



DATES TO REMEMBER

TERM THREE

Mon 31 Aug – Fri 4 Sept:
Winter Tournament
Week

Thurs 3 Sept:
Year 7/8 Social,
6.30 -8pm, SHGC Events
Centre

Mon 7 – Fri 11 Sept:
AIMS Games

Thurs 17 – Wed 23 Sept:
Practice Exams

Thurs 24 Sept:
Reports to portal

Fri 25 Sept:
Sports Photos
Last day of Term 3

Principal's Peace

Kia ora e te whānau, ngā mihi nui ki a koutou katoa. Kei te pirangi ahau kia ora koe me tōu whānau hoki i tēnei wā. Greetings to you all, I hope you and your family are well and escaping the bout of winter illness many have been suffering. On that note, at a recent assembly, I have reminded our students about keeping themselves and others well including getting enough sleep, eating well, coughing into their sleeve and staying home if they are sick.

On Friday 14 August, we celebrated Founders' Day starting with Mass at St Joseph's church and finishing with house Kapahaka. See *photos on page 3*.

This is a special day for us as an RNDM Mission Sisters' community as we also remember the Feast of the Assumption of Mary into heaven on 15 August.



Pictured above from left; Catherine Landrigan, Sr Margaret Monaghan, Sr Mary Wyss, Sr Margaret Mullin and Barb Costelloe

We were thrilled to have Sister Margaret Monaghan with us and wearing our korowai, Te Aho ō Ruahine. Sister Margaret is currently the RNDM Province Leader for Aotearoa and Samoa.

House Kapahaka was a magnificent event, capably led by our Year 12 students. See *photos on page 4*. We were so proud of all our students who performed and gave it their all. Ka mau te wehi! Well done Lourdes for coming in first place. Our visitors from Adele Senior Living loved it and among them we had two special kaumātua from Parihaka and Sister Margaret Mullin.

At the end of this term, I will have the privilege of joining a group of principals and school leaders on pilgrimage to follow in the footsteps of Euphrasie Barbier's life and visit RNDM Mission Sisters in France, and England. We will also visit Mission Sisters in Rome and attend an audience with the Pope. The pilgrimage is being led by Sister Anne Sklenars and we will be accompanied by Sister Patricia Boyd, who spent many years in France. I look forward to sharing my experiences and a deeper understanding of RNDM charism with our community on my return.

In other RNDM news, we are delighted to share the recent announcement of Maria Neville-Foster, Principal of Sacred Heart College, Napier as the new CEO for the New Zealand Catholic Education Office and the Association of Proprietors of State Integrated Schools. We congratulate Maria on her appointment to lead Catholic education in Aotearoa. Maria will also be on the RNDM pilgrimage next month.



TERM THREE

Mon 20 July-Fri 25 Sept

TERM FOUR

Mon 12 Oct-Fri 11 Dec

Principal's peace continued

On Sunday 16 August, our Special Character council and a group of staff, students and community gathered at St Joseph's church to say the rosary and bless the Sacred Heart grotto. Later this year, we will be moving the grotto from its current position behind the Salvation Army fence on the original Sacred Heart school site on Powderham street to our school's front entrance. We are just waiting to hear when the stone mason will be ready for this exciting, weather dependent project. See page 6 for our DRS report.

We are so proud of our students who are making the most of their opportunities to learn and grow this year. Congratulations to our Literacy Challenge teams who took out 1st and 2nd place at the recent Taranaki Secondary School Literacy Challenge (see page 8 for details). Congratulations too to all our students who participated in the Methanex maths Contest and to our Year 12s who assisted with marking (see page 7).

We wish all our students heading off to Winter tournament next week and the Aims games in Week 8 all the very best with their competitions!

Finally on a health and safety note: Please make sure that you do not drive into school to drop students off in the mornings or collect them after school. It is not safe for us to have cars coming to the front door and then turning round in the car park when so many students are walking into school. Please drop students off up Paynters Avenue past the bus stop or on Waiwaka terrace, not on Pukaka St and then students should walk into school.

Kororia ki te Atua ki runga rawa, Maungarongo ki runga i te mata o te whenua,
Whakaaro pai ki ngā tangata katoa ahakoa kō wai, Pai mārire.

Barbara Costelloe
Tumuaki



Braden Johnson Visits SHGC

On 4 August, we were blessed to welcome **Braden Johnson** from Kansas, USA to our kura for a day of inspiration, challenge, and fun.

Braden shared a powerful message with our students about relationships, social media, and the challenges young people face in living their Catholic faith authentically and faithfully in today's world.

Students also enjoyed seeing Braden's passion for basketball as he worked with our Year 9 PE classes and joined in games at lunchtime. In the afternoon, we were delighted to welcome Year 7 and 8 students from **St Joseph's Waitara** and **St Patrick's Inglewood** to join us for Braden's presentation.

