

Issue 28 Thursday 8 December 2022

**Dear Parents and Caregivers** 

Tēnā koutou katoa

As my first year as principal of St Heliers School draws to a close it is timely to reflect on the last 12 months.

As I mentioned to everyone at the fantastic Year 8 show last week, I made a promise to the senior students this year. I told them that I would be trying my hardest to ensure that the children did not miss out on all the experiences which come with being a senior student. That they would have the opportunities that they would normally have but for the last two years had missed out on. This proved trying at first, but by the middle of the second term restrictions started to lift and classes were able to take up more opportunities. I was able to see the true character that makes St Heliers School so special through Term 3 and 4.

The children have worked diligently and enthusiastically at their learning and schooling in general, and it has been wonderful to see the progress and achievement of individuals, groups, teams and classes over the course of the year. Being with the children each day is the highlight of my first 12 months. They are articulate, confident, well-mannered and eager to learn, and are living the school values.

It is not easy for staff when a new Principal comes in to a school but at St Heliers School they have been very welcoming, friendly and supportive and I would like to thank them for this and the way that every person contributed to making this an unforgettable year for the children. The dedication that our staff have for the education of your children is admirable.

One thing that has struck me in my first year here has been the community feel of the school and the way that parents and grandparents get involved in the school and give an immense amount of time to coach, manage, help on trips and camps and help out at school events. I would like to thank you all for making me feel so welcome and part of the school community.

I also want to especially thank Patsy Torrie and Alex Wood for the amazing leadership and support they give to all but particularly me over the last 12 months, My first year would not have been the same without their guidance and support to help me navigate the 'St Heliers Way'.

I would like to wish you all a fantastic holiday break with family and friends and I look forward to seeing you all again in the new year.

### 2022 school year finishes Friday 16 December 12.30pm

### 2023 school year commences Wednesday 1 February 8.50am

Noho ora mai Sean Valvoi Principal



### 2023 CLASSROOM AND TEACHING STRUCTURE

There some sone significant changes to next year's classroom and teaching structure.

- Four Year 1 classes to start the year compared to three at the beginning of this year.
- The Year 7 and 8 team will have one Team Leader, as will Year 3 and 4.
- As you can see below there are a number of staff changing year levels and rooms.
- Kate Hawkins will take on the role of International Student Coordinator as Julie Oakford will teach in Year 6

### STAFF 2023 Term 1

Principal	Mr Sean Valvoi
Deputy Principal	Mrs Patsy Torrie
Deputy Principal	Mrs Alex Wood

### Year Room Teacher

1	3	Helen Banks			
1	2	Mrs Jackie Lyon	Team Leader Y0-2	ESOL Teachers & International S	Student Coordinator
1	7	Mrs Sue Cran		Mrs Jan Bryant	ESOL Co-Ordinator & Teacher
1	8	Ms Claire Smith		Mrs Kate Hawkins	International Student Coordinator & Resource Manager
2	4	Mrs Kate Abela			
2	5	Mrs Linda Bartlam	Team Leader Y0-2	Specialist & Part Time Teachers	
2	6	Miss Gemma Lynex		Miss Kelly Blok	Reading Recovery
3	11	Miss April Smith		Miss Kate Gormley	
3	12	Mrs Brittany Abrahams		Mrs Odie Johnson	
3	17	Mrs Louise Morton		Mrs Pauline Munro	
4	16	Mrs Cathy Preston		Mrs Pene Weipers	
4	10	Mrs Sherine Hall		Mrs Sharron Buer	Learning Support Coordinator
4	13	Miss Sarah Mill	Team Leader Y3&4	Support Staff	
5	24	Mr Adrain Young		Mrs Tara King	Secretary
5	25	Miss Catherine Jackson	Team Leader Y5&6	Mrs Raewyn Cozens	Secretary
5	21	Miss Melanie Momsen		Mrs Philippa van Ryn	Executive Officer
6	22	Miss Lizanne Franklin	Team Leader Y5&6	Mrs Mary Hoff	Uniform Shop Manager & Financial Assistant
6	23	Mrs Kiley Gillingham		Ms Jenny Howie	Librarian & Learning Assistant
6	26	Mrs Julie Oakford		Jeffrey Burke	IT Support (Wednesday only)
7	18	Mrs Alison Copeland		Mrs Nicola Gray	Sports Co-ordinator
7	19	Miss Allegra Scales		Mr Billy Shoer	Caretaker
7	27	Mrs Kellie McLean		Learning Assistants	
8	14	Mrs Kerry Herbert		Mrs Ambi Siva	
8	15	Mrs Lisa Ward	Team Leader Y7&8	Mrs Joanne Rennie	
8	20	Mr Ben Christie		Mrs Joanna Macdonald	
				Mrs Marjon Gerson	
				Mrs Robyn Hope	
				Ms Sarah Olphert	

### **STAFF FAREWELLS**

At the end of this year we say farewell to Anna Kelso. Many of you will know Anna from the 14 years she has given to our school and the passion and dedication she has for the children in her classes. Anna who is currently the Year 3 Team Leader will be taking up a leadership role at Pukeoware School, near Waiuku. Anna will be sorely missed, but we wish her all the best in her new role.

