



# The Aubert Oracle



Suzanne Aubert  
Catholic School  
Engage · Inspire · Empower Through Christ

## Message from our Tumuaki

WEDNESDAY 11 MARCH

Tena koutou katoa whānau. Nau mai, haere mai ki te Hata Meri Hōhepa - te Kura Katorika o Papamoa. It has been a positive and memorable start to 2026 at Suzanne Aubert Catholic School. It is a very special year as we celebrate three significant milestones:

- **5 Year Anniversary:** Five years ago, Suzanne Aubert Catholic School was officially blessed and opened by Bishop Steve Lowe on 3rd February 2021. Our beautiful school opened with just 80 learners that day - bright-eyed, curious and excited to be part of the legacy of a new Catholic school in Papamoa. Today our school has 202 learners with enrolments forecast to reach close to 230 by the end of 2026. It has been heartwarming to see the growth of our school in the last 5 years. We feel incredibly blessed to have such a supportive, positive and faith filled community of learners, parents, families and staff who all contribute to such a welcoming and positive learning focused culture. When we ask families what they love most about our school - they often say three things: our Catholic values, the learning and that our school is like one big kind-hearted family!
- **100 Year Commemoration:** This year we are also celebrating the legacy of our patron Suzanne Aubert who passed away 100 years ago. Bishop Steve gifted this patronage to our school and we feel very blessed to carry her name. She was a mana wahine who lived her faith with courage, resilience and compassion for those in need. To this day, her funeral is still considered the largest for any woman in New Zealand's history. She had a deep love and respect for Te Ao Maori and became fluent in Te Reo. She demonstrated love in action in the way she cared for the sick, orphans, unemployed and those who had no one to love them. She was a botanist who valued the role of natural herbal rongoa in healing those who were suffering. We believe Suzanne Aubert is the perfect choice as a role model of faith, love and action for our learners through the school vision, values and curriculum. We look forward to sharing the story of her life in our very first schoolwide production performance at the end of Term 3. Watch this space!



2021



2025

## Pompallier Centre:

This year also marks a very special occasion for our school as we officially blessed and opened the Pompallier Centre - a wonderful new multi-purpose space for our school, parish and wider community. It is rewarding to continue the narrative of our Suzanne Aubert Catholic School legacy in the naming of this facility. Our centre is named after Bishop Jean Baptiste Pompallier - the French Bishop who was central to bringing the Catholic faith to Aotearoa New Zealand. Pompallier first came to New Zealand in 1838 and was the first Catholic Bishop of Aotearoa. He travelled our country extensively including the Bay of Plenty and was instrumental in establishing the Catholic missions in New Zealand. He learned both English and Maori and led the translation of prayer books into Te Reo Maori to ensure that everyone had access to Catholic prayers. Bishop Pompallier came from Lyon - the same part of France as Suzanne Aubert and he baptised her in 1840. In 1860, it was Bishop Pompallier who invited a young 25 year old Suzanne Aubert onto the whaling ship with him to support his evangelisation mission in New Zealand. A decision that would be significant for our school today. For this reason, we believe it is fitting that this building reflects the shared vision and mission of these two very special heroes of the Catholic faith in Aotearoa. This is why you can see them standing side by side in the beautiful manifestation designs in the windows as you enter the building. We are incredibly thankful to all those who contributed towards the Pompallier Centre becoming a reality for our school - it is going to be an incredible facility for our school, parish and wider community.

Please enjoy this panui which includes important updates, information and highlights about our school for the start of 2026.

Ngā mihi nui

Anthony Mills (Principal-Tumuaki)



# HAERE MAI TO OUR NEW LEARNERS

This term we are delighted to have welcomed 16 new learners to our Suzanne Aubert Whānau. In Hikurangi, we had 10 new entrants start school at the beginning of term and a further three in early March. Finn has also joined Hikurangi in Whānau Cartwright. In Mangatawa, Ollie has joined Whānau Zillwood and in Whānau Moolman, we welcome Harry in Year 6.



**Zayne**



**Mac**



**Archie**



**Fiadh**



**Theo**



**Indie**



**Davi**



**Johan**



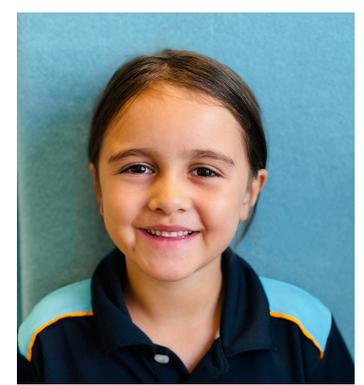
**Frankie**



**Titan**



**Gracie**



**Amaia**



**Milana**



**Finn**



**Ollie**



**Harrison**

# POMPALLIER CENTRE BLESSING AND OPENING

After much anticipation, we recently celebrated the long awaited blessing and opening of our brand new Pompallier Centre! It was an extra special celebration as it is our 5th Anniversary since opening the school. This year also marks 100 years since our patron Suzanne Aubert passed away.

