



*Living the Mission
through:
Ako
Manaakitanga
Wāhine Toa*

**Sacred Heart Girls' College
Manawa Tapu
New Plymouth**

TERM TWO

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2025

DATES TO REMEMBER

TERM TWO

Mon 2 June:

King's Birthday

Thurs 5 June, 6-8pm:

Whānau hui, Ngāmotu House

Fri 6 June:

Non-Uniform Day; gold coin donation to Inside Out

Mon 9 and Wed 11 June:

Subject Conferences (held after school and evening)

Fri 20 June:

Matariki Day

Mon 23 June:

Accord Teacher Only Day
(Ministry of Education)

Fri 27 June:

Sacred Heart Mass, 10am

House Singing in the afternoon

Last day of Term 2

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TERM TWO

Mon 28 Apr—Fri 27 June

TERM THREE

Mon 14 July—Fri 19 Sept

TERM FOUR

Mon 6 Oct—Wed 10 Dec

Please respect the rule:
No dropping off or
collecting of students on
Pukaka St
and
school
grounds.



Te Hunga Hikoi i roto i te Tūmanako



Principal's Peace



Kia ora e te whānau

Tēnei te mihi nui ki a koe i te wā o te timatanga o te Hōtoke. Ka tātari koutou ki Puanga. Greetings to you all as we move into wintertime and look forward to Puanga here in Taranaki.

Since our last newsletter, we have mourned the passing of Pope Francis on Easter Monday and we have a new Pope, Leo XIV. We give thanks to God for the life of Pope Francis and the wonderful legacy of love he has left us all. We continue to honour Pope Francis this Jubilee Year by focusing in on being Pilgrims of Hope. Pope Leo XIV inspires us with his early commitment to love and unity as we continue to work for social justice and the dignity of all people. We pray for Pope Leo XIV as he leads our Catholic Church. In our own parish, Fr Tom Lawn celebrated 50 years of priesthood on 11 May. Congratulations Fr Tom!

In our Catholic school community, we have had an incredible O'Shea Shield weekend at Cullinane College from 15 – 17 May. It was special to gather with the 16 other Catholic colleges of the Palmerston North and Wellington Diocese for a



feast of scripture reading, religious questions, oratory, debating and drama. Our young people inspire us with their passion, deep reflection and sharing of faith. We are incredibly proud of our team for being a runner-up school and only one point off the winning score. Congratulations to **Macy Stuck** for winning her section in the Junior prepared speech and our drama crew (**Sienna Asi, Bryah Edwin, Iris Cayetano, Martha-Rose Hagenson, Elliana Luke**) for winning their section of the Religious Drama.

This coming King's birthday weekend we have our annual Mission Cup and Te Toa Shield competitions at Sacred Heart Napier. We compete at netball and hockey with all our other Mission secondary schools. As our winter sports season is well underway now, I would like to thank all of our coaches and managers for giving your time to enable so many opportunities for our students in so many different sporting codes.

This term we have seen a reoccurrence of incidents of inappropriate social media use and use of phones at school. We appreciate your support of the school in working with us to keep students off phones for the whole school day. Please take time to talk to your children about keeping safe online – minding that what is shared and recorded is not in breach of the [Harmful Digital Communications Act 2015](#). These [Netsafe resources](#) might be helpful for you to use.

"Te Hunga Hikoi i roto i te Tūmanako"

"Pilgrims of Hope"

Openly Engage with Community

Principal's peace continued... In staff news, we have had resignations this term from **Whaea Puna Wharehoka** and **Mrs Claire Hodson**. Whaea Puna finished at Manawa Tapu at the end of Week 3. **Mr Matthew Goodey** is covering Whaea Puna's classes until our new Kaiako Māori, **Whaea Kelly Jennings** starts in Week 9. Mrs Hodson's last week will be Week 6 and **Mrs Felicity Paterson** will teach Mrs Hodson's classes after this.