Four years after starting as a beginning teacher at St Heliers School, we say farewell to Sam Harrison. Sam will be taking up a role at King's Prep School next year. We thank Sam for all her contribution to St Heliers School, especially in the Year 7 area of the school, and wish her well in her new role.

We wish Brogan Franich all the best as she goes on parental leave next year.

In addition to the 3 new staff announced in the newsletter on 10 November I am please to announce that Alison Copeland will be joining the teaching team. Alison has been a Deputy Principal of a large primary school, is local and has had children go through St Heliers School.

Also a special farewell to Stephanie Tong and Katie Pearce who are not returning following their maternity leave. They are both very talented teachers and we appreciate all that they have given to the children of St Heliers School.

Sarah-Jane Darke is on refreshment leave for 2023 and will return to us in 2024. We wish her well for her new adventures.

### CONGRATULATIONS

### Mr Christie's Graduation

Last week, we held a special morning tea to celebrate our wonderful Mr Christie who teaches in Year 8 Room 19, becoming a fully registered teacher. After completing a degree or postgraduate degree, two further years of induction and mentoring are required before a provisionally registered teacher becomes fully registered.

Mrs Ward, our highly skilled and dedicated Y8 Team Leader has been Mr Christie's mentor teacher over the past two years, and with her support and guidance, Mr Christie has developed into an incredible teacher who we are very proud of. We would also like to thank Mrs Weipers who has been Mr Christie's release teacher over the two years and Mrs Herbert who have both also provided guidance.

Patsy Torrie

**Deputy Principal** 

### PARENT SURVEY FEEDBACK #6

### Liaison and Communication

We asked parents which statements they agreed with in regards to communication between parents and our school. 88% of respondents agreed that School Newsletters are a good source of information and news 80% agreed that the school's response is effective when there is a problem with sickness or an injury 78% agree that they are aware of the school rules for students and expectations for students

42% were aware of the school policy on parent concerns or complaints

- 49% agree that the school's website is a useful way to find out information
- 49% agreed that the school's response is effective when there is a behavioural issue

We asked other ways that we could improve our communication between home and school. 10 respondents felt there were too many emails, especially for families with multiple children at school 12 respondents felt we should use a communication app

### MERIT ASSEMBLY AWARDS

Recipients of the Year 0 to 8 Citizenship Awards at the Assembly on 25 November.

Citizenship Awards Year 0-8					
Yr	Rm	Name	Yr	Rm	Name
0	1	Atlas B	4	18	Rizel M
1	2	Thomas N	5	25	Seren H
0	3	Lewis R	5	26	Anna S
1	7	Cora V	5	27	Spencer G
1	8	Hidde S	6	21	Theresa D
2	4	Sylvie H	6	22	Mia M
2	5	Bastian H	6	23	Edie J
2	6	Bonnie J	7	28	Jamie Wu
3	11	Lachlan H	7	29	Annabelle C
3	12	Toby B	7	30	Seoyoon C
3	13	Tyler Y	8	14	Belle S
4	16	Рорру Т	8	15	Naomi L
4	17	Walker E	8	19	Sonya H

### PEN PAL AFTERNOON—ROOM 18

On Wednesday 30 November at 1pm, Miss Mill and her Rm18 students, accompanied by parents Debra Savage and Olivia Donald, set off on foot up the hill to Grace Joel Retirement Village. The students had been invited to afternoon tea by their Grace Joel pen pals - many of whom they were meeting face to face for the first time after almost a year writing back and forth to each other. While they got to know each other even better after a brief introduction, the students and their pen pals were treated to a sumptuous feast of cupcakes, mini mince pies, scones and sausage rolls along with orange juice and lemonade. As the rain poured down outside and the windows fogged up, memories and stories, photos and early Christmas cards and gifts - and even pots of SHS Honey - were

exchanged and will be treasured. Sammy Partridge's clever pen pal Mr Tom Pearson handmade 100 brightly coloured wooden spinning tops to distribute to the students while crafty pen pals knitted green and red Christmas Bell decorations for the students' Christmas trees. All too soon - barely seconds after the Cranberry Juicies had been handed out in fact - it was time to say haere ra and head back down the hill together towards St Heliers School in time for the 3pm bell. At all times, St Heliers School students showed respect, self discipline, care and diligence and many of the students have promised to keep in touch with their pen pals (now life long friends) as they move up to Year 5 in 2023.











