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Term 3 Week 3 Newsletter 2024

## Principal's message

Kia ora e te whānau,

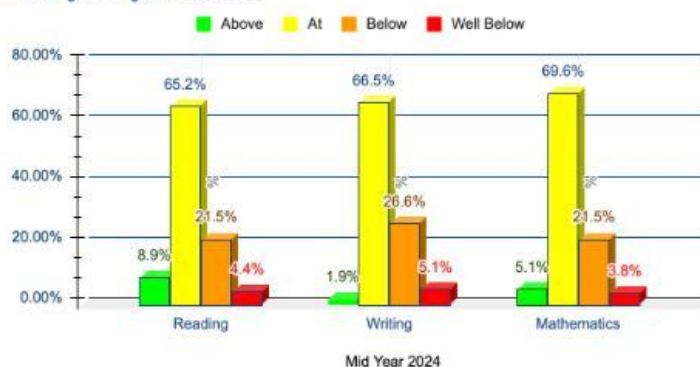
This week we officially welcome some new students, families and returning families to Holy Cross School. Billie, Curtis, Daniel, Joshua, Lex, Luca, Kiari, Mikiyas. Nau mai haere mai ki te Rotokura! To your families, thank you for sharing your taonga or treasure with us. One of the protocols during a pōwhiri is that the manuhiri or visitors give a koha or gift to the Hau kāinga (Home people). This term you give us a gift that is more valuable than anything we could ever receive, your children. We promise to take care of and nurture your taonga as a group of students, teachers and community.

### Teacher Conferences / Mid year: Overall Teacher Judgements

Last week, we had teacher conferences with our students and families. We appreciated the time you took to attend these meetings (in the freezing cold!) and talk about the academic, social and wellbeing outcomes for your child. Here are our whole school results to date.

### 2024 Mid-year Overall Teacher Judgements

Reading, Writing & Mathematics



End of Year	Reading		Writing		Mathematics	
2023	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Above	18	13.6%	8	6.1%	13	9.8%
At	85	64.4%	99	75.0%	89	67.4%
Below	20	15.2%	19	14.4%	28	21.2%
Well Below	9	6.8%	6	4.5%	2	1.5%

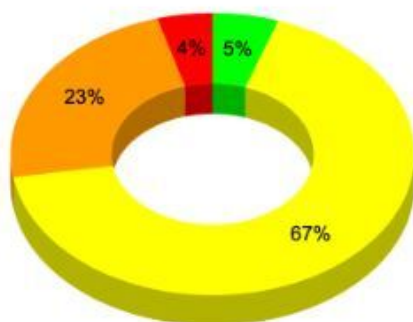
  

Mid Year	Reading		Writing		Mathematics	
2024	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Above	14	8.9%	3	1.9%	8	5.1%
At	103	65.2%	105	66.5%	110	69.6%
Below	34	21.5%	42	26.6%	34	21.5%
Well Below	7	4.4%	8	5.1%	6	3.8%

### Overall OTJ Results

Reading, Writing & Mathematics

● Above  
● At  
● Below  
● Well Below



### Considerations of the data:

- There are now more students at Holy Cross in 2024. We have seen a 17% increase in the overall number of students enrolled at our kura.
- We have also had an increase in Ethnic group numbers too: That is Maori = +21%, Pasifika = +14%, Middle Eastern = +4%
- Not all students are given Overall Teacher Judgements (OTJ's) for example; New entrant students.
- Success for us is measured in how much a student improves and less on how much of the curriculum they know.
- Definitions of Above, At, Below and Well Below:

- **At** = Working at the working standard for your child's year group.
- **Above** the standard = more than a year above the working standard.
- **Below** = a year or more below the working standard.
- **Well Below** = 2 years or more below the working standard.
- Teachers are normally more conservative with OTJ's in the middle of the year. This means you will often see differences between the term 2 and term 4 report.

**Overall Data:**

- 72% of students "above" or "at" the standard
- 28% of students below or well below the standard.

**Reading:**

- 74% of students "above" or "at" the standard
- The highest number of students achieving "above" are in reading.

**Writing:**

- 68% of students above or at the standard
- A significant increase in students "below" the standard and decrease in students "above" in writing.