Finally, please take note of our Subject Conferences coming up on **Monday 9 June** and **Wednesday 11 June** after school. School finishes at 3pm each day and conferences run from 3.45 pm to 6.00 pm. Please use this opportunity to connect with the subject teachers, particularly if they have indicated that a conference is needed.

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. (*Glory to God in the Highest, peace on earth and goodwill to all people.*)

Barbara Costelloe, Tumuaki—Principal



School Board Update

Tēnā koutou e te whānau

With Matariki and the shortest day only a few weeks away, it is a good time to share an update from the School Board and highlight what is coming up in the months ahead.

Firstly, we would like to express sincere thanks to John Passmore who has recently retired from the School Board as the Bishop's Appointee. John has given many years service to the School Board (firstly as a Parent Representative and then as the Bishop's Appointee). His skills and experience will be missed.

Looking ahead, the Board is thrilled that Paul Lamb and Jemma Souness have been named as the new Bishop's Appointees on the Board. It will be great to have their respective skills and perspective at Board meetings going forward.

We have been making good progress with the Strategic Plan. Our focus over the last few months has been reflecting on the feedback and information we have collated from our community and identifying some clear goals and priorities. The Special Catholic Character of our school is of course at the forefront of our minds and this will always be the foundation of any goals. Our aim is to have a draft Strategic Plan to circulate to you all in the next couple of months.

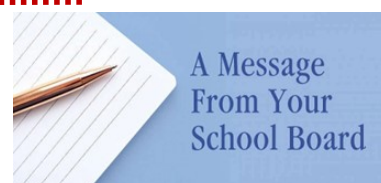
You might have noticed a flurry of activity in terms of building work on the school grounds over the last couple of months. We are grateful to the Mission College New Plymouth Trust Board for all their support and efforts in this regard. A special thanks must also be extended to the school's Business Manager, Claire Gyde who has shown some remarkable organisational skills with the projects that have been completed.

Board elections for Parent Representatives will be happening in September and an organisation called Schooled has been appointed as the Returning Officer for Sacred Heart and will be in charge of the election process. Schooled will be in touch with our families directly with information about the elections and it is very exciting that an online voting option will be available this year for the first time. Schooled has approved accreditation from the Ministry of Education to provide this service.

We look forward to some busy and productive months ahead.

Ngā mihi nui

Catherine Grogan, Presiding Member



Nourish Catholic Character

Years 8-10 Retreats—Pilgrims of Hope on a Journey of Faith

Over the past few weeks, our Year 8, 9, and 10 students have taken part in their annual retreats—special days set aside to step away from the usual routines of school life and focus on spiritual growth, reflection, and renewal.

But what is a retreat? It's a sacred opportunity to:

- Grow closer to God and deepen our faith.
- Become positive role models for ourselves and others.
- Reconnect with each other in a meaningful way—away from the distractions of social media.

This year's retreat theme was "Pilgrims of Hope", inspired by the upcoming Jubilee Year in the Catholic Church. The theme calls all Catholics to embark on a spiritual journey marked by faith, renewal, and solidarity—and our students embraced this call wholeheartedly.

We began each retreat with a special screening of the animated film *King of Kings* at Events Cinema. This beautiful portrayal of the life of Jesus—from His birth to His death—offered powerful lessons and sparked deep reflection.

Following the film, students went on a hikoi (journey) to St Joseph's Parish, where they joined the parish community for midday Mass. This was a moving experience that connected our students with the wider faith community.

In the afternoon, we shared kai, created 'freeze-frame' dramas based on Gospel passages from the movie, and lifted our voices in song. These creative and spiritual activities helped students encounter Christ in new and meaningful ways. It was a truly special day—one that allowed our young people to pause, reflect, and grow in their faith. At Manawa Tapu, we are proud to nurture students who are not only learners but also pilgrims of hope, walking together in faith and love.



