



*Te Kura o Heparā Pai*

*Honesty Pono  
Care Manaakitanga  
Respect Whakaute*

## Newsletter 04 13 March/ Poutūterangi 2025

### From the Principal

Kia ora e te whānau,

Last week, we gathered as a school community to celebrate Ash Wednesday Mass with Father Martin, marking the beginning of Lent. In his latest letter to the Parish, he reminded us of three key Lenten practices:

- **Prayer** – A special time to connect with God.
- **Conversion** – Making small sacrifices each day as we recognise our need for change.
- **Charity** – As Saint John Paul II beautifully described, charity is "rooted in the deepest part of the human heart."

During Lent, we see the colour purple around our church, symbolising penance and reflection. This is a

time for us all to grow spiritually and prepare for the Paschal mystery.

Earlier this week, our tamariki took part in a Fire Drill. They did an amazing job moving quickly and calmly to our assembly point, where we completed a roll call—ka pai, tamariki! Fire drills are an important part of keeping everyone safe, and it was great to see our students respond so well.

A big thank you to Matua Tainui, who has generously volunteered his time to offer Te Reo Māori classes after school. If you missed the first session, don't worry—there's another one coming up this Monday in Room 5. Matua Tainui always makes learning fun, so why not come along and learn alongside your child?

It has also been fantastic to see our classes making the most of the school pool. We were fortunate to have educators from Drowning Prevention Auckland visit recently, helping our tamariki build confidence and learn essential water safety skills. A huge thank you to them for their support!

Lastly, a friendly reminder to please drive carefully during drop-off and pick-up times, including OSCA times. Some parents have shared concerns about cars moving too quickly in these busy periods. Let's all work together to keep our tamariki safe by slowing down and staying alert around the school grounds.

Ngā mihi nui,  
Ben Fahey  
Principal

### Upcoming Dates

13 March	Y4-6 Fun Swim Morning
14 March	Whole School Prayers Room 5, 2.45pm
17 March	Wear Green - St Patricks Day
18 March	Eden/Albert Cricket Zones
19 March	St Joseph's Day
21 March	Whole School Assembly, Room 9, 2.15pm
25 March	Three way conferences 2PM (early finish)
26 March	Three way conferences 3PM
28 March	Whole School Prayers Room 3, 2.45pm
4 April	Whole School Assembly, Room 4, 2.15pm

**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

## HOT HOUSE CHALLENGE - THIS SATURDAY 15 MARCH 2:30PM

The Hot House Challenge is a fun, wet, obstacle course run by the Good Shepherd Holy Fathers. Featuring not 1, but 2 water slides! Aside from bringing glory to your school house, there's also the ever popular kids vs. dads tug of war! Promises to be an epic day out and tons of fun for the school community. See you all there!



**\*Please note that the school pool is closed on Saturday due to this event**

## Special Character

Our sacramental programme for 2025 has begun.



Please note a change of date - The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be on Tuesday 1st April. Here is the [updated timeline for 2025](#).

## Good Shepherd Parish Mass times

We encourage all families to attend Mass together, particularly those children who are participating in the

Sacramental programme. Sunday Mass is at **9.30am** - Second Sunday of Lent.

## Fr. Martin Away

Please note that Father Martin is currently away and will be unavailable until his return on 24 March. The Supply Priest at Good Shepherd Parish is Father Ezio. If preference forms need to be signed Fr. Ezio will be able to do so.

## Lent Season

Lent is a time of reflection, prayer, and preparation as we journey towards Easter. It's a season to grow closer to God, make sacrifices, and show kindness to others.



We invite you to stand with us in prayer during this sacred time. Let us pray for our families that our homes be filled with love and unity. For the parents and whānau of our children, that they feel God's strength and guidance in their daily lives. For our staff, may they continue to serve with dedication and heart. And most of all, for our tamariki, may they feel God's love and grow in faith and confidence every day.

## A Lenten Prayer:

*Loving God, as we walk this Lenten journey, open our hearts to Your love. Help us to grow in kindness, patience, and faith. Bless our families, our school, and especially our children, that they may always feel Your presence guiding them.*

*Amen.*

May this season of Lent bring renewal, peace, and blessings to our Good Shepherd community.

## Attendance Dues and School Contributions

Attendance Dues are set by the Auckland Catholic Diocese and are **\$532 annually** (\$133 per term) for 2025. [Special Character](#) contributions collected on behalf of the Catholic Diocese remain the same at \$60 per year. Trips and Activities contributions will increase in 2025 for year groups 0-3 now \$92.00 and

year groups 4-6 to \$110.00. Accounts have been emailed to Parents and Caregivers so please check your spam if you have not received or get in touch for a copy to be sent.