A big thank you to Braden for encouraging our young people to live their faith with courage and conviction.



Founders' Day Mass

Founders' Day Mass was held on Friday 14 August At St Joseph's Church. Mass was celebrated by Fr Brian Carmine.



House Kapa Haka

Our students performed in a House Kapa Haka competition last Friday. The students have been practicing a waiata called Tēnei Rā Mātou for weeks and the final performances displayed all their effort!

A huge thanks to our judges Warekuka Tongawhikau and her granddaughter Ataahua.

Placings on the day:

- 1st - Lourdes
- 2nd - Vianney
- 3rd - Chanel
- 4th - Barbier

Special mention to our Year 12 student leaders for their guidance- ka Rawe!

Photography credits- Orlaith and Hope (Year 11)



Supporting our Puanga Community Celebration

On the last day of Term 2, a group of our students volunteered to support St Joseph's Primary School's Puanga celebrations. Alongside FDMC, they helped serve breakfast to students, whānau, and community members following the prayer gathering.

It was wonderful to see our Catholic primary and secondary students working collaboratively in a spirit of service and community.

Thank you to all the students who generously gave their time to make the celebration such a success.



Celebrating Sacramental Milestones

We congratulate the following students who recently celebrated the Sacraments of **First Reconciliation** and **First Holy Communion** this term, with their families, **Fr Sobin & Fr Simon**.

- **Amelia Ellem** (Year 8)
- **Addison Michielsen** (Year 8)
- **Michaela Kwangwari** (Year 7)
- **Isla Green** (Year 8)
- **Lucy Gibson** (Year 7)
- **Carol Lim** (Year 9)
- **Ella LaFranchie** (Year 7)
- **Indy LaFranchie** (Year 9)
- **Poppy Prasser** (Year 7)

A heartfelt thank you to our Chaplain, **Amelia Luke**, for her care, guidance, and support of these students as they prepared for these special sacraments.

We ask our school community to keep these students in your prayers. **"I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in them will bear much fruit."** (John 15:5)



If your daughter would like to receive any of the Sacraments, we warmly encourage you to contact our School Chaplain, Amelia Luke, at alu@shgcnps.school.nz

Grotto Rosary & Blessing

On Sunday 16 August, despite the very cold and windy weather, members of our Sacred Heart Girls' College community gathered for a special Rosary and blessing at the Grotto before the exciting project of bringing it back to the College begins.

The Rosary was beautifully led by our Special Character Council, creating a prayerful and meaningful occasion for all present.

We were especially blessed to welcome Sister Mary Wyss, Sister Margaret Mullin, and Sister Margaret Monaghan, whose presence added to the significance of the gathering. We extend our sincere thanks to the past students, parents, parishioners, and friends of the College who came along.

We look forward to work commencing during the next school holidays and are excited to see the Grotto return to its home at Sacred Heart Girls' College.



Social Justice Week

Social Justice Week: Social Justice in Action!

It was wonderful to see so many students enthusiastically participating in our recent Social Justice Week activities. From Kahoot, prayer, mufti day, and our Social Justice stalls, to celebrating our Founders Day Mass to conclude the week, students embraced every opportunity to pray, reflect, and take action.

Thank you to everyone for your generous donations and support. It is inspiring to see our students making a real difference in our community. Together, we also raised **\$569.00 for Caritas**, supporting those in need beyond our school gates.

A special thank you goes to **Martha-Rose Hagenson & Elliana Luke** for their amazing leadership with organising Social Justice week. A heartfelt thank you to all who contributed and took part. This was truly **Social Justice in Action!**

Wendy Mulligan
Director of Religious Studies



Methanex Maths Contest 2026

On Wednesday 12 August, students from Sacred Heart Girls' College participated in the annual Methanex Maths Contest, held at New Plymouth Boys' High School for Year 7 to 10 students.

Students competed in teams of four, tackling 20 challenging problem-solving questions in a fast-paced, race-style format, with just 40 minutes to complete the contest.

It was fantastic to have more teams than ever representing SHGC this year, with three teams from each year level taking up the challenge. Our students demonstrated excellent teamwork, critical thinking, perseverance, and even a touch of athleticism as they raced between stations. They represented our school with pride and enthusiasm.

A special congratulations goes to our top-placing teams:

Year 9 – 3rd Place

Dayna Fabish, Sofia San Diego, Natalia Verbeek, Ivy Forster

Year 9 – 4th Place

Olivia Roche, Chloe Milestone-Webb, Emma Megaw, Freya Fleming

Year 10 – 5th Place

Xanthe Hayes, Hollie Fowler, Arabella Thomson, Billie Stenning



Above, from left; **Natalia Verbeek, Ivy Forster, Dayna Fabish and Sofia San Diego**



Above, from left; **Emma Megaw, Olivia Roche, Chloe Milestone-Webb and Freya Fleming**



We would also like to extend a big thank you to our Year 12 volunteers (pictured above), **Lilly Gardner, Catriona Thomson and Maeve Quinn**, who assisted with marking on the evening.



