



# ST PATRICK'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL TAUPŌ

## TE WHAKAPONO ME ANA MAHI - FAITH IN ACTION



ATAWHAI | KINDNESS



TAPATAHI | INTEGRITY



HIRINGA | DETERMINATION



KOTAHITANGA | UNITY

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



**Thursday 11 December**

Welcome to this our final newsletter for 2025.

### **Celebrations**

Last week we celebrated the achievements of some of our team. Firstly, we congratulated Hayleigh-Anne Pine's successful completion of her two year provisionally registered period, she is now a fully registered teacher. We also celebrated the following teachers who have completed 25 years of service to teaching - Maryann Attwood, Cath Daignault, Charlene Ede, Kylie Craggs, Sherryl Crawford and Donna Kiff. Well done to you all, we are a lucky school!



The evening topped off a wonderful year in the life of St. Patrick's and we look very forward to you joining us to celebrate at our end of year prizegiving next Tuesday evening, 16 December.

The prizegiving is being held in the church and will start promptly at 5.30pm. We would like all children seated in their class groups by 5.15pm please. These seats will be reserved with class number signs and children will know where to head following our practice on Monday. All children are to wear their correct school uniform for the prizegiving. Thank you in advance for your support and timeliness.

*Continued...*

Tonight we have a special dinner to farewell our Year 8 students as they move onto their secondary education next year. We thank them for the amazing young people they are, their contributions to St. Patrick's and their efforts in the various roles and responsibilities they have undertaken as senior students. We wish them all the very best and know they will hold dear Kindness - Integrity - Determination and Unity. We are holding our Leavers Liturgy next Monday, 15 December at 2pm in the church, and hope you can join us for this special event.

### **End of Year Student Reports**

End of Year reports will be live and available to read by 3pm on Friday (tomorrow) on Hero. This is our first time reporting through Hero, and we're excited to share your child's progress with you in this new format. Reports include:

- A progress graph showing whether they are working Towards, At, or Above their year level curriculum expectations in Reading, Writing, and Mathematics.
- A subject comment for Reading, Writing, Mathematics, and Religious Education.
- A General Comment
- Our school's Gospel Values assessment
- Attendance to date

To view your child's report:

1. Log in to the Hero app or visit <https://go.linc-ed.com>

2. Click on your child's name

3. Click on '2025 Report'

4. Enjoy and celebrate their progress!

If you need help accessing Hero, please contact your child's teacher or visit the school office.

2026 class placements will also be visible from this time. To view which class your child will be in for 2026, click on 'My 2026 Class.'

### **Special Thanks**

...to you all for your engagement in your childrens' learning and your support of school events and activities. Without your help the children wouldn't be able to participate in the various sports, EOTC and special events that enrich their learning.

... to our amazing team. Your hard work, your dedication and your tireless efforts do not go unnoticed, the tamariki are in safe and caring hands. A well-deserved break is around the corner, go and enjoy it. To Hayleigh-Anne and Sue, again thank you for being part of the team, our best wishes go with you. To Isla who has been with us for the latter part of the year, thank you and all the very best with your move south.

... to our Board of Trustees for your commitment and support. All decisions made have the best for your children at the heart of them.

... to our children who are the reason for what we do, You ensure our days are full of joy, of laughter and the odd challenge that keeps us on our toes! You are very special to us all so make sure you enjoy your well-deserved holiday break. For those moving on, all the best! For those returning next year, we will see you on Monday 2 February.

From all of us to all of you, we wish you a very happy and blessed Christmas and a wonderful time with family and friends. Look after each other, take care when travelling and stay safe around the water.

See you in 2026!



