

— Term 3 - Week 10, 2025 —



# Holy Cross School

## Newsletter



### IMPORTANT DATES

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October  
TERM 4 starts

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October  
Junior Swimming  
begins  
12.15 - 1.15pm

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October  
BOT Meeting  
6.00 - 8.30pm

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October  
Term 4 Powhiri  
9.15 - 11.30am

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October  
Labour Day - NO  
SCHOOL

### Principal's Message

Last week our school went on a very special trip to visit two beautiful churches in Wellington: St Mary of the Angels and the Sacred Heart Cathedral. For many of us, this was the first time stepping inside a Catholic church and experiencing Mass in such a special place. Usually, we have our school Masses in the hall, so this was a new experience.

We learned many things you can only discover in a church. We found out why we genuflect when there is a tabernacle, and why we bow to the altar if there isn't one. We also learned about the holy water font at the door (where we bless ourselves when we enter) and the baptismal font (where baptisms take place).

It was exciting to hear the huge pipe organ play at St Mary of the Angels – the sound filled the whole church! We also explored the statues of Mary, Jesus, and the saints, looked at the Stations of the Cross, and lit candles as a way of offering prayers.

A special thank you to Simone, our DRS, for her hard work in organising this trip for the whole school. We are also grateful to the Holy Trinity Parish, who kindly subsidised the cost of the buses, and to our children, whose excellent behaviour was commended by the local priests.

# Principal's Message



## ERO Review - Term 3, Week 9

Last week, Lyn and I spent Tuesday and Wednesday meeting with ERO to evaluate our school. Lyn was a steady rock throughout the process, and ERO noted the strength of our working relationship. Below are the notes from the final report meeting. Please note that the strengths and next steps are not the official ERO wording, but rather the key points we captured in our discussions.

## ERO Identified Strengths

- An inclusive school culture that actively supports students with additional needs.
- A strong multicultural identity where students feel safe, valued, and respected, and their cultures are affirmed.
- Strategic and Annual Plans that are clearly aligned and guide the direction of the school.
- Staff professional development that is responsive to government priorities.
- Learning environments that are rich, engaging, and reflective of the school's vision for learning.
- Strong relationships established between senior leaders and Mana Whenua.
- Parents and whānau feel welcomed and are engaged in the life of the school.

## Final Karakia

E te Atua aroha nui,

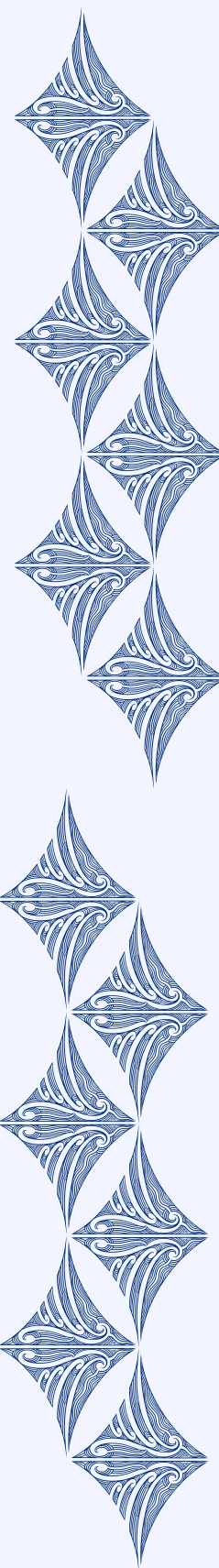
We give thanks for the term that has passed, for the learning, the laughter, the friendships, and the challenges that helped us grow.

**Bless our students**, that they may carry their knowledge and kindness into the holidays,  
returning refreshed and ready for the term ahead.