Year 13 Mass

Before stepping into their formal attire and celebrating their final year together, our Year 13 cohort took time to honour a cherished tradition—giving back to the Parish that has supported them throughout their journey. Held in the St Joseph's Parish Hall, Sunday 11 May, the Mass was a beautiful expression of gratitude and faith. Our students led the liturgy with reverence and joy, taking on roles such as reading, singing, leading the Prayers of the Faithful, taking up the Offertory, and ministering the Eucharist. Their leadership was a testament to the spiritual maturity and commitment they have developed during their time at Manawa Tapu.

We were blessed to have **Fr Sobin** preside over the Mass. His warm and thoughtful presence brought a deep sense of community to the celebration. A particularly special moment was when **Sinead O'Sullivan**, one of our Year 13 students, received her First Holy Communion—a sacred milestone shared with her peers and parish whānau.

At the conclusion of the Mass, **Fr Sobin** offered a special blessing for the Year 13 students, acknowledging their journey and praying for their future. It was especially moving to see the FDMC boys join us for the blessing, highlighting the unity and shared faith between our Catholic schools.

At Manawa Tapu, we are truly blessed to have students who are not only leaders in learning but also faithful servants of Jesus Christ. This Mass was a powerful reminder of the strength of our Catholic character and the spirit of service that lives in our young people.



Openly Engage with Community

O'Shea Shield

Recently, we had the privilege of taking a team of 16 passionate and talented students to the prestigious O'Shea Shield competition, hosted this year at Cullinane College in Whanganui.

Running since 1946, the O'Shea Shield is one of New Zealand's oldest and most respected intercollegiate competitions. Each year, it brings together around 300 students from 17 Catholic secondary schools across the **Wellington Archdiocese and Palmerston North Diocese**. The event is a vibrant celebration of Catholic identity, youth talent, and community spirit.

The competition features eight categories that reflect our Catholic Special Character:

- Junior, Senior, Impromptu, and Prepared Speech
- Oratory
- Debating
- Religious Questions
- Drama

Scripture Reading (in both Te Reo Māori and English)

Our students represented the school with pride, grace, and excellence. We are thrilled to share some outstanding achievements:

Macy Stuck placed **First** in the Junior Prepared Speech section and was awarded the **O'Shea Shield Vaughan Family Cup**.

Our Drama Group; **Sienna Asi, Bryah Edwin, Iris Cayetano, Martha-Rose Hagenson and Elliana Luke**, delivered a powerful and moving performance, earning **First place** in their section and taking home the **Bishop Owen Snedden Memorial Cup**.

The O'Shea Team; **Olivia Adams, Sienna Asi, Sahara Cameron, Iris Cayetano, Amber Cayley, Meliz Cerda, Louis Dominique Domingo, Jane Doyle, Bryah Edwin, Lucy Forsyth, Martha-Rose Hagenson, Elliana Luke, Libby Neilson, Francie O'Sullivan, Hailey Richardson and Macy Stuck** performed exceptionally across all categories and were named **joint Runners-up**, receiving the **Bishop Philip Viard Memorial Trophy**.

The O'Shea Shield is more than a competition; it's a formative experience that builds confidence, deepens faith, and fosters lifelong friendships. We are incredibly proud of our students for their dedication, courage, and the way they embodied our school's values throughout the event.

We also extend our heartfelt thanks to the staff, whānau, and supporters who helped prepare and accompany the team. Your support made this journey possible.

Wendy Mulligan
Director of Religious Studies



Nourish Catholic Character



Year 13 Formal



On Saturday night we held the annual Year 13 Formal with the theme 'A Night in Athens'. The venue was completely transformed and all the girls and their partners had an absolute blast. It was a very special night that everyone will remember for years to come.

A huge thank you to all the students, staff and parents who made this incredible night possible, it wouldn't have been so perfect without you!

Lucy, Sahara and Meliz



A heartfelt thank you to all staff who helped support the Y13 Formal in different ways—we appreciate your time, effort and care.

