



FAITH AND UNITY
Whakapono Me Kotahitanga

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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Newsletter No. 19

07 December 2011

UPCOMING EVENTS



- **Dec 7: Year 6 Leavers' dinner 5.30pm**
- **09 Dec: Whole school fun sports morning - bring a change of sports clothes and shoes**
- **12 Dec: Reports go home**
- **15 Dec: End of Year School Mass 11.45am**
- **15 Dec: School Prize giving 1pm**
- **15 Dec: Last day of the school year! Finishing 1.30pm**

2012 DATES

- **01 Feb: First day of the new school year commences at 8.55am. Powhiri at 9.15am**
- **03 Feb: Beginning of year school Mass 9.15am**
- **06 Feb: Waitangi Day**
- **13 Feb: BOT meeting 7pm**
- **29 Feb - 02 Mar: Life Education Caravan**
- **19 Mar: St Joseph's Feast Day**

Our Mission: St Joseph's School is a place of learning where everyone grows towards his or her full potential in a Catholic environment.
Our Vision: Enthusiastic, successful learners, living their Catholic faith with strength of mind and gentleness of heart.

Message from the Principal

Kia ora parents and whanau

As this is the last newsletter for the school year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the entire St Joseph's community for helping with the success of another school year. Each day our students have been supported by a dedicated team of teachers and support staff. We are blessed with an outstanding group of students at St Joseph's, students who strive to do their personal best each day! We have had a wonderful year of learning and working together and we are very fortunate to be in a school community that supports everyone towards reaching their potential in a Catholic environment.

Special thanks to the parents who have provided extra support in ways such as - *being members of the BOT or FOSJ, class parent helps, lunch co-ordinators, sports coaches, walking school bus volunteers, providing transport to events, parent help on school trips, helping with fundraising. Your help is appreciated!*

FAREWELL AND GOOD LUCK

Next week we farewell our 15 graduating students. We would like to thank you for all that you have contributed to St Joseph's in your time with us and wish you the very best for 2012 and beyond.

"Never underestimate the power of dreams and the influence of the human spirit. The potential for greatness lives within each of us," (Wilma Rudolph, American Olympic runner, 1949- 44).

Farewell to Miss Nisha Rahiman and Mrs Rhonda Prior who both leave St Joseph's at the end of this year. We wish them both well in their future endeavours.

FOSJ

This year the FOSJ have carried out a number of successful fundraising and social events. The FOSJ have contributed funds towards classroom materials, buses to St Leo's for our RWC sports day, Bibles to present to our year 6 graduates, and our new playground shade cover (a joint BOT / FOSJ project). Thank you to all those involved in the FOSJ for the wonderful work you do to support St Joseph's.

NATIONAL STANDARDS ACHIEVEMENT

Data on our students' achievement against National Standards in Reading, Writing and Maths was presented to the Board of Trustees at this week's meeting. We

can be very pleased with our results and our school community can be assured that our teaching and learning programmes are engaging our students and causing learning.

These results should be celebrated, especially the improvement with our Maths result:

Reading- 72% of students at or above N.S.

Writing- 71% of students at or above N.S.

Maths- 81% of students at or above N.S.

END OF YEAR MASS AND PRIZEGIVING

All parents are warmly invited to our end of year Mass and Prizegiving next Thursday. Mass is at 11.45am and the Prizegiving will follow at 1pm, with a short break in between the two. As there will be no lunch break please ensure that your children have a good breakfast and bring a substantial morning tea.

2012 TERM DATES

Term 1 : 1 Feb – 5 Apr

Term 2 : 23 April – 29 June

Term 3 : 16 July – 28 September

Term 4 : 15 Oct – 17 Dec

Term one, 1st February, will commence at the normal time of 8.55am and there will be a Powhiri at 9.15am— all families welcome!

An Advent Prayer

In joy and gladness we give praise to you,
O God, for you come to share life with us.
Come and assist us to see your loving care in the midst of our daily struggles.

As we share in the waiting of your birth during Advent,
give us patience.

As we celebrate your coming at Christmas, give us joy.
May you continue to grant us peace and joy that surpasses all understanding.

We ask these gifts in the mystery of our God,
Source of all life.

Amen

Wishing you a very happy and holy
Christmas season and a wonderful holiday!
Ngā mihi nui mō te Kirihimete



God Bless
Kathryn Hira



Our Focus School Value for Term 4 is PONO

(Honesty, integrity, sincerity)

He who walks in integrity walks securely. Proverbs 10:9



WELCOME TO ST JOSEPH'S

George Breen our latest, and last arrival for the year, bringing our school roll to 118!

