

Whole School Mass Sunday 13th September

Tēnā koutou katoa

There are lots of changes (again) in the school curriculum space and we now have received the revised Science and Social Sciences curriculum documents that our kaiako (teachers) will now start using. If you want to see what will be taught, you can view the overviews here – ([Science](#), [Social Science](#)).

Another task for us as a school community is to refresh our Strategic Plan. Our Board is required to have a refreshed, two-year plan in place by January 2027. They would love to have your input into the new plan, and I invite you to share your thinking/wishes/hopes either by talking to one of the Board, or myself, or by [adding to this form](#). (You can see our current Plan by clicking [this link](#).)

People often ask how they can best support their child's learning at home, and there are two basic actions that anyone can take that greatly help. The first is to have regular, reasonable bedtimes with all electronic devices out of the room. When people learn new things, the knowledge is embedded and remembered the next time they sleep. If that sleep is too short or interrupted, the learning has to be repeated. Quality sleep is critical to learning and luckily, is fully in parents' control. (The Ministry of Health guidelines are 9 – 11 hours for 5 -13 year olds.)

The second action that has a large and proven impact on school achievement is reading. And while reading is critical to students' ability to learn, Year 8 aged students across the western world report the lowest levels of reading for enjoyment ever. A New Zealand study comparing reading between 2019 and 2025 backed this trend up, showing a very sharp decline in reading enjoyment. We can all guess as to some of the reasons behind this decline, but the bottom-line is that our children are not reading enough at home. Again, parents have a huge role to play and luckily, books have never been more accessible – perhaps some screen time could be swapped with reading? Even better if there is some conversation about what is being read.

Ngā mihi
Dave

Members of our Waste Wise Team visiting classes this week





Prayer for Social Justice Week:

God who knows my name, Kei te mōhio te Atua ki tōku ingoa, We pray for the people of Aotearoa New Zealand, in all their diversity – tangata whenua, Pacific peoples, migrants and new settlers. May the dignity of every person be honoured and may the truth that we all bear God's image shape how we live together. Āmene.
(Caritas NZ 2026)

Faith Facts: Social Justice Week 2026.

Each year, the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference lead us in a Social Justice Week to consider and issue of social justice in Aotearoa. This year marks the beginning of a 3-year journey exploring what it means to truly belong – to God, to one another, and to creation. We begin with the first and most important thread: that we belong to one God, fully known and unconditionally loved.

Social Justice Week takes place 6th – 12th September. For more information about Social Justice Week visit: www.caritas.org.nz

Our Missions Day:

Thank you for your generous donations on Friday 21st August. We raised \$300 for the Holy Childhood Missions, which support projects for needy children across the world.



Friday 9.15am Mass at the Basilica:

4th September: Rooms 4 & 12 will attend Mass.

11th September: Rooms 3 & 13 will attend Mass.



Whole School Mass:

We will be celebrating Mass with our Parish on Sunday, **13th September**, at 9am at the Basilica. **All students are expected to attend School Mass.** The children will need to be seated by 8.50am. Class teachers will be on hand to help the children find their seats. The children should come to Mass in smart casual wear. There will be morning tea in the Parish Centre after Mass.

School Disco – Tickets on Sale Monday

Tickets for the School Disco will be on sale at the School Office from Monday 7th of September. Ticket cost is \$5.00 which includes entry, a drink and a glow stick!



Important Dates

11 Sept	SCG School Disco (Tickets on sale Monday)
13 Sept	Whole School Mass 9am in the Basilica
25 Sept	Term 3 Ends
12 Oct	Term 4 Starts
12 Oct	Top Teams
26 Oct	Labour Day (School Closed)
30 Oct	Year 4 Camp (TBC)
15 Dec	Last Day for 2026





SPORTS DISCO

\$5 TICKETS BUY AT THE OFFICE

**TIME: 5:30PM-6:45PM (JUNIOR)
7PM- 8:30PM (SENIORS)**

**VENUE: RONCALLI
COLLEGE HALL**

FRIDAY 11TH SEPTMBER



Founders' Award Week 6



DALTONS TO SACRED HEART

By Maureen Robertson

The winner of the Daltons School Butterfly Habitat Award this term is Sacred Heart School in Timaru. The school is a coeducational Catholic state-integrated school, with a role of just over 200 pupils, Year 1 through Year 8.

Teacher Deb Crawford, adult volunteers and students have worked hard to create a successful butterfly habitat which has become the centre of the school.



We are so grateful to Liz from Mitre10 for sharing all she knew about gardening with the students.

Their journey began with a science-based study on the Life Cycle of Butterflies and the wonders of nature. The project developed into a whole school appreciation of the monarch butterfly in particular. ESOL students also benefited greatly.

Learning about butterfly life cycles extended into interest in life cycles of other pollinators.

More learning was ahead as the process of creating a habitat for monarchs began. There were problems or issues to solve from the start. Locations had to be adapted to suit changes in the school's physical environment and the effects of the wind, lack of ready water, bouncing balls and infertile soil.

Students worked with others from all year groups to solve problems. They involved the wider community by engaging with the local environmental program provided by Environment Canterbury and local businesses. Liz, from Mitre10, donated seeds, annuals, perennials and her gardening expertise.

