

# ST PATRICK'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL TAUPO

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Tēnā koutou e te whānau

It is hard to believe we are coming to the end of another year. This will be my last official newsletter for the year so I will wish you all the best best for the Christmas season. I hope you all have a safe holiday break.



## Staff for 2024

We are sad to lose Gemma Hazelwood at the end of this year. She has secured a position at Mountview School. We have loved having Gemma as part of our staff and she will be missed.

Ling Clarke will be returning after a year's study leave. We also welcome Sherryl Crawford who will be working full time and Hayleigh-Anne Pine who has been working as a teacher aide for the past couple of years. She has now finished her teacher training and it is great that we are able to keep her here at St Pat's. Another familiar face will be Aimee Wright who has also finished her teacher training. She has also been working as a teacher aide and spent her last practicum working in Room 2 with Donna Kiff. The full list of staff for 2024 will be:

## Toki Hub

- Charlene Ede - Year 7/8 (Team leader)
- Sherryl Crawford / Debbie Smith - Year 7/8
- Hayleigh-Anne Pine / Sherryl Crawford - Year 7/8

## Pikorua Hub

- Tracey Burley (Team Leader) / Sherryl Crawford - Year 4/5
- Ling Clarke - Year 6/7
- Lorena Morris - Year 5/6
- Theresa Brady - Year 4/5

## Koru Hub

- Elaine Hanford - Year 1 (Team Leader)
- Kylie Craggs / Janine Ramsay - Year 1/2
- Donna Kiff / Aimee Wright - Year 2/3
- Maryann Attwood - Year 3



Melissa Reid will be returning as our STEAM teacher and other release. Dibble Leersnijder will also return as a release teacher. Martine Tindall will return as our special needs teacher and she will be joined in this role by Ruth Jackson-Potter.

We welcome Naomi Keane, Tracy Bouma and Holly Barcham as teacher aides to join Sharon Griffin, Corinna Pandel, Jodi Steele, Georgie Day and Judith Leonard. Donna Helleur has resigned her teacher aide position and we thank her for her wonderful contribution to the school over the years.

Kaylene Carson will be back as our music teacher along with Donna Johns and Kylee Patrick in the office. Finally Mark Gardyne will continue as our caretaker.

A few important dates coming up....

### **Cardboard City**

This has been rescheduled after the unfortunate plumbing problem last week. The senior children will now be staying in cardboard boxes overnight on Thursday 7 December.

### **Nativity**

The classes have been busy practising and the nativity play promises to be a special reenactment of the reason for the Christmas season. The pikorua hub will be leading this year but all classes will be contributing to the play with music and singing. We would love to see lots of whānau joining us.



### **Water Fun afternoon**

Send the kids to school with a change of clothes that you don't mind getting wet and water guns will be an advantage. There will be lots of water fun activities - Don't forget to pack a towel for drying off!

### **End of year Mass**

This is a very important finale to the school year and being a Catholic school, the ultimate celebration is the Mass. All families are expected to come along to this Mass. We recognise our Year 8 leavers in the Mass and having the rest of the school farewelling them makes it even more special. The Mass begins at **5:30pm on Monday 11 December**. See you there!

### **Reports**

After the results of the reporting survey, we have decided to send home the reports in hard copy. If you would prefer to still receive your child/rens reports digitally, please let the classroom teacher know. The reports will be going home on **Tuesday 12 December**. Please check your eldest child's bag if you don't receive them!

### **Prizegiving**

We will recognise our student achievement on **Wednesday 13 December at 2pm** in the church. All families are welcome to join us.

### **Final day for 2023 and start day for 2024**

The school will close at 12 noon on **Thursday 14 December**. **NO buses** will run in the afternoon. The school will open again for 2024 on **Thursday 1 February 2024**. The office will be open on the mornings of 30/31 January.

And finally a prayer for the Christmas season...

*God grant you the light of Christmas, which is faith;  
The warmth of Christmas, which is purity;  
The righteousness of Christmas, which is justice;  
The belief in Christmas, which is truth;  
The all of Christmas, which is Christ.*

—Wilda English

Manaaki te Atua  
Maureen

# What's happening at St Pat's....



Ryan gained the 2nd highest mark in the entrance exam for boys starting Year 9 at Lindisfarne College in Hastings next year for (out of almost 100 boys). This is an outstanding achievement for Ryan. The school is very proud of his achievements and his love of learning.



