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Term 4 Week 2 Newsletter

Principal's message

Message from the Principal - Week 2, Term 4.

Kia ora e te whānau,

I hope your whānau enjoyed some quality time together over the Term 3 holidays. I managed to spend time with Atarangi, Lucy, and Ella in Waikawa, where our main priorities were eating, sleeping, swimming, going for daily walks, and completing a 1000-piece puzzle! It's been lovely seeing lots of smiling faces back at school, and we kicked off the term with some fun events like dance parties, superhero dress-ups, and a sports afternoon to wrap up the week. In this newsletter, I'll be sharing updates on what's coming up and what we're working on this term.

Staffing

It is with sadness that I announce Skylah has handed in her resignation, with her last day being Thursday, 31st October. Skylah, thank you for all your hard work and contributions to Holy Cross—you will be dearly missed. We know you are signing up to train as a teacher, and it's clear you have a special gift for working with children and guiding their learning. Your initiative and dedication will undoubtedly make you an amazing teacher. We wish you all the best in this exciting new chapter! "*Fa'amanuia le Atua i ou ala*" (*May God bless your path*).

2025 Class Placements and Staffing

In Week 2, we will begin discussions regarding student and teacher placements for 2025.

As part of our planning, we are currently seeking two fixed-term teachers and one permanent teacher:

- The fixed-term positions will cover for Lucy (extending her maternity leave) and Ben (taking refreshment leave). Lucy and Ben, we'll miss you both and look forward to welcoming you back in 2026!

- The permanent tagged position will fill Mr Sa's role moving forward.

Interviews for these positions will take place during Weeks 4 and 5, and I will provide more updates as staffing decisions are made and 2025 plans come together.

Teacher Only Day – Friday's Focus

During Friday's Teacher Only Day, we'll be working on the following:

1. Professional Development in Maths

There are lots of changes in curriculum with the Ministry of Education (MoE) and Sarah Thomas will guide us in breaking down the draft Maths Curriculum provided by the Ministry. She will also walk us through the process of evaluating the free resources available to schools in 2025. As a school we will see what fits us best and have some exciting new resources across the school. If you'd like to explore these resources in advance, you can access them here:

[Ministry of Education – Maths Resources.](#)

2. Vision for 2025

The second focus of the day will be setting our vision for 2025. This includes:

- Exploring the theme for the year,
- Defining how we will work together as a team moving forward,
- Reflecting on our motivations as teachers and aligning them with our shared vision for the school.

This will help us ensure that our goals and values are clear and in sync with the learning environment we want to build at Holy Cross.

Tikanga / Kawa Working Group at Holy Cross

One of the initiatives connected to our strategic plan is to develop a kawa specific to our kura that honours our Mana Whenua, Te Ātiawa.

Things to consider and discuss include:

- How we acknowledge our kawa and tikanga on a daily basis
- What this looks like at the student level
- How we apply these principles during big events such as pōwhiri, Mass, and Graduation

If you are interested in being part of this working group, please reach out to me via email. We'd love to have you involved in shaping this important kaupapa.

Week 3: Board of Trustees Meeting – Staffing and Budget Discussions

Next week, the Board of Trustees (BoT) will meet, and I will present staffing options and budgets for 2025. I want to acknowledge and thank the staff for their incredible ideas and feedback as we navigate these changes. Your support has been invaluable, especially with this being my first time handling these processes. I appreciate everyone's patience, flexibility, and honesty as we work through the complexities of next year's planning. Any changes agreed to will be communicated with the community in a timely manner.