PARISH NEWS



FOOD DONATIONS

There is a box in the Church foyer for families to donate non-perishable food items to the Christian Care Network. The food will then be distributed to local families in need this Christmas.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve
24th December
5.30pm, Midnight Mass

Christmas Day
25th December
9.30am

Boxing Day
26th December
6pm



2012/13 ENROLMENTS
are now being accepted -
limited places available.

Understanding your child's report

Next Monday your child will be bringing home their end of year school report.

At St Joseph's we report in writing, twice a year, mid-year and end of year. Each year students will receive a Progress Report, which assesses the students' *progress towards* the Standards, and a Final (OTJ) Report which assesses *achievement against* the Standards.

In terms of the timing of reporting, a significant difference is that for students in Years 1-3, National Standards are for the anniversary of the child's entry into school. That is;

After 1 year of schooling; After 2 years of schooling; After 3 years of schooling

Therefore, dependent on when your child started school, you could receive a Progress Report at the end of the school year, or a Final (OTJ) Report, in the middle of the school year.

The table below shows the reporting cycle for children in their first three years of school

Your child's anniversary of starting school falls in...	March - July	August - February
Progress report will be written in Term ...	4	2
Final (OTJ) report will be written in Term...	2	4

Students in Years 4 – 6 all received a progress report at the end of term 2, and will receive their final report next week with the exception of some year 4s who had an anniversary between March and July and received an 'after three years at school' final report at mid-year, and next week will get an 'end of year 4' final report.

PROGRESS REPORT - A Progress Report assesses students' *progress toward* the National Standard.

FINAL (OTJ) REPORT (OTJ = Overall Teacher Judgement) - A Final (OTJ) Report assesses students' *achievement against* the National Standard. Teachers will assess that achievement in one of four ways;

1. Above Standard
2. At Standard
3. Working Towards

Judgements against the Standards are based on the teacher's professional knowledge and 'Overall Teacher Judgement' (OTJ) made at the time of a child's anniversary, or for year 4-6 students, at the end of the year.

ASSESSMENT INFORMATION INCLUDED IN THE REPORTS

Reading - The reading level or age on your child's report is the level or age at which your child can independently read, respond to and think critically about both fiction and non-fiction texts.

Please note: In order to make an overall teacher judgment as to whether students are meeting the Standard, teachers use several sources of information. When making overall teacher judgments, it is not enough for teachers to consider how well a student is reading and writing. Teachers need to specifically consider how well each student is using reading and writing as interactive tools to enable them to learn in all curriculum areas.

Maths - The report shows the Numeracy Strategy Stages which your child has achieved in the three strategy domains, i.e. Addition and Subtraction; Multiplication and Division; Proportions and Ratios.

Please note: A child's Numeracy strategy stage is only one piece of information when determining their progress towards or achievement against the National Standards.



PLEASE CHECK THAT YOUR CHILD HAS RETURNED THEIR SCHOOL LIBRARY BOOKS and ANY CLASS READING BOOKS.

Congratulations

Congratulations to the children who recently received a
"CATHOLIC SPECIAL CHARACTER AWARD"

Sam Perkins, Briana Watt,
Jack Williams, Krista Vesty-Scott

This award is given to children who through their thoughts, words and actions show the Catholic special character of St Joseph's.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*Graduation is
not the end;
it is the
beginning.*

Orrin Hatch

Special Character News



We are well into the season of Advent now, having just celebrated the second Sunday of Advent. It has been very heartening to see some of the school children participating in the dressing of the Jesse tree over the past two weeks. This Sunday will be the final Jesse tree 'instalment' and I do encourage as many of you as possible to attend.

The Jesse tree is decorated with special symbols that tell of the purpose and promises of God. Jesse was the father of David and so starting from the Old Testament, the ornaments and devotions used, trace the genealogy of Christ, starting with creation and eventually ending with the coming of the Messiah. In Isaiah 11:1 it is said, "A shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, and a branch from his roots will bear fruit." As Christians we believe this branch is Christ and we remind ourselves of how God has prepared the world for His kingdom.

The GaTe group focus this term has centred around Manaakitia/ hospitality and the students involved have been very busy. This week they prepared lolly bags which were distributed yesterday at the Glen Innes Community Christmas party. This is a wonderful example of 'reaching out' into the community and I thank the students for their hard work. Next week they will be involved in the 'volunteers' morning tea' and preparing 'goodies' for the graduating Year 6 students.