**Bless our staff**, for their hard work, patience, and care.  
Grant them rest, joy, and time with their loved ones.

**Keep our whānau safe** in travel and in play,  
and guide us all with your wisdom and love.

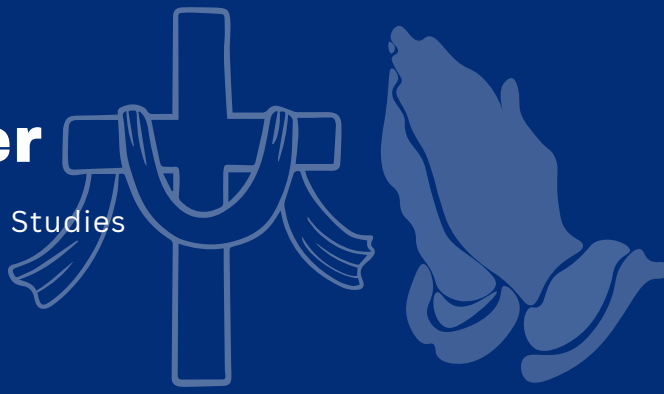
Āmene.





# Catholic Character

Director of Religious Studies  
Simone Meech



What a wonderful whole school pilgrimage we had last week to visit St Mary of the Angels and Sacred Heart Cathedral!

The students were in awe of the majesty and beauty of St Mary of the Angels, which was the first church built in Wellington in 1843. Akonga were able to recognise many of the Gospel stories and saints in the stunning stained glass windows. Encountering the life-sized statues of Mary, Jesus and Joseph was a memorable experience for the children. We were even treated to a organ concert.

The highlight of St Mary of the Angels is seeing the unique artwork of the Māori Mary “Ko Hāta Maria, te Matua Wahine o te Atua, Holy Mary, Mother of God” by Damien Walker.

Our next stop was the Metropolitan Cathedral of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and of Saint Mary His Mother. There we heard about the interesting history and numerous rebuilds. We learned good catholic practices like genuflecting, bowing and blessing ourselves with holy water. It was a moving experience to be able to celebrate mass with the community.

We want to express our gratitude to Fr Barry and Suzanne of St Mary of the Angels and to Fr Patrick and parishioners of the Cathedral who went out of their way in answering questions, giving out prayer cards and making this trip a true encounter with Christ.





# Rūma Tahi - Room 1



**Kia ora from Rūma Tahi,**

Celebrating Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori. “He aha te mea nui o te ao? He tangata, he tangata, he tangata.” What is the most important thing in the world? It is people, it is people, it is people.



Celebrating our visit to Sacred Heart Cathedral & St Mary of the Angels



Celebrating Technology at Mt Cook School



Short End-of-Term Blessing From Rūma Tahi - E te Atua, Thank you for this term – for the learning, friendships, and growth. Bless our students and whānau. Keep them safe and joyful over the break. May peace and aroha be with us all. Haere rā, noho ora mai. Amene.



# Rūma Rua - Room 2



We've had a fantastic Term 3 in Rūma Rua! Our writing focus has been writing to inform, where ākonga used POWER and TIDE-L planning to organise and share their ideas clearly. This mahi will continue into the early weeks of Term 4 before we shift into writing to entertain.

In R.E., we began our focus on Being Church, learning how we can live out our faith together as a whānau, and this kaupapa will carry through into next term.

Looking ahead, Term 4 will bring plenty of exciting learning. We'll be developing keyboard and typing skills and exploring autobiographies, biographies, and memoirs in writing, connecting to themes of identity, culture, and wellbeing.

In R.E., our journey continues with Catholic Social Teaching - looking at Human Dignity, Solidarity, and the Common Good. Our Zones of Regulation focus will move into relationships, empathy, and positive self-talk.

In Health and P.E., we'll be working on skipping, Te Whare Tapa Whā, and building resilience and interpersonal skills. In numeracy, we'll cover number, financial literacy, and statistics.

He whetū ngā tamariki o Rūma Rua - our learners have shone this term, and we're looking forward to continuing the journey together in Term 4!





# Rūma Toru - Room 3



Kia ora! It's the end of Term 3 already!

Thank-you so much for your efforts in getting your tamariki to school on time and having had breakfast, it helps the morning run smoothly.

We had a wonderful trip to St Mary's of the Angels and Sacred Heart Cathedral. I'd like to acknowledge Sheryl Miller and Father Toma Kaka who assisted us on the day. Without parent help, trips such as these would not be possible.