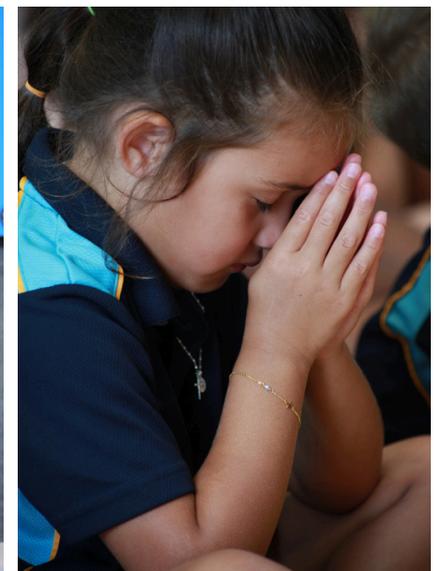
Bishop Richard blessed our new facility and reflected on Christ being our Cornerstone. It was so heartwarming to see our learners, whānau, staff, Board, parish and wider community come together for such a memorable celebration. This is part of our school's legacy and it's exciting that we all get to be a part of creating history together.

We are incredibly thankful to all the following people who helped to make this vision a reality for our school community:

- Bishop Richard and the team from the Catholic Diocese of Hamilton
- Matua Colin and our Ngā Potiki whānau
- Greg from EPM, Mike and the team from IDS
- Michael, Mark and the Watts and Hughes team
- Cory and the Core Design team
- Tauranga City Council and TECT for their very generous grants
- Businesses who sponsored and school and parish families who donated
- Aubert Whānau Group
- Our school Board, staff and leadership team

We feel very blessed to have such a wonderful new facility for our school, parish and wider community!

Thanks Deearn for the awesome pics!



# WHANAUNGATANGA BBQ PICNIC

Papamoa put on beautiful weather for our annual Whanaungatanga BBQ Picnic earlier this term. It was great to see so many of our school families come together to connect, relax and celebrate our strong sense of community. Our tamariki had a wonderful time running round the school, playing football, climbing on the playgrounds and challenging each other in the outdoor games supplied by Sport Bay of Plenty. This event is also a wonderful opportunity to connect with and welcome our newest families to the Suzanne Aubert whānau.

A big thank you to the Aubert Whānau Group for running the delicious sausage sizzle and to Property Brokers BOP who supplied the suasages anmd bread. We raised over \$400! Thanks for all of our school families who came along to support. Events like these truly reflect the spirit of whanaungatanga at Suzanne Aubert Catholic School.



# Special Catholic Character

## A Message from our Director of Religious Studies



### Our Lenten Journey: Preparing Hearts with Compassion

We have officially entered the Lenten Season. This is a sacred time to focus on preparing our hearts for Easter, reflecting on the incredible gift of salvation and the love of Christ.

Following the example of Suzanne Aubert, who dedicated her life to service, we are invited to lean into the three pillars of Lent: Prayer, Fasting, and Giving. These practices engage our body, mind, and spirit, strengthening our connection with Christ.

As we wait for the joy of the Resurrection, let us make room in our hearts to welcome the risen Jesus. We encourage you to talk with your tamariki about how your whānau can respond meaningfully this Lent.

### The Three Pillars of Lent

✿ **PRAYER:** Connecting with the Father "Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks..." (1 Thess 5:16-18) Whānau Challenge: Try a new way of praying together. Whether it's in the car on the way to school, before a meal, or a quiet moment at bedtime, find space to talk with God daily.

✿ **FASTING:** Making Room for God "When you fast, don't look gloomy... focus on God." (Matthew 6:16) Whānau Challenge: Fasting isn't just about food; it's about removing distractions. Could your family try a "digital fast" on the weekend? Replace screen time with connection—to God and to each other.

✿ **GIVING:** The Heart of Compassion "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink..." (Matthew 25:35-36) Whānau Challenge: Lent calls us to respond to the needs of others. This year, we invite you to support the Caritas Lenten Appeal or contribute to our own school's mission of service.



