



Dear Parents and Caregivers

I would like to start this week's panui by congratulating Ben Stark who has been teaching in the Year 7 and 8 area of the school, on his new position in Carterton. Ben has been fortunate enough to buy a house in the Wairarapa and has got a job closer to his new home. I would like to thank Ben for all he has done for the children and staff at St Brigid's and wish him all the best in his new position.



Earlier this year our school signed up with SchoolDocs, a platform that manages school's policies and procedures and ensures that they are kept up to date. This is now accessible on our website for parents to view. One of the awesome things about SchoolDocs is that it allows parents to be included and to have a say on some of the school procedural statements.

If you would like to take a look at this site and/or contribute to the current review go to our **website**:

- click on the **Our School** tab and then
- **Board of Trustees** from the drop down menu
- On this page is **Policies & Procedures** with a link called [SchoolDocs Link](#)
- Username: StBrigids | PW: respect

Once you are in, have a look around the site. It is easy to navigate and has lots of different links to additional material and documents that support individual policies and procedures.

The two areas for review this term that include parent input are:

- Religious Education
- Maori Educational Success

Instructions for reviewers

1. Open the tab at the top of the page called **Current Review**
2. Click on the policy (Religious Education or Maori Educational success) and read it.
3. Click the **red Under Review** icon at the right-hand top corner of the page. A new screen will appear.
4. Select your role (board member, staff member, or parent/caregiver) from the drop-down list.
5. Enter your name (optional).
6. Submit your ratings and comments.

Beginning of the year - Whanau Conferences (Something New)

We would like to begin the school year with whanau conferences to support a seamless and positive start to the year. The school will open on **Thursday 3 February**, with this day and the following day, **Friday 4 February**, used as conference days for teachers and



families. Every family will book a 30 minutes slot with each child's teacher. The purpose of the conference is for the teacher/family to meet and discuss:

- Parent/student ideas about areas of strength and interest
- Possible areas of challenge or concern for your child in their learning, behaviour or social/emotional needs
- Any worries or anxiety around starting a new year with a new class and teacher
- Class routines and expectations (going through the school wide expectations, behaviour management document)
- Initial goal ideas for the first term
- Shared expectations about Responsible Use of Devices = going through the agreement and signing off by students and parents.
- Consent forms for photos, appearing on the facebook page etc
- Our schools home learning procedures and our distance learning programmes. This would also include gathering information about the need for devices should another lockdown occur.
- Ensure that stationery has been purchased and is ready for the first day
- Any other topics that will assist a positive start to the school year

A number of schools are now starting with individual family meetings as a positive way to set up the year for children, families and teachers. It means that parents will not be required to fill out mountains of forms over the first few weeks, children will have access to devices from the first day of school (as Responsible Use Agreements will be signed) and we will not be asking parents to attend a separate goal setting meeting.

The first weekend in February is Waitangi weekend, with **Waitangi Day** being celebrated on **Monday 7 February** and the **first full school day being Tuesday 8 February**.

More information will be sent out during the remainder of this term.

God bless

Linda

St Brigid's School - 2022 Term dates	
Term One:	Thursday 3 February – Thursday 14 April <i>(Includes a Kahui Ako Staff Only day on 18 March). Easter is during the holidays</i>
Term Two:	Monday 2 May – Friday 8 July <i>(includes Matariki on Friday 24 June and a Staff Only day on Monday 27 June)</i>
Term Three:	Monday 25 July – Friday 30 September
Term Four:	Monday 17 October – Thursday 15 December

Planning for 2022

We are starting to plan for next year and would like to get an idea of numbers of children at each year level. **Could you please let the office know if** your family is moving out of the area or will be attending another school. Thanks - Linda



KEY DATES TO NOTE ON YOUR CALENDAR

Further details can be found on the website (www.stbrigids.school.nz)

Team Rua	Wed 3 Nov	Performance Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat
Team Wha	Tues 30 Nov	Year 8 Retreat
	Fri 3 Dec	Year 8 Immunisations
Other Events	Tues 2 Nov – Fri 5 Nov	School Photos
	Sat 6 Nov – Sun 7 Nov	Confirmation Masses
	Mon 15 Nov	Teacher Only Day – School Closed
	Wed 17 Nov	Pyjama Day for Diabetes Awareness Month - gold coin donation to classroom teacher
	Fri 19 Nov	Sausage Sizzle fundraiser
	Mon 29 Nov	Year 3-8 Athletics - Tabloid BOT meeting 6.00pm

St Brigid's Kapa Haka Festival Cancelled

Kia ora e te whānau

It is with great sadness that Raroa Intermediate have had to cancel the running of this year's St Brigid's Kapa Haka Festival due to Level 2 restrictions. It is hoped that we can run it later next year.