St Patrick's Catholic School Taupō Board

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10December2025

## Notice of 2026 Operational Contributions

Dear Parents/Caregivers, You may have read in the latest Board Newsletter about the decision made at the November

Board meeting to re-instate asking families for a voluntary operational contribution (also known as "school donations" or "school fees") in 2026 as per our [Income Policy](#) (username: stpatstaupo password: faith). The level of contribution requested is reviewed by the Board at the end of each year and communicated to enrolled families

**Our school does not qualify for the Government Donation scheme and as such, we are reliant on sourcing additional funds in order to fund the programs, resources and experiences for our students that our government funding just doesn't cover.**

Operational contributions are an important part of this. We have been able to avoid requesting these contributions since 2020 due to having some surplus funds, but need to re-instate the requests for 2026. I wish to assure you that the Board has not taken this decision lightly, and have tried to keep the amount requested as reasonable as possible. In 2026, the school office will send families a request at the start of each term for an operational contribution of **\$25 per student per term, with a maximum of \$50 per family per term**. This equates to a maximum of \$5 per term time week per family throughout the year. These contributions are voluntary, and qualify for donation tax credits. These contributions are not to be confused with the attendance dues (compulsory) and Catholic character contribution (voluntary) that you are invoiced for by the Catholic Integrated Schools Office (CISO) each year. I have attached an explanation of the different fees you will be asked to pay in 2026, what they are for, and which are compulsory to this letter. We acknowledge that times are hard for some of our whānau, and not all will be able to afford these requests. We thank you for your support and understanding in this matter. Yours sincerely,

**Fiona Manning**

Presiding Member

On behalf of St Patrick's Catholic School Taupō School Board

## What are all these different fees for?

Catholic Integrated Schools like St Pat's have a more complex fee structure due to being funded differently than state schools. Please see the table below for an explanation of the different fees you will be asked for in 2026.

Request/ Invoice sent	Payment Due	To who	For what	Amount	Compulsory/ Voluntary	What is the money used for?
Term 1, 2026	End of term 1	St Patrick's Taupō School Office	Operational Contribution	\$25 per student per term, up to a maximum of \$50 per family per term	Voluntary	Money is used by the school, for programs, resources and activities delivered directly to our students
February 2026	<b>In full:</b> 31 March 2026  <b>OR In four installments:</b> - 31 May - 31 July - 30 September	Catholic Integrated Schools Office (CISO)	Attendance Dues	\$536 per student per year	Compulsory	Money goes directly to the Catholic Diocese of Hamilton, and is used across its school property portfolio to pay for land, some building work, and related costs such as maintenance, insurance on school buildings, mortgages and debt repayments on loans.
			Catholic Character Contribution	\$60 per student per year up to a maximum of \$180 per family	Voluntary	Money goes to the Catholic Education Services Board who assist schools nationally and through the Dioceses to provide a Catholic education for your child, through the preservation and enhancement of the Catholic Special Character in our schools.
Term 2, 2026	End of term 2	St Patrick's Taupō School Office	Operational Contribution	\$25 per student per term, up to a maximum of \$50 per family per term	Voluntary	Money is used by the school, for programs, resources and activities delivered directly to our students
Term 3, 2026	End of term 3	St Patrick's Taupō School Office	Operational Contribution	\$25 per student per term, up to a maximum of \$50 per family per term	Voluntary	Money is used by the school, for programs, resources and activities delivered directly to our students
Term 4, 2026	End of term 4	St Patrick's Taupō School Office	Operational Contribution	\$25 per student per term, up to a maximum of \$50 per family per term	Voluntary	Money is used by the school, for programs, resources and activities delivered directly to our students
As required	before date of the activity/ event	St Patrick's Taupō School Office	Student Activity Payments	Costs Vary	Compulsory	The school invoices parents/caregivers for costs relating to extra-curricular activities students sign up for, or for curriculum that involves a take home component.

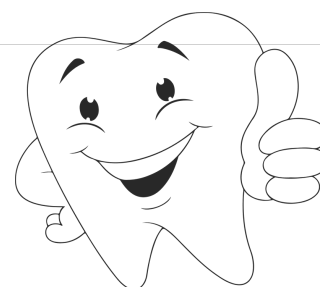
You can read more about the attendance dues and [catholic character contributions requested by CISO here](#).