Please don't hesitate to contact Ilana in the school office to arrange payment plans as regular payments (or per term) are required by the Catholic Diocese.

## In & Around School

### St Patrick's Day



Next week on Monday 17 March, children can wear anything green to school to celebrate St Patrick's Day. They can either wear all green clothes or their school uniform with green accessories. **It's not a colourful clothes day, only green!!!** If they don't have anything green to wear or any green accessories, they just wear their school uniform to school.

### St Joseph's Day

Next week on Wednesday 19 March we are celebrating the feast day of St Joseph. We will be attending Mass at 9.30am as a whole school. After morning tea we will be having tabloid sports in our house groups. Children need to come to school wearing their school uniforms for church. At morning tea time they can get changed into some sports clothes (if possible they can wear house colours). There are no parent spectators for this event but you are more than welcome to join us at church.

## Three-Way Conferences -Tuesday 25 March & Wednesday 26 March

### Booking Appointments

Please check your emails for the instructions that were sent out yesterday for online appointment bookings for the Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences. You will be able to **book online from 10AM tomorrow**, Friday 14th March. Bookings will close on Friday 21 March 12.00pm.

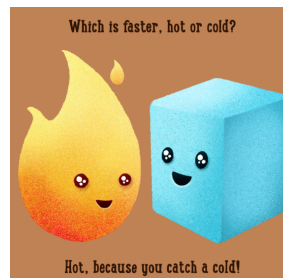


Please visit [www.schoolinterviews.co.nz](http://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz) and enter code **3gfd** for the event code and follow the instructions.

**REMINDER: School will close at 2PM ONLY on Tuesday 25 March. Please make sure you have arranged your child's pick up. OSCA will be available from 2PM.**

## Second Hand Uniform - unavailable from Friday week 10

In preparation for internal office block painting, the second hand uniform cupboard will be unavailable from Friday 04 April as it will be packed away and inaccessible until Term 2. Friendly reminder that from Term 2 through to Term 3, all children will require a full school winter uniform. If you need to acquire clothing for winter, please come in before the end of week 10.



## Netball Season Approaching

### Register Now for Netball!

#### Year 5 & 6 Netball

📍 Windmill Park | 📅 Wednesdays | 🕒 4:00 – 6:15 PM

📅 May 14 – Sept 3 | 💰 \$80 per player | 👥 8-9 players per team

#### Year 3 & 4 Netball

📍 Windmill Park | 📅 Thursdays | 🕒 4:00 – 5:50 PM

📅 May 15 – Sept 11 | 💰 \$70 per player | 👥 7 players per team

#### Year 0-2 Fun Netball

📍 School Courts | 📅 Thursdays | 🕒 3:15 – 4:00 PM

📅 Starts May 8 (Term 2) | 💰 \$20 per term | 🎉 Fun & Fundamentals!

💙 Open to Boys & Girls – no experience needed, just enthusiasm!

A great way to build skills, teamwork & confidence!

👤 We need coaches & helpers! Let us know if you can support the kids.

🔗 Register now: [Click here](#)

📅 17 Registrations close Friday, March 28!

Questions?

Contact Aimee Greenhough – 021 763 002

Come join the fun! 🎉

Check this out if you're interested in upgrading your skills!

**NETBALL IS BACK**  
Come along to our Junior Netball 'Give it a Go' days. Everyone welcome!

**FREE SESSIONS**



Learn new skills, play netball, and have fun! Free sessions - no registration required. Guest appearances from Northern Mystics & Stars players!

<p><b>ST JOHNS VENUE</b> 7 Allison Ferguson Drive, St Johns</p> <p>Date: 8 March 2025 Time: 1pm - 3:30pm Years: 1-8 (Boys &amp; Girls)</p> 	<p><b>WINDMILL PARK VENUE</b> 48 Windmill Road, Mt Eden</p> <p>Date: 15 March 2025 Time: 1pm - 3:30pm Years: 1-8 (Boys &amp; Girls)</p> 
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For the full programme of activities and more information visit our website: [www.aucklandnetball.co.nz](http://www.aucklandnetball.co.nz) or contact our Development Officer: [development@aucklandnetball.co.nz](mailto:development@aucklandnetball.co.nz)

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT**  
Caitlin Smdon, Development Program Officer  
T: 09 280 4129  
E: [development@aucklandnetball.co.nz](mailto:development@aucklandnetball.co.nz)



### Te Reo Lessons with Matua Tainui

Our first Te Reo Māori lessons were a blast! I am very excited for the second session next week on Monday 17 March after school in Room 5 (Still not too late to join!). It is a great opportunity for whānau and our community to build our understanding of mātauranga Māori (Māori knowledge). It was a great time to see parents and their children starting or restarting their Māori journey together.