### YEAR 6 CAMP

Year 6 had a wonderful experience at Camp Carey in Henderson. We stayed at camp for two nights, and three days. There were many fun activities that we participated in. It was really fun but throughout our stay there were many challenges. The food was really nice and there were different choices for people who had food allergies. The activities that we did were kayaking, confidence course, crate stacking, flying fox, archery, air rifles and raft building. If you had an outdoor activity while it was raining and the river was high then you got the opportunity to do rock climbing or the trolley cart making instead. The water hole was fun at free time or at the end of kayaking or raft building. Our favourite parts were probably rainbow tag and slip and slide. At the end of camp on the final day we had a massive game of rainbow tag. The children worked together and two instructors were even double spies along with the parents. Green was almost impossible to find, he was hiding on the edge of the river bank next to the Burma trail. We had an amazing campfire on Monday night which the parents got started. When we arrived some of us roasted marshmallows and made smores. Others did a Burma trail where we were blind folded and held onto a rope to guide us. After that we swapped around. We all agree that we would love to go back and do the activities again. On behalf of all Year 6 students we would like to thank the parents for giving up their time to make the Year 6 camp possible. What a great way to end Year 6! By Matty G, Mia M, Emma D, James P, Mia F, and Freya F.



### YEAR 8 SHOW

On Wednesday the 30th of November the Y8s decked out the hall with decorations in anticipation of the Y8 Arts show. At 6:30pm whanau began to pack the hall waiting to see what the cohort had been working on over the past twelve weeks. As the clock ticked 7pm, the lights dimmed and the performers entered the hall to a deafening pakipaki from the crowd. Over the next hour and a half Y8 brought the entertainment. Showcasing Poi, Rakau, Waiata and Taiaha to famous tracks such as 'Men in Black', 'Girls just want to have fun', and 'Rainbow Connection'. The crowd was invited to reflect on thought-provoking spoken words from the thespians as well as themed productions from each class. Donning tutus and

bowties, the students revealed their Jive and Cha Cha dances, perfected since the inter-school competition earlier in the term. The finale invited the audience to get up and join the performers in one final dance. The crowd gave a roaring applause that shook the rafters as the students left the stage for the last time. This was a show to remember and the St Heliers 2022 leavers certainly rose to the occasion.

























### INTRODUCING TOHORĀ TOGETHER



On Monday 28 November the Whale Tail was unveiled to the children in the afternoon during school and unveiled to the parents at the evening event.

Here are exerts from the speech that Kathy Harding, our Board Chair, presented to the parents:

"... The schools connection to the whale tail began twenty years ago when our previous principal Craig McCarthny began at St Heliers School. At that time, when our Year 8s graduated, they were presented with a gift of a dictionary... much to their disappointment. Craig and our

Deputy Principal at the time Gordie Palmer, began the new tradition which exists to this day, of presenting our Year 8 graduates with a whale tail pendant necklace. A meaningful gift that the children were actually motivated to keep. The idea came from a local story of a whale that lived in the Waitemata Harbour and was often seen in St Heliers Bay where it was said to frolic in the shallow waters and splash the children as they swam.

As the pendant is presented, our graduates are told of how it represents power, protection, strength, freedom and unity, to guide them in to the next step of their lives.

It is also said that whales are amazing communicators, singing to each other in the ocean, and that a symbol of a whale supports us in communicating clearly from our hearts to connect with and care for each other. This is whanaungatanga and manaakitanga.

As a totem, the whale teaches you about listening to your inner voice, understanding the impact your emotions have on your everyday life, and following your own truth.

Our whale tail, painted by Katrina Losia has a design that represents the bubbles of the Bryde's whale rising to the surface of the ocean as it feeds. I love this connection to the idea of our children rising up in their lives at St Heliers School and beyond. Rising from tiny 5 year olds, to tall confident 12 and 13 year olds.

Rising to set goals and achieve them, but also to face failure and the inevitable challenges of life. To have the strength to step over the barriers and view them as just more information to guide them toward their goals.

May our children rise as the bubbles do, to kindness and to compassion toward others and toward themselves.

I also hope this whale tail can symbolise our tamariki rising to a place where whether their highest aspirations are realised or not, happiness and peace is always accessible to us in the simplest of things... our whanau... our environment... our land... this moment.

I introduce you all ...to our Tohora Nui... Bubble Sea."





