



**ST ALBANS SCHOOL**  
Te Kura o Hato Opani. est 1873

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21 February 2019

**Kia ora whānau,**

### **Update from the Board of Trustees**

Welcome back to another school year. We trust your children are all enjoying being back at school and are excited about the learning opportunities ahead.

In Term 4 2018 we hosted a visit from the Education Review Office (ERO). Whilst we are not yet able to release the final report, we are delighted at the very positive outcome of the review and the early indication that we will be on a 4 - 5 year review cycle. As soon as we receive the finalised report we will share it with the school community.

### **Issues with our School App**

Unfortunately, we continue to have difficulty contacting the developers of our School App to address the issues Android users are having. In the interim, we will continue to use the school's Facebook feed to communicate daily events. Don't forget that you can always check in via our Google Calendar through the school's website.

### **What's Happening Around the Site**

- We welcome students to Parerā 5, our new Year 1 home base. Our wonderful Cara Wallace will be the home base teacher. You will find Parerā 5 in what was our library space.
- On Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March we anticipate re-opening our school library in its new space next to the hall.

### **Our Fantastic PTA**

At the PTA's AGM in March we will seek to fill key roles of chairperson, treasurer and secretary. With many long serving PTA members standing down from these roles we felt it was important to engage with our community before the AGM.

Next week you will receive a link to a Google Form which will allow for nominations. Included in this information will be the job specifications for each role. The election will then be held at the AGM on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March.

We hope you will join this fantastic group of volunteers who do so much for our students staff and community members.

**Ngā mihi**

**Ginnie and the team**

*huri tō kanohi ki te rā, ku te ataarangi kei muri i a koe.  
Turn your face to the sun and the shadows will fall behind you.*

## NEW PUPILS

We welcome Ainsley, Rea and [Darlene](#) who joined our school this week.

## SCHOOL NOTICES

**Child's Glasses Found** – Blue prescription glasses with pandas on the inside of the arms. Please call into the office if they are yours.



**Mandarin Language Assistant** - We welcome Qihang to St Albans School for the rest of 2019. Qihang will be working each Wednesday teaching our students about Chinese culture and language of Mandarin.

Hi, I'm Qihang, a new Mandarin Language Assistant in our community. It's my honour to stay here with you and your children for a year. During my time in Christchurch I hope that children can learn Mandarin and learn more about the Chinese culture with fun and joy in my class.

Hopefully, me and my Mandarin class will make some contributions to creating a multi-cultural environment in our lovely community.

**2019 ICAS and Australian Maths Competitions** - Each year at St Albans we offer Yr 4-6 children the opportunity to participate in formal competitions run by UNSW Educational Assessment, Australia. The tests are called International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS). These tests cover six curriculum areas and are designed to test and report to schools and parents on a variety of skills within subjects. A charge is made to cover each paper. Papers are quite challenging so are best suited to learners showing a particular strength or interest in the subject. Our school has been participating in these tests for a number of years and we have been pleased with the opportunities that the children have been given and the results that have been achieved. Certificates are awarded for High Distinction, Distinction, Credit and Participation. Parents are provided with a detailed report showing strengths and weaknesses. For more information and ways to prepare visit <http://www.eaa.unsw.edu.au>

We have also taken part in a second maths competition run by the Australian Mathematics Trust. This is a competitive paper and will be good for children who enjoy the challenge of problem solving in maths. This is a one-off test where the children have 60 minutes to work through 30 questions. As with the UNSW competitions, children receive a certificate and report indicating their achievement. Sample questions are available online at: [www.amt.edu.au](http://www.amt.edu.au)

**This year these assessments are not being run until September in Term 3.** We will send a form home at the beginning of Term 2 for those children that are interested. At this time it will also be advertised in the newsletter and spare copies will be available in the office.

**Subjects offered include:** Digital Technologies, Science, Writing, Spelling, English, Mathematics, Australia Maths Competition.

Any queries please see or email Mrs Lidstone [jo.lidstone@stalbans.school.nz](mailto:jo.lidstone@stalbans.school.nz), GATE Coordinator, Deputy Principal.

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**2019 Triennial Board of Trustee Elections** – The Board of Trustee elections will be held during Term 2. St Albans School will be electing five parent representatives to replace some long standing trustees who are stepping down. For more information on what is involved and the role of the Board of Trustees please check the NZSTA website <https://www.nzsta.org.nz/advice-and-support/information-for-parents/> NZSTA are also running a Kōrari programme for parents and community members who would like to learn more about the role of school trustees.