If you require assistance with the compulsory attendance dues, please speak to our Principal or Father Danny who can help you to apply for this.

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TE WHAKAPONO ME ANA MAHI | FAITH IN ACTION

Atawahi/Kindness | Tapatahi/Integrity | Hiringa/Determination | Kotahitanga/Unity



## UNIFORM AMNESTY

The school appear to have a number of outstanding sports uniforms that have not been handed back - even older ones from a couple of years back.

These items are expensive and cost the school money to replace. If you find one at your house, we would love to have them back please - no questions asked.

If your child is a Year 8 and you have uniform in good condition, please consider donating this back to the school - it would be very much appreciated.

Yesterday was the last day that the dental van will be onsite at the school.

The Taupo Hospital Dental Clinic will be the only clinic open during the school holidays and they can be contacted on 027 201 8342 for an appointment.

The dental team will be returning in the first week of February to continue seeing and treating the children at St Patrick's School.



# R.E. REFLECTION



## ***The Importance of Christmas for Catholics***

Christmas is a very special time for Catholics because it celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Catholics believe that Jesus came to bring hope, peace and love to the world and that through His birth God showed His great love for all people.

During Advent we prepare our hearts for Jesus by reflecting, praying and showing kindness. Catholics also celebrate Christmas through traditions such as attending Christmas Eve/Day Mass, setting up nativity scenes and singing Christmas carols. These traditions remind us that Jesus is God's gift to us and that Christmas is a time to share love with others, especially those in need.

### *The deeper meaning*

Christmas is more than presents and food. For Catholics it means

- Jesus is God's greatest gift
- Love is more important than material things
- Peace begins with each of us
- We are called to be the hands and heart of Jesus in the world
- God's light can shine even in hard times

Christmas invites every person to bring *hope, peace, joy and love* into the world - just as Jesus did.



*From all the staff at St Patrick's School, we wish all our families hope, peace, joy and love over the summer and all God's blessings.*



# DIARY DATES

## *Upcoming Events*

- Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December - 5.30pm Y8 Dinner
- Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December - 11.30am Meet your new Teacher / Reports Available from 3pm on Hero
- Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December - 2pm Leavers liturgy
- Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> - 5.30pm Prizegiving
- Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December - School Finishes Midday

## 2026 Term Dates

Term 1

Mon 2 February -  
Thurs 2 April

Term 2

Mon 20 April -  
Fri 3 July

Term 3

Mon 20 July -  
Fri 25 September

Term 4

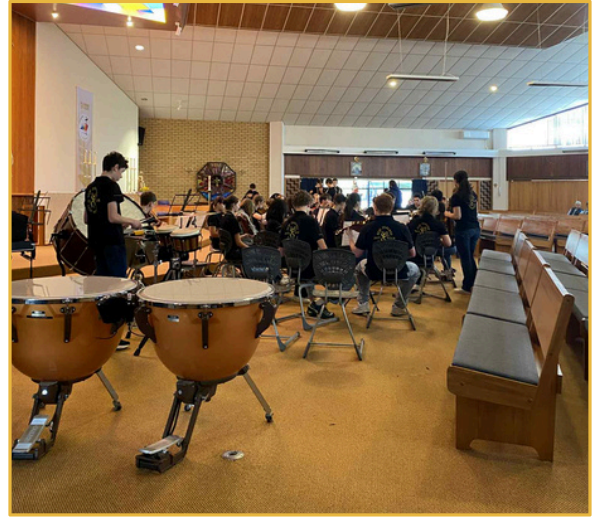
Mon 12 October -  
Wed 16 December

TEACHER  
ONLY  
DAYS

TBC



# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST PAT'S...



Last Thursday the school was treated to a performance by FCIP (Franciscan College Instrumental Programme) from Brisbane.

The group of 85 students entertained us with a variety of music including movie themes and a group drum percussion item with 6 drummers, which was very loud!

