



ST ALBANS SCHOOL
Te Kura o Hato Opani. est 1873

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Kia ora whānau,

Message from the Board of Trustees

As we all struggle to come to terms with what happened in Christchurch last Friday, it is important that we wrap our support around each other and particularly those who need it most. In our school community, there are some families who were directly affected and our hearts are very much with you at this difficult time.

The events of last Friday were unprecedented, for this country and certainly for our school. The Board of Trustees is proud of how our school responded to the situation as it unfolded. With an event as significant as this, there is no doubt that there will be learnings to be made. We will be working with the school to undertake a review of our lockdown procedures and to assess what worked well and what could be done better. That is an important process for us to go through and we will ensure it is done thoroughly and consider all feedback from parents, staff and other agencies including the Police and Ministry of Education.

For now though, the Board of Trustees would like to express our heartfelt thanks to our school staff for the professional and compassionate way they handled the situation on Friday in difficult circumstances. Thank you also to all of our school whānau for the support you have shown to each other and to the school. Kotahitanga he kaha - unity is strength.

Principal's Message

I found this newsletter segment very challenging to write, as putting into words the impact of the last week is difficult to do. At times like these, we all look for answers, understanding, leadership and support. One message that particularly resonated with me was from our Prime Minister The Right Honourable Jacinda Ardern.

Over the week you have received multiple communications from us and as you know we continue to debrief our response to this event, learning where we can and acknowledging the amazing job done by so many. Our focus, as always, is on the safety and welfare of our students, staff and community members.

"We were not a target because we were a safe harbor for those who hate. We were not chosen for this act of violence because we condone racism, because we are an enclave for extremism, we were chosen for the very fact that we are none of those things, because we represent diversity, kindness, compassion, a home for those who share our values, refuge for those who need it."

— JACINDA ARDERN

Prime Minister of New Zealand

Ko au ko koe ko koe au – he waka eke noa.

I am you. You are me. We are all in the same boat.

Schools across the country are showing support this Friday in a variety of ways. After much discussion, we have decided to have a **coin trail** tomorrow, with the proceeds going to the wider Muslim community. We made the decision to **stay in uniform as a sign of unity and community**. We believe it helps illustrate



that no matter who you are or where you come from 'we are one'. We are also aware of the need for normality for all our students, particularly at this time, and do find that mufti days can make them unsettled. We appreciate any donation you are able to make (all monies will be collected by the Canterbury Primary Principals' Association).

With so much information being shared in regards to trauma and resiliency a new page has been set up on the website. This can be accessed via the central piece of the home page under the heading Responding to Trauma. Information has been included from a variety of sources, so please sift and sort, selecting what works for you and your whānau.



A highlight on Tuesday was receiving an impromptu visit from members of our fantastic New Zealand Police Force, who took time to speak with students, offering them reassurance. It has also been so uplifting to hear laughter in the playground, watch students playing together and seeing the level of care we are all showing one another.

Thank you again to our PTA and volunteers for treating the staff to a beautiful morning tea on Monday. The messages from the community displayed around the walls of the staffroom certainly lifted spirits, demonstrating once again how strong St Albans School's community spirit is.

Ngā mihi, Ginnie and the team

SCHOOL NOTICES

Pool Closing – The school pool will close for the season at 7pm on Sunday 23 March. We hope you have enjoyed a great summer of swimming and fun. Pool keys may be returned from Monday 25 March for the \$20 bond refund.

School App – The school App was used extensively on Friday to keep the community informed during the lockdown period. We are very grateful the new company owners have recently updated the App and it should now be working across both Android and IOS platforms. If you didn't receive alert notifications, could you please check the App settings to allow push notifications. If you haven't already done so, we encourage you to download our free App. It is the most efficient way for us to inform you.

1. Use this URL <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/st-albans-school/id1133501573?ls=1&mt=8>
2. Go to iTunes, search for the St Albans School app and click download or android users simply search in the Google Play store
3. Use the QR code (both Apple and Android)



Please allow PUSH notifications as this will allow alerts to come to your phone.

