

SHC Heartbeat

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart

Issue 13
September 2025



From the Principal

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

Namaste
Welkom
Herzlich Willkommen
Witamy
Nǐ hǎo Mālō ni

Mana Mātauranga

A Heart for Knowledge

- ♥ I am responsible for my learning
- ♥ I have a positive attitude and aim to be my best
- ♥ I persevere even when things are hard
- ♥ I challenge myself to try new things

Nau mai, haere mai, e te whānau,

This week's Gospel invites us to reflect on humility and generosity. Jesus challenges us to take the lower seat, to serve rather than seek status, and to extend hospitality to those who cannot repay us. "For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

This message is beautifully echoed in the life of our Sacred Heart College community. On Monday, at the Mission Trust Board, we farewelled Michael McDonnell, who stepped down after an extraordinary 35+ years of service. Michael has been a kind, generous, and deeply knowledgeable board member whose quiet leadership and unwavering commitment have shaped our school in countless ways. We are beyond grateful for his legacy and the example he has set. Equally, we are so appreciative of the work and service of our departing School Board members, Jonathan Fletcher, Kelekolio Perez, Nicola Medway and Jody Clark.

Last week, over 100 of our students participated in the Winter Tournament. We were proud to see our Senior A netballers place 7th, just one spot shy of nationals, and our football and hockey reaching the Premier 2 finals. Many of our netball teams also made it to their respective finals, as did our basketballers and badminton. These achievements are made possible not only by the dedication of our students but by the incredible generosity of our volunteers. To all our coaches and managers, thank you. We know many of you take annual leave and time away from your families to support these young women. Your service is a true embodiment of Gospel values.

This week, students are sitting the second round of CAA exams for Literacy and Numeracy. These are important milestones, and students have until they leave school to achieve them. Staff have been running extra tutorials, and it's been encouraging to see students attending. If your student is feeling anxious, please reassure her. A quiet prayer before the exam and mindful breathing can help calm nerves. If you're concerned about her stress, whether for these exams or the upcoming mock exams in Week 9, please reach out to her Dean or Ako teacher.

Let us continue to walk humbly, serve generously, and support one another in faith, learning, and community.

Ngā mihi mahana

Katrina Kerr-Bell, Principal

School (Derived Grade) Examinations

Monday 8 September - Monday 15 September

All Years 11/12/13 are working from home unless they are sitting examinations or attending workshops.

School uniform must be worn to examinations.

Students must have a fully charged laptop if students have a digital examination.

There will not be any weekly progress reports for Years 11/12/13 in Week 9.

Work Experience in 2026

We are looking for work experience for our senior students for 2026. These students will be working towards NCEA and working in the community. Previous work experience that our students have experienced: Farming, Retail, Business Administration, Construction, and many more.

If you can accommodate a student for 1-2 days each week please contact either:

Ngaira Sewell (Deputy Principal)

sewelln@sacredheartcollege.school.nz or

SENCO / Supported Learning Lead, Kate Baird

bairdk@sacredheartcollege.school.nz

Quiz Night

Our annual Quiz Night on Friday 22 August was a huge success, bringing our community together for an evening of fun competition and generosity.

Thank you to the support of all who attended, donated, and who helped make the night as successful as it was.

All your generous support meant we could raise an amazing amount for Te Omanga Hospice. The funds will go directly to the hospice's vital work they do for our community. Your contributions, no matter how big or small made a meaningful difference. We are so grateful to be able to give back to Te Omanga, an organisation that has impacted so many.

Phoebe Jefferson, Head of Service



Lily Casley



This week, our Sacred Heart College community has been deeply shaken by the sudden and unexpected passing of Lily Casley, a cherished member of our Year 13 cohort in 2024. Lily died on Saturday, 30 August, following an unforeseen medical event. Her loss is profound, and our hearts are with her family, friends, and all who knew and loved her.

There are no words that can fully capture the weight of this loss, nor the depth of sorrow felt by those closest to her. In moments like these, we are reminded of the fragility of life, how quickly and unexpectedly it can change, and how precious each moment truly is.

Lily's passing invites us to pause and reflect: Are we living fully? Are we loving generously? Are we making space for joy, for kindness, for grace?

The words of Jesus in John 10:10 offer a gentle reminder:

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

To live life to the full is not to avoid sorrow, but to embrace each day with purpose, with gratitude, and with love. It is to honour those we have lost by living well, by being present, caring deeply, and making our time count.

May perpetual light shine upon Lily.

May she rest in peace.

Amen.