### SPORTS UPDATE

### **Auckland Athletics**

On Thursday 1 December four students represented St Heliers School at the Auckland Champs Athletics competition at Massey Park in Papakura. It was a very enjoyable and nerve wracking day as the championship consisted of many talented Year 7 and 8 students across the whole of Auckland. Sam Whiteman represented SHS in the Year 7 Boys 1500m and placed 6th. Eve Handy competed in the Year 7 Girls long jump (15th) and the 400m, placing 7th in this event. Lucy Gardner competed in the Year 8 Girls 400m earning 5th place, and finally D'Arcy Larson competed in the Year 8 Boys 400m coming in 15th. To represent your school at an Auckland level involves a lot of hard work, determination, resilience and talent. Well done Year 7 and 8 athletes, fantastic effort.

From Sam W

### Sprint Finals—Year 2

We finally got to run our sprint races this afternoon during our P.E. time on the field and we are pleased to announce the winners:

<u>Girls</u>

First: Frankie S Rm5 Second: Bonnie J Rm6 Third: Sienna S Rm4

Boys:

First: Joe B Rm6 Second: Matthew B Rm6 Third: Stefan M Rm6

Congratulations to our fastest sprinters in Year 2 for 2022!

From the Year 2 Teachers

### Weet-bix Tryathlon 2023

The Weetbix Tryathlon is Back!

Sunday 12th February 2023 sees the return of the Weetbix Tryathlon to Pt England Reserve.

This is a wonderful opportunity for children aged 7 -15 to experience what it feels like to swim, bike, and run toward the finish line of a triathlon. It's not about being the fastest and best, but about the joy and pride we can find in physical activity and pushing ourselves to achieve a goal.

There is also a 'splash and dash' event for 6 year olds which includes the swim and run only.

St Heliers School has always had a big team participating in this event, and it will definitely be a memorable morning for our athletes and their families.

Enrol now and be sure to add yourself to the St Heliers School Team on the enrolment form.

https://tryathlon.co.nz/locations/central-east-auckland/

I will offer training sessions leading up to race day to have the children feeling confident, comfortable and excited. Please reach out if you have any questions.

Kathy Harding

Running Club Coach and Board Chair 027 2818 007 <u>kathycfm007@gmail.com</u>





Join Mr Valvoi and other staff for a working bee to tidy the quiet garden by the front gate. Bring your own Tools.

# WORKING BEE

9.30am - 12pm Thursday 19 January St Heliers School

### SCHOOL RESOURCES AT HOME

Have you got school resources at home?

Please return any school library books, school journals or readers etc to the school office as soon as possible before the end of term.

Your help with this will ensure we're ready to go for 2023!

Many thanks

Kate Hawkins (Resource Room) and Jenny Howie (Library)

## Have an awesome Summen!

The staff of St Heliers School wish you all a fantastic school holiday break with family and friends. See you all in the new Year!

### WINNING ENTRY FOR 'STEPSGUY ON HOLIDAY'

A number of our students entered 'StepsGuy on Holiday' drawing competition. There were over 500 entries New Zealand wide and one of our Year 7 students Jah M won the competition with his entry, 'StepsGuy' going from the Northern Hemisphere to the Southern Hemisphere through a portal. Steps Web commented they absolutely loved his winning entry and are excited to use it as their website banner over the holiday break. Jah's drawing will also feature on social media.

Jah won a LEGO Star Wars set. Well done Jah, we are super proud of you.

The competition proved so popular with many outstanding entries that another one of our students' entries has been nominated for the 'people's choice' award.

Public voting is on Facebook - StepsWeb Online Literacy page, which opens for voting 9 December - 12 December.



**Miss Olphert** 

### **RANGITOTO TRIP - YEAR 3**

Year 3 travelled to Rangitoto Island on Tuesday 29 November

This term, the Year 3 team were investigating and learning about how volcanoes are formed around the world and the cultural significance of them in New Zealand. We sailed across to Rangitoto Island, the youngest and largest volcano found in Tāmaki Makaura, to solidify some of our explosive learning.