Also a huge thank you to the PTFA for your assistance with the delicious catering. Everyone's support added a wonderful touch to the night!

Openly Engage with Community

Catholic Schools Day—Celebrating Faith, Learning and Community

On **Wednesday 28 May**, we joined Catholic schools across Aotearoa to celebrate **Catholic Schools Day**—a special occasion to reflect on the gift of Catholic education and what it means to learn and teach in a place grounded in Gospel values.

At Manawa Tapu, Catholic Schools Day is more than just a date on the calendar—it's a celebration of our identity, our mission, and our shared journey of faith. Throughout the day, students and staff engaged in a variety of meaningful activities, including prayer, reflection, Religious Studies class projects, and liturgies.

One of the highlights of the day was the gifting of rosary bracelets to all Year 7–10 students. These beautiful bracelets are not only a symbol of God's love but also a practical way for students to carry their faith with them. We encourage families to ask their child to show them their bracelet and to pray one decade of the Rosary together. As the saying goes, *"A family that prays together stays together."*

Here's what some of our students had to say about what it means to attend a Catholic school:

"It is an amazing experience because you learn about the Holy Spirit and you are able to pray for people within the Catholic faith."

"It is special to go to SHGC, as we get a Catholic education, enabling us to grow our faith in God and grow relationships with like-minded people."

"To me SHGC is a special place because we get to learn about God and Jesus and I get to grow my faith."

Catholic Schools Day reminded us of the unique and sacred role our school plays in forming young people who are not only academically capable but also spiritually grounded. We are proud to be part of a community where **faith, learning, and love** go hand in hand.



Pasifika visit to Len Lye

Manawa Tapu's Pasifika group were privileged to privately tour the Lalaga exhibition currently on show at the Len Lye Gallery. This exhibition features artists and weavers from all over the Pacific Islands and celebrates their stories, their art and their cultural traditions.

This was a nice way for our Polynesian students to view Art in a gallery setting and to be proud of the rich history their cultures afford them. Lalaga means to weave and it certainly was a weaving of cultures coming together.

Within our Pasifika group we have Samoans, Kiribati, Tongan, Cook Island and Tokelauan girls.

Pictured left to right: Rosa Poluto, Eva Charlie, Monet Steele, Angina 'Ahio, Hailey Richardson and Megan Iotia. Absent is Sally Sofeni-Williams.

Bridie Steele

Leader of Learning Arts



Openly Engage with Community

World Vision Youth Conference

Attending the World Vision Youth Conference in Lower Hutt was an unforgettable and inspiring experience. The event brought together passionate young leaders from across the North Island. It was uplifting to be surrounded by other young people who care about global issues and want to make a difference. The quote presented at the conference ***"If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together."*** made a great impact on our knowledge of leadership. It allowed us to understand that the foundation of change is teamwork and endurance, it also made us aware that it is never too late to start.

During the event, we heard from several powerful speakers who shared their stories. One that stood out was Abbas Nazari, who spoke about his experiences as a refugee from Afghanistan in 2001. His story taught us that leadership isn't about having a title or power, it's about taking action and helping others.

World Vision introduced the 40 Hour Challenge to us, the challenge to go offline for 40 hours and raise money for people suffering from hunger in the Solomon Islands due to the impact of climate change. Polyne is a 9 year-old girl who lives in the Solomon Islands. Polyne doesn't have enough access to food because the land around her that should be growing food is constantly being covered in silt due to storms, flooding and rising sea levels. It made us aware of how privileged we are to have enough to eat and adequate homes to live in.

Seeing the work World Vision's youth ambassadors have done during their trip to the Solomon Islands inspired us. It showed us how we can become activists and actually create positive change even though we are young. The conference taught us a lot about leadership, teamwork, and the importance of speaking up for what you believe in.

