



St Brigid's School Newsletter

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Term Two - Week Four May 14th 2026



On Thursday we welcomed Helen Williford-Lower to our school. Helen shared her newly published book and poetry with the children and spoke about her journey as a writer.

Helen is the 1st Prize Winner of the 2025 Caselberg Trust Poetry Prize and has been published in New Zealand's premier literary journal. Helen shared that she is here for the week to record the audiobook for *Fairy Lights*. As part of this journey, she also chose to visit us here at St Brigid's School, and generously donate her prize money of \$600 to our school.

The children loved asking questions and learning about Helen's writing journey. Helen shared how she was inspired by Saint Brigid and even read two special poems she had written. She also donated a beautiful painting of Saint Brigid being carried by angels to the Nativity scene, which was very special for us all to see.

Helen inspired many of our tamariki, especially a group of children who are now excited to begin a Poetry Club, which will run in the school library on Wednesdays. She also kindly donated two of her poetry books for the students to enjoy. Watch this space!



Image donated by Helen

The image of Saint Brigid being carried by angels is a beautiful piece of religious artwork that helps tell a faith story in a visual way.

For our children, it can be understood as a symbol rather than a literal event. The angels represent God's care and love, gently guiding Saint Brigid to show that she is a person of great kindness, holiness, and importance in the Christian tradition. The connection to the Nativity scene reminds us of Saint Brigid's values of compassion, generosity, and care for others—values that reflect the message of Christmas and the birth of Jesus.

This artwork invites us to reflect on how we, too, can live out these same values in our everyday lives through kindness, love, and service to others.

Reminder Teacher only day

School will be closed tomorrow Friday 15th May as Teachers carry out professional learning using the new curriculum.

You will have seen and heard of the many changes in education over the past year. Our teachers have been implementing the new English and Mathematics Curriculums and, as part of this, are engaging in ongoing professional learning with a strong emphasis on improving teaching and assessment practices.

We are also part of the national Assessment for Learning contract. As part of this, our school has been trialling the new SMART assessment tools in Reading and Math for children in Year 3-6. These tools include a range of tasks for children to work through and are helping teachers gather information about student progress and achievement.

This is only one of many sources of information we use, alongside observations, classwork, and classroom conversations. Together, these are helping us strengthen our understanding of where students are in their learning. The most important outcome is identifying the next steps needed to support progress.

As a school, we know all children learn differently, and we continue to support all learners through targeted teaching and responsive classroom practice, so that we can provide high-quality learning opportunities for everyone.



After School Care

After school care is available in our school hall each day. If you require care on a regular basis or for casual days, please get in touch with Isabel 0223826983





Save the date

Sunday 17th May Mass – Combined Schools, Mercy Parish

9:30am

Come and join our school as we celebrate Mass together at Mercy Parish. We would love to see you there. All are warmly welcome.

Music Lesson Session Music Hub Tutors – Joel Dalloway.

https://musiqhub.co.nz/pages/tutors/joel_dalloway

Tamariki interested in learning a musical instrument- contact Joel directly. This is a fun, hands-on opportunity to enjoy music, learn new skills, and discover different sounds and rhythms.

No experience is needed—just bring your enthusiasm and give it a go!



NIDD Spirit Award

Ask your children. Who is a student who consistently shows respectful behaviour and sets a positive example for others? Email the office and let us know.

office@stbrigidsgn.school.nz

Congratulations to our nominees so far - Ailbe O’Kane, TJ Anthony and Finn Murphy



The prize draw will be held next Assembly 22nd May



Breakfast club runs Monday - Wednesday



May

- 14th Thursday - Mass and PALS- tuakana-teina
- 15th Teacher only day- **School is closed**
- 17th Mass Combined schools Mercy Parish 9:30 am
- 20th Reconciliation Mercy Parish. 6pm
- 21st Big Sing- Seniors Town Hall
- 22nd Assembly
- 29th Mass /PALS- tuakana-teina

June

- 1st Kings Birthday School is closed
- 5th Assembly
- 8th/ 10th Keeping ourselves safe - Constable Eddie
- 12th Mass PALS- tuakana-teina
- 15th/ 17th Keeping ourselves safe - Constable Eddie
- 17th BOT
- 19th Assembly
- 26th Mass
- 2nd Reports
- 3rd Assembly

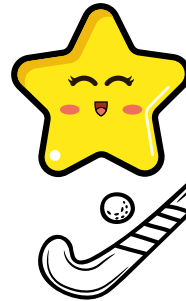


Lucky book orders due May 21st



School Accounts

St Brigid's School Board of Trustees
 Account Number: 06-0942-0045712-00
St Brigid's School PTA
 Account Number – 06 0901 0797125 00



Monthly Catholic Question Have your say..

We invite you to share your ideas with us for the month of May: **What Catholic values are visible in this community? (What values are not visible?)**

Follow the link to share your thoughts.
<https://forms.gle/s2F6znrNBT1vDxK36>

Basketball U12 Boys Rep Trials

Players must be born in 2015 or 2016
 Trials: Sunday 19th July - 2:30-4pm
 Callbacks: Sunday 26th July - 1-2:30pm
 Cost: Edgar Centre entry fee + BBNZ Levy
 Location: Edgar Centre, Dunedin
 RegForm:<https://membership.mygame day.app/regofrom.cgi?formID=120131>