**Maths:**

- 75% of students "above" or "at" the standard
- Almost 70% are "at" the standard.
- These figures are similar to the 2023 end of year judgements

This term we will be looking at the following data on an individual and class level to identify;

- Academic and social trends we are seeing;
- How we can accelerate learning for our "below" and "well below" students;
- How we can lift the level of sophistication in reading, writing and mathematics to lift our "at" students to "above".
- What interventions we can put in place to achieve better outcomes for all our students.

We look forward to challenging our students to be better and do better by working hard in class. If you would like to talk more about how your child is doing please feel free to get in touch with the classroom teacher.

**Strategic Plan - What have we been working on?**

Each board meeting, I present a little section on what we are working on with our strategic plan. The purpose of this is to show that we are working on the goals that we set and to show how we are progressing. Here is what I shared with the board.

Goal 1: Kotahitanga/Community		
Key Initiative	Target	Completed Actions
Deepen our relationship and connection with Holy Trinity Parish	<b>Target:</b> Hold termly services involving input from Holy Trinity Parish, with the first combined mass taking place in Term 1, 2024.	Masses / Liturgies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• T1 - Ash Wednesday, Holy Week Liturgy</li> <li>• T2 - Ascension of Christ.</li> <li>• T3 - Liturgy for Willie, Grandparents Day.</li> </ul> Servant Leaders set up to run and assist liturgies and Masses at school. Organisation meeting to discuss "Building Families of faith at HCM". Programme to start in term 3 or term 4.
Grow and develop Pasifika identity and engagement	<b>Target:</b> Create a regular Pasifika fono and group to gather community voice 1-2 times a year, with the first fono taking place in Term 3, 2024.	Cultural group items set up and run by the students with assistance from Mātua Tala. Parents coming in to support the group and offer help with items. Pasifika fono the key focus for Term 3. Meetings to be had with families. The first fono to focus on a meet and greet for the families with feedback around how we can help their children thrive in the school environment and their cultural identity.

Goal 2: Ako/Learning:		
Key Initiative	Target	Completed Actions
Provide opportunities for ākonga to carry out acts of service in our community	<b>Target:</b> Create a formalised leadership programme established, ready to be trialled in Term 4 2024, with a parent consultation and full implementation in Term 1 2025.	Ethel and I have started the planning process of the leadership programme. Students are enquiring into what leadership looks like at Holy Cross and have taken opportunities to show their leadership around the school. As mentioned previously, students will look at the PSG scholarship to help them come up with ideas about what skills they need to be Holy Cross Leaders.
Prioritise ākonga wellbeing to strengthen social skills and learning outcomes	Explicit teaching around identifying and managing emotions. <b>Wellbeing Target:</b> An improvement in NZCER Wellbeing at School Survey results (2 yearly - next survey mid-2025)	Inquiry completed with Ben in terms 1 & 2. The focus for term 3 is to implement ideas around how we can regulate our emotions better. The inquiry for most classes was to identify emotions we are feeling and think about ways we can regulate the behaviours that come from feeling these emotions. This term there will be a personal development focus on learning about the zones of regulation and how we can use this consistently across the school. A funding request has been put through to the MoE by Lyn to secure funding.

Goal 3: Whakaako/Teaching		
Key Initiative	Target	Completed Actions
Strengthen kaiko practice to design learning that creates success for all ākonga using Te Mātāaho (The refreshed curriculum).	Understand the different ways students learn in different subjects. <b>Target:</b> Implementation of the Feedback rubric and all classrooms to have 2-3 visual learning walls established from the beginning of 2024 and added to throughout the year.	Teachers are consistently using learning walls in their class now. This term they will be moving from 1 learning wall to 2-3 per class. We have completed classroom visits during staff meetings to discuss and challenge the things we have on our walls. These conversations are geared at what is working well for the teacher and students of the class. By the end of week 4, staff will have used the feedback rubric in their class and completed interviews with students to ask them; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What are you learning today?</li> <li>2. Why do you think you are learning this today?</li> <li>3. What strategies can you use when you are stuck?</li> <li>4. How will you know if your work is of good quality?</li> <li>5. What are your next learning steps?</li> </ol>

If you have further questions about our strategic or annual implementation plan, please feel free to contact me. Lastly, thank you to all the families, teachers and students that have contributed to the successes of Holy Cross School. I look forward to driving our school into the future in a way that means something to the community and students of our kura.