What's On

Check the school calendar at

www.sacredheartcollege.school.nz

Week9A

Mana Mātauranga

Papua New Guinea Language Week

School Exams and Workshops All Week

- 8 Sep Touch Jnr Preseason & Trials (3.30-4.30pm) Hutt Rec
- 9 Sep Ki-o-Rahi Preseason & Trial (2.45-3.45pm) Hutt Rec
- 10 Sep Māori Achieve (lunchtime) Atawhai
- Touch Jnr Preseason & Trials (3.30-4.30pm) Hutt Rec
- Te Huatai Katorika Rehearsal (5.00-7.00pm) Atawhai
- 11 Sep Big Sister (3.30-4.30pm) Library
- Volleyball Jnr Trials (4.00-6.00pm) Gym
- 12 Sep Kapa Haka Rehearsals (lunchtime) PAC
- Volleyball Jnr Trials (4.00-6.00pm) Gym
- 13 Sep Volleyball Snr Trials (3.30-6.00pm) Gym
- 14 Sep Kahui Maunga SS Kapa Haka Comp (6.00am-8.30pm) Whanganui

Week 10B

Mana Mātauranga

Last Week of Term 3

Te Wiki o te Reo Māori – Māori Language Week

PPTA Partial Strikes – To be Confirmed

- 15 Sep School Exams and Workshops
- Volleyball Junior Trials (4.00-6.00pm) Gym
- 15-17 Sep 13HAR Art Deco Trip (Napier)
- 16 Sep Volleyball Junior Trials (4.00-6.00pm) Gym
- 17 Sep Canterbury University Visit – Course Planning (lunchtime) P4
- Staff v Students Floorball (lunchtime) Gym
- Te Huatai Katorika Rehearsal (5.00-7.00pm) PAC
- 18 Sep Yr 10 Japan Trip Departs
- Big Sister (3.30-4.30pm) Library
- Volleyball Senior Trials (4.00-6.00pm) Gym
- 19 Sep Te Huatai Katorika Performance (10.45am-2.20pm) St Pat's

School Board Parent Rep Election 2025

Voting closes on Wednesday 10 September

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!

Year 10 Market Day

The goal of the Year 10 Business classes' Market Day is to plan and run a simulated marketplace where students must construct, promote and sell products or services to create a profit. Both classes chose a charity where 20% of each group's profited earnings were deducted and donated, teaching students how taxation widely affects business profits and decision-making. There were many enjoyable moments of the day but seeing how students' faces lit up when they saw and expressed their admiration for our products and efforts was one of the best. Each business student worked hard to create a profit with a combined result of \$258.20 being donated to the Cancer Society.

Sophie Nguyen and Luxe.Lash.Loop



Tongan Language Week

This term, we celebrated Tongan Language Week for 2025 with a range of activities, thanks to the help of our school's Head of Pacific, Bettylicia Sa'u, the parents' committee, the Pasifika Council, and the Tongan students. Starting the week, a beautiful display table was set up in the Lawson Foyer, showcasing items and traditional Tongan accessories. Students all came to school looking stunning, wearing their traditional ta'ovalas (mat), kiekie's, and their puletaha (Pacific dress). At lunchtime, the Tongan flag was raised while the national anthem played, and students proudly waved their Tongan flags alongside other cultural flags during the cultural flag parade.

A big highlight was on Thursday, when the main celebration took place in the PAC. Students and families all attended the event, which featured vibrant performances from Year 12 students, Luana Pohiva and Alei Aholelei-Sione, as well as a performance from this year's Tongan Leader, Louise Cocker, who also shared a speech about the theme "Ko 'etau lea, ko e fe'unu mahu'inga ia ki he mo'ui 'a e Tonga", which translates to "Our language is a vital strand of our Tongan culture". In her address, she talked about the importance of keeping the language alive and strong for future generations. There was a huge feast afterward, where everyone enjoyed eating the food that was prepared and provided by all the hard-working mums and families. Another thank you to them. Overall, Tongan Language Week 2025 was a huge success, bringing our school community together to celebrate and embrace the Tongan culture, language, and identity.

Louise Cocker



Sport

Weekly Competitions

Netball

We have had a fantastic year of netball at Sacred Heart with teams doing well in all the grades and nine of our teams reached grade finals. A summary of our teams results are below:

- Premier 1: Senior A 1st
- Premier 2: Senior B 2nd, Junior A 6th;
- Collegiate 1: Jnr Red 2nd, Jnr Grey 6th, Snr Force 8th
- Collegiate 2: Jnr Black 5th, Snr Charters 6th, Snr Blazers 8th
- Collegiate 3: Snr Bolts 2nd, Jnr White 5th
- Collegiate 4: Lightning 1st
- Collegiate 5: Jnr Orange 5th
- Collegiate 6: Jnr Yellow 1st, Jnr Purple 4th
- Collegiate 7: Snr Titans 3rd, Snr Warriors 7th, Jnr Blue 8th
- Collegiate 9: Jnr Brown 1st, Jnr Green 3rd
- Collegiate 10: Jnr Gold 1st, Jnr Maroon 2nd, Jnr Pink 5th

A huge thank you to all our community; teachers, parents and students who put in a lot of their time to make netball great for our students.

