DAYS 2025

Tuesday 25, Wednesday 26 and Thursday 27 February 2025

Book online at: www.baradene.school.nz

Tour bookings will open at 9am Tuesday 18 February

Baradene College of the Sacred Heart is a Catholic Girls School providing an outstanding, holistic education for Year 7-13 students, enabling them to reach their potential, and make a positive contribution to society. Baradene is part of a global network of over 140 colleges of the Sacred Heart.

Applications for Year 7 2026 are being accepted now and will close 3pm Friday, 14 March 2025.

Academic and Special Character Scholarships available.
For enrolment information visit www.baradene.school.nz/enrol

For an enrolment pack please contact Felicity Lister.
E: enrol@baradene.school.nz
T: 524 6019 ext 713



Educating and empowering confident young women



St Peter's College

Mountain Road, Epsom
Tel: 09 524 8108

Catholic School for Boys Years 7 – 13

OPEN DAY

For year 7 Enrolments in 2026
Limited enrolments at other levels

TUESDAY 18th FEBRUARY 2025

9.30 am or 1.00 pm

in the College Hall (main school entrance – Mountain Road)
followed by a conducted tour of the College by senior boys.
You do not need to register.

St Peter's College provides an education in the CATHOLIC tradition by building a strong foundation in the ACADEMIC, SPORT & MUSIC areas.
The College has a dual pathway of assessment with both Cambridge International Examinations and NCEA offered at senior year levels.
The College is well served by public transport from all parts of Auckland

(Weather permitting, parking available on the top field, main entrance Mountain Road)

www.st-peters.school.nz
"St Peter's builds outstanding men"



ST MARY'S COLLEGE

2025 OPEN DAY

Thursday 6 March 2025

Two sessions available, commencing 2.30pm & 6.00pm
Both sessions deliver the same information



Join our Mercy Family
Enrolments for 2026 open Monday 10 February for Year 7 and Year 9 students and a limited number of places at other year levels

St Mary's College has no zoning restrictions
Enrolment and application information are available on our website
www.stmaryak.school.nz
11 New Street, Ponsonby, Auckland
A CATHOLIC SCHOOL FOR GIRLS - YEAR 7 TO YEAR 13



ST PAUL'S COLLEGE

CONFORTARE ESTO VIR

YEARS 7-13 CATHOLIC CHAMPAGNAT MARIST SCHOOL FOR BOYS

OPEN DAY

Enrolments for Years 7, 8, and 9 in 2026
Limited enrolments at other levels

Thursday 6th March 2025 | 9:30am or 1:45pm

Assembly in the College Chapel, followed by a tour of the school

STPAULSCOLLEGE.CO.NZ | 183 RICHMOND ROAD, PONSONBY
(Parking available on-site)



MARIST COLLEGE

Catholic Girls School, Years 7 to 13

Open Day Tours

Thursday 6th March and
Friday 7th March 2025
Tours at 9am

A centrally located non-zoned
Catholic girls secondary school, Years 7 to 13

www.maristcollege.school.nz



NETBALL SKILLS CLINICS

AFTERSCHOOL

St Johns
Tuesday afternoons
Years 1-8
18 Feb - 25 Mar

Windmill Park
Monday afternoons
Years 1-8
17 Feb - 24 Mar

WEEKEND CLINICS

St Johns
Sunday afternoons
Years 1-8
23 Feb - 30 Mar

Windmill Park
Saturday mornings
Years 1-8
22 Feb - 29 Mar

