



# St Brigid's School Newsletter

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13th February, 2025



Dear Whānau,

It's hard to believe we are already at the end of Week 2! We are so proud of the positive attitudes and focus the children are showing as they settle into their classes, embrace routines, and reconnect with friends. It's wonderful to see their enthusiasm for learning and the strong sense of community within the school.

This Sunday, we warmly invite you to our first School Mass at Mercy Parish at 9:30 a.m. We will be celebrating alongside St Bernadette's. We would love to see as many families as possible join us for this special occasion. This is a non uniform celebration.

On Monday 24th February, at 5:30 p.m., we would like to invite all parents and caregivers to our Information Evening in the school hall. This is a valuable opportunity to connect with teachers and gain insights into learning at St Brigid's School.

During the evening, we will share key information about school routines, curriculum updates, and ways to support your child's learning at home. A special focus will be on literacy across all year levels, with discussions on what this looks like in practice.

To ensure every family stays informed, we kindly ask that at least one parent or caregiver attend. Childcare will be available in a classroom for those who need it. We look forward to seeing you there!

Teenaka Kennedy



St Brigid's School 2025 - Strategic Goal

# Enriching Faith

To celebrate our faith and grow on our shared spiritual journey.



Strengthen Parish/School relationships.

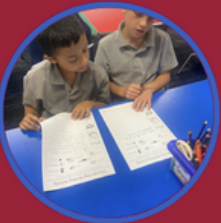
Implement To Tatou Whakapono in Year 1-4.



St Brigid's School 2025 - Strategic Goal

# Empowering Learners

To develop a high quality curriculum to support all learners.



A curriculum is developed and documented for St Brigid's School.

All staff will deliver a high standard of education for all children, though a commitment to best practice pedagogy in collaborative professional learning community.



St Brigid's School 2025 - Strategic Goal

# Engaging Whānau

Foster stronger partnerships between our parent/ Whānau and wider community.



Foster strong partnerships with all school whānau to ensure a nurturing, inclusive environment where everyone feels that they belong.

# Strategic Plan

Strategic Planning for St Brigid's School: Based on feedback from 2024 and supporting the Ministry guidelines. We continue our three key strategic goals for 2025. This year we will be gathering more voice to guide the direction for the next phase of planning (2026-2029). The full strategic plan will be available on our website soon.

# Positive Behaviour for Learning

We are always affirming the positive behaviors we see in our school. This year, as a school, we are using the poster the children created at the end of the year to show what our school values look like at St Brigid's.

The poster highlights the behaviours we will support and encourage. It has been great to see children off to such a positive start with many children already receiving tokens and golden tickets.

## St Brigid's School

### PB4L - Positive Behaviour for Learning

### RESPECT

- We respect **others** by listening, using kind words, and being kind to everyone.
- We respect **ourselves** by trying our best, making good choices, and believing in ourselves.
- We respect our classroom and school **environment** by looking after our things, keeping it tidy, and using things carefully.

### CARE

- We care for **others** by being kind, helping, and including everyone.
- We care for our **school environment** by looking after our things and keeping our space clean.
- We care for our **community** by showing kindness and working together.

### RESPONSIBILITY

- We are responsible by making **good choices** and doing the right thing.
- We take responsibility for our **learning** by listening, asking questions, and trying our best.
- We show responsibility by **following school rules** and **setting a good example**.

When we Respect, Care, and take Responsibility, we make St Brigid's a happy and safe place for everyone! 🌟 😊



### Special Character – Religious Education

As we begin the year, all classes are exploring what it means to be part of our St Brigid’s school community. Students have been learning about St Brigid and the Mercy Sisters, deepening their understanding of our school’s heritage and values.

We are now beginning our learning focus on Our Story. Through this, children will explore the history of the Church, gaining insight into the significant events and people who have shaped both the Church and the world. They will also reflect on and articulate their own whakapapa—their connection to this ongoing story—recognising their place in the past, present, and future of our faith journey.



**Feast day 11 February:** The World Day for the Sick was introduced by St. Pope John Paul II to help us remember to pray for all those who are ill and for their caregivers. He chose this day because it coincides with the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes; which commemorates the appearances in 1858 of Our Lady to a young French girl named Bernadette Soubirous. Lourdes has been a site of pilgrimage,

renowned for healing, ever since.