Congratulations to Anton Caruana, another of our St Pat's pupils who was baptised recently.

Congratulations to our volleyball players. They did very well in their first year playing volleyball. It is great seeing them out there in the playground practising.



**CONGRATULATIONS!**

Maddie Sutton (pictured left) has achieved her bronze medal by walking at least 45 times in Tuesday Trekkers. This is a huge achievement. Maddie has shown determination and enthusiasm in attending Tuesday Trekkers for such a great length of time.

# What's happening at St Pat's....



Toki hub travelled to Tūrangi last week to visit the Trout Centre as a culmination of their water study.



Room 10 pupils made cards to thank the Parishioners who made the wonderful Advent packs for our whānau.

# Religious Education Corner



This week the whole school is participating in the Nativity Play led by Pikorua Hub. The students have been amazing learning their parts and songs. We would love to have you come along and support us when we perform on Thursday, 7 December starting at 1:30pm in the Church.

A massive thank you to the church Purl Connect group who created the fabulous Nativity packs for our families. Remember to keep on sending through photos of your Nativity scene or advent wreath to [pastoral@tongarirocatholic.nz](mailto:pastoral@tongarirocatholic.nz)



**Next Monday, 11 December at 5:30pm is the End of Year Leavers Mass. Everyone is to be in their correct school uniform and seated by 5:25 pm.**

## PRAYER FOR ADVENT

God of hope, who brought love into this world,  
be the love that dwells between us.  
God of hope, who brought peace into this world,  
be the peace that dwells between us.  
God of hope, who brought joy into this world,  
be the joy that dwells between us.  
God of hope, the rock we stand upon,  
be the centre, the focus of our lives always, and particularly this Advent time.



With the school holidays quickly approaching we have shared 5 Christmas Rituals for your whānau to try out.

## 5 Christmas Rituals

Mindfully add more meaning to your existing Christmas celebrations

by Susanne North

### 1. A meaningful countdown

As an alternative form of an Advent Calendar, families can set up a nature or seasonal table, a special space where children can place all their treasures. The table could be set up with a special Christmas cloth and twenty-four stones that make a path for Mary and Joseph walking the journey to Bethlehem. Children can make the stable out of resources from nature and decorate this space with treasures from nature as they go along. It is an exciting countdown, an immersion in a process that lends itself to many meaningful conversations and engagements with the theme of Christmas.



### 2. Saint Nikolaus

6 December. There are some beautiful stories and traditions about Saint Nikolaus who is also the Saint for children and the poor. Discussing the traditions of this Saint who is also the predecessor of Santa helps children to get to know and learn more about this magic and mystic figure who is the giver to children. That way the whole Santa thing becomes less tokenistic and adds more meaning to it.



### 3. Fostering altruism and kindness

In our house we have the rule to make at least one gift. It could entail writing a poem, drawing a picture, writing a card of appreciation, a crafted gift, a photo or keepsake album. Simply, a present from the heart. Children love being involved in making something for others. It teaches them the importance of altruism, love and kindness, qualities which we want to nurture in our children, and which are the key messages of the Christmas story.



### 4. Nativity Set

Children love nativity sets. Again, they bring meaning and the purpose of the Christmas celebration into your homes, redirecting the focus from consumerism to the actual meaning of this feast day. Everyone can relate to the birth of a baby and the immense joy and hope it brings. The sets can be bought or made. Some craft shops sell little kits that can be hand painted and assembled. Children can use the figurines for role playing, storytelling and decoration under the Christmas tree.



### 5. Christmas Eve

In many cultures, Christmas is celebrated on Christmas Eve. Gathering together in the dark and lighting lots of candles brings magic into the room. Children love candles. Reading the Christmas story together, listening to some traditional Christmas hymns, singing, sharing some poetry, reading the "Night before Christmas", praying and hanging out the stockings helps everyone to slow down and join mindfully in anticipation of Christmas day. Tip: Kids love baking gingerbread houses!