### Supporting Our Sacramental Candidates

We are delighted to announce that our 2026 Sacramental Candidates have begun their journey of preparation for Reconciliation, First Eucharist, and Confirmation. Please hold these students in your prayers:

Cooper Blewett, Kylie Clark, Brixton Dickey, Harrison Egan, Florence Jory, Alexandra Kleanthous, Havana Mills, Violet McPoland, Albert McPoland, William Nalder, Max Phillips, Jack Phillips, Harry Roberts, Tory Roberts, Millie Rohrlach-Balle, Dominic Sison, Willa Strawbridge, Mila Williams.

We look forward to celebrating their Confirmation and Communion Mass on **Sunday 17 May at 10am**. Please come along and support them!

### Suzanne Aubert Lenten Food Bank Appeal

In the true spirit of Suzanne Aubert, our school has set a challenge to support our local food bank. We are collecting **non-perishable grocery items** throughout the Lenten season. Please pop any donations into the buckets in the school office. The "Giving Basket" is located in the office. Thank you for helping us lead with a heart of compassion and making a difference for those in need.

**Items needed:** Rice, pasta, canned goods, packaged snacks, cereals, soups etc.



### All Saints by the Sea Parish Mass

All Saints by the Sea Parish - Sunday Masses:  
St Thomas More Church - 17 Gloucester Rd.  
10:00am and 5:00pm  
Suzanne Aubert Catholic School  
Pompallier Centre - 8.30am

# KEY DATES

## TERM 1 2026



**Suzanne Aubert  
Catholic School**  
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DATES	EVENTS
Friday 13 March	School Photos
Tuesday 17 March	Year 5 - 6 St Patrick's Day Trip to St Thomas More School <b>(To Wear: School Uniform + Green Accessories)</b>
Tuesday 17 March	St Patricks Day - Year 1 - 4 Dress up in Green
Friday 27 March	"Bay Strong" Mufti Day (Gold Coin Donation) - see attached flyer
Wednesday 1 April	Mangatawa Y3-4 - Washing of the Feet and Last Supper Liturgy (11am)
Tuesday 31 March	Hikurangi YO-2 - Palm Sunday Liturgy (11am)
Wednesday 1 April	Mangatawa Y3-4 - Washing of the Feet and Last Supper Liturgy (11am)
Thursday 2 April	Kopukairoa Y5-6 - Stations of the Cross Liturgy (11am)
Wednesday 1 April	WBoP Swimming Clusters
Thursday 2 April	Last Day of Term One (Good Friday is a public holiday)

## AUBERT KIDS

Congratulations to our recent Aubert Kid Award winners. These learners have demonstrated our 7 C's (Principles for Living and Learning) in their learning and friendships. Kia kaha tamariki!



**Dusty, Chelsea, Margot, Frankie**



**William, George, Milly**



**Lucy, Maddy**



**Clint, Taya, Tristan, Pedro**



**William, Quinn, Brooklyn**



**Tommy, Kingston**

# Aubert Authors!

## THE POMPALLIER CENTRE ISLA WITTON-GRAHAM (YEAR 1)

We had cake at the Pompallier Centre.  
It was fun. My mum was there.



## THE POMPALLIER CENTRE MACI ARLIDGE (YEAR 2)

I went to the Pompallier Centre. It was  
amazing in there. I loved the windows.

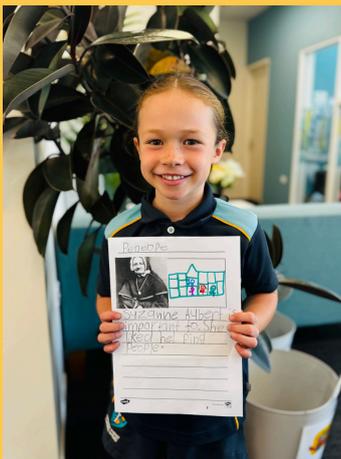
## SUZANNE AUBERT SIENNA MCCARTHY-SMITH (YEAR 2)

Suzanne Aubert is important to us because  
she was kind to babies



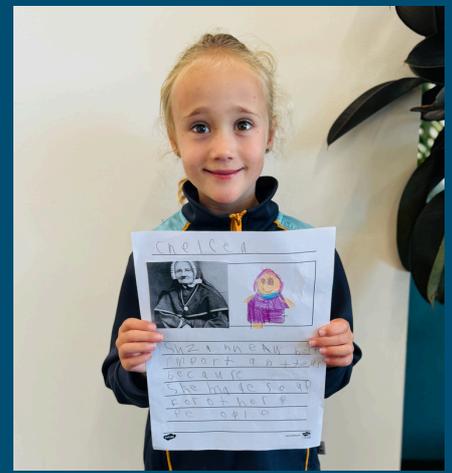
## SUZANNE AUBERT PENELOPE SEUSER (YEAR 2)

Suzanne Aubert is important to us.  
She liked helping people.