Our senior kapa haka group have been working hard on their programme and are looking and sounding amazing. We are hoping to video their performance once it is ready and share with you. I will keep you posted.

Kind regards
Tania Fransen

We need your feedback – Back to School stationery preference



I'd like to get feedback from parents on whether you would prefer to order your 2022 Back to School stationery online from OfficeMax or Warehouse Stationery. Feedback to lynne@stbrigids.school.nz by **Monday 8 November** would be very helpful so I can set up the stationery lists with the most preferred company. Thank you



Special Memories Shared from Year 6 Camp 2021

Life Lessons I learnt at Camp

Being in the front during the nightline, pulling the pin for the giant swing, going on the super fox... these are all of the activities that taught me something.

I learnt that I AM confident. I didn't say no to those activities. Although I was scared, I did them and I am really proud of myself. I think that camp isn't just about having fun, it's about building confidence too!

I also learnt that when you participate in something that you are scared of or worried about, you make more memories that you will remember for a long time.



Mia Ellis Room 5

My Camping Story

On Wednesday last week, the year 6's went to camp. To be completely honest, I only felt neutral about it because I really thought that I knew what to expect from camp. Though surprisingly, camp wasn't what I had imagined. The experience was indescribably amazing. I thought it would be boring, but I had a ton of fun. My favourite part about camp was definitely the food. It was delicious. A lesson that I learned was to try everything!

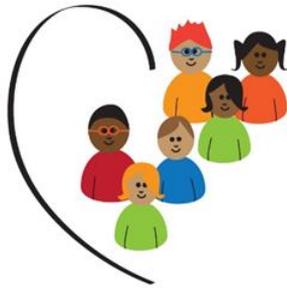
Something else that surprised me was the amount of teamwork during camp and how literally everyone got along and worked as a community to overcome certain challenges. To top it all off, all I heard during activities were encouraging words and pretty much nothing else. The lesson this taught me was anyone can work together and forget about differences if they want to.

I also noticed how helpful everyone was. For example, when I was out of plastic bags that I could use, Ethan from room 6 saw and just gave me a bag – I was really surprised. The lesson I learned was that people can be really helpful.

Don't waste the limited time you have in life. Life is short, so do everything you can in your youth while you still can.

Ardiene Divino, Room 5





Friends & Whanau Fundraising St Brigid's School

Filipino Fundraiser

Since our school fair is unable to take place, we are very fortunate to be able to offer this delicious Filipino fundraiser to our school community.

Thank you to our wonderful Filipino families who are providing this fundraiser.

To place your order: please click on the link provided in the notice attached to the newsletter email.

All orders and payments must be made no later than Friday 26 November.

Treat your family to our melt-in your-mouth shortbread cookies

Polvoron
\$7/pack

Order here:
<https://forms.gle/bdquzypccU8KZ7y6>

Available in the following

flavours:

- Cookies and Cream
- Chocolate
- Rice Crispies
- Vanilla

1 pack contains 10 pcs of polvoron,
1 pc = 25-30g

The key ingredients are flour, butter, milk and sugar.
May contain traces of nuts.

WARNING: Crumbs will naturally fall while eating and may cause you to lick your finger... or the floor

Start your day with our soft buttery bread filled with sweetened toasted coconut.

Pan de coco
\$7.50/5pcs

Order here:
<https://forms.gle/bdquzypccU8KZ7y6>

1 pc = 40g

The key ingredients are flour, butter, milk, sugar and coconut.
May contain traces of nuts.

Student Celebrations

This column is to acknowledge and congratulate any of our students who have achieved in other pursuits outside of school.

Amelia Archer from Room 14 has done very well in her recent Trinity College London Graded Guitar Exam, Grade 2. She passed with a high score of Merit and only 3 shy away from getting a Distinction.

Well done Amelia!



Diabetes Awareness Month



Although many people are aware of Type 2 diabetes and its prevention and management, they are less aware or understand Type 1 diabetes which can affect children as young as babies as well as adults. We have students here at St Brigid's with Type 1 diabetes.

Type 1 diabetes is an autoimmune condition, where the body's immune system has attacked the insulin-producing beta cells in the pancreas. These are the cells in the body that produce insulin. Over time, people with Type 1 diabetes are left with none of these beta cells, and therefore cannot produce their own insulin. Insulin is the hormone that allows the body to use the glucose (sugar) in the bloodstream as energy. Converting blood glucose is the body's main way that it gets energy,

so without insulin, it has to resort to breaking down bodily tissue such as muscle and fat stores resulting in Diabetic ketoacidosis, or DKA, which is potentially fatal.

It is important to learn the warning signs of Type 1 diabetes: **(excessive thirst, frequent urination, unexplained weight loss and exhaustion)** as they can often be mistaken for the flu, tummy bug or growth spurt, and if not picked up early, children can become very ill requiring Intensive Care.