### SHOE BOX CHRISTMAS

A few weeks ago Year 6 had a market day where they had worked in small groups in their classes and made products to sell in the school hall. Everyone made lots of money and profit. Together as Year 6 we had a vote and decided to use the profit and money we made to contribute to the Shoebox Christmas organisation. Each

classroom received a list of children to buy presents for that are not as lucky as us. A child's name was handed out to everybody in groups of 3-5. There was lots of work going on as we had a budget \$30 and we had to pick out good cheap gifts for children that ranged in age and gender. Children were selected from Year 6 and went with Miss Franklin to Kmart and The Warehouse to buy the gifts. They worked very hard to find everything that everyone wanted for their children, although some of the gifts had to be changed because they were more expensive in the actual shop than on the website. Miss Franklin was pleased to hear all our conversations going on while we were trying to budget and buy all the gifts. Soon after we were wrapping all of the gifts individually. While we were wrapping we had to make sure everything fitted into the shoebox and that the shoebox was in perfect condition and wrapped properly in wrapping paper to send. All the Year 6 teachers were proud of us for choosing to do something for others and how hard we worked. By Kova and Anna Clara Room 22.





### DISCO

### Junior and Senior Discos

The hall was a hive of activity on Friday 2nd December with our annual Term 4 discos. Our very popular Mr Nevalagii returned to school as our inhouse DJ playing lots of popular songs that the children loved. Accompanying our DJ was the lovely Miss Smith and wonderful Mrs Wood who displayed endless energy as they encouraged the children with different dance moves and mass singing. Prizes were handed out for best dancing and singing and by the noise levels, much fun was had by all.

For those children who found the hall just a bit too noisy, there was chalk and bubble blowing outdoors to keep them amused.

Thank you to all the SHS staff who helped organise and supervise on the night.

Mrs Torrie



### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Friday 9 December	Y0-8 Excellence Assembly @2pm	S
Monday 12 December	Y8 Beach Day	Term 4
Tuesday 13 December	Distinction Assembly @1pm School Reports sent home	SC
Wednesday 14 December	Mufti Day—Christmas Be Yourself Day	Term 1
Thursday 15 December	Y8 farewell to school Y8 Graduation ceremony @6pm	Term 2 Term 3 Term 4
Friday 16 December	Students meet 2023 teacher & class School closes at 12.30pm	
Tuesday 31 January	School uniform shop opens 9.00-12.00 r	ioon
Wednesday 1 February	First day of school for Term 1 2023	

### SCHOOL YEAR DATES 2022

erm 4	17 October—16 December

### CHOOL YEAR DATES 2023

Term 1	1 February—6 April
Term 2	24 April—30 June
Term 3	17 July—22 September
Term 4	9 October—15 December

# IF YOU DON'T CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS REPRESENT A HOLIDAY FROM YOUR CULTURE Christmas Ke Yourself day! WEEK 9 WEDNESDAY THE 14TH DECEMBER The earnings are going towards the Rotary magic show for less fortunate children. merry christmas! GOLD COIN DONATION





### Are you ready for the ultimate STEAM challenge?

Bricks 4 Kidz® LEGO® Robotics Competition encompasses important life skills such as critical thinking, problem solving, creativity, time management and project-based organisation, in a fun, competitive nature.

Bricks 4 Kidz Robotics Competition helps to spark interest in STEAM careers and empowers young learners to become the innovators and problem solvers of tomorrow.

C ROBOTICS AND CODING

C ENGINEERING

C SPEED BUILDING

CREATIVE BUILDING

### 11 DECEMBER 2022

Competitions 10:00am - 3:00pm Awards ceremony 4:00pm

During STEAM FESTIVAL

ALEXANDRA PARK FUNCTION CENTRE 239 Green Lane West, Epsom, Auckland

REGISTRATION COST: \$60/PER CHILD AGES 4-12 REGISTRATION CLOSES ON 20TH NOVEMBER 2022 Scan to register







### **Babysitting & Movie Night**

### Saturday 10th December 4.30pm to 8.30pm Scout Den - 19 Kinsale Ave, Glendowie

Cost \$15 per Child, \$25 for 2 children. \$35 for 3 children. Includes 1 Sausage Sizzle per Child Pickup anytime, or 8.30pm at the latest.

Parents - get the chance to Xmas shop without the kids!

We will be also selling Baking, Treats, Icecreams and Popcorn. So make sure your child has a little pocket money too.



As well as Movies, we will be playing some fun scout games and have some Xmas Crafts too.



Bring a Bean Bag to sit on & a Waterbottle. 🕺 Wear your Xmas T-shirt or Best Ugly Jumper.



To book your Child and their friends in (Don't need to be scouts anyone can come) Email Kate : kehawkins@xtra.co.nz or 022 0331 757



### STOW AUSTIN STUDIO 2023 ENROLMENTS

Enrolments for 2023 are now open! Join us for:

- Jazz
- Нір Нор
- Contemporary
- Musical Theatre
- Ballet

Positive and affirming classes are available for students from 4 years and above. All enquiries welcome.

For more info contact 021 44 00 88 / 0275 456 778 info@stowaustinstudio.co.nz or visit **www.stowaustinstudio.co.nz** 