## SUZANNE AUBERT CHELSEA SMITH (YEAR 2)

Suzanne Aubert is important to us because she made soup for her people



## MY AUTOBIOGRAPHY ZOEY BRAITHWAITE (YEAR 5)

My name is Zoey, I'm going to tell you a little about myself. My story began in 2016. My older brother Ali was patiently waiting for his baby sister to be born. I remember the first time he held me. There was a big, fat smile on his face. My house isn't that crowded, but you'll have to block your ears from the noise my family makes! Once you walk into my house you may slip a few times, but that's my very chaotic dog Murphy! But it's gross! It's the slimey sticky drool that really gets me going in the morning.

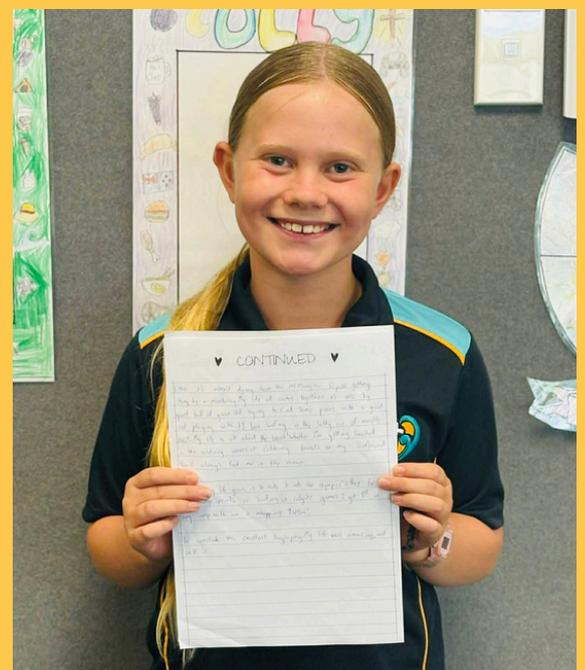
My mum is a big surfer! Followed by me! Almost every day me and my mum walk down on the hot, rumbly pavement, just to refresh our feet with a cold, salty surf. You can catch me and my dad at the rugby fields. Maybe jogging alongside each other. Or see us tackling each other! Me and my brother love making up silly stories. Or you'll see us fighting each other! Pulling on each other's hair, punching, kicking. But we still "love" each other according to my mum.

If you can't find me, check my bed! I need a lot of sleep from all the Sticky Situations I get into. Either it's almost dying from the Mount Maunganui slip or getting stung by a Mantaray. My life all comes together as one big giant ball of yarn. Still trying to find some pieces with a giant cat playing with it.

I love surfing in the salty air of Muscle Rock. My life is all about the beach! Whether I'm getting smashed in the cold, airy waves or catching barrels on my surfboard, you'll always find me in the ocean.

One of my life goals is to make it into the Olympics. Either for long jump, sprints or surfing. In Colgate Games I got 1<sup>st</sup> in Long Jump with a whopping 3.49m jump.

To conclude this excellent biography - my life was amazing and still is!



# TOP SCHOOLS 2026

This year's Top Schools was another successful day with a lot of our Year 5 and 6 learners taking part in the team building events. A lot of collaboration, problem solving, and effective communication skills were developed during this event. Our teams persevered and managed to get some well-deserved scores for some of the events. Our cheerleaders did a great job in front of a really big crowd. Thanks to some courageous Year 4-6 learners who joined in to make this event happen. Thanks to Mr Moolman and Mrs Mills for supporting our teams and cheerleaders on the day! In the words of two of our year 6 tamariki:

*Top schools 2026 was an exciting and challenging day. We did lots of fun activities like leaky bucket, sands of time, firewise, sponge bob square pants and more. The most challenging part was figuring out our strategies and communicating as a team. What went well was our collaboration, cheering and energy. It was a long hot day in the sun. We were happy that some of the activities and challenges had water because it refreshed us. Out of 16 teams Team 1 came 15th and Team 2 came 9th. This will definitely be one of our highlights from primary school since most of us are leaving next year.*

*Kayley Badenhorst and Elijah Lewis (Year 6)*



# SPORTS UPDATE

What a fantastic start to Term One sport at Suzanne Aubert Catholic School! Our two Flippa Ball teams, SACS Stingrays (year 3-4) and SACS Makos (year 5-6), have been having a brilliant season, both securing strong wins. It is awesome to see how popular flippa ball has become, given that when we first opened in 2021 we could barely scrape together the numbers for a team - and that was even with recruiting a couple of extra players from Arataki Primary School.