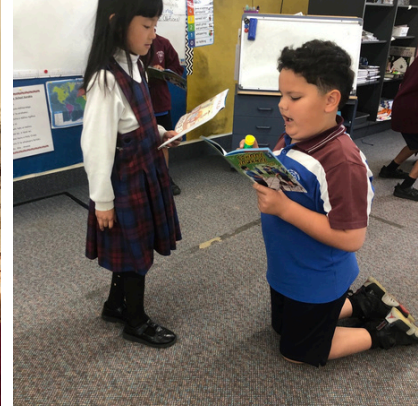
The children behaved wonderfully, they were fantastic ambassadors for Holy Cross school.

We are really grateful to have had our deputy principal Lyn teaching on Tuesdays and look forward to that continuing next term.

Please note we are missing one of our precious class mascots - Matua Teddy - he went home with a student and sadly has not returned. Please could you check your children's toys to make sure he isn't accidentally living with you.

I wish you all a restful school break with time to reconnect with tamariki.

Miss Catherine





# Rūma Whitu- Room 7

Your paraLot's of STEM learning in room 7 this term:

simple machines (ramps, pulleys, screws, wedges, seesaws, levers and wheels)

Magnetism

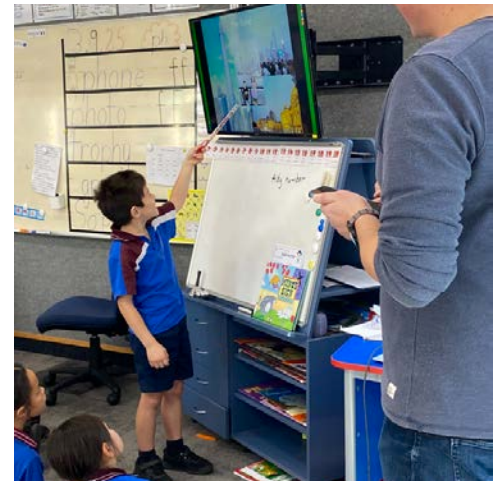
States of water (ice, liquid, steam)

Water cycle

Measurement: length, weight, volume and capacity

We also had violin concerts from Tallulah and Sophie in class. Libby brought in her incredibly cute guinea pigs with babies. Zac Y shared a slideshow about his culture with us.

We LOVED sharing our learning with our grandparents. To celebrate our hard work we had a dance party and PJs and movie days. We learned to say and perform the Haka with Matua Tala. Our highlight was the trip to two churches.  
graph text



# Rūma Waru - Room 8

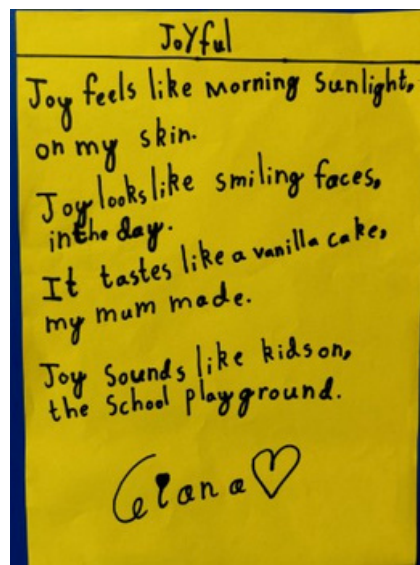
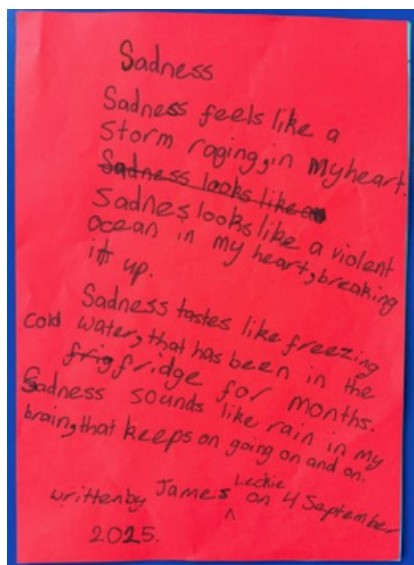
Kia ora e te whānau

Room 8 has had a settled term with a strong focus on positive learning in the classroom.