Ngā mihi nui,  
Tala

## Catholic character

The Feast of the Transfiguration of Jesus, Tuesday the 6th August

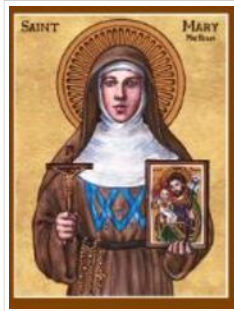


In Matthew 17 we hear how Jesus took Peter, James, and John up onto Mount Tabor to pray. As these disciples watched in awe, Jesus transfigured (changed appearance). His face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Even more incredible, Jesus was joined by the

long-dead Moses and Elijah.

The Transfiguration is a pivotal moment, and the setting on the mountain is presented as the point where human nature meets God: the meeting place for the temporal and the eternal, with Jesus acting as the bridge between heaven and earth.

On 8th August we celebrate St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. She was born in [Melbourne](#) in 1842 and moved to New Zealand in 1883. She founded the [Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart](#) (the Josephites), and established a number of schools and welfare institutions throughout Australia and New Zealand, with an emphasis on education for the rural poor.



### Winter

**There is a winter in all of our lives, a chill and darkness that makes us yearn for days that have gone, or put our hope in days yet to be.**

**Father God, you created seasons for a purpose. We need a winter in our lives: a time of rest, a time to stand still, a time to re-acquaint ourselves with the faith in which we live.**

**Thank you Lord, for the seasons of our lives.**

### Room 8 Prayers

On this winter's day, we are thankful for all the happy things in life: funny stories, music and words that inspire us. - *Hope*

On this winter's day, we are thankful for glimmers of hope, acts of kindness that tell us we are not alone in our sorrow, in our suffering, in our uncertainty. - *Connor*

On this winter's day we are warmed by the beauty of this place in which we live, by the company of family and friends, by our passion for justice and peace. - *Solomon*

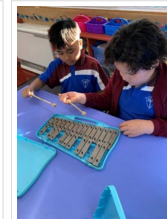
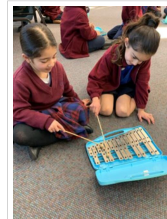
On this winter's day, we are thankful for the small things: the warmth of a smile or a hug, the glimpse of the sun through the clouds. - *Nora*



## Junior Syndicate

### Room 8

For the first three weeks of this term, Room 8 have been learning about being fire wise. We have looked at all the different things that we need to be careful with, what different things are used for - e.g., fire extinguishers, torches, matches, smoke alarms, and also talked with our families about having 'a plan' in case of a fire. We have also been enjoying music lessons with Emily. We have been learning to play 'Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star' on the glockenspiel. We enjoyed a lovely afternoon on the bikes in the sunshine. Of course, we are always busy doing our regular school work in the classroom! Enjoy our photos.



### Room 7



We have been learning about magnets and magnetic force in room 7.



Aria, Isabel, Olani: Magnets work through glass and water. North and North can repel and get pushed apart and South and South repel too. North and South attract each other and get pulled together.



Antoine, Cody, Hendrix, George:

Magnets are used in rollercoasters to keep the magnetic cart on the metal tracks. Electromagnets are used to move carts and trains very fast without friction. Magnetic force can be used in magical tricks.



Hana, Tessa, Jacob, Serah:

Magnets can attract each other when the North and South poles get together. Strong magnets can pick up more paper clips. The stronger the magnet the more paper clips it can hold up. The magnetic wand picked up 100 paper clips.



Ocean, Rosa, Cattleya, Dreius, LianLian:

Some magnets are strong enough to move metal objects through cardboard and plastic. There are different shapes of magnets such as horseshoe magnets, bar magnets, wand magnets and fridge magnets.

## Room 11

Each morning we begin our day with a time of free play. We feel so lucky to have a beautiful space that our growing class can spread out in. This is a good opportunity for us to notice and support learning around the key competencies that the National Curriculum identifies as thinking, relating to others, using language, symbols and texts, managing self and participating and contributing.



We have been learning all about recycling, upcycling and using recyclable materials for art. In week one we set up our own recycling plant and sorted all the materials. An interesting part of this was finding out what could not be recycled and would go to landfill.



This week we have been looking at ways that we can use recycled materials to make art. On Wednesday we made our own models.