If you are interested in standing for election you are most welcome to attend either of the next two Board meetings at 6pm on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March or 6pm Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April. For catering purposes we would appreciate hearing from you if you intend to come along to the meeting. Please email the Board Secretary [diane.mawhinney@stalbans.school.nz](mailto:diane.mawhinney@stalbans.school.nz)

#### **BOT Election Time Line:**

Close Main Roll:	Wednesday 8 May
Call for Nominations:	Friday 10 May
Close Supplementary Roll:	Wednesday 22 May
Nominations Close:	Friday 24 May
Voting Papers Sent By:	Wednesday 29 May
Election Day:	Friday 7 June
Count Votes:	Thursday 13 June
Board Takes Office:	Friday 14 June

#### **PTA NEWS**

✂ **PTA AGM** - The AGM is coming up on 13<sup>th</sup> March, and we will be looking for new people to take on the roles of Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Marketing and Cafe Accounts. This is an awesome way to support your school, so if you may be interested in getting involved and want to know more, please feel free to send a message to any of the current Executive:

- Chair, Cherie Lynn - [ptachairperson@stalbans.school.nz](mailto:ptachairperson@stalbans.school.nz)
- Secretary, Angela Harden - [ptasecretary@stalbans.school.nz](mailto:ptasecretary@stalbans.school.nz)
- Treasurer, Tamara Moriarty - [ptatreasurer@stalbans.school.nz](mailto:ptatreasurer@stalbans.school.nz)
- Marketing, Juliet Calder - [ptamarketing@stalbans.school.nz](mailto:ptamarketing@stalbans.school.nz)

✂ **Eggs** - We will be discontinuing the egg orders at the end of this month due to uncertain supply. If you want to continue ordering free-range eggs, the St Albans Community Preschool at 3 Thames Street is happy to take orders from our parents. \$5 per dozen, email [office@stalbanspreschool.co.nz](mailto:office@stalbanspreschool.co.nz)

✂ **Friday Sausage Sizzle** - Order between 8.30am and 9am in the hall.

#### **COMMUNITY NOTICES**

**St Albans Community Preschool Children's Day Celebration** – Sunday 3rd March, 3 Thames Street, St Albans from 11am – 2pm. Bring a picnic, your family and friends for: silent cake auction, sausage sizzle, pulled pork sliders, bouncy castle, coffee cart, Devonshire tea, mystery bottle and more! A great chance to meet other families in the area and to celebrate our wonderful children. Everyone welcome!

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**Independent Taskforce - Tomorrow's Schools Review** – Now that the Taskforce's report [\*Our Schooling Futures: Stronger Together |Whiria Ngā Kura Tūātinini\*](#) has been published, they are very keen to receive feedback from as many people as possible to help them complete their final recommendations and report to the Minister of Education in late April 2019.

- Public consultation meetings: the Taskforce will be holding public consultation meetings around the country, starting on Thursday, 14 February and finishing on Wednesday, 27 March. We really encourage everyone to come along to these events and discuss the future of our schooling system. The full schedule is now available on our website (venues will be added for events as they are confirmed): <https://conversation.education.govt.nz/conversations/tomorrows-schools-review/have-your-say-today/>
- An online survey: this canvasses opinions on each of the 32 recommendations, is now available here: <https://consultation.education.govt.nz/tsr/survey2019/> and will remain open until 31 March. It will be available in Te Reo and other languages.
- A free 0800 number for oral submissions: call 0800 FOR TSR (0800 367 877) to leave your thoughts on the future of our schooling system.
- Postcards: for students, families and anyone who just wants to briefly 'have their say' on a recommendation or the full report. Freepost postcards will be available at the public meetings.
- Formal written submissions: these can be sent to: [tomorrows.schools@education.govt.nz](mailto:tomorrows.schools@education.govt.nz)



**Junior Club Open day - School Years 3 - 6 - Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 11am – 12pm** - Join us at Marist Park Turf @ St Bede's, entrance off Momorangi Crescent, where our Marist coaches will take you for a fun hockey session. We have spaces available in all grades for new players to join Marist Hockey Club for the upcoming season. All registration and player information will be available at this session or visit our Marist Hockey Junior Club Facebook for trial dates and updated information on when registration will be open. Just bring along your sports shoes, mouth guard, shin pads and we will provide everything else. For more please contact [maristhockeyjunior@gmail.com](mailto:maristhockeyjunior@gmail.com) or refer to our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/MaristHockeyJunior/>

*Note - Open Day for Year 1-2 Fun Sticks grade will be on later, watch Facebook*

Disclaimer: St Albans School does not necessarily support or endorse any of the services advertised in this newsletter.

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