Huge thanks to Mrs Avery and Mrs Rangiwhia who accompanied us. The conference is definitely worthy for those who are passionate about campaigning for global issues as well as future leaders.

Tara Wood and Isabella Kwong



**campus +
corporate
clothing**

Campus Clothing is now able to put students initials on jerseys.

For more information, contact Campus Clothing: 06 769 5504

Email: sales@campusclothing.co.nz

The PTFA have held their AGM, the following positions have been appointed:

- **Sharyn Watson- Chairperson**
- **Nikki Keegan - Secretary**
- **Pauline Thomson- Treasurer**

Vice Chairperson has not been filled as yet.

The PTFA have donated \$8,000 towards the new sports jackets.

Thank you.

Sharyn Watson



GC
GAME CHANGER

Custom
Sports
Uniforms NZ

Strengthen Ako and Poutama

Poetry Workshop

Poetry Workshop with Mikaela Nyman

Celebrated local poet, Mikaela Nyman, guided a Poetry Workshop at SHGC on Tuesday, 6th May. The workshop was meant to help the students get started with writing poetry, especially poetry on the different aspects of food. This is for an anthology on food, being curated by Landing Press, Wellington.

The workshop was open to all SHGC students from Years 7-13. We had 12 participants across Years 8-13.

Mikaela led the students through some writing tasks, including Blackout/Found Poetry. She mentored them on the different kinds of poetry they could experiment with, using some brilliant examples.

The focus in the later part of the workshop was on creating an original poem on the idea of food. Some students shared their first drafts and received constructive feedback from Mikaela.

The goal is for students to work on these poems and submit them to Landing Press, by 31st May. Fingers crossed for multiple entries from SHGC being chosen for publication!

Thank you to Mikaela and the students for making this workshop possible.



Pink Shirt Day

Pink Shirt Day was held on Friday 16 May—we held a non-uniform day to celebrate diversity and promote kindness and inclusion.

In our Health Class, we were learning about Pink Shirt Day and anti-bullying.

The whole class was assigned to create a project promoting anti-bullying. After much hard thinking and consideration, we chose to paint the counsellor's door, we thought it would be a well-needed project as the previous door design was plain white.

So, we changed it from a boring, plain entrance that didn't catch anyone's eye, into a bright, colourful and welcoming space. We wanted the door to match the vibe of the room; we hope the door makes the room seem more approachable.

From left; Paige Liggett, Fia Quigan, Marcela Lizarde, Zara Stevenson and Xanthe Hayes



Strengthen Ako and Poutama

Science Roadshow

Science Roadshow Inspires Year 7s

In Week 2, our Year 7 students were treated to an exciting visit from the Science Roadshow. During the session, students enjoyed two engaging live shows — *Planet Earth*, which explored matter cycles, energy flows and life webs, and *Balloons and Bernoulli*, demonstrating fascinating pressure phenomena.

In addition to the shows, students explored over 60 hands-on exhibits grouped into themes such as Applied Science (Te pūtaiao whaipāinga), Detecting (Te tautohu), Forces (Ngā tōpana), Patterns (He tauira), Structures (He hanganga), and Trees and the Environment (Ngā rākau me te tai). It was a fantastic opportunity to spark curiosity and inspire scientific thinking through interactive learning.

Amy Foreman

Year 7 Homeroom Teacher



Enrolments for 2026

Sacred Heart Girls' College is a Catholic Integrated school for students from Years 7 – 13, which celebrates the charism gifted to us by our founding order, the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions.

To be considered for enrolment and entry to the boarding hostel, Elizabeth House, and as a day student, in 2026, applications must be submitted by the end of Term 2, Friday 27 June 2025.

Our Priority in Enrolment Procedure can be found on our website (www.shgcnpschool.nz) and will be rigorously applied in discerning enrolment.

