

# St Brigid's School Newsletter



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*Dear Parents / Caregivers,*

*15<sup>th</sup> February 2024  
Term 1 – Week 3*



There is such a wonderful atmosphere and enjoyment of learning at St Brigid's. As we enter the season of Lent, a significant time in the Catholic calendar, marked by reflection, prayer, and preparation for Easter. During this period, our school community will engage in various activities and practices to deepen our spiritual journey.

Teachers will incorporate lessons and discussions about Lent into the curriculum, providing opportunities for students to learn more about its significance. We also encourage parents to engage with their children in discussions about Lent at home and to participate in any school activities or events related to this season.

We're excited to journey through Lent together as a school community, growing closer to God and one another along the way. We would love to see you all at Mercy Church for Mass on Sunday 9:30 a.m. as we celebrate as a school community.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in your child's education and spiritual development.

Teenaka Kennedy



Thank you to Carmel Wassell and Sue Idour for preparing our tamariki to share our Ash Wednesday liturgy. It was wonderful to see so many whānau able to share in our celebration.

## **Baptism**

There has been some interest in having children baptized. The celebration of baptism can happen on different dates, either as a group or individually. If you want your child to receive this sacrament, please get in touch with Carmel Wassell (Room 4) or Fr. Hishon. They will reach out to you to discuss further details and what is involved.



### Nau Mai Haere Mai Welcome to 2024!

This Monday the 19th of February we are having our Welcome evening starting at 5.30pm in the School Hall. The tamariki will be sharing a liturgy and some beautiful singing with you! Please bring some shared kai(food) to share with our community. We will also present our Leadership badges for 2024. Tamariki can wear muffti and please can they be seated by 5.25pm.



### Wednesday -Wheels Day

Bring along your helmet and wheels and enjoy our bike track.



### Shrove Tuesday – Pancake Day

Shrove Tuesday, also known as Pancake Day, falls on the day before Ash Wednesday. The term "Shrove" originates from "shrive," meaning to confess. In medieval times, people would confess their sins on this day to prepare for Lent. It was also a time to use up ingredients like fat, butter, and eggs before Lenten fasting, leading to the tradition of making pancakes. At St. Brigid's, all the children celebrated by making pancakes, marking the last day for indulgence before Lent. Children also enjoyed pancake races.

# Sports News

School sports have begun this week. We have children playing Touch and Futsal.

## School Policies

As a school we have policies to review each term. If you would like to give feedback each term the website is:

<https://www.schooldocs.co.nz/>

**Username:** stbrigidn

**Community password:** brigids57

## Donations

The donations paid to school each year covers extracurricular activities such as class trips/activities, cultural and sporting events and helps to offset costs which our operational grant does not meet. For example, school production costs, IT equipment, maintaining and growing curriculum resources and other classroom and playground equipment.

You are able to claim a 33% rebate from the IRD for school donations. A claim form (IR526) can be printed from the IRD website. Please let us know if you require receipts for your donation.

Your contribution makes a huge difference to the children here at St Brigid's School. Thank you for supporting us.

## Digital and Other Personal Devices

There has been an amendment to the Education Act. Students are not allowed to bring cell phones or smart watches to school. If a student is found using a personal device, it will be taken off them and kept in the school office until the parents are able to pick it up. For after-school arrangements or changes, parents can send messages through the school office before 2:30pm. Thank you for your cooperation.

## What's on in Term 1

### February

Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Combined School Mass 9:30pm Mercy Parish
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Assembly 2:30pm in the Hall
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Board Meeting 6pm
Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Palm Sunday
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup>	Assembly 2:30pm in the Hall

### March

Friday 1 <sup>st</sup>	Move it March Begins
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Assembly 2:30pm in the Hall
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Assembly 2:30pm in the Hall
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup>	St Brigid's School Mass Mercy Parish 9:30am
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> & Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Parent interviews 3-6pm
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Assembly 2:30pm in the Hall
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Otago Anniversary Day- School is closed
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Year 5 & 6 Seek Day at Trinity
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup>	Good Friday- School is closed