Above, from left; **Xanthe Hayes, Billie Stenning, Arabella Thomson and Hollie Fowler**

Taranaki Secondary Schools Literary Challenge

On August 19th SHGC took two teams of committed readers to compete in the annual Taranaki Secondary School Literary Challenge held in the Normanby Hall. The teams were tasked with reading and studying ten books- all finalists in the 'NZ Book Awards for Children and Young Adults'.

To their absolute credit the students took on preparation for this challenge with enthusiasm and dedication - fitting their reading around all their other school and extra curricular commitments. The books included both fiction and non fiction and covered a wide range of genre and topics such as mystery, fantasy, pūrakau, natural sciences, arts and recreation. On the day, students were required to answer 100 questions on character, setting, events, themes and structure.

We are thrilled to report that our Year 10 team came 1st place (returning to school with the coveted trophy) and our Year 9 team came a very close second. Both teams received medals, book vouchers (and an ice cream on the way home!). The event also provided an opportunity for our students to meet and connect with other students from all around Taranaki mouna - a wonderful way to celebrate literacy and the joy and benefits that flow from a love of reading.



Pictured right, back row; Freya Fleming, Emma Megaw, Imogen Wigley, Jessica Rabe, Lucy Elliott, Billie Stenning, Caitlin Bishop

Front row: Charlotte Stark (South Taranaki District Council), Natalia Verbeek and Ava Ingram



Year 13 Humanities Trip

Year 13 English and History students recently headed to Wellington, taking in Parliament, the Supreme Court, and the Holocaust Centre, alongside university lectures that gave them a real taste of tertiary life.

From debating chambers to lecture halls, the trip sparked plenty of excitement about where their futures might lead.



Visits to Adele Senior Independent Living

Visits to Adele Senior Independent Living are the highlight of the week for our Environmental RST students.

The students are enjoying learning new skills and teaching new skills to the residents while building meaningful relationships. The new skills include embroidery, knitting, changing a tyre, growing vegetables, baking, crocheting, water colour art and building Lego.

Living the Catholic Social Teachings in our everyday lives.



Sports



Reminder: Stay up to date with all the latest results, photos, and achievements by following our Sports Facebook Page.

Contact Us: If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact us directly:

- **Kerry Yates – Sports Manager** kya@shgcnp.school.nz
- **Kat Greaney – Sports Coordinator** kgy@shgcnp.school.nz

school **SPORTS** Facebook
Page
search:-
Sacred Heart Girls College
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THE ULTIMATE PARENTS' GUIDE TO PROTECTING OUR KIDS ONLINE

THURSDAY 24 SEPTEMBER

6:30-8:30pm (doors open 6pm)

St Pius X School Hall

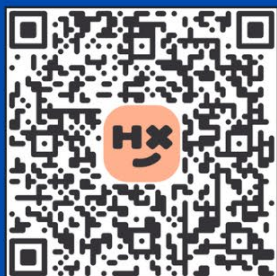
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St Joseph's School Ōpunakē

125th Jubilee

Thursday 22 + Friday 23 October 2026



ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL
ŌPUNAKĒ
FAITH, VALUES & SKILLS
SINCE 1901

The Schedule





Thursday 22 October 2026
JUBILEE MASS
 9.30am @ Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish, Whitcombe Road, Ōpunakē

Friday 23 October 2026
AG DAY GALA
 9.30am - 2pm @ St Joseph's School Ōpunakē, Whitcombe Road, Ōpunakē

JUBILEE DINNER
 6.30pm @ Sinclair Events Centre, 156 Tasman Street, Ōpunakē

Buy dinner tickets at trybooking.com





Register your interest at www.stjo.school.nz

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL, NEW PLYMOUTH

CENTENARY CELEBRATION

Join us in this joyful celebration of this Mission Sisters', RNDM school

Friday 23 October:
9 am Mihi Whakatau;
9.45 am Grandparents Day and Dress Up;
6 pm Supper, Tour and Photos

Saturday 24 October:
11 am Morning Tea; Tour and Photos
6 pm Gala Dinner at the Devon Hotel New Plymouth

Sunday 25 October:
10.30 am Mass in the School Grounds
 with Food Stalls, Raffles, Bouncy Castles etc. for Centenary Fun Day!



ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL
NEW PLYMOUTH
'SKILLS AND VALUES FOR LIFE' 1926 - 2026

For further updates, scan our Facebook Page:

Register Your Interest here:

bit.ly/stjoes100