If you have any enrolment queries, please address them to the Executive Assistant, Denise Stachurski;
ph 758 5023 ext 704 or Email: dst@shgcnpschool.nz



Openly Engage with Community

Sport — Term 2

Term 2 has begun with great energy and enthusiasm, with all our winter sports codes kicking off in Weeks 1 and 2. It's been wonderful to see our students back on the fields and courts, representing our school with pride.

A heartfelt thank you goes to our PTFA for their generous contribution towards the purchase of 300 brand-new netball dresses. Thanks to their support, all 27 of our netball teams are now proudly wearing the new design. The girls look absolutely fantastic out on the courts, and the updated uniforms have brought a fresh sense of unity and spirit to the teams.

We're looking forward to an exciting and successful season ahead!

Kerry and Kat
Sports Manager and Sports Coordinator



Stay connected with our Sports News!

Catch up on all the latest updates, results, and highlights from our school's sporting achievements on our **Sports Facebook page!**

Here are just a few of the exciting stories we've covered recently:

- Surf Life Saving
- Cricket Awards
- Future Champions
- Netball Representative Honours
- Equestrian
- Representative Basketball
- TSSSA Cross Country



Don't miss out—follow us on Facebook to stay in the loop and celebrate our students' amazing efforts and successes!

Find us on



[Sacred Heart Girls College NP - SPORT | New Plymouth - Facebook](#)

Strengthen Ako and Poutama

Cross Country

We held our annual school cross country in Week 2, and it was fantastic to see such enthusiastic participation from the entire school. The atmosphere was electric, and our competitive runners delivered some outstanding performances across all year levels.

2025 Champions

Year 7

- 1st: Nesta Dombroski
- 2nd: Perry Jones
- 3rd: Gaby Grendon



Juniors

- 1st: Macy Stuck
- 2nd: Caitlin O'Sullivan
- 3rd: Maddie Brown

Year 8

- 1st: Niamh Tauwhare-George
- 2nd: Matilda Johnson
- 3rd: Zara Redshaw



Seniors

- 1st: Pieta Smith
- 2nd: Jane Doyle
- 3rd: Ruby Stenning

Year 9

- 1st: Pippa O'Sullivan
- 2nd: Lilly Thompson
- 3rd: Amaya Ellis

Winning House: **Vianney**

Congratulations to all our runners and a big thank you to the staff and volunteers who helped make the event such a success!



Nurture Hauora

Want to take a step back in time to your good old school days?
Keen for a fun quiz night with friends?
Come join us for the
Back to School Quiz Night!

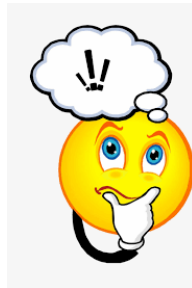
Organised by Sacred Heart's Academic Council to raise money for Conductive Education Taranaki, this school themed quiz night will be held on the **12th of June in the school Events Centre from 7pm to 9pm** (doors open at 6:30pm). It is \$30 to enter a team of up to 6 members – all funds raised go to Conductive Education. There will also be drinks and baking for sale so remember to bring your cash!

Be sure to dress up in your team's 'school uniform' as there will be a prize for the best dressed team. This quiz is open to anyone in the Sacred Heart community.

Please **register your team** through <https://forms.office.com/r/gafCWDVUVF> by **Friday 6th of June**

We hope to see you there!

Ngā mihi
Amber and Juliet
Academic Leaders



Why choose Conductive Education Taranaki Trust?

We wanted to support the incredible work Conductive Education do to build inclusivity and empower all members of our community.

Their vision is to maximise the ability of Taranaki children with disabilities through providing a child-focused, whānau centred approach to teaching functional skills needed for these children to be more independent and ultimately to have a better quality of life.

Their kaupapa connects with the goals of the Academic Council and the wider mission of Sacred Heart, to provide learning opportunities for all and uplift all abilities. It also connects to the theme of this Jubilee Year, 'Pilgrims of Hope', where we are called to support and include those with disabilities.