### April

Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> & Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Easter Monday and Tuesday - School is closed
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Assembly 2:30pm in the Hall
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Assembly 2:30pm in the Hall
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Last day of Term 1

### Other Important Dates for 2024

Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> April	ANZAC Day (NB - this occurs in the school holidays)
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> April	First Day of Term 2
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> May	Teachel Only Day
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	King's Birthday- School Closed
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> June	Matariki - School Closed
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> July	Last Day of Term 2
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July	First Day of Term 3
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> September	Last Day of Term 3
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> October	First Day of Term 4
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> October	Labour Day - School Closed



## R.E. Comment...

### Ash Wednesday

The burning of palms of last year's Palm Sunday calls us to remember the glory of Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem in triumph that then quickly turns to rejection. Lent (40 days) is the time to look at our lives and ask about faithfulness in living our baptism. Lent should be a time of fasting, prayer and almsgiving.

"The Time is Now! Ko Tēnei tonu te Wā!" – a captivating tagline that encapsulates the essence of our Lent resources. Each week during Lent will be dedicated to exploring a unique aspect of time, perfectly aligned with the key themes from the Gospel of that week. As part of the resources Caritas has intentionally connected a key Catholic social teaching principle to each week's exploration, fostering meaningful links between the Gospel and the heart-warming Caritas stories we're eager to share.

#### School Bank Account Details

##### Board of Trustees - School Account:

06 0942 0045712 00

(For stationery payments, sports fees, EOTC & Copier contributions etc)

##### PTA – Fundraising Account:

06-0901-0797125-00

(For fundraising, uniform shop, lunch orders etc)

**Please reference your child's name and reason for payment**

**(e.g. stationery / pizza / etc.) when paying online.**

### BOARD NEWS

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February

### PTA NEWS

The P.T.A are looking for parent helpers to prepare and serve the school lunches. If you are able to help on Friday the 15th March and 22nd March please contact the school office.

**Next P.T.A meeting :** Meeting 12th March 7pm

## Community News

### Knox Church Junior Choir

*Does your child like to sing?*

#### Who are we?

A choir of children from year 2 to year 9 who are interested in music, at Knox Church, 449 George Street, Dunedin. Knox welcomes people of all faiths as well as those of no faith.



#### What's it all about?

Knox Church is looking to grow our Junior Choir. The Knox Church Choir has a long history of supporting young musicians to develop their talents. We welcome new members as we start the year.

#### What will we be doing?

Singing training, rehearsing choir music, dressing up as a chorister, learning about music, exploring the church.

Junior choristers sing in church on one Sunday morning each month, usually the third Sunday. The rehearsal for this starts at 9.15 am and the service starts at 10 am. Junior choristers are welcome to join in any other week they want to.

The junior choristers work on a structured, internationally recognised education programme, Voice for Life, to earn badges and ribbons. Some also sit for Trinity College London grade examinations with many achieving outstanding results.

Our choristers have performed at the switching on of the Christmas tree lights in the Octagon, busked in George Street and sung with the RSA choir.

Choristers enjoy movie and pizza nights, storytelling at Matariki, and joining in with the Christmas pageant.



#### Who runs the programme?

Sara Brown, MA, PGCE, MusB (Hons), ATCL. Examiner for Trinity College, London. Sara is a music educator with extensive experience working with children and choirs.

Karen Knudson QSM, MA, MusB (Hons), LTCL. Organist and director of the Knox Church Choir. Karen has a wealth of experience in choral music and has worked with many young choirs in Dunedin.

#### When and where?

Wednesdays from 5 pm to 6.30 pm.

The Gathering Area  
Knox Church  
449 George Street  
Dunedin

#### What to bring?

A water bottle and warm, comfortable clothes your child can move about in. Afternoon tea will be provided, but if your child has particular dietary needs, please let us know.

#### How much does it cost?

This music education programme is provided free of charge.

#### What to do next?

Fill in the relevant form at the link below:

#### Choir Link:

<https://forms.gle/Z2zafkaDesTk3znt7>

or Email Sara: [kelpiebrown@gmail.com](mailto:kelpiebrown@gmail.com) if you have any questions or want to register your child.