This week we revisited our maths basic facts after focusing on our personalised learning goals at home. Additionally, over the term, we have completed 3 maths units - rational numbers (fractions), geometry and probability. Next term, we will learn about statistics, financial maths and continue on our number journey.



This last part of the term, we have all loved exploring language and vocabulary through poetry. The depth of feeling on paper was extraordinary! See a sample of our poems below.



A highlight of our term has been our weekly music lessons. We were fortunate to have two wonderful teachers to explore the world of rhythm, beat, percussion and sound, in addition to formal lessons on the recorder. We all loved these lessons. We further explored the science of sound learning all about how sound travels through vibrations. We wish you all a restorative break and look forward to welcoming you and your tamariki back in term 4.

Mauri ora  
Sonya and Lyn



# Rūma Tekau ma Tahī - Room 11

Wow, what a full term it has been! Room 11 has had so much fun exploring magnets and simple machines as our topics this term. We have learned about additional and subtraction in Maths, and are becoming such clever writers and readers!

We have also been learning about special things inside of our Churches for R.E, and got to see these things on the whole school trip. To finish off the term, we are celebrating te wiki o te reo Māori...

kia pai ngā hararei ki a koutou!



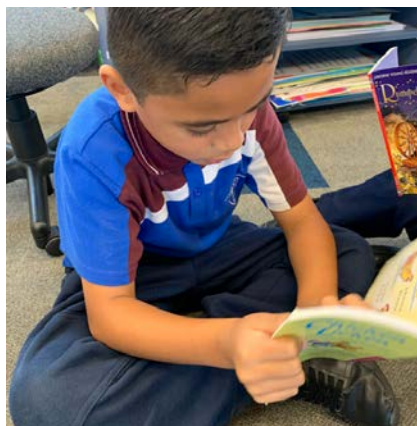


# Rūma Tekau ma rua - Room 12

Term 3 has come to an end, and Room 12 has been very busy. We have enjoyed learning about magnets and simple machines - we learnt a lot about how the simple machines that were invented, help with many things we have today.

It was lovely to see many of our grandparents at the grandparents' Mass, and we really enjoyed our visit to St Mary's of the Angels and Sacred Heart Cathedral in town. This helped us understand all the learning we had been doing about 'Church'. We have completed some lovely art work.

In writing, we have become really good at writing compound sentences and we are now moving on to easy complex sentences. We are all looking forward to the holidays!!







Today in the garden we were recognising signs of Spring, cutting carbon for our compost and planting Māori potatoes. In the kitchen today, we made a Vegetable Pulau using lots of green vegetables from our garden. We are learning about Similes, so we compared what we saw in the kitchen and the garden to other things...

- The soil is as soft as pillow fluff. -Hana-Lucia**
- The blossom is as white as snow. -James**
- The orange of the lentils is like a morning sunrise. -Antoine**
- The knife is as shiny as the sun. -George**
- My rubber is as hard as rock. -Anna**
- The knife is as strong as a gorilla. -Peter**
- The knife is as sharp as a bee's stinger. -Dhreya**
- The carrot is as long as a baby snake. -Kalypso**
- The knife is as smooth as water on a calm day. -Antoine**
- The seed is as small as an ant. - Aria and Tessa**
- The knife is as sharp as me! - Peter**







### **Chef of the day** - Cooking Rhubarb and Apple Crumble in Garden to Table

Today in the kitchen we made an apple crumble. We cut rhubarb but the apple was already chopped up and frozen from an earlier session.

We cooked it so it was not cold in a pot with the rhubarb so it stewed. There was lots of crumble already made. Isabella said it was left overs from the hangi. We served the apple crumble with yoghurt too. It smelt really good and I think that lots of the people loved it and we also had mint and kawakawa tea. It tasted really good too.

By Robbie



### **Garden to Table writing:**

Today in the garden, Charlotte, Jonadh and I were cutting twigs and branches for the compost. Amaan, Sharvil and Declan were watering the plants because they were dry. Cleo and Avery were getting the community compost because we let people donate their compost for our compost, but then Amaan decided to flood the shed...