## DIARY DATES -TERM 4

5 December	Year 8 Leavers dinner
7 December	Nativity Play 1:30pm in the church
7 December	Rescheduled Cardboard City night
8 December	Water fun day
11 December	Final day for Kiwi Christmas Books Donations End of Year School Graduation Mass - 5:30pm
12 December	Reports home
13 December	School Prize Giving 2pm
14 December	Last day of school - finish at 12pm

# End of Year School Mass

MONDAY 11 DECEMBER 2023  
5.30 - 6.30pm (please be seated by 5.15pm)

Students to wear school uniform and sit with their families



# School Prizegiving

Wednesday 2 - 3pm  
13 December 2023  
St Patrick's Church

Parents and Whanau are welcome to join us in celebrating students achievements for 2023



please  
**RETURN**  
YOUR  
**LIBRARY BOOKS**



Thank you!



**Taupo**  
COSMOPOLITAN  
CLUB

A massive thank you to the Taupo Cosmopolitan Club for the \$500 grant to purchase music equipment for our students. Greatly appreciated!



parish of tongariro catholic

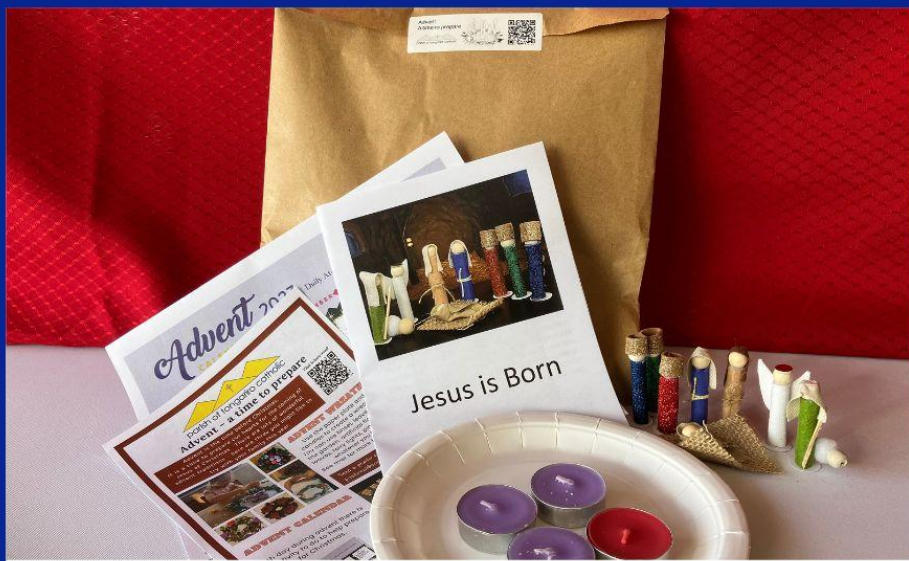


## FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

What a wonderful celebration of First Holy Communion last Sunday. A huge thank you to Mrs Morris, Mrs Attwood and all the staff for setting up, providing morning tea and being there in support of our children on this special day!







## Prepare for Christmas with your Advent Pack

Check out the three wonderful advent traditions – Nativity Set, Advent Wreath and Advent Calendars.

Thank you to the Catholic Character Leaders for their help with packing the



*Anna and Jesse*



*Ryder*



*Alice and William*

Share your photos with us!  
[pastoral@tongarirocatholic.nz](mailto:pastoral@tongarirocatholic.nz)

A HUGE thank you to the parishioners who spent HOURS handmaking these beautiful nativity sets!

# Busy? Tired? Overwhelmed?

Come along to one of these upcoming events and experience community, joy, peace and forgiveness. There are lots of ways for you and your family to be revived through our parish.



Experience Joy  
Praise and Worship  
Friday 15 December 6pm



Experience Jesus  
Christmas Masses  
Sunday 24 December 8pm  
Monday 25 December 9am



Experience Forgiveness  
Reconciliation Service  
Thursday 21 December 7pm



Experience Community  
Community Christmas Lunch  
Tuesday 12 December 1pm

# *Advent | Christmas | New Year* LITURGY SCHEDULE

Wed	20	Reconciliation Service	7pm   Tūrangi
Thu	21	Reconciliation Service	7pm   Taupō
Sat	23 Dec	4th Sunday of Advent	5pm   Tūrangi
Sun	24 Dec	4th Sunday of Advent	9am   Taupō
Sun	24 Dec	Christmas Vigil Mass Christmas Evening Mass	5pm   Tūrangi 8pm   Taupō
Mon	25 Dec	Christmas Day Mass	9am   Taupō
Mon	1 Jan 2024	Mary, Mother of God	9am   Taupō



# DONATE A BOOK FOR CHRISTMAS!

## Kia ora St Patricks Catholic School Family & Friends

We are collecting donations of **brand new** Kiwi books to gift to families in **Taupo** who can't afford to buy Christmas presents for their kids, or who struggle to access good books in general.

