



Newsletter

Issue 7
Thursday 18 May 2023

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Tēnā koutou katoa

We are now well into the swing of Term 2 with lots of valuable learning happening in all classes. After the awful weather we have had lately it is now beginning to settle and children are enjoying being outside for PE, sports and during the breaks.

I am pleased to see the school community using the large field. Many mornings I am beaten to school by several teams practising for upcoming games against other schools or preparing for AIMS. We also have groups who hire out part of the large field to do their training.

This week is Bully Free Week, an annual nation wide bullying prevention week which aims to raise awareness of how to prevent and respond to bullying and provide an opportunity for schools to highlight their work to counter bullying. We do this at St Heliers School by living by the school values in everything we do. The school marked Pink Shirt Day yesterday and it was wonderful to see so many children with pink accessories over their uniform and wearing pink shirts. Normally this would be on Friday, but tomorrow we have a whole year group out of the school and a Merit assembly in the afternoon.

This week is also Road Safety Week. The theme of Road Safety Week 2023 (15-21 May) is *Be a road safety hero*, recognising everyone who helps to make our roads safer and support people after a crash, and explaining how we can all play a part in making journeys safer for everyone. Schools help children, young people and parents learn about road safety heroes and why road safety matters, and enable them to speak up for safe and healthy journeys. We celebrate our own heroes, such as our kea crossing patrol, traffic wardens patrol, our school Travelwise team and students who walk, cycle or use public transport to get to school.

The middle week of every term the staff of St Heliers school celebrate Wellbeing Week. It is a week where we might treat the staff to something nice such as a coffee from Cigana, spend less time on after and before school meetings, and spend more time with the family. Our staff are happy coming to school and this certainly helps to foster happy children, and a positive atmosphere. Staff also appreciate all the lovely gestures and comments given by parents.

In Term 3 we have many Year 7 and 8 children going to AIMS Games in Mt Maunganui. This runs over the whole week and most teams go for several days to compete against schools from across Australasia. Last year there were 10,842 competitors covering 23 sports codes. It can cost up to \$8,000 for a team to participate, covering accommodation, food and transport. Next Wednesday there will be a 'Sports Be Yourself Day' where all the students can dress in their favourite sports gear or come as their favourite sports icon. We encourage all students to bring a gold coin with the proceeds going towards the 2023 AIMS teams.

We have had a number of new children and families become part of our St Heliers School Community. As a matter of interest we now have 603 students and we expect this to grow even further over the year. Fortunately we have a wonderful Board who partially fund some teachers so we can continue to have smaller class sizes.

I look forward to seeing many of you at tomorrow's Year 1 to 4 Merit Assembly or next Friday's Citizenship Assembly.

Noho ora mai

Sean Valvoi
Principal

YEAR 7&8 BOYS FOOTBALL AIMS GAMES BAKESALE

Last Friday the Year 7&8 boys AIMS football team had a fun and successful day selling their baking and raffle tickets to fundraise for the AIMS games. We are delighted to have raised just over \$1500, It was a great way to bring the school community together and we really appreciate all of your support.

Catherine Read



2023 Kiwi Competitions

Certificates and prizes awarded

Online competition for Primary, Intermediate and Secondary students



Kiwi Science Competition



Kiwi Maths Competition



Kiwi English Competition

Ask Closed

Designed by NZ teachers for Kiwi students based on NZ curriculum.

The competition will run during the last 3 weeks of Term 2 and the first week of Term 3.

Register Now!
www.canterbury.ac.nz/cam/



DATES SET

We have now set the dates for 6 tests. The registrations are now closed and we have 190 test registrations.

Thursday 15 June

English—Year 5&6 9.30am
English—Year 7&8 11.30am

Thursday 22 June

Maths—Year 5&6 9.30am
Maths—Year 7&8 11.30am
(Term 3)

Thursday 20 July

Science—Year 5&6 9.30am
Science—Year 7&8 11.30am



Glendowie College will hold a 'Parents Information Evening – 2024 Enrolments' on **Monday 12 June 2023 at 7:00pm in the College Hall**. The purpose of this meeting is to outline the programmes the school offers and to cover the enrolment process for 2024 Year 9 students' enrolments.

This is an opportunity to meet informally with Gordon Robertson, Glendowie College's Principal, to have any questions answered about the enrolment process.

We look forward to seeing you there. No RSVP is required.