Kia kaha  
Tainui



### In & Around School



## Garden Club

Last week at Garden Club we made chips with the potatoes we harvested in February that we had planted last October. We were surprised and delighted that they had survived the hot summer holidays with no gardeners around to water them! We loved our chips.

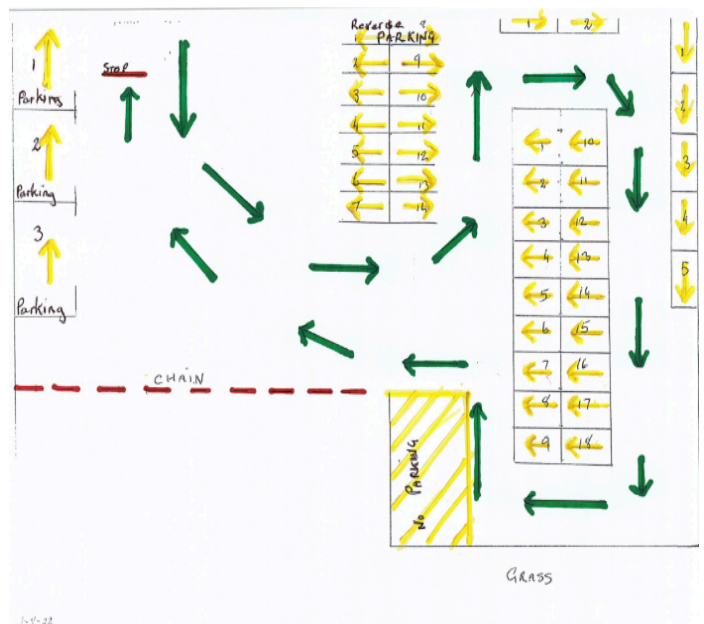


### Waste Free Lunches at GSS

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](#)

### Information for Whānau Volcanic Street Entrance Car Park



Just a quick and friendly reminder to take extra care when entering the Volcanic Street Car Park. There are often children and parents walking, so please keep an eye out and drive safely. Also, the cones are there for a reason. Please respect them, as they help keep everyone safe. Thanks for looking out for each other!

\*Carpark map from the talented Sharyn :)



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! 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](mailto:nzgoodshepherdpta@gmail.com). We look forward to seeing you next week!

### 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

### Nice Block Ice-Blocks

Ice blocks are available on Fridays at lunchtime. Order online via Kindo or bring a \$2 coin. Year 6 House Captains run this service. If ordered online, your child will get a hand stamp before lunch and must collect their ice block after the "Finished eating" lunch bell. House Captains won't track down students who forget. If your child misses their ice block one week, unfortunately, we can't carry it over to the next, thanks for understanding! The ice blocks come in a range of flavours from [Nice Blocks](#).

### Pizza Day

This Term, we will be having Pizza Day on **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 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](mailto:chanemmanz@gmail.com) if you are interested in this role.*

### St Mary's College 2026

Enrolments are OPEN (but closing soon).

St Mary's College is a girls college providing a Catholic education in the Mercy tradition. We are now accepting enrolments for Year 7 and Year 9 students, with a limited number of places available at other year levels.

Visit us at: [www.stmaryak.school.nz](http://www.stmaryak.school.nz)

We invite you to submit an online application for your daughter to join our Mercy Family.

St Mary's College has NO zoning restrictions

Enrolments close 21 March.



Save the date



St Peter's College

# FAIR

# Sunday

# 23 March 2025

# 11am - 3pm

St Peter's College grounds, 23 Mountain Road, Epsom



## 2025 JUNIOR REGISTRATIONS

SCAN ME



**REGISTRATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FROM 6TH GRADE TO SENIOR SOCIAL!**

- ⊙ Boys & Girls
- ⊙ Girls-only team options in all grades
- ⊙ Play with your friends from local schools

**FOR MORE INFORMATION HEAD TO OUR WEBSITE!**

Location: Auckland United F.C. (Keith Hay Park, Mt Roskill)  
Register online at [www.aucklandunitedfc.org.nz](http://www.aucklandunitedfc.org.nz)

**PLAY FOOTBALL WITH AUCKLAND UNITED!**