The group loved their time in Taupo and have promised to return again in their four year cycle.



Yesterday these marvellous music students entertained members from Age Concern, along with two surprise guests, the Mayor and Santa. The audience loved their performances and also joined us singing some Christmas Carols





# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST PAT'S...

## BOOK WEEK!

We had a fabulous time celebrating Book Week. Our students enjoyed sharing picture books together, and our Book Character dress up day was a hit!








# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST PAT'S...



Lollies for sale  
Thursday and Friday after school  
\$2 a bag or 3 for \$5  
Cash only

**JUICIES**  
PTFA Fundraiser  
**Final 4 Fridays of  
Term Four**

↙ @ \$2.00 each  
Order through  
Lunchonline.  
NO cash sales



## Water Fight Friday

Children to bring named togs,  
towels and water guns.  
No Balloons please.

*Fun starts at 2pm*



# EPIC HOLIDAY WORKSHOP

IS YOUR CHILD OR TEEN  
INTERESTED  
IN TECHNOLOGY?




JANUARY 2026  
For beginner & advanced coders  
Ages 9&10, 11&12, 13&14, 15 to adult  
Fun, Free & Educational!

**Sign up at [codingnz.com/holidays](https://codingnz.com/holidays)**





# COMMUNITY NOTICES

## 2026 PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

WAITANGI DAY | FRI 6 FEB  
EASTER | FRI 3 APRIL  
MON 6 APRIL & TUES 7 APRIL  
ANZAC DAY | FRI 27 APRIL  
KING'S BIRTHDAY | MON 1 JUNE  
MATARIKI | FRI 10 JULY  
LABOUR DAY | MON 26 OCTOBER



ACT2 would like to share our holiday programme.

We have great reviews from previous programmes and look forward to this years engagement and summer shows.

A show in a week!' Junior programme  
[Click here](#)

'A show in a week!' Senior programme  
[Click here](#)

We look forward to meeting our new students!

## SWIM LAKE TAUPŌ 2KM & 1KM 28 FEB

Entry discounts for Taupo Schools



Enter from \$20 now  
[acrossthelakeswim.co.nz](http://acrossthelakeswim.co.nz)

### WANTED - HOUSE FOR 3 WEEKS

Our family travels between Auckland and Taupo for our Yoga Teacher Trainings, and whenever we're here, our 5-year-old Zach attends St Patrick's – a school he absolutely adores. The sense of belonging, the kindness of the teachers, and the friendships he's made mean so much to him.

We have trainings in March and April 2026 with a 3-week gap in between, and we'd love to keep Zach at St Pats during that time rather than moving him back and forth.

If anyone has an affordable 1 bedroom or studio available from 29 Mar–18 Apr 2026, or a house/pet/plant - sit option, we'd be ever so grateful.

Please contact Joleen – 022 580 0523 / [asiapacificyoga@gmail.com](mailto:asiapacificyoga@gmail.com).

Thank you so much and God bless!







# COMMUNITY NOTICES

## SUMMER READING PROGRAMME

Pack your curiosity and head to the library – the Summer Reading Programme is back and bursting with adventures, activities, and prizes! Running from Monday 8 December to Friday 19 January, this year's theme is Te Ngāhere – The Forest, and it's open to children aged 5–12 years.

Here's how it works: read some awesome library books and check in four times at your local library to tell us about them. Each check-in earns a Te Ngāhere sticker for your booklet and moves your Kākāriki Tamariki character through the forest. Collect all four stickers to complete the challenge and go into the prize draw – you choose which prize you'd like to enter! Finishers are invited to our Te Ngāhere shindig celebrations on 20 January at Mangakino Library and 21 January at Taupō and Tūrangi Libraries. Complete the programme and you'll automatically receive one prize entry ticket. You can earn up to three extra tickets by completing a book review, ticking off five Kākāriki Tamariki Tasks, and joining a library or museum event. That's a maximum of four tickets to split across different prizes or stack on one to boost your chances. Every finisher also gets a Kākāriki Tamariki Champion certificate and a \$15 Paper Plus/Whitcoulls voucher!