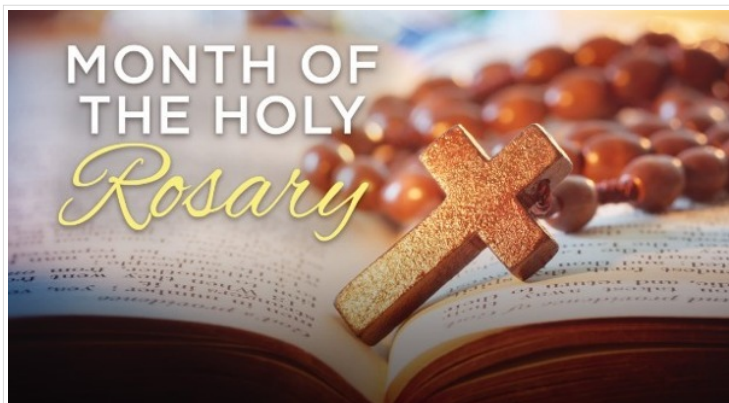
Events in Term 4

We are in the process of organising and finalising dates for important events such as graduation, Masses (including the end-of-year Mass), class trips, and whole-school trips. We've got lots of exciting activities planned, and we'll send out notices as soon as the Safety Operation Plans (SOPs) are completed. Watch this space for more updates!

Ngā mihi nui,

Tala Moemai

Catholic character

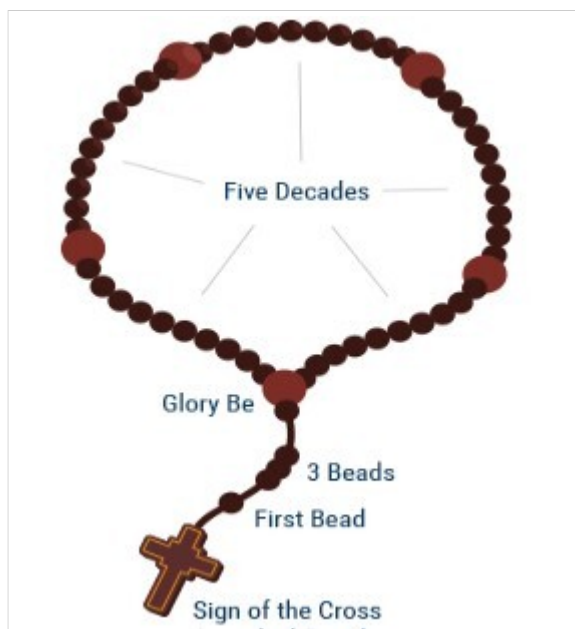


The month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary. October includes the liturgical feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, celebrated on 7 October.

At HCS we have been learning the prayers of the Rosary and have been reflecting about Jesus' life in our classes, on our individual levels.

Praying the Rosary

1. Make the Sign of the Cross.
2. Holding the Crucifix, say the *Apostles' Creed*.
3. On the first bead, say an *Our Father*.
4. Say one *Hail Mary* on each of the next three beads.
5. Say the *Glory Be*
6. For each of the five decades, announce the Mystery (perhaps followed by a brief reading from Scripture) then say the *Our Father*.
7. While holding each of the ten beads of the decade, say ten Hail Marys while meditating on the Mystery. Then say a *Glory Be*.
8. After saying the five decades, say the Hail, Holy Queen.
9. Conclude the Rosary with the Sign of the Cross.



Looking ahead, in the coming weeks HCS will be learning about Saints, what it means to be holy and our own personal call to holiness, as modelled by Jesus. We will also be honouring, remembering and praying for all who passed away.



What is happening in term 4

Senior Syndicate (Rm 1 & Rm 2) Term Four Learning Focus

- **Overarching Concept - Kaitiakitanga: Te Moana** - connections across all NZ curriculum areas as outlined.



Learning Areas:

- **Religious Education: Religious Education:** Exploring Holiness through items, objects, icons, and acts through a research inquiry: *What makes something holy? What does this mean? What does the Bible tell us?* **Weeks 6-10:** Focus on the holiness of the birth of Jesus Christ and our Christmas Liturgy.
- **Writing:** Students will focus on report writing, personal narrative, debating (Rm 2), poetry, and prayer. Year 8 students will focus on memoir writing in preparation for graduation.
- **Reading:** Connecting prior knowledge and new information to draw conclusions, ask questions, guide research, and connect across different genres.
- **Mathematics:** Statistics – Presenting data through various graphs, asking meaningful questions, understanding data implications, and exploring different ways to record data.
- **Health & PE:** Skipping coordination, fitness, and Eastern Zone athletics (students who have qualified).
- **Te reo Māori:** Introductions, simple sentences of location, and te reo kupu related to *Te Moana*.
- **Leadership:** Rm 1 will continue developing leadership and akō skills through our **Tuakana-teina Programme**, working with Rm 11 and Miramar

Central Kindergarten. **Service Leadership** includes supporting liturgies, pōwhiri, hall set up, whole-school prayers, a food fair, and other areas of our kura, such as caring for the bikes (Rm 2). How can we be kaitiaki of our moana?