'I am making a tower. I am using cardboard and a plastic lid. I am going to use sellotape to stick the lid onto my tower.' *Jerome*

'I am making a cat. I am using string as a lead and I am going to use crayon to draw the collar. I am going to use cardboard for the ears and pink crayon for the inside of the ears. I just need some sellotape to create a loop.' *Billie*



This week has been particularly sticky as, well as using lots of glue and tape, we also made jam sandwiches. We cut them up into halves and then quarters to help us learn about fractions.

*Love from Room 11*



## Garden to Table

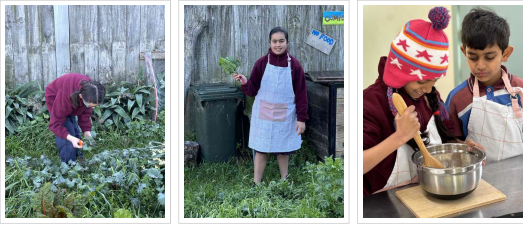
**GARDEN TO TABLE**  **GROW, HARVEST, PREPARE, SHARE**

Chef of the day- Jessica

Today in the kitchen we made Greens and Cheese fritters. Charlotte and I went to the garden and got greens and herbs. Then we chopped the greens and herbs and onion. After we cooked them in the frying pan. Jessica  
We are using all of our senses to explore our world...  
The sizzling sound was nice on my ear drum. Nyakua  
The flour was so soft on my fingers. Thinbeth  
The kale was as green as shrek. Nitya  
The fritters smell like fried rice. Ruby  
The fritters tasted better than pizza. Avery  
On my first bite, the fritters tasted boring but on the second bite, they tasted delicious. Hosanna

Gardener of the day- Ezira

Today in the garden we were learning about pollinator pathways. A pollinator can be a bee, humans, ants, butterflies, wasps and birds. Ezira  
Pollinators are essential for our ecosystem. They pollinate plants which produce a lot of the food that we eat. To encourage them we will plant a garden of flowers called a Pollinator Pathway. Avery



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## Sports news

### Holy Cross Lightning at Eastern Zone Netball

Yesterday we went to Eastern Zone Netball at Akau Tangi. Our team was Millie, Angelia Alexia, Eva, Terrissa, Anna, Moana, and our team coach was Tala.

In our first game against Scots, we did not have a half time, so we played the full 20 minutes and the score was 8 - 1 to us. After that we played St Anthony's. It was a hard game at times, like when we were only up by 2 goals, but anyway we won 12 - 8. We next had Worser Bay. It was quite an easy game and the score was 10 - 0 to us. Last, but not least, we played Kilbirnie School. Their players were kinda short and the score was 15 - 5.

We had a great day. The best part was cheering for the Year 7 and 8 teams.



Holy Cross Thunder continued their success at the Eastern Zones. The team played really well with 5 wins from 5 games played, with some being quite close.

**Game One:-** Holy Cross Thunder vs St Anthony's

Winners - HC Thunder 6-2

**Game Two:-** Holy Cross Thunder vs TKK Okoro

Winners - HC Thunder 5-2

**Game Three:-** Holy Cross Thunder vs Lyall Bay

Winners - HC Thunder 4-1

**Game Four:-** Holy Cross Thunder vs Miramar Central

Winners - HC Thunder 17-0

**Game Five:-** Holy Cross Thunder vs Miramar North

Winners - HC Thunder 3-1



### Netball

Holy Cross Thunder player of the day award for this past weekend (Saturday, 3 August 2024) was granted to **Anira Durkin** for her outstanding defence and numerous intercepts throughout the game.



### Basketball

A good effort by the girls last week. We lost 11-9 in a tight game against Seatoun.

We will be better for it next week! Keep up the hard work team green!