Rippa Rugby continues to be popular and we have an impressive seven teams taking part this term. In year 1 - 2 there are the SACS Hurricanes, SACS Highlanders and SACS Blues, in year 3 - 4 we have the SACS Steamers and SACS Crusaders and finally the SACS Warriors and SACS Chiefs in the year 5-6 grade. We have even run out of NZ super rugby franchises with which to name them! It has been awesome to see our tamariki out there showing courage, resilience and great sportsmanship on the field.

There has been plenty more exciting events this term, including:

- 🏊♂️ School Swimming Sports (years 3 - 6) - Papamoa Pools, Friday 6 March
- 🏆 Top Schools (years 5-6) - Paengaroa School, Sunday 8 March
- 🏃♀️ Boys Playing Sports (years 4 – 6) - Blake Park, Tuesday 10 March
- 🏃♀️ Girls Playing Sports (years 4 – 6) - Blake Park, Thursday 12 March

Term One is a busy and energetic season of sport. Thank you to our wonderful coaches, teachers and whānau who support our tamariki to participate, grow in confidence and represent our kura with pride.

## CONGRATULATIONS

A big congratulations to George Ferguson who played in the recent American Football Flag Tournament in Auckland. Representing the Pacific Coast Sharks and playing in the Under 10 Grade, George and his team went undefeated through 5 games and won the final 35-31 against Auckland's best.



## FLOURISH DRAMA CLUB

ENROLLING NOW FOR TERM 1

- DEVELOP CONFIDENCE
- IMPROVE COMMUNICATION & CONVERSATION SKILLS
- GET CREATIVE
- HAVE FUN & MAKE NEW FRIENDS

**Classes for 5 to 17  
year olds**

**FREE  
TRIAL  
LESSON**

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On Friday 27th March, Suzanne Aubert Catholic School will be supporting the Bay Strong initiative with a

# BLUE & YELLOW MUFTI DAY.

To raise vital funds for the Acorn Foundation Western Bay Emergency Relief Fund.

PLEASE WEAR **BLUE** AND **YELLOW** AND BRING A GOLD COIN DONATION



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# SCHOOL ORCHARD

Eighteen months after first planting our school orchard, excitingly some of the fruit trees are now bearing fruit. One of the Peach trees is laden in peaches and a couple of the apple trees are bearing fruit as well. It was so awesome when asked by hungry children today if there was anything else they could eat after polishing off their school lunch, we could offer them some fresh fruit!



**Brendon Hannah**  
 Licensee Salesperson  
 Ray White Papamoa  
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 brendon.hannah@raywhite.com

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“ List and Sell with me and I will donate \$1000 to Suzanne Aubert Catholic School ”



\*Terms and Conditions: Present this advertisement when listing your property for sale, and Brendon Hannah will donate \$1,000 to Suzanne Aubert Catholic School once your property is successfully sold with him. The \$1000 contribution will be made upon the settlement of the property transaction. This offer applies only to new listings with Brendon Hannah and cannot be combined with any other promotions or incentives. By participating in this offer, clients agree to these terms and conditions.

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**COASTAL**  
**PET VET**  
 P A P A M O A

At Coastal Pet Vet we endeavour to provide both the best animal health care and exceptional customer service to the local community.

We provide all forms of medical and surgical treatments for your beloved pets. Check out our facebook page for ongoing deals and promotions so you don't miss out!

# WHĀNAU FUN AT OUR PICNIC!



**APRIL SCHOOL HOLIDAY SWIMMING LESSONS**

**BOOK IN NOW**

Week 1 - April 7<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup>  
Tuesday - Saturday.

Week 2 - 13<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup>  
Monday - Friday, 2026

**\$90 PER WEEK**  
FROM - DEPENDING ON LEVEL

0211024184  
www.turtleswimschool.co.nz

**Turtle SWIM**

Bricks of Plenty Presents

**Golden Sands School Brickshow**

**14-15 March**

Golden Sands School Hall

**Saturday & Sunday - 10-4**

Sensory hour 9-10 Sunday

**\$5 Entry under 3 free**

**BRICKS OF PLENTY** **GOLDEN SANDS SCHOOL** **TOYWORLD**

# Dance Music Classes

dancer.amanda11@gmail.com

021 0841 0697

## Rhythmx and Stretche'

**\$145 p/term each genre**

(both Rhythmx/Stretche' \$200 p/term)



**RHYTHMX**



**JAZZ**



**STRETCHÉ**



**Incls tech classes: TURNÉ' - LEAPZ**

Mon Tue Wed after school,  
all ages, stages, m/f

**Also avail Choir 145/term**

**Vocal/Guitar coaching \$ 45 p/half hour**



*AJ&*  
**Celeste**

