

SHC Heartbeat

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart

Issue 12
August 2025



From the Principal

Kia ora koutou katoa
Talofa lava
Fakaalofa lahi atu
Kia orana
Mālō e lelei

Namaste
Welkom
Herzlich Willkommen
Witamy
Nǐ hảo Mālō ni

Mid-Term Break
Monday 25 August
School is shut on this day

Nau mai, haere mai, e te whānau,

In this week's Gospel, Jesus speaks with striking intensity:

I came to cast fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled!
(Luke 12:49–53)

This passage reminds us that the message of Christ is not always one of comfort or ease. Jesus calls us to live with conviction, to stand for truth, and to follow him, even when it leads to tension or division. His words challenge us to reflect on the cost of discipleship and the courage it takes to live by Gospel values in a world that may not always welcome them.

At Sacred Heart College, we aim to nurture a community rooted in love, justice, and dignity. But we also recognise that living out these values can be difficult. Sometimes, being faithful means standing apart, asking hard questions, or making choices that others may not understand. We want to foster in our students the ability to use the gift of courage that comes from the Holy Spirit. It also means that having a belief in God requires us to act on it. For our students it means living their values, being an upstander, speaking out for others.

This Gospel invites us to ask:

- What fires of faith are burning within us?
- Are we willing to live with courage and conviction, even when it's uncomfortable?
- How do we respond when our beliefs challenge the status quo?

Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi, engari he toa takitini

My strength is not that of a single warrior, but that of many

This reminds us that while the journey of faith may be challenging, we are not alone. We walk together, strengthened by our community, our values, and our shared commitment to living the Gospel.

May we continue to support one another in this journey, kindling the fire of faith in our hearts and in our school.

Ngā mihi mahana

Katrina Kerr-Bell, Principal

CAA Examinations – Reminders

All students must arrive with a fully charged laptop.

The examinations will be in Mission House.

Thursday 4 September

- Year 10 will be working from home unless they are coming in for their Numeracy 9.00am or Writing 12.30pm.
- If sitting both examinations, students will be allocated lunch/study rooms while waiting for the afternoon examination otherwise Year 10 will go home at the conclusion of the Numeracy examination.

Friday 5 September

- All Year 10 in school. Either in class or sitting Writing examination in the morning – 9.00am
- 11/12/13 Writing examination – 12.30pm

Wednesday 10 September

- 11/12/13 Numeracy examination – 9.00am

Thursday 11 September

- 11/12/13 Reading examination – 9.00am

Attendance Matters

The Road to Success Begins with Showing Up

A heartfelt thank you to the families who are supporting their students to attend school every day. Consistent attendance is the first step on the journey to success, and your commitment is making a real difference.

The second step is **being prepared**. This includes:

- Wearing the correct uniform: **ties and blazers are compulsory**.
- If students are cold, they may wear a **plain black jacket** to and from school, but **not in class** unless they have a uniform pass.
- Ensuring devices are **fully charged** and ready for learning each day.

We encourage families to continue supporting these habits, which help set students up for success.

Additionally, **after-school tutorials** are available at least twice a week, Homework Club (Wednesday 3.30-4.30pm), Big Sister (Thursday 3.30-4.30pm), Māori Achieve (Wednesday lunchtime), and teachers are running other **subject-specific workshops**. A timetable of specific workshops will be sent out soon relating to senior subjects. These are powerful study tools, please encourage your student to attend and take advantage of these opportunities.

What's On

Check the school calendar at www.sacredheartcollege.school.nz

Week 7A

Mana Mātauranga

Filipino Language Week

Winter Tournament Week

25 Aug Mid-Term Break – School is closed

26 Aug Itinerant Music Concert (6.00-7.00pm) PAC

27 Aug Māori Achieve (lunchtime) Atawhai
Homework Club (3.30-4.30pm) Library

28 Aug Yr 10 Market Day
Big Sister (3.30-4.30pm) Library

29 Aug Kapa Haka Rehearsals (lunchtime) PAC

Week 8B

Mana Mātauranga

Chinese Language Week

2 Sep Avila Feast Day

2-3 Sep Student Rep Election Voting (Ako)

3 Sep Māori Achieve (lunchtime) Atawhai
Homework Club (3.30-4.30pm) Library
School Board Meeting (7.00-8.30pm) Library

4 Sep Year 10 Working from Home Unless Sitting CAAs

CAA Exams (9.00am-3.20pm) Library, Mission, F1
Big Sister (3.30-4.30pm) Library

5 Sep CAA Exams (9.00am-3.20pm) Library, Mission, F1
Kapa Haka Rehearsals (lunchtime)

School (Derived Grade) examination week 8-12 September and Monday 15 September

All students should be well into their study plan and touching base with their subject teachers. "Short term pain for long term gain."