Sport Continued

Hockey 1st XI

Well done to our First XI Hockey team on reaching the P2 final. It was a close game with Scots College who won 4-3. It was great to see the team play in the P2 final after playing in P3 in 2024. Thanks to Hugh Rosemergy, Davina Smith and Subs Narassy for supporting the team.

Basketball Junior A and Junior Red

Our Junior A and Junior Red teams both reached the grade finals played at Walter Nash in Taita on Tuesday. The Junior A played in the Regional Division 1 final against Wellington East and the Junior Red played against Whitby Collegiate in the Regional Division 2 final. Neither team won but it was great to have them in the finals, and we appreciated the support from our community on the day; it was fantastic.



Badminton Senior A NL 3 9 25 Badminton final

Our Senior A Badminton team reached the Division 2 final and played a close game against Queen Margaret at the Naenae Badminton Hall on Friday 22 August. Congratulations to the team on winning the final 4-2.



Winter Tournament Week

Netball Senior A NL 3 9 25 Netball WTW

The Senior A Netball team attended the LNISS tournament in Palmerston North. The team did extremely well with some very close games and came 7th in the tournament, which is a great result. We will be sad to see so many of our Year 13 netballers **Alyssa Aoina, Ella-Grace Churchwood, Jaeda Kassey, Paloma King, Charli Powell, Leilani Stempa-Gray and Isabel To'ia** leave our netball programme at the end of 2025 as they have contributed a lot both on the court and through umpiring.



Sport Continued

Hurricanes U15 Rugby

Our under 15 Rugby team competed in the Hurricanes tournament in Levin. It was a great tournament giving our young players plenty of game play experience.

Hockey First XI

Last week our First XI Hockey team competed in the Eveline Hankers tournament held in Palmerston North. The team put in all their effort and skill, landing us in 6th place. It was a great week with lots of cool memories. Thank you to our coaches and managers. Congratulations girls and thank you to our Year 13s **Zoe Bryne, Ella Zara Kumar and Harriet Rosemergy** for your commitment to hockey at Sacred Heart.

Harriet Rosemergy.



Football First XI

The First XI Football team competed in Napier, coming 19th out of 29 teams. There were many highlights of the tournament such as winning games, numerous penalty shoot outs and winning the overall team sportsmanship/ fair play award. After winning the Wellington Prem 2 grade, this tournament was a great end to the season and a good send off for the Year 13s in the team: **Maddi Hoult, Caitlin Barber, Keira Eastergaard, Maggie Fairfield, Arnika Lahood and Hayley Winter.**

Maddi Hoult



Rugby League

It was the first time Sacred Heart has entered the New Zealand Secondary Schools Rugby League tournament in Auckland. The team did very well coming 9th out of 13 teams. Our rugby league programme has a bright future with most of the players Year 11 and under.



Outside School Success

Floorball

Congratulations to Year 11 student **Jayde Ashton** for selection to the Women's U19 Floorball squad heading to Perth to compete in January. The team will take on Australia, Singapore, and Japan for a place at the 2026 Women's U19 World Floorball Championships in Italy in May 2026



Cultural Week







Pasifika CAREERS EVENING

Wednesday 17 September
5:30pm - 7:30pm | Rutherford House Foyer
Pipitea campus | 33 Bunny Street, Pipitea

- Open to all – especially Pasifika students (high school & tertiary) and families
- Meet Pasifika professionals from a range of careers
- Explore career and study pathways
- Free entry + light refreshments
- Please RSVP via the form!

More information: pasifika-events@vuw.ac.nz | 022 563 6974 (Fabie) | 022 655 2685 (Mela)



Sacred Heart College

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www.sacredheartcollege.school.nz

5 September 2025

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

PPTA Industrial Action Alert (YET TO BE CONFIRMED)

You will be aware of PPTA industrial action that is planned this term. The PPTA has advised the Sacred Heart College Board that its member teachers at our school may take partial strike action in Week 10 of Term 3. During those times, PPTA members will not teach, instruct or supervise students in certain year levels but continue to teach all other students.

If we get confirmation of this action officially, we will let you know.

The industrial action may involve rostering home of year levels as follows:

Week 10 Term 3

Monday 15 September – Years 12 and 13

Tuesday 16 September – Year 11

Wednesday 17 September – Year 10

Thursday 18 September – Year 9

If the partial strikes go ahead, it is important that you make alternative arrangements for the care of your student/s under 14 years of age on the day your student could be rostered home. If making alternative arrangements for care is difficult, we can still supervise a small number of students if required. Please email the office college@sacredheartcollege.school.nz if your student/s will need this.

School transport will be running at the usual times.

We know that this is inconvenient for parents and students alike, but please be assured that student safety is our main concern.

Please check our website for updates to this information.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

Yours sincerely

John van Woerkom
Presiding Member
Sacred Heart College School Board

Katrina Kerr-Bell
Tumuaki / Principal
Sacred Heart College