Gordon Robertson, Principal

MERIT AWARDS YEAR 5-8

Well done all those students who received Merit Certificates at the Year 5—8 Merit Award Assembly on Friday 12 May.

Merit Awards recognise those children who have made a conscientious effort to improve an aspect of their schooling. These awards are about qualities such as perseverance, commitment, determination, diligence, improvement and a positive attitude.

Merit Awards - May		
Yr	Rm	Name
5	21	Alice J
5	21	Lottie McA
5	21	Haslett S
5	21	Andy B
5	21	Josie I
5	24	Georgia P
5	24	Sloane W
5	24	Alessandro G
5	24	Ethan D
5	25	Seron K
5	25	Sana N
5	25	Poppy T
5	25	Darius AL
5	25	Hudson McF
6	22	Tyler C
6	22	Tom D
6	22	Sarah S
6	22	Aanya DR
6	22	Panaki MW
6	23	Caleb B
6	23	Grace C
6	23	Viktor M
6	23	Demi P
6	23	Emery van Z
6	26	Devan N
6	26	Seren H
6	26	Sophia W
6	26	Xiran Z
6	26	Nicholas R

Merit Awards - May		
Yr	Rm	Name
7	18	Lucas P
7	18	Rex P
7	18	Victoria P
7	18	Caedence S
7	18	Josie S
7	19	Summit E
7	19	Theshanya G
7	19	Ava Y
7	19	Ruby M
7	19	Abby O
7	27	Aria C
7	27	Ella C
7	27	Kova H
7	27	Jake R
7	27	Sam D
8	14	Ella W
8	14	Vlad B
8	14	Clara J
8	14	Siyoun N
8	14	Khloe R
8	15	William M
8	15	Charlotte C
8	15	Sasha C
8	15	Adam A
8	15	Ronan N
8	20	Annabelle C
8	20	Owen N
8	20	Jess P
8	20	Nana N
8	20	Will H

NEW ENTRANT WELCOME CERTIFICATES

At the Tuesday morning Terehu and Paikea assembly we officially welcomed the new Year 1 children to school, presenting them with their welcome to school certificates. It was nice to have so many parents along to watch.



THREE-WAY CONFERENCES

ERO and St Heliers School are working together to evaluate the effectiveness of reporting practices that promote equitable and excellent outcomes for all learners. As part of this process, we are replacing our traditional Parent/Teacher Interviews with Three-way Conferences. These are to take place in classrooms on Thursday 29th June.

A Three-way Conference is a conversation between the child, parents/whānau, and the teacher. It is a conversation about what the child is **learning** at school rather than what they are **doing** at school.

- The role of the **parents** is to listen to their child, ask questions and encourage them to expand and explain their learning further.
- The role of the **teacher** is to facilitate and lead the conversation about the child's learning and prompt the child when needed.
- The role of the **child** is to share their learning with their parents and reflect on the progress they have made so far this year.

Why Three-Way Conferences?

- They provide a child's voice to discussions about performance and progress.
- They place the child at the heart of the assessment and reporting process.
- They strengthen the home-school partnership and allow the child to see their parents and teacher working together for them.

Currently our teachers are working with their classes to prepare for our Three-way Conferences in Week 10. There will be more information regarding booking times and guidelines for parents for their role during our Three-Way Conferences in future school newsletters.

Mrs Torrie
Deputy Principal



BUCCANEER BOOK FAIR IS COMING TO ST HELIERS SCHOOL

During Week 10 of this term [26-30 June] we are hosting a book fair. Various activities will be happening all week in the classrooms, hall and library.

Scholastic will be here with a large selection of books for sale. A percentage of all sales goes directly back to the school enabling the purchase of more books for the library. The books will be available for sale in the school hall between 8:30 -9:15 and 2:30 - 3:15 each day. All children will get the opportunity to visit the book fair with their classes and make a wish list of books that they like.

For more details please check out the posters around the school near the end of the term and look out for more information in newsletters, emails and leaflets sent home.

Jenny Howie
Librarian

INTERNATIONAL PARENTS MORNING TEA

St Heliers school is lucky to have 22 international students. A few students have been at the school for more than a year and the rest either started at the beginning of the year or the beginning of this term. It is a big decision to move to the other side of the world and a huge culture shift for many of our families. Mrs Kate Hawkins is our International Student Manager and looks after the pastoral care of our students and supports the families.

Kate held an International Parents morning tea on Friday 5 May so that parents could meet each other and form a support network. The senior leadership team and Mrs Jan Bryant, our ESOL teacher also came along.