On Thursday 15th December, our final leavers' Mass and prize giving will take place. Mass will start at 11.45am. This is always a beautiful and moving celebration of the years spent at St Joseph's Catholic School. Parents and all family members are welcome. After a short break prize giving will take place at 1pm.

I take this opportunity to wish you all a Holy and Blessed Christmas with family and loved ones. Have a safe holiday and I look forward to seeing some of you back here in 2012.

Justine Agnew

Learning News from the DP

This term the children have been discovering information about their Whakapapa, it has been great to observe the excitement on their faces as they share their new found knowledge about their ancestry.

Here are some comments from the children after studying this topic:

"I've enjoyed learning where my family came from, and I had never really thought about my ancestry until now." Maya

"I've enjoyed finding out how I'm special because of what my ancestors have done, and also where I was born." Isabella

"I've enjoyed learning all my family stories and landmarks and where they have come from." Claudia

"I think it's very exciting because I found out where my friends came from. I thought I was the only one in this class who came from the Ukraine, but a few others have." Olga

"I liked finding out the stories that have been passed down, and one day maybe I will pass them down to other people." Ciara

"I liked finding out where my family came from." Natanielu

"I liked learning things about my family." Kiana and Luke

"I liked learning about my family stories." Zahara

Ukulele Festival: Once again St Joseph's was part of the famous Ukulele Festival, this time an approximately 1800 strong orchestra of ukuleles were strumming and singing away. Well done to the 22 students and their parents who came, a special 'well done' to the parents who also learnt some chords and joined in playing with the students. It was wonderful to have such a fantastic turn out of parents supporting and enjoying the children's musical talents on the ukulele.



Final House Points for Athletics Day: 1st Brigid 71 2nd MacKillop 64 3rd equal Joseph and Chanel 59

Thank you again for all the many different ways you support your child in their learning, in your work with them directly, and in the support you give to individual classroom teachers as well as to school wide events.

I wish you and your families a very Happy and Blessed Christmas, and a refreshing holiday break.

Sue Bennett

FOSJ News



FOSJ FUNDRAISER

Christmas Hamper

****Raffle tickets now on sale****

Please see Jan Castle at the School Office

\$2 each or 3 for \$5

Be in quick, great hampers on offer!!

The FOSJ would like to thank everyone who has been involved in our fundraising efforts for 2011. Whether this was with direct involvement with FOSJ or by supporting the fundraisers it has been a very successful year. A reminder that we couldn't do this without the many parents who have volunteered and supported FOSJ and we look forward to your continued support in 2012.

FOSJ wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and a safe, happy holiday time.

See you in 2012.

Best Wishes

Kristine Boxen Secretary for FOSJ

Sports News

A group of St Joseph's students have entered a team in the Sacred Heart Flippaball League for the first time this term, they have had great success for first timers with 2 wins, a draw and a loss so far this season. For those that don't know Flippaball is like junior water polo – very similar rules although the kids are allowed to stand in the pool. The current team have had an awesome time and thoroughly enjoyed every minute!



We are keen to submit teams for Term 1 2012. Each game is played on a Sunday afternoon from 2.30pm (for yrs 3/4) and from 4.30pm (for yrs 5/6); all at Sacred Heart. Approx cost is \$50 pp for the term. (Games are short 15/20 minutes long depending on grade and age). Each team requires 7 players and we will try and submit two teams in the older grade and one in the younger (grades are year 5/6 and year 3/4) depending on numbers. All teams are mixed so if your child/ren would like to play or you would like more information please contact us. We need player commitment by end of term 4. Thanks Joanne Crag (joandv@ihug.co.nz) and Kat Walter (kat.walter@xtra.co.nz).

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CONGRATULATIONS to Kian McAllister-Sim who has again been selected to play representative cricket for Grafton Cricket. His first rep game was against Parnell last weekend. Well done Kian and good luck for the representative season.

Community News

Get set for the School Holidays! Parnell Trust provides a fun and safe programme for children 5 to 14 years. Activities and outings include: 'Glee Club' dancing and singing four day option, Robotics with LEGO, Cricket clinic, Puppet making, Circus skills, Tip-Top factory tour, Multi-sports, Photography and much more. Weekdays 5 - 23 December and 4 - 27 January. **Only days to go – book early.** Phone Parnell Trust 555 5194, email pfc@parnell.org.nz or visit www.parnell.org.nz



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