Registrations open Monday 8 December – spaces are limited, so get in quick! Check-in times vary by location, and email check-ins are welcome any time (one per day). For details, contact [TaupoLibrary@taupo.govt.nz](mailto:TaupoLibrary@taupo.govt.nz) or [TurangiLibrary@taupo.govt.nz](mailto:TurangiLibrary@taupo.govt.nz). Summer is made for stories, so pop in, collect your stickers, grab your tickets, and join us for the shindig.

Summary:

Dates: Monday 8 December – Friday 19 January

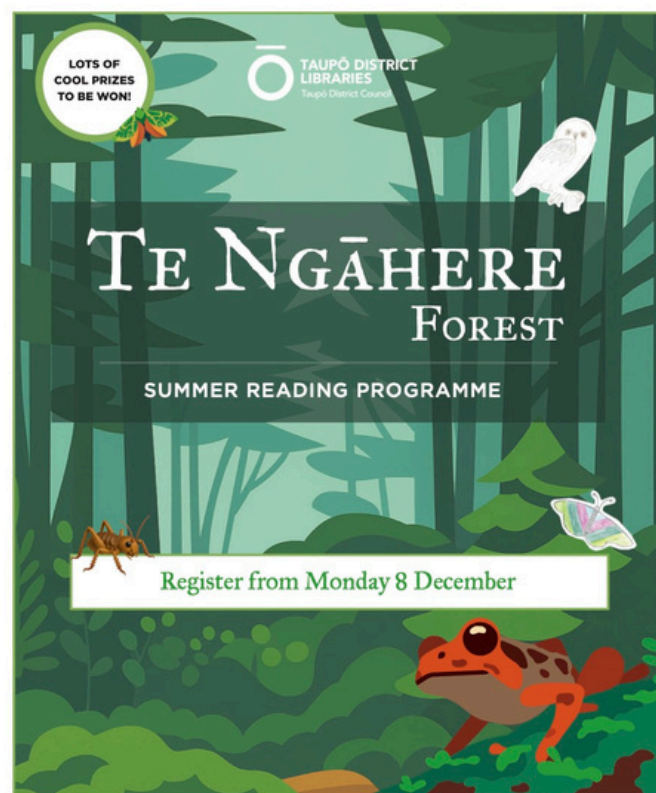
Ages: 5 - 12 years

Goal: Read book! Make 4 check-ins + earn 4 Te Ngāhere stickers

Prizes: Choose your draw; earn up to 4 tickets; one prize per participant

Finishers' party: Te Ngāhere shindig (date/time per library calendar)

Ngā mihi nui and hope to see your tamariki here in the summer holidays for some awesome summer reading fun!



A HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS THIS YEAR:





**THANK YOU TO THE PEOPLE AND BUSINESSES  
THAT GENEROUSLY SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL!**

*Please support them when you can!*



Thank you **Amanda & Dean Calvert**, owners of Greenstone Entertainment, for generously supporting our school for many years!

greenstone  
entertainment  
PRESENTS



# TAUPŌ SUMMER CONCERT

**SAT 24 JAN 2026**

TAUPŌ AMPHITHEATRE

AUCKLAND ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND

# IGGY POP

# JOAN JETT AND THE BLACKHEARTS

# HOODOO GURUS x ZED



**RAPIDSJET.COM OR 0800 727 437 TO BOOK**





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**Generation Homes – Central North Island**  
[www.generation.co.nz](http://www.generation.co.nz)

# ANNA LOPEZ

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**As a local expert and active community supporter, I make every sale count.**

**List your property with me, and I'll donate \$500 from every successful sale to the PTFA at St Patrick's School.**

**Reach out now to list your property and support our local school.**



**BAYLEYS**

**ALTOGETHER BETTER**

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