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St Albans School Sunflower Competition - Thanks

to everyone who entered and supported our competition this year. Here are the results:

Tallest Sunflower: Angus K25

Biggest Sunflower Head: Lily K26

Best in Show: Elsie P16

People's Choice: Angus K25

Prizes included sunflower seeds, a ladybird

ornament and a bird feeder. Special thanks to Mrs

Warren for judging and our other contestants: Violet, Leo, Havana, Jaime and Sharon.

They also received a certificate and sunflower. Let's make it bigger and better next year!

Recycled Envelopes – We are gratefully accepting any recycled envelopes you might wish to donate as we use these for Subway orders and messages home. Please send to the office if you have any in reusable condition.

Zone Swimming Sports - Well done to the participants in the Zone swimming sports held on Monday. Congratulations to Neave who was 1st in breaststroke and 3rd in backstroke and Otto who was 1st in backstroke. They will represent St Albans at the Canterbury Swimming Champs on 4th April.



Rugby, Hockey, Netball, Football and Basketball Coaches Needed - Coaches/ managers are needed for the above sports teams once trials are completed. A basic understanding of the games is needed as umpiring/refereeing is required, as well as a lunch time practice and being at games on Friday afternoons. We fully understand peoples work commitments, however our teams cannot be entered into competitions without help. If this is something you would love to be involved in please email [Shaye at shaye@stalbans.school.nz](mailto:shaye@stalbans.school.nz)

PTA NEWS

- ✂ **Croissants, the PTA Easter Fundraiser** – These croissants are so delicious and come in bags of 20 croissants or pain au chocolate for just \$20 a bag! They come frozen so you can bake them when you are ready. Check your kids school bag for the order forms or pop into office. Prize for the family that sells the most and a prize for the class that sells the most. Get your orders in by FRIDAY 29th MARCH at 9am.
- ✂ **Entertainment Books** - Pre-order your 2019/20 Entertainment Book in either book or digital format - only \$70. Filled with offers and discounts from the most popular restaurants, attractions, shopping, travel and more. The PTA will receive \$14 for each membership purchased, which will go towards our new playground fundraising. Order at the office or go online www.entertainmentbook.co.nz/orderbooks/134943x
- ✂ **Disco** - We have decided to postpone the school disco to Term 2. We will update you

once a new date is set.

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

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Canterbury Measles Outbreak – Update from Canterbury District Health Board - Measles is

spreading in Canterbury with 31 confirmed cases. It is a highly infectious virus that can be life threatening. Complications occur in about one in three people, and for them measles can be serious, even fatal.

What are the symptoms?

1. Cough or runny nose or conjunctivitis; and
2. Fever above 38.50 C; and
3. A rash

If you are sick stay at home and phone your GP for advice any time day or night. Please do not go to your GP in person as you may spread the illness to others. Anyone with measles needs to be isolated from the time they become ill until 5 days after the rash has appeared.

Who is protected from measles? People who have had two MMR vaccinations are immune from measles. People born before 1969 will have been exposed to the measles virus and will have acquired immunity. Those born between 1969 - 1990 are considered to have a good level of protection. This group were offered one measles vaccine and evidence suggests that one dose of MMR protects 95% of people from measles.

What is the priority group for vaccination? The immediate priority is children aged 12 months to 13 years who have never been immunised. GP teams are also focusing on providing the vaccine to young adults aged 14 years to 28 years who have never been immunised. As more vaccine becomes available the MMR vaccine will be made available to other priority groups.

What happens if there's been a case of measles in a school or early childhood education centre? Most students in Canterbury have good immunity against measles. Health authorities will be in contact with any school or ECE where there has been a confirmed case and advise accordingly. If there is a confirmed case at their pre-school, child care centre or school, then parents should keep their unimmunised child at home.

Should students attend outside of school events? Students who are feeling unwell with measles-like symptoms, or who are not fully vaccinated against the measles, should avoid events as there will be a risk of either catching or 'passing on' measles. More information about measles is available at <http://www.immune.org.nz>

St Albans Shirley Football Club registrations are now open!

First Kicks (4 to 6 year olds) and Fun Football (7 and 8 year olds) takes place on Fridays at the English Park all-weather ground with our amazing professional coaches

Mini Football is for 9 to 12 year old players, playing in teams on Saturday mornings, with mid-week training sessions and practice games



For information and registration, please email matt@sasfootball.club

stalbansshirleyfootballclub

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