This little fantail enjoyed playtime with the children in our wonderful playground this week.

### St Brigid’s – An Enviro School

At St Brigid’s, we are proud to be an Enviro School, encouraging students to think and act sustainably. Our goal is to reduce waste, care for our environment, and keep our school litter-free.

How You Can Help:

- ✔ Pack waste-free lunches – avoid wrappers where possible.
- ✔ Label containers so they don’t get lost.
- ✔ Take wrapper rubbish home for disposal.

Thank you for your support in helping us look after our environment! 🌿♻️

*P.T.A*

We would love to invite you to our meeting Tuesday the 18th 7:30 pm in the Staffroom

### Otago Peninsula Sustainable Community Project – Community Meeting

The Otago Peninsula Sustainable Community Project is holding a series of community meetings across the Peninsula to discuss the Sustainable Otago Peninsula initiative, led by Te Rūnanga Ōtākou.

Date: 24th February

Time: 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM

Location: St Brigid’s School Hall

This meeting will follow our school parent meeting, providing an opportunity for those interested to stay on and learn more. The intention is to hold a meeting at each Peninsula school, ensuring our wider community has the chance to engage in shaping a sustainable future for our area. We encourage all interested community members to attend, share their thoughts, and be part of this important conversation.

# SAVE THE DATE

## February

18th - P.T.A Meeting. 7 pm in the staffroom

19th - BOT meeting

20th - School Trip to explore Local Stories

24th - Parent night at school 5:30pm

Learn about Literacy at St Brigid's and how you can support your children. '

27th - Physical Activity Leaders

## March

11/12th Parent Interviews - Forms will be sent home

21st March - Teacher only day. School is closed

## Stay up-to-date -

**Follow us on Facebook to check for updates, reminders, and celebrations**



The Dunedin Sanitarium Weet-Bix Kids TRYathlon™ being held on Sunday 2 March. Please enter under the St Brigid's School group to stay connected with other tamariki from our kura.

If your child isn't quite ready for the swim, the duathlon is a great alternative for those aged 7 to 15, offering an achievable course with a run, bike, and final run.

**The Importance of a Cathedral** (DUNEDIN: Anniv. of dedication of cathedral, 1886) A Cathedral is the center of the life of the local Church. The very word "cathedral" in Latin or Greek, means "chair." From the cathedra, the chair or the seat, the Bishop teaches, sanctifies, and guides the people of God. From the cathedral, the church with the bishop's chair. The primary purpose of a cathedral is to be a place of worship but it is also often the oldest building in continuous use in its surrounding area and of significance to the heritage, culture and community life.



Join  
**ST JOHN  
YOUTH**

Young people developing their potential through leadership, hauora and engaging in their communities.

St John Youth is for all young people aged 5 to 18 years, so come and learn, connect and grow with us.

Hillside Division

Monday Cadets - 6:30pm - 8pm  
Penguins - 5:45pm - 7pm

Caversham Baptist Church  
239 South Rd, Caversham,  
Dunedin

youth@stjohn.org.nz | 0800 ST JOHN | youth.stjohn.org.nz

Hato Hone  
St John

## Bug Day 2025 - February 15, 10am - 3pm, at Tūhura Otago Museum

Are you a fan of bees, butterflies, and all the beautiful critters that pollinate our crops? How about the creepy crawlies - the flies, cockroaches, and wēta - that decompose dead matter, or that suck blood from other animals?

Whether you're a bug-lover or hater, there is plenty for the whole whānau to enjoy at Bug Day! This FREE event will be held at Tūhura Otago Museum on February 15th from 10am to 3pm, and will feature a hive of interactive activities and information on the importance of bugs, biodiversity, and conservation, and your last chance to vote in the Bug of the Year contest! Dive into the fascinating world of leaf litter, feed a live bee, look at critters and plants up close under microscopes, make seed bombs, profess your love for your favourite bug with a Valentines' card, win prizes for your bug costume, and so much more! Join local scientists and experts who will answer all your bug questions, and enjoy a fun-filled and free day of bug-themed festivities on February 15 at Tūhura!