- **Technology at Mt Cook School.** Year 7 & 8 students will experience learning and utilising skills in woodwork, cooking, electronics and robotics.
- **Rm 2, Year 6 students** will continue with their Garden to Table programme run on Tuesday afternoons.

Inquiry Learning: Mountain to Sea Wellington Education Programme

This programme includes two school visits and two snorkelling experiences. On Friday, 22 November 2024, students will learn how to snorkel with MTS educators at WRAC (Kilbirnie pool) and participate in a beach day, exploring rocky pools and snorkelling. It is part of the MTS environmental and leadership initiative, aligning with our inquiry into *kaitiakitanga* and the ecosystems of *Te Moana*.

Year 8 Graduation: Year 8 students will prepare items and writing for graduation, held from 6 pm to 8 pm in the School Hall on Wednesday, December 18th, 2024.

Term 4 Overview Middle syndicate

This term our focus is Te Moana - The Sea. We are looking at different aspects of the sea across different curriculum areas.

In Maths we are learning about Geometry - Space and Position, currently focused on translation, rotation, reflection, symmetry and tessellation. We will switch to Measurement - Volume, Mass and Capacity later this term.

In reading we are looking at reading for literary experiences as well as play reading and performing. We are linking our writing to this and writing our own plays and critiquing others written by classmates.

Our R.E learning this term is looking at Identifying and describing the ways that Mary and Joseph responded to God's grace and how we can grow in understanding that we can pray at home with our whānau, and we can pray at home with our family and ourselves while also writing Christmas prayers.

We will link our Art and Te Reo Maori learning to the theme of Moana and our PE focus is on Cricket and Athletics with Eastern Zone Athletics in Week 3.

We hope to organise a trip later in the term and will let you know details later when confirmed.

Practicing our Cricket skills in Week 1:

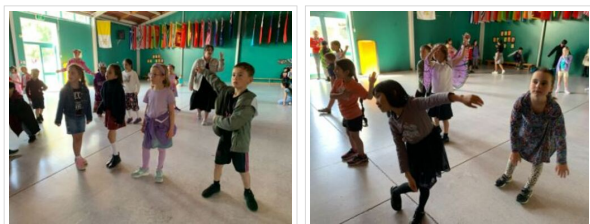


Junior Syndicate

This term, our topics are: Diwali, Flower Power (looking at plants) and The Journey (the Christmas Story). In maths we are learning about measurement and algebra and symmetry. In RE, we are continuing our learning around God - images, prayer, God's love, holiness and the Good news - Stories about Jesus. In PE, we will be looking at improving our small ball skills.

Our first week has seen us enjoying a dance party, partaking in a fun sports afternoon, learning some cricket skills from experts from the Eastern Suburbs Cricket Club, and continuing our music with Emily

Enjoy some photos!!



Garden to Table



Thank you very much to the PSG for generously supporting our Garden to Table programme. With the generous donation, we have been able to buy much needed equipment for the kitchen and the garden. We really appreciate your support!



In the kitchen...

Me Avery and Michael had turns whisking the vegetables with egg, flour, soy sauce and water. Hosanna

In the kitchen we set out the tables and then we went to help Aleksandra. We were cutting spring onion, cabbage and purple cauliflower. Gabby

In the kitchen we stirred the pancake mix and we smelled it. It smelled like cabbage! Tyler

In the hall we were trying to separate the chairs. They were stuck! Brooklyn.

I cut a really big piece of cabbage and I sliced it really good.

Robbie

In the garden...

I was scooping all the leftovers that people accidentally left on the ground, Sadly we found bread on the ground and it can not go in the compost. Ruby

Me and Nitya went outside the gate and got the white compost bucket. We needed help from Sonya. Jessica

First we had to draw some tools. We drew a spade, watering can, glove, trowel, secateur. Larkham

We had a quiz. Olivia held up the item and we had to put our hand up as quick as we can to say the answer. Aarav.