School Board Parent Rep Election

Check your email for the voting pack from Election Pilot. This is a great opportunity to help shape our school. Let's make a difference together! VOTE NOW! [Candidate Statements](#) are attached to this newsletter.

NCEA Change Announcement

On Monday 4 August, the Minister of Education announced a significant proposal for changes to New Zealand's secondary school qualification system. The proposed changes have a consultation period through to 15 September and we encourage whānau within our community to offer feedback on the proposed changes.

The timeline for the proposal means that there will be no changes to the current qualification system for students in Year 9 and above.

Under the proposal, students who are currently in Year 8 would be the first group to undertake the Foundational Award in Year 11 followed by the new qualifications in Year 12 (the New Zealand Certificate of Education), and Year 13 (the New Zealand Advanced Certificate of Education).

Here is the [link](#) and you can also find summaries and videos of the proposed changes, along with information in other languages, at: <https://www.education.govt.nz/have-your-say/consultation-proposal-replace-ncea/details>



Have your say

As parents and caregivers, it's important for us to hear what you think about the changes. We're also looking for feedback from your children, their teachers, and their future employers.

Use the QR code or the link below to have your say before consultation closes 15 September!

<https://www.education.govt.nz/consultation-ncea>



School Board Student Rep Election

Nominations for Student Representative on the School Board closed on Wednesday. The Candidates are:

Sophie Osborne 12JG

Danika Ross 12MC

Fa'ailoga Tuvala 10RL

Isabelle Whitehouse 9DY

Xanthe Williamson 12SL

Candidate profiles will be on posters around the school. See their video presentations in Ako on Monday 1 September before voting on 2 September and 3 September.

Calligraphy Lesson

In Japanese class on Monday, Akane taught some of our Year 12 Japanese students how to do Japanese calligraphy. It was lots of fun!



Sacramental Mass

Last Tuesday, 15 of our students took meaningful steps in their faith journey. Some were Baptised, others received the Eucharist for the first time, and several were Confirmed. It was a truly special occasion, made even more memorable by the presence of their families and friends.

The Mass was presided over by Archbishop Paul Martin, whose message was both encouraging and inspiring. Father Raja also played a key role in the ceremony, helping guide the students through this important milestone.

We are proud of each of these students and wish them well as they continue to grow in their faith.

Paula Davies, DRS



Sport

College Sport Competitions

Football 1st XI

Congratulations to our 1st XI Football team who have won the Premier 2 competitions this week. They will bring the Onslow Cup home for the first time which is a great achievement. Thank you to Denise Hunter, Rose Barber and Mark Fairfield for supporting our team which heads off to Winter Tournament in Napier next week.



Hockey 2nd XI

Well done to our 2nd XI Hockey team who reached the P4 final. It was a close game with Paraparaumu College who won 3-0. It was great to see the young team play with heart even with one short on the field at times. Thanks to Subs Narassy and Jess Corsbie for supporting the team.



Outside School Success



Football – Maddie Sharkey

A great result for **Maddie Sharkey** playing in the New Zealand football team that has won the UFC U16 tournament with a score of 3-0 vs Samoa in the final. This result guarantees qualification for the U17 Woman's World Cup in 2026.

Netball – Ella-Grace Churchwood

The Aotearoa Māori Secondary Schools Netball Team has been announced, and **Ella-Grace Churchwood** has been selected into this team. Well done and all the best as you prepare for the tournament in Sydney in September.



Water Polo – Maya McLay

Fantastic news with Year 11 student **Maya McLay** being selected into the New Zealand U18 Water Polo team. We are excited to follow your team for the tournament in September/October 2025.



School Uniform

It has been noticed that students are wearing their skirts shorter. Please can you assess your student's skirt length at home to see if the hem needs to be taken down. We would appreciate your support.

SACRED HEART COLLEGE (LOWER HUTT)

PARENT BOARD ELECTION CANDIDATE

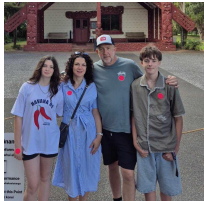
PROFILES

ABBOTT, Natasha



Hello! My name is Natasha Abbott and I am standing for re-election to the Board of Trustees. I have 4 children, with our 3 daughters attending Sacred Heart, two of whom are still current students, one in Year 13 and our youngest in Year 11. I have been on our Board here at Sacred Heart College for the past 3 years, and have really enjoyed being part of a great team doing great things for our College. In my time on the Board, I have been involved in the opening of the new Mission House and our amazing new Art Space. I am standing for re-election to continue to support our staff, students and their whanau whilst also ensuring we remain committed and focussed on upholding the values of our Mission Sisters, with good governance and dedication.