Please consider buying an extra book or two next time you are in store and add them to our **donation box** situated at the counter.

Baby books, picture books, chapter books, YA books — we'd love them all!

All books will be distributed to local families in need through the **Taupo Women's Refuge** and **Te Whare Oranga Wairua-Maori Women's Refuge**.

Registered Charity CC60356

[KIWICHRISTMASBOOKS.ORG.NZ](http://KIWICHRISTMASBOOKS.ORG.NZ) #GIVEBOOKSTOKIDS

## GIFT CARDS

You can also purchase gift cards through the website and donate a book on behalf of someone else. They make ideal presents for staff/colleagues/friends/family—please do check them out!

<https://shop.kiwichristmasbooks.org.nz>

**Donations close on Monday, December 11th.**

You can read more about us here:

[www.kiwichristmasbooks.org.nz](http://www.kiwichristmasbooks.org.nz)

Thank you for your support!

**Nicola Carter**

(Toby and Sophie's Mum)



# COMMUNITY NOTICES



1 December 2023  
– 31 January 2024

**FREE**  
to participate

Step into the world of books and embark on this  
Summer Reading Programme

# The fantastical fantasy feat

As you journey through this literary odyssey, you'll have the chance to win magnificent **PRIZES**, generously provided by our local heroes and sponsors.

## Embark on an extraordinary quest

Visit your local library in Tūrangi, Mangakino or Taupō to collect the secret code that awaits you. Once collected, register through Beanstack App or collect a booklet. Ask a librarian to help you navigate your way should you need it.

## Unveil the mysteries of fantasy and magic

Register at [taupodistrictlibraries.beanstack.org](http://taupodistrictlibraries.beanstack.org) or by downloading the Beanstack App (scan QR code). For young explorers without access to Beanstack, fear not! We have enchanted booklets that will guide your way, or we can provide support through our mystical library computers.



SCAN TO ENTER



# KIDS FUN RUN

IRON MAN  
70.3 TAUPŌ



IRON  
MAN  
70.3  
TAUPŌ



FRI 8 DEC | 8AM  
KAIMANAWA RESERVE

# COMMUNITY NOTICES



## FREE ART MONTH

JOIN US FOR A FREE ART MONTH FOR KIDS. WE HAVE OVER 100 DOWNLOADS AND PRINTABLE'S, AND OVER 200 VIDEOS JUST FOR KIDS TO CREATE THEIR OWN BEAUTIFUL ARTWORKS.

Free access to any new courses and workshops we run during the month you sign up.

COME AND JOIN US AT [www.sarahsstudio.co](http://www.sarahsstudio.co)

CLICK ON THE MONTHLY SIGN UP AND USE CODE: **LETSCREATE100**

in partnership with:

Napier City Council

and

**creative**nz  
ARTS COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND TOI AOTEAROA

## 2024 Term Dates

Term 1	Thurs 1 February - Fri 12 April
Term 2	Mon 29 April - Fri 5 July
Term 3	Mon 22 July - Fri 27 September
Term 4	Mon 14 October - Tues 17 December (TBC)

## 2024 PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

WAITANGI DAY | TUES 6 FEB  
EASTER | FRI 29 MARCH  
MON 1 APRIL & TUES 2 APRIL  
ANZAC DAY | WED 25 APRIL  
KING'S BIRTHDAY | MON 3 JUNE  
MATARIKI | FRI 28 JUNE  
LABOUR DAY | MON 28 OCTOBER

## Free Coding Holiday Activity

Summer 2023/24

Educational? Yes!  
Fun? Yes!  
Affordable? Yes! (it's free!)

Suitable for beginner to advanced coders. Ages 9 & 10, 11 & 12, 13 & 14, 15 to adult.

**SIGN UP NOW:**  
[codingnz.com/freeactivity](http://codingnz.com/freeactivity)

Limited spots available



**CODING**NZ