Me and Sharvil went to Jimmy's shed and we got a wheelbarrow and tools to take the wheel off to fix it. Curtis Using our 5 senses...

The pancakes tasted like corn fritters but with batter. Avery

I hear people scraping the chairs on the ground. Cleo

When I was cutting the stick I noticed that it was really bumpy and unsmooth. Charlotte

I could identify the smell of the vegetables. Brooklyn

The pancake felt soft and flat when I felt it. Hosanna



Garden:

Today in the garden we looked for a plant we found interesting. The plant I chose was a sage flower. It was interesting because the flowers were bunched up. Miramar Central Kindy came to our school. They were given a bug hotel to keep for bugs to live in. We gave them a sign that said 'Pollinator Pathway' and their school name. I want other people to know to not put too big pieces of cardboard in the compost.

By Josh Room 5



Kitchen:

Today we made Silverbeet and Cheese muffins. The first thing we did was chopping up the vegetables, after I chopped up the vegetables I mixed the egg and flour. I chopped Silverbeet and thyme and added it to the flour and egg. After that I put it all into a bowl and mixed it all together. We put the mixture into the muffin tray which had oil in them and put them into the oven and cooked them. I made a dairy free muffin because I am milk free. We had to write about what we had done and what the ingredients were. I enjoyed my muffin. By Ava Room 5



Sports this week

Sports News Term 4:

We have lots of different sports happening this term, most of which are free thanks again to the UP Foundation who are again paying the majority of our fees.

We have Junior netball and Mini Polo which started in Week 1 with some great results. Lots of new Floorball players played their first game on Tuesday night with Futsal starting on Friday for Year 0-6. Year 7-8 Futsal players start on Wednesday next week.

Last to start is Touch Rugby which begins in Week 3, the draw will be released in time for games to start.

Again huge thanks to all parents who volunteer their time as coaches and helpers to teams, we really can't do it without you! We do need coaches for Year 5-6 and Year 7-8 touch teams, if you are able to help please let Clare know (Room 5)

Term 3 winners in their divisions were Year 3-4 Basketballers and Year 5-6 Basketballers who were runners up in their grade. Well done to all who took part in any sport last term and hope that you have lots of fun this term!



Floorball started and the Yr 3/4 teams threw themselves in to it.

2025 term dates

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL TERM DATES 2025

Term 1 Monday 3rd February - Friday 11th April 2025

Monday 27th January Staff day

Tuesday 28th January Staff day

Wednesday 29th January Whānau conferences (Book ½ hour appointment with your teacher)

Thursday 30th January Whānau conferences (Book ½ hour appointment with your teacher)

Friday 31st January Staff day

Monday 3rd February Term 1 classes start

Thursday 6th February Waitangi Day Public holiday

Thursday 10th April Term 1 last day for students

Friday 11th April (Accord Day 1) Teacher only day Term 1 ends

Public Holidays

Thursday 6th February Waitangi Day

Term 1 School Holidays Saturday 12 April - Sunday 27 April (includes GOOD Friday 18 April, Easter Monday 21 April, Easter Tuesday 22nd, ANZAC Day 25 April)

Term 2 Monday 28 April to Friday 27th June 2025

Monday 28th April Term 2 classes start

Thursday 26th June Term 2 last day for students

Friday 27th June (Accord Day 2) Teacher Only day Term 2 ends

Public Holidays

Monday 2nd June King's birthday

Friday 20th June Matariki

Term 2 School Holidays Saturday 28th June - Sunday 13th July 2024

Term 3 Monday 14 July to Friday 19 September 2025

Monday 14th July Term 3 classes start

Friday 19th September Term 3 ends

Friday 1st August Teacher Only Day Kahui Ako

No Public holidays

Term 3 School Holidays Saturday 20 September to Sunday 5th October

Term 4 Monday 6th October to 17th December 2025

Monday 6th October Term 4 classes start

Wednesday 17th December Term 4 ends

Public holiday:

Monday 27th October Labour Day

Term 4 Christmas school holidays start Wednesday 17th December 2025 386 half days in 2025

