The CTK Connection

Sharing the faith, stories and celebrations of our school

Issue 1 | October 2026

Christ the King Catholic School
Te Kura Katorika o te Karaiti te Kingi
Respect - Compassion - Service - Peace & Joy

A Message from the Principal

Kia ora koutou,

Welcome to our first community newsletter! This new initiative is about reconnecting our school and parish, strengthening the relationships between us, and sharing the many amazing things happening at Christ the King Catholic School.

Each term, we will bring you highlights of our students' learning, achievements, celebrations and faith in action. We hope these stories give you a glimpse into school life and help you feel part of the journey as our children learn, grow and serve others.

Our school currently has more than 120 students, with seven classrooms open and a dedicated team of 14 staff. We are a growing community where every child is known, valued and encouraged to achieve their best. Our vision, "Faith is our Foundation, Learning is our Pathway, Community is our Heart," guides our work and reflects the close connection we want to nurture between school, home and parish.

As a Catholic school with a proud Josephite heritage, we treasure our place within the parish. We want our children to know that they belong to a wider faith community, and our parishioners to feel welcome and connected to the life of the school.

Thank you for your prayers, encouragement and ongoing support. Whether you have children at CTK, attended the school yourself, or know us through the parish, you are an important part of our community. We look forward to sharing our stories with you and welcoming you to school events throughout the year.

Kind regards

Billy Hadnett
Principal

Mary MacKillop Group: Faith in Action

Our Mary MacKillop Group meets each week with Mrs Whyburd and Sister Ann Nevin, strengthening the connection between our students, our faith and our school's Josephite heritage. These gatherings provide an opportunity to reflect on the example of Saint Mary MacKillop and explore how we can follow her example through kindness, compassion and service. With the guidance and encouragement of Mrs Whyburd and Sister Ann Neven (Former CTK Principal), our students are learning that even small actions can make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

From Term 3, the group's main focus has been our Cans 4 Christmas collection, supporting the work of St Vincent de Paul. The collection was a huge success, with over 500 cans donated to help families in need. This wonderful result reflects both the group's commitment to serving others and the generosity of our CTK community.

Thank you to everyone who contributed, and to Mrs Whyburd and Sister Ann for nurturing our young people's faith and sense of responsibility for others. Our Mary MacKillop Group is a lovely example of our school motto in action: Serve God and Grow.

Gods Blessings
Margaret Whyburd
Director of Religious Studies

Mary MacKillop group leading the Blessing of our school chapel - the Chapel of St Joseph

Growing Leaders Through the SPC Touchstones Programme

Thirty CTK students took part in the SPC Touchstones Leadership Programme, working alongside young men from St Peter's College's Men of the Edmund Rice Group. These weekly encounters brought students from both schools together to explore their faith, develop leadership skills and build relationships through shared learning and games.

At the heart of the programme was the opportunity to break open the Gospel together—reading, discussing and reflecting on Jesus' teachings and considering what they mean in our everyday lives. These conversations encouraged students to think about how they treat others, the choices they make and how they can show compassion, courage and kindness at school, at home and in the wider community.

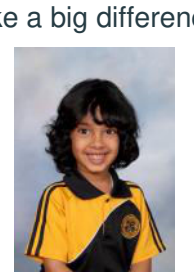
The programme also helped our students explore what it means to be a leader. Leadership begins with listening, including others, taking responsibility and being willing to serve. Working alongside their St Peter's College mentors gave our students opportunities to practise these skills, share their ideas and grow in confidence.

We are grateful to St Peter's College and the Men of the Edmund Rice Group for sharing their time, faith and leadership with our students. A special thank you to Mrs Fouhy-Mullin, Mr Dumitrache and Edmund Rice Portfolio Leader Henry Russel for their guidance, organisation and commitment to the programme. This partnership is a wonderful example of our Catholic schools working together to nurture young people who lead with faith, act with compassion and serve others.

Kind Hearts of CTK

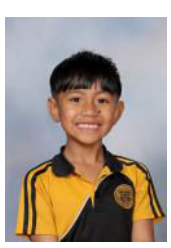
Our Termly Kindness Award, proudly sponsored by the Kindness Collective, recognises one student from each of our seven classes who consistently puts our school values into action. These students show Respect, Compassion, Service, and Peace & Joy through their everyday words and actions—helping others, including those around them and treating people with care. Presented each term, the award celebrates students who live out our motto, "Serve God and Grow," and reminds us that small acts of kindness make a big difference to our school community.

Josephine
Room 5



Ruben
Room 6

Juliana
Room 7



Amenadiel
Room 8

Saron
Room 4

Lucian
Room 3

Anora
Room 2

The CTK Connection

Sharing the faith, stories and celebrations of our school

Issue 1 | October 2026

Christ the King Catholic School
Te Kura Katorika o te Karaiti te Kingi
Respect - Compassion - Service - Peace & Joy

Learning and Assessment at CTK

Assessment is an important part of learning at Christ the King. It helps teachers see what each child understands, recognise the progress they have made and identify what they need to learn next. We consider assessment results alongside everyday classroom work so that our teaching responds to students' needs.

Our Term 3 data gives us plenty to celebrate across different learning areas:

• **Reading:** 83% of Year 5 students are achieving the end of year expectation, up from 50% in Term 1. The Year 3 result is 89%.

• **Writing:** 100% of Year 5 students are achieving the end of year expectation. The Year 1 result has risen from 0% in Term 1 to 41% in Term 3.

• **Mathematics:** 86% of Year 6 students are achieving the end of year expectation, up from 50% in Term 1. The Year 5 result has also risen from 75% to 83%.

• **Spelling:** In The Code assessment, 95% of Year 3 students and 93% of Year 6 students scored at least 80% in Term 3.

• **Basic facts:** The Year 4 result has risen from 25% in Term 1 to 50% in Term 3, while the Year 5 result has risen from 83% to 100%.

• **Little Learners:** The Year 0 result has risen from 0% in Term 1 to 63% in Term 3. Year 1 and Year 2 results have also improved each term.

These results are snapshots of different assessments and year levels. They help us celebrate progress and identify where we need to focus our teaching in Term 4.

Individual data reports went home earlier this week. I encourage you to look through your child's report with them, celebrate their progress and talk about a goal for the final term.

God Bless
George Tyrell
Deputy Principal

Our New Turf

It is wonderful to see our new school turf completed and already transforming this area into a safe, attractive and welcoming space for our students to enjoy. This development will provide many opportunities for sport, physical activity, learning and play throughout the year.

We are incredibly grateful to the Hugo Charitable Trust for its generous donation towards this project. The Trust was established by Maryanne Green in 2017 to continue the legacy of generosity begun by her father, Hugh Green. Since then, it has donated more than $23 million to organisations throughout New Zealand, supporting education, Catholic charities, health and community welfare. Its vision reflects Hugh Green's desire to give back and help others in practical and meaningful ways. Hugo Charitable Trust

Our sincere thanks also go to the other funding organisations and everyone who contributed to making this project possible. Thank you to our students, families and staff for your patience while the work was underway. The short-term disruption has certainly been worth it, and this wonderful new facility will benefit CTK students for many years to come.

Our students are absolutely loving the new playing area! It has quickly become a favourite place for them to play, connect with friends and be active during break times. It has been wonderful to see the excitement, energy and enjoyment the new turf has brought to our school grounds.

We look forward to officially celebrating and blessing The Turf, during Term 4.

You're invited — join us at CTK!

Our school and parish community are warmly invited to these special events.