Jessica and I had to clean it up, while we were doing that, the others were learning te reo Maori. When we were finished we went to visit a lady and she had a beautiful garden. Sadly she was not home so we looked at Shawn's garden. Shawn is a hair dresser and he also has a pollinated garden. When we were about to leave, Oliva gave Shawn some yummy herbs.

By Ezira





# School News

## Term 4 Summer Uniform

It's time to say good bye to winter and the cold! Term 4 summer uniform can now be worn.

**Year 1-6** can wear either the navy skort, short & polo or summer dress and black sandals with no socks.

**Year 7-8** can wear skort or short & polo, tartan skirt and blouse or light blue shirt, with black sandals and no socks.

***School hats need to come to school everyday, they are compulsory to be worn at play and lunchtime. Remember: No hat-No play.***

NZUniform on Thorndon Quay will have all necessary items of uniform



## Congratulations!

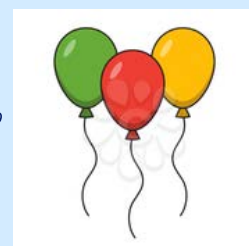
Congratulations to the Red basketball team & Holy Cross Stars Netball team. Both teams were outstanding this term, having lost very few games. They Reds played so well as a team, showing up every week with passion, determination & some great loud encouraging voices for their teammates! The Stars, worked their way up from division d to the division b finals!

The Red's won their last game 32-17 a big thanks to Hayley for coaching the tRed team  
The Stars just lost their final match 23-24. Fa'afetai to Abby & Anna for coaching and managing the team.



Happy Birthday to..

Enzo, Manisa, Henry, Esme, Araiya, Isabella, Tallulah, Giana, Rome, Bawi and Sophie X.



Birthday wishes to you all.

Have you seen our new website and new school app? If not check it out...

Follow the instructions to download our new Skool Loop app and remove the old Schoolzine app from your phone.

Contact the office for the passcode to connect to Holy Cross School.







# School News



Every Wednesday afternoon this term we have been lucky enough to have Silke and Ray the therapy dog come to visit us. Ray likes to listen to our reading. Ray talks to us and tells us what she wants. She has special buttons she pushes to tell us what she wants.

Ray always tells us she wants a treat! We take Ray for a walk, and play with her when she tells us she wants to play. We have been learning where Ray likes a pat and how she listens to Silke. Ray is so calm and she likes to check in on us if we're upset. Thank you Silke and Ray for visiting us.



## Ben Gittos Fundraising for The Mental Health Foundation of NZ in Term 4

Kia Ora Everyone,  
In Term 4 I am walking the North Island leg of the Te Araroa trail to raise money for The Mental Health Foundation of NZ. Te Araroa is a trail which spans the length of Aotearoa / New Zealand. I will start my walk from the Cape Reinga in at the top of the North Island on 26 September and plan to arrive in Wellington by mid December. If you would like to support to my efforts in raising funds to support and promote better mental health in our country

Please clip on this link:  
<https://movefor.mentalhealth.org.nz/ben-gittos>

Nga mihi nui  
Ben Gittos



## NZEI Union Strike 23 October

The NZEI Union members have voted to strike for a full day from 7am to 7pm on 23 October 2025. This is in the third week back at school after the holidays. More information will be sent to our families closer to the date.



# Holy Cross School

Thanks to the below businesses for sponsoring our school app:



**Annie Newell**  
027 232 5778

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If you would like to advertise on the Holy Cross School Skool Loop App please email [Content@skoolloop.com](mailto:Content@skoolloop.com)



To download our app: In Google Play & App Store search 'Skool Loop' & choose School once installed.