School photos 2025- mark your calendar

Inspire Photography will be taking our school photos in 2025. Please mark your calendars Friday 21st March 2025.

https://hcsmiramar.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/5265/school_price_list_2025.pdf

Schooldocs



Term 4 review topics

Review opens 14 October

- Finance and Asset Management Policy Board review
- Managing Income and Expenditure Board review
- Financial Conflicts of Interest Board review
- School Donations and Student Activity Payments / Attendance Dues and Other Income
- Expenditure
- Asset Management and Protection Board review
- Property Planning and Maintenance
- Prevention of Bribery, Corruption, Fraud, and Theft

1. Visit the website <https://hcm.schooldocs.co.nz/1893.htm>
2. Enter the username (hcm) and password (schooldocs).
3. Follow the link to the relevant policy as listed.
4. Read the policy.
5. Click the **Start your review** button at the top right-hand corner of the page.
6. Select the reviewer type.
7. Enter your name (optional).
8. Follow the prompts to show that you've read the topic and enter your feedback if you'd like to comment.

9. Agree to the privacy statement and click "Submit review".

If you don't have internet access, school office staff can provide you with printed copies of the policy and a review form.

Holy Cross Food Fair

https://hcsmiramar.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/5300/hcs_2024_food_fair_poster_portrait_1_.pdf

Birthday Celebrations



To the following students who are celebrating their Birthday, have an awesome day.

Anira, Aria, Avery & Jerome.

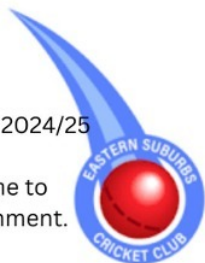
Community Notices

https://hcsmiramar.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/5298/27_october_2024_final_compressed.pdf

GIRLS CRICKET

Come play cricket with other local girls with Eastern Suburbs CC for 2024/25

Lots of different formats of the game to choose from; fun, supportive environment.



Register here

<https://www.playhq.com/new-zealand-cricket/register/00d365>
or more info email oliviaegboyd@gmail.com/02102295948



BIGAIR
GYMSPORTS & CHEERLEADING

Get Kids Moving, Learning, and Thriving at Bigair Gym!

Is your child keen to learn cartwheels, handstands, flips, trampolining tricks, or parkour? Bigair Gym is the ultimate place to explore these skills and more! Classes combine fun, focus, and fitness in a supportive environment where kids can build confidence and master new techniques. Catering to all levels, from beginners to advanced, with safety and technique prioritized.

At Bigair Gym, kids participate in structured classes with a 1-10 level program, designed to encourage progress, celebrate milestones, and promote achievement. A variety of classes are offered, including Gymnastics, Trampolining, Tumbling, Free Running (parkour with flips and tricks!), and Cheerleading. Weekend Birthday Parties are also available and highly popular!

Join Bigair Gym and watch your child thrive! Term 4 Class Bookings are open online now at www.bigairgym.co.nz

Bigair Gym Owhiro Bay: ph. 383 8779,
e. wgt@bigairgym.co.nz at 14 Landfill Road, Owhiro Bay.

PICK A POSY INVITES YOU TO...

TRICK
or
Treat

THU **OCTOBER 31** 3 PM-5PM

Unit 12 70 Kingsford Smith
Street, Lyall Bay

TRICK OR TREAT AT PICK A POSY!
JOIN THE PICK A POSY TEAM FOR A SPOOKTACULAR HALLOWEEN CELEBRATION! DRESS UP IN YOUR SCARIEST COSTUME AND VISIT OUR SHOP TO SAY "TRICK OR TREAT." YOU'LL RECEIVE EITHER LOLLIES OR A BEAUTIFUL FLOWER!
WE'D LOVE TO SEE YOUR HALLOWEEN-DRESSED PUPS TOO!
PLUS, EVERYONE IN COSTUME WILL BE ENTERED INTO A DRAW TO WIN A WEEKLY \$100 FLOWER DELIVERY TO YOUR DOOR FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER! (T&CS APPLY)
MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND GET READY FOR SOME HALLOWEEN FUN!

WE CAN'T WAIT TO CELEBRATE WITH YOU!