CALIAN, Denisa



My partner Matt and I are proud parents of Hugo (14), who is at Hutt Valley High School, and Abi (15); our dog, Milo, is also a very big part of the family. Abi, has been studying at Sacred Heart College (SHC) since last year, previously having studied at Hutt Intermediate and Normandale School. Between 2019 and 2021 I have volunteered as a trustee on the Normandale School Board of Trustees, which was a very rewarding experience for me; hence my reason to stand again for the SHC Board of Trustees. Using my skills as a finance professional to give back to the community is something I value greatly; this is also evident from my current role as the CFO at Nikau Foundation, where I have worked since 2021. I have over 18 years experience in accounting and finance roles, having worked for various SMEs, Corporates and NFPs. Over the years I have gained many skills in finance, but what I am most proud of are my people and collaboration skills. Relationships are very important to me, as well as reaching goals by consensus. In my previous trustee role I enjoyed hearing the community voices through consultation but also informal conversations with parents. I have always been active in the kids' education and sports activities, which allowed me to meet many parents and hear many views and ideas. I am proud of SHC and the education and values that it provides the girls. Abi is very much enjoying being part of it and I would love to have the opportunity to support the school as a parent representative on the Board. Denisa

KULA, Paulo



Statement not provided

MATENGA, Jewelle



I am proud to nominate myself for a position on the Parent Board. As a committed parent and member of our school community, I care deeply about creating an inclusive, supportive environment where all tamariki can thrive. While I haven't previously served on a board, I bring a strong sense of purpose, effective communication, and a willingness to learn. I value collaboration, and I'm passionate about building stronger connections between families, school staff, and the wider community. I also bring personal experience navigating the education system with a neurodiverse child. My son is AuDHD (autistic and has ADHD), which has given me a deep understanding of the importance of inclusive practices, individualised support, and clear communication between home and school. I know the challenges some families face, and I'm committed to being a voice that helps ensure all learners feel seen, supported, and valued. I'm organised, empathetic, and solution-focused. I believe in approaching challenges with an open mind and a calm, practical attitude. I'm particularly interested in supporting student well-being, equity in education, and initiatives that help parents feel engaged and heard. If elected, I will be a committed and present board member, prepared to listen, contribute, and work respectfully alongside others to support our kura and its values. I see this as an opportunity to give back, share what I've learned, and continue growing. Thank you for considering my nomination. Ngā mihi, Jewelle Matenga

PEREZ, Joanne (Jo)



Kia ora, my name is Jo Perez and I am standing for election to the Sacred Heart College Board of Trustees. I am a proud former student of Sacred Heart College, attending from 1988 to 1992. The values and education I received during those years shaped the person I am today – and I am grateful that my own daughter is now continuing that legacy as a Year 10 student at the College. I hold degrees in both Science (Physiology) and Commerce (Accounting), and I am a Chartered Accountant with extensive experience in finance, leadership, and strategic governance. Over the course of my career, I have worked closely with a range of boards and executive teams, helping guide complex organisations through growth and change. I am standing for the Board because I believe deeply in the power of our school to shape confident, capable young women. As both an alumna and a parent, I care deeply about the future success of Sacred Heart and how it prepares our girls – academically, socially, and spiritually – for the world ahead. If elected, I will bring a calm, professional and collaborative voice to the Board table, with a focus on financial sustainability, transparent decision-making, and future-focused strategy. I am committed to supporting the principal and staff, listening to the voice of our whānau and community, and ensuring that our school continues to thrive. It would be a privilege to serve and contribute to a strong, vibrant future for Sacred Heart College. Ngā mihi nui, Jo Perez

PROCTER, Siobhan



I am excited to put myself forward to be on the Sacred Heart college School Board. I currently have 2 daughters attending the school and I am keen to be part of ensuring that Sacred Heart College continues to support its student and wider community in offering great education within an environment underpinned by strong Christian values. I have extensive management experience having held senior and executive roles over the past 30 years, in both the electricity industry and more recently in Local Government. My most recent role was on the executive team of Wellington City Council, where I was Chief Infrastructure Officer and accountable for managing a significant annual budget and a team of over 150 staff. In that capacity, I was the chair for several project governance boards as well as being on the executive committee for the road controlling authority forum which is a national body. I would welcome the opportunity to apply my skills and experience in the areas of governance, financial management and turning strategic aspirations into a reality through effective action. I think this is a great time to join the board as it navigates an environment of significant change and potential uncertainty. I have successfully led the design and implementation of some significant change programmes so understand the principles of effective change management. I think these skills will be of critical use at this time of change, as we potentially move away from NCEA to a new qualifications' pathway. I have been very impressed with the school's focus on academic excellence as well as providing its students with a range of opportunities. As a board member, I would be fully committed to ensuring that Sacred Heart College continues to support its students to achieve excellence whilst upholding the Christian values of the school.