We are so happy to have you as part of our student and school community and hope you are settling well into kiwi life.



NATIONAL YOUNG LEADERS DAY

On Thursday 11 May the student leaders along with Mr Valvoi attended National Young Leaders Day at the Due Drop Event Centre in Manukau.

The event includes motivational talks from great New Zealand leaders, question times, videos, music and interactive activities. The speaking team consists of leaders in business, sport, politics, community service, science and the arts. There is a strong sense on the day that the baton is being passed, as an older generation of leaders imparts their wisdom into the emerging generation of young leaders. The students are challenged not only to reach their own personal goals but the goals of those they are leading.

The students heard from a range of speakers which included Brad Smeele, quadriplegic and former pro wakeboarder, Julia Grace, mental wellness communicator and Georgia Lines, the musician.



YEAR 7&8 CAMP REVIEW

From 15 to 17 March the Year 7&8 students went to camp as part of their EOTC experiences this year. The camp structure was different to previous years where Year 7 would have Challenges Week and Year 8 would go to camp. Ministry funding and staffing entitlement along with fewer classes at each cohort over time meant a change in structure was required. This meant that teams needed to work closely together and the Team Leader had the challenge of making their new larger team cohesive – working as one.

For this reason, and the fact that we had all new teachers in Year 7 meant that it provided an opportunity for both year groups to go together this year.

A camp review took place at the end of Term 1 when the Senior Leadership sought the voice from all 6 teachers attending camp, 18 randomly selected children, half from Year 7 and half from Year 8, and we received 5 responses from parents who attended camp as parent helpers.

Rather than list every single response and feedback (7 pages) I have provided a summary for parents.

Student Voice:

- The students overwhelmingly said what a positive experience the camp was for them.
- It pushed them out of their comfort zone and challenged them in activities they had never tried before.
- They enjoyed spending time with friends and being in the same cabin.
- Students really enjoyed seeing their teachers outside the classroom and getting into the spirit of camp.
- They felt that teachers really lifted the mood of camp.
- They said that there could be better food.
- Some (Year 8) students commented that that would rather it was just one year group and some thought the camp was shortened because Year 7 students were part of the group.
- Generally they would prefer one more day.
- Some commented that they would like a friend in their activity group and remember to bring extra shoes.

Parent Helpers Voice

- Overall the parents really enjoyed camp and commented on how well the camp was planned and organised and that everything ran like clockwork.
- They commented on the range of activities that the children got to experience and that they got to truly experience the outdoors.
- One commented that they liked getting to know children from the other year group and it was great to have the large camp site.
- A few said they would have preferred one year group but understood the reasons why this was combined.
- One activity 'the Camp Adair Challenge' should be swapped out for something which holds the children's interest more.
- One commented that it was challenging to accommodate day campers.

Teacher Voice

- Teachers felt the experience of having one big group very positive and having 6 teachers really added to the experience for everyone on camp.
- Six teachers certainly lightened the workload.
- They felt that the parents were excellent on camp.
- Like parents and children the teachers felt the activities really pushed children.
- There was lots of baking and fruit for morning teas.
- They really like the way that students worked together.
- They felt that there were areas where the camp food could be better.
- The activity groups were quite large so there was a bit of waiting time at activities.
- They felt that the organisation on the departure day could have been better as it was difficult to manage such a large group in the hall. They felt that they would do it differently if they were to do it again.
- Because parents stayed inside during roll call, they didn't get to hear the messages from SLT to campers.

Since camp, the team leader has investigated the feasibility of using buses and this looks like this may be possible next time. This would allow the camp experience to start the moment the children step on the bus. It would also help with organisation and logistics. Some discussion before camp with the manager about food could be had. If the large camp is to be used again then it would need to be a large group like we had. One group would mean one of the smaller villages would have to be used which has much less space. The teachers really appreciate the support given by a fantastic group of parents at camp. Kākahī teachers are already discussing exciting options for EOTC for all children in Kākahī in 2024.

I would like to extend my thanks to the parents also for their help and support. Most importantly, I would like to thank the teachers for their dedication to the students, striving to give them the best experience. Health and safety and the welfare of students was always front of mind and I appreciate that teachers are required to organise camp, be away from their own families and be 'on duty' for 52 hours straight. We are lucky to have teachers who love going to camp too!