# Downloading the Skool Loop app a step by step guide



Once you have downloaded the Skool Loop App, via either your Google Play or App store, please follow the below instructions to select your school

1. Open the Skool Loop App – you will land on a welcome page.
2. Click the 'Select your schools' this will bring you to a menu you can either search your school or follow the country/region prompts.
3. Once you reach your school, select it with the tick on the righthand side. You can select as many schools as required.
4. Tap the 'select schools' button in the top right corner.
5. Tap the big orange choose button. This will load your school and bring you to the settings page.
6. Subscribe to the groups that are relevant to you, then click the 'go back' button on your phone, which will bring you to the main screen of your schools app.
7. Use the circular arrow button at the top of the main screen to toggle between your chosen schools.

**NEED MORE HELP OR INFORMATION?**  
**Call Skool Loop on 0800 238 379**





# Board Of Trustees



## Holy Cross School Board Of Trustee and Staff Election Results Declaration

Tēnā kotou katoa - this is to formally advise that at the close of nominations, as the number of valid nominations was equal to the number of vacancies required to be filled, I hereby declare the following duly elected:

### Parent Election Results Declaration

(no voting election required)

- **Steven Skells**
- **Paresh Patel**
- **Sarah Sinnott**
- **Steve Scannell**
- **Didi Dayal**

### Staff Election Results Declaration

(no voting election required)

- **Brenda O'Hare**

On behalf of our school and whanau community I extend congratulations to you all and wish you every success over the next three years. I am sure Holy Cross School will benefit from your expertise, commitment and support.

Please see who your new Board representatives are.

Nga mihi nui

Karin Graham  
Returning Officer



# Community News



## 24-25 SEPTEMBER | WELLINGTON EXPERIENCE CAMP

AGES 9-14

GIRLS ONLY



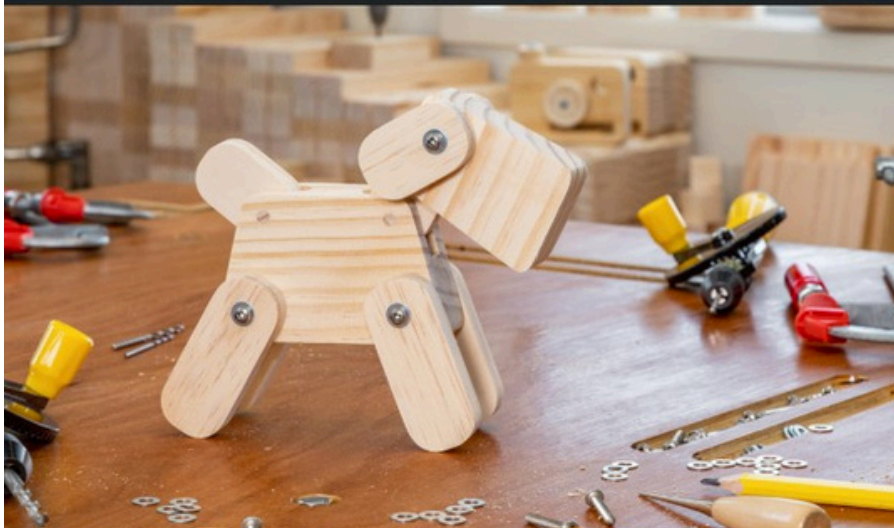
What's happening over the school holidays?

9-30am -- 4:30pm daily  
Admission \$10 per person  
A great hands-on entertaining and educational school holiday science experience for the family!

**22 SEPT - 3 OCT** Asteron Centre,  
corner Featherston & Bunny Streets

## HOLIDAY KIDS WORKSHOPS

11a Station Road  
Khandallah  
Wellington



Try something new these school holidays!  
Full hands-on woodworking with real tools.  
Learn valuable skills while crafting  
wooden toys to take home.

BOOK NOW:

**TOYMAKER**.co.nz

Harbour City Gymnastics is running a holiday programme over the Term 3 break!

Your little gymnast will experience unique and challenging circuits, specific coaching tailored to their level, creative activities, and free play in our fully equipped facility. Spaces are limited!

Who?	Ages 5+
Where?	Harbour City Gymnastics, Hataitai Park
Dates	Term 3 School Holidays
Time	9AM - 3PM
Cost	\$45 per day

Visit [hcg.org.nz/holprog](http://hcg.org.nz/holprog)  
or contact [office@hcg.org.nz](mailto:office@hcg.org.nz) to register.