Deb and Sacred Heart students recognise the school caretaker Jimbo as their true butterfly unsung hero with his help in establishing a composted, fenced habitat, irrigated by rainwater. Alice Porter, also a teacher at the





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*Trialling different sites. The caretaker built the "soil" up with compost from Environment Canterbury. We added nectar plants and the students love weeding it. The fence keeps out stray balls from the sports area.
Below: Observing a caterpillar; the art activities were great fun, and we learned so much.*

school, has shared a wealth of knowledge and is a huge campaigner for the monarch, rehoming the school's excess caterpillars.

However there was yet another problem to solve:

Wasps!

Year 1 and 2 students researched the harm pest wasps cause the environment and have become Eco Warriros for the protection of butterflies.

After discussion they decided on a hanging wasp trap with non-toxic bait as a lure, so that the beneficial insects they had worked so hard to attract weren't affected.

The MBNZT's pest-wasp campaign helped their understanding of the problem.

They followed this up with class and individual letters to their local MP, the Hon. James Meager, about the local wasp problem. The MP plans to visiting the school sometime in the future..

The school has created a sheltered, sunny 1m by 1.8m plot that is fertile, irrigated, fenced and planted with a variety of nectar plants to sustain butterflies throughout the breeding season.

On their journey students have learned about insect life cycles, the needs of butterflies, developed

practical gardening skills and an understanding of many types of pollinators, predators and pest control.

They have had numerous conversations, shared knowledge, problem solved, made decisions, accepted advice and help, all skills that lead to success.

The lessons they've learned will prepare them well for challenges throughout life!

Good luck and well done, all at Sacred Heart School, Timaru. Your beautiful Daltons award will be arriving shortly.

Any school or "educational facility" is eligible to win the Daltons School Butterfly Habitat Award, kindly sponsored by Daltons.

Ready to inspire your students and make a difference?

Download the application form from our website and submit it to be considered for the next award - closing date mid-November.

We can't wait to hear from you and see the incredible habitats you create!

A huge thank you to Daltons for their continued support in making this award possible - it's initiatives like this that pave the way for a brighter, greener future.





Wacky Hair Day 2026





Scan now
to register



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Time
2 Talk**

Timaru District Council and
Te Rito South Canterbury presents:

KEEPING OUR YOUNG PEOPLE SAFE ONLINE.

For parents and caregivers
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**WED 9 SEP, 7PM
THURS 10 SEP, 10AM**

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Service fee may apply

OR Timaru Information Centre

Community of
Drama League
Juniors - Primary

*Youth
Edition*

**THE
WIZARD
of
OZ**

25 Sept - 3 Oct

ON STAGE

THE PLAYHOUSE - TIMARU 2026

MUSICAL DIRECTOR
Megan Holden

DIRECTOR
Hayley Goodman

CHOREOGRAPHER
Amanda Rūmenapf




By L. Frank Baum
With Music and Lyrics by
Harold Arlen and E. Y. Harburg
Background Music by
Herbert Stothart
Dance and Vocal Arrangements
by Peter Howard
Orchestration by Larry Wilcox
Adapted by John Kane for the
Royal Shakespeare
Company

Based upon the Classic
Motion Picture owned by
Turner Entertainment Co.
and distributed in all media
by Warner Bros.

Adaptation and support materials
for the Young Performers Edition
Developed by Theatrics
Under the supervision of
Timothy Allen McDonald

"The Wizard of Oz" is presented by
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A Concord Theatricals Company



CELTIC JUNIOR CRICKET REGISTRATION

VENUE
Celtic Clubrooms, Craigie Avenue

THURSDAY 10 SEPTEMBER
5:00pm - 6:00pm

SATURDAY 12 SEPTEMBER
10:00am - 11:00am

REGISTRATION FEES
\$40 Individual | \$50 Family

WHO CAN PLAY?
Years 1 to 8 Boys and Girls

ENQUIRIES
Buck 021 0839 9769

FACEBOOK
Message the Celtic Facebook page

JOIN CELTIC CRICKET FOR A GREAT SEASON!

CREATIVE CORNER'S

Masquerade Ball

SATURDAY 10 OCTOBER 2026
FROM 7PM | HECTOR BLACK'S

129A STAFFORD STREET, TIMARU

AUCTION | NIBBLES | DANCING | LIVE MUSIC

DRESS CODE: FORMAL | BAND: BRANGIE

TICKETS: \$50

WELCOME DRINK ON ARRIVAL
AND CASH BAR

FUNDRAISER HOSTED BY PARENTS
OF CREATIVE CORNER

TICKETS AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE
FROM CREATIVE CORNER





Beginners Tennis Coaching Sessions



6th - 27th September

Starting

Sunday's from 9:30am
(30 Minute sessions)

4 weeks of fully subsidised coaching
sessions for beginner players.
At the Trust Aoraki Tennis Centre.
(27 Benvenue Ave)

Register Now!

Session times are dependent on the number of participants.

Pre-registrations are essential!

Please register online by Thursday 4th September.



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July
17

WHEN:

Sunday, 20 September

TIME: 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Centre Carpark, Main Road,
Pleasant Point



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Birthday Cake Raffle



FREE Face Painting for Kids



Best Stall Decoration Competition



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