FOUR SEASONS IN ONE WEEK! PAIKEA'S WEEK OF WEATHER INQUIRY IGNITION

As part of the ignition stage for Paikea's wonderfully interactive Science-based Term 2 Inquiry **Change: Weather: What's Our Role in Auckland's Unpredictable Weather?** Year3&4 classes travelled into the Auckland CBD to visit the Sky Tower to learn more about the extreme weather events that are affecting our city. The two days could not have been more different weatherwise but, nonetheless, all of Year 3&4 students learnt a lot about Auckland's weather patterns and about the Sky Tower - including how the building itself responds in extreme weather conditions. Students explored different levels in the Sky Tower and enjoyed identifying various clouds and pointing out different approaching weather patterns, as well as searching for familiar Auckland locations from their vantage point, 328 metres above the street level. Deepest thanks to all supervising parents.

Then on Wednesday Week 2, **Science In A Van** visited to present the fabulous **"What's The Matter?"** show - a series of fascinating science experiments that helped explain Changes Of Matter and how this relates to both the **Water Cycle** and **Weather** - to enthralled Paikea students.

Finally on Monday Week 3, **Georgina Griffiths from MetService** - often the calm face and voice of reason during Cyclone Gabrielle and Auckland Floods Civil Defence television updates earlier this year - visited the students to talk about the role of MetService in issuing weather forecasts, why weather forecasts are important, how to respond to the different coloured weather warning symbols and how to read a weather forecast and identify highs, lows, rain and hail. After her intriguing powerpoint presentation, the students had many pertinent questions to ask her. Georgina Griffiths also gave students some weather homework (hinting at the Orange level weather warning MetService was about to place on Auckland in the coming 24 hours). She asked them all to watch the 6pm news to see if areas of Auckland would be affected by the approaching weather pattern. And as MetService predicted, Tawhirimatea the Maori weather god threw down rain, wind, thunder and lightning in huge abundance over the following 24 - 48 hours.

The start of Term 2 has truly been a case of **"Four Seasons in One Week"** and Paikea students are loving every moment as they continue studying Auckland's unpredictable weather.

Sarah Mill

Paikea Team Leader



PINK RIBBON DAY

As a school we are fundraising for Pink Ribbon - Breast Cancer Foundation NZ. We have four beautiful hampers to raffle off, which have been put together with donations from some amazing local businesses. Tickets are \$5 each and can be purchased before school outside the school hall, or at the office during the day.

The tickets are cash or EFTPOS only, and the raffle will be drawn on Thursday 25 May.

We would like to thank the following businesses for your very generous donations:

Megan Dempsey Clinic
The Bay Tree
La Vista
Four Square St Heliers
Pak'n'Save Sylvia Park
Holistic Hair
Cigana
Perfection Nails
Loaf
Linden Leaves
St Heliers Home Cookery

Miss Sarah Olphert



Wednesday 24th May



Bring a gold
coin to donate
to the AIMS
Games Teams

Sports themed Mufti/Be your
self day for AIMS Games
Teams

WELCOME TO ST HELIERS SCHOOL

We would like to welcome our new students who started at St Heliers School since the last newsletter: Maida D, Vicente D, Sota K and Vidhya J.

TERM 2 ASSEMBLIES

Year 1-4 Merit Awards Assembly	Friday 19 May	2pm
Whole School Citizenship Awards Assembly	Friday 26 May	2pm
Year 5-8 Merit Awards Assembly	Friday 2 June	2pm
Year 0-4 Merit Awards Assembly	Friday 9 June	2pm
Whole School Excellence Awards Assembly	Friday 16 June	2pm

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday 19 May	Y7 Museum Trip
	Y1-4 Merit Assembly @2pm
Monday 22 May	Y3&4 Junior TV Presenter Workshop
Wednesday 24 May	Sports Mufti/Be Yourself Day
	Y7&8 Eastern Zone Girls Football
Thursday 25 May	Term 2 New Entrant mid term visit
	Y7&8 HPV1 and Boostrix immunisations
	Y5&6 Epro8
Friday 26 May	Full school Citizenship Assembly
Monday 29 May	Mid Term 2 cohort New Entrants start
Tuesday 30 May	Y7 Eastern Zone Football Boys
Wednesday 31 May	Y5&6 Parent Information Evening about Y7&8
Thursday 1 June	Y8 Eastern Zone Boys Football

2023 SCHOOL YEAR DATES

Term 3	17 July—22 September
Term 4	9 October—15 December



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\$200,000



★ **RUNS THROUGH TO
END OF TERM 3**

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