SOMANATH, Manu



I am writing to express my interest in serving as a Parent Elective on the College Board. I am the parent of Manvi Nath, who is currently a student in 9MI, and I am eager to contribute to the school community in a meaningful way. With a professional background in operations and finance, I bring strong skills in strategic planning, budgeting, and problem-solving. I believe these strengths can support the board in making informed decisions that enhance both student experiences and operational efficiency. In my current role as an Operations and Quality Assurance Co-ordinator I am privileged to work closely with 64 schools across Wellington and have valuable experience in property, maintenance and day to day operations. As a parent, I am deeply invested in the educational environment and overall student experience at Sacred Heart College. We admire the College's dedication to encouraging each student to aim for excellence and nurturing them to pursue their full potential. I believe that active collaboration between the college and families strengthens student outcomes, and I am eager to represent the voice of fellow parents while working closely with faculty, administrators, and fellow board members. Thank you for considering my application. I would be honoured to support the board's important work and contribute to the continued growth and excellence of the school community. I welcome the opportunity to further discuss how I can be of service.

SMITH, Davina



My name is Davina Smith, and I am seeking election to the Sacred Heart College Board of Trustees. I am married to Blair and we have four children, with our youngest currently attending Sacred Heart College. I am also a proud old girl of SHC. For the past 21 years, I've worked as a youth health nurse at Vibe, supporting students across multiple Hutt Valley colleges. In this role, I've provided accessible, youth-friendly health services in school settings—spaces where students feel safe, respected, and supported. I have also been involved in wider health system leadership through maternity governance and quality groups, and I contribute to some community initiatives such as Kura Kai. I am in a unique position to have first-hand insight into the challenges young people face today, and I'm passionate about using this experience to help shape a school environment where all students can thrive. I understand that the role of the Board is to provide strategic leadership and oversight, working in partnership with staff, students, and whānau to guide the direction of the school. I believe my skills in youth engagement, community collaboration, and problem solving thinking would bring a valuable perspective to this mahi. I'm committed to giving back to my community, and I can't think of a better way to do that than by serving on the Board of Trustees of Sacred Heart College.

TIME-SCRIMSHAW, Bernie



I want to serve a bridge between student communities and the board – bringing youth concerns into policy conversations, ensuring decisions reflect life needs and aspirations of the next generation.

THOMPSON, Jamie



Tena koutou katoa Ko Jamie Thomson toku ingoa Ko Lower Hutt te kāinga Ko Pihanga te maunga, Ko Tongariro te Awa Ko Taupo nui-a-tia te Moana Ko Ngati Turangitukua te hapu Ko Ngati Tuwharetoa te Iwi. Hello, my name is Jamie Thompson and I am submitting my name for election as a parent representative onto the Sacred Heart Board of Trustees (BoT). I moved from Wellington to the Hutt Valley 23 years ago to buy a house and section to raise my family. Since then, my two daughters and son have attended Waterloo Primary, Hutt intermediate, St Bernards and Sacred Heart. During that time, I have been on the Board of Trustees at Hutt Intermedial and St Bernards (where I was deputy chair and chaired the BoT Policy subcommittee) and now wish to bring my experience to Sacred Heart. I was privileged to be part of St Bernard's continued development and growth, becoming what I believe to be a school of choice in the Hutt Valley. I was proud to play a small role in the impressive results achieved by the students and teaching staff, continuing to achieve high quality NCEA results during what have been difficult times over recent years. In addition to my BoT experience, I consider my work experiences in negotiation, policy development and governance; life experiences as a parent, coach of school sports teams along with my wish to see Sacred Heart continue to grow, will serve me well if elected to the BoT. Through my previous experience on boards of trustees I am aware of the governance role a board takes and the separation of governance from management, which is the responsibility of the school's leadership team. Fundamental to Sacred Heart's continued growth is providing all students with the learning environment they need to achieve to the fullest of their potential, whether that be academically and/or in other areas, for teachers to be enabled and supported and for support staff to have the resources and time to do their job. I look forward to working with the school's management team, fellow BoT members, and the whole school community to continue developing this environment.

TAMIHANA, Nathan



Kia ora tātou, ko Nathan Tamihana tōku ingoa. As a proud parent of three children – including two daughters currently in Year 9 and Year 11 at Sacred Heart College – I am committed to the values and vision of the school. I take an active role in all aspects of my children's education and sports, and I believe strongly in supporting all students to reach their full potential – academically, socially, and spiritually. I am passionate about fostering an environment where our young women are empowered and well-prepared to meet the challenges of an ever-changing world. Previously, I served as a Board of Trustee at Beach Haven Primary on the North Shore, where I gained valuable experience in school governance and community involvement. I currently serve in the Royal New Zealand Navy, where I have the privilege of mentoring, coaching, and influencing the next generation of leaders. This experience has deepened my commitment to supporting youth development and being an active, positive presence in our school and wider community. Ngā Mihi