## PSG

[https://hcsmiramar.schoolzineplus.com/\\_file/media/4898/save\\_the\\_date\\_hcs\\_newsletter.pdf](https://hcsmiramar.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/4898/save_the_date_hcs_newsletter.pdf)

## SKIDS

<b>22-26 July</b> <b>Champions Unite!</b> Be a hero this week, join us for a celebration of sports, culture and values.	<b>29 July - 2 Aug</b> <b>International Day of Friendship</b> Celebrating International Day of Friendship with a week of friendship with Power Teams.	<b>5-9 August</b> <b>Enchanted Escapades</b> A week filled with magic and mystery. Join us for an enchanted adventure!	<b>12-16 August</b> <b>Hola! It's a Mexican Fiesta</b> Experience the vibrant culture of Mexico through food, art and music.	<b>19-23 August</b> <b>Panda Madness</b> Celebrating the endangered panda with activities, panda training and Kung Fu Panda yoga.
<b>26-30 August</b> <b>Journey Around the World</b> It's globe kids' bonanza. Explore the world through food, games and craft. Welcome to the Adventure Programme.	<b>2-6 September</b> <b>Bugs Life</b> Craft your own origami bugs, play Queen Bee Games and learn about the life cycle of Monarch Butterflies.	<b>9-13 September</b> <b>Roald Dahl Week</b> Celebrating the wonderful works of Roald Dahl from Charlie and the Chocolate Factory to the BFG.	<b>16-20 September</b> <b>Te Wiki o Te Māori</b> Celebrate Māori Language Week through games, art and waiata with us!	<b>23-27 September</b> <b>Prehistoric Times</b> Join us for a week of prehistoric adventures as we journey back to when dinosaurs roamed the earth.

**Choose your ADVENTURE**  
STAY AND PLAY  
sKids

**Join the fun**

**Funky Friday**  
Every Friday in Term 3

Book Now

Join us at stay and play for a dance party, hot chips and funky hairstyles

Ask our onsite team for more info about what's happening!

sKids

## Basketball opportunity

Kia ora everyone,

Exciting news! Together with [Tokomanawa Queens](#) and [Up Foundation](#), we're launching **Girls Got Game**—a free basketball programme for girls in Years 3 to 8. It's a fantastic opportunity for your daughters to try basketball, make new friends, and have a ton of fun.

### Programme Details

**Who:** Girls in Years 3 to 8

**When:** Every Friday from 2 Aug to 20 Sep

**Time:** 3.45pm to 4.45pm

**Where:** Ākau Tangi Sports Centre

**Cost:** FREE

### Meet Our Coaches

Tania Tupu - Tokomanawa Queens Head Coach, Tall Fern, and Two-Time Olympian

Grace Hunter - Tokomanawa Queens Player and Tall Fern

Alana Paewai - Tokomanawa Queens Player

Tania, Grace and Alana are ready to help your daughters improve their basketball skills, grow their confidence, and appreciate the value of teamwork.

Ready to have some fun? [Register Now](#) to secure a spot for your daughter.

We can't wait to see them shine on the court!

Best regards,

Hemi

## Community Notices

Challenge 2000 warmly invites you to our movie fundraiser "Ghostlight" *when a construction worker joins a local theatre's production of Romeo and Juliet* the drama onstage starts to mirror his own life. - Sunday 1st September 5pm Penthouse Cinema Brooklyn. Contact Gabrielle Lawson [gabriellelawson@challenge2000.org.nz](mailto:gabriellelawson@challenge2000.org.nz) to book your ticket. If you are unable to attend, but would like to sponsor a ticket please let Gabrielle know. All proceeds will go towards unfunded programmes - counselling services, youth activities and group work. We look forward to seeing you there.



CHALLENGE 2000  
WARMLY INVITES YOU TO OUR

# MOVIE FUNDRAISER

ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TOWARDS UNFUNDED PROGRAMMES :  
COUNSELLING SERVICES, YOUTH ACTIVITIES, AND GROUP WORK



**What:** To watch 'Ghostlight' : "When a construction worker joins a local theatre's production of "Romeo and Juliet," the drama onstage starts to mirror his own life."

**Where:** Penthouse Cinema, Brooklyn

**When:** Sunday 1st September, 5pm.

**Tickets:** \$30 per ticket  
Bank transfer into  
01-0519-0057660-046 with 'Movie' as the reference

**RSVP to [gabriellelawson@challenge2000.org.nz](mailto:gabriellelawson@challenge2000.org.nz) with number of tickets.**

We will also be running a raffles on the night (cash or eftpos)!



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## COMMUNITY CENTRE OPEN AFTERNOON

All Miramar & Maupuia Community members are welcome!

Come along share your voice and offer any ideas

**Afternoon Tea Provided!**

**SUNDAY  
18TH  
AUGUST**  
3pm - 5pm

