



FAITH AND UNITY  
Whakapono Me Kotahitanga

# ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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Newsletter No. 9

22 June 2011

*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.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS



- 23 June: School trip to MOTAT
- 25 June: Confirmation Mass 5.30pm
- 27 June: School Photos
- 27 June: BOT meeting, 7pm
- 01 July: Mid year reports go home
- 04 - 08 July: Maori Language Week
- 06-07 July: Three way learning conferences
- 13 July: Bay Subs Netball
- 15 July: End of term - Mass 2pm
- 1 Aug: First day of term 3
- 2 Aug: ICAS English Exam
- 7 Aug: First Holy Communion
- 12 Aug: School Cross Country
- 14 Aug: Parish School Mass 9.30am

## Message from the Principal

*Kia ora parents and whanau*



Special **CONGRATULATIONS** to two of our students, Kiana Cook and Waka Wikaire-James, who have recently been Baptised.

### LEARNING INTERVIEWS

This year our mid-year learning interviews will be held over two afternoons/evenings. Notices came home on Monday with information about these interviews and included a return slip for parents to indicate their preferred day and time slot. Please return these asap. Teachers would like to meet with all parents and students so if you are unable to make the interviews on the 6th or 7th of July, please contact your child's teacher to make an alternative appointment time.

### MID YEAR STUDENT REPORTS

On Friday 1st July your child will be bringing home their mid-year report. This report will form the basis of the learning interviews scheduled for the following week.

As reported in an earlier newsletter, our reporting cycle for this year is different to what has been done previously. Years 1 to 3 student (and some year 4 students) will receive their 2011 reports depending on their anniversary of starting school. (See table below) This is because National Standards are written for the child to be assessed "after one, two and three years at school" (not at the end of the school year).

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

Years 4 - 6 will all receive a progress report in term 2, and a final report in term 4 with the exception of some year 4 who have an anniversary between March and July who will receive an 'after

three years at school' final report at mid year, and an 'end of year 4' final report at the end of the year.

### NUMERACY EVENING

It was pleasing to see a good number of parents attend our Numeracy Evening. The feedback received was very positive with all parents gaining a better understanding of how Numeracy is taught. Thank you to Mrs Viall for co-ordinating this successful evening. Please see the back page for more feedback from this evening.

### MAORI AND PASIFIKA READERS

Mrs Nola has organised all of our Maori and Pasifika readers into labelled boxes in the library foyer. Students and parents are encouraged to borrow these books for reading at home. There is a notebook in which books can be signed in and out.

### SCHOOL HANDBOOK UPDATE

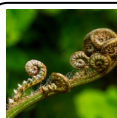
The 'Privacy' notes in the school handbook have been updated to include a statement that St Joseph's will not 'use images/photos of students without permission.' We also ask 'that parents who take photos or video footage at school events exercise caution with the distribution of these images especially through websites such as Facebook or Youtube.'

The updated handbook is available on our school website <http://www.sjorakei.school.nz/>

### HELP OUR SCHOOL WIN AN IPAD

Thank you to those parents who have already registered with YellowLocal.co.nz to help give St Joseph's a chance of winning an iPad. We simply need to reach 250 registrations before the other schools. So far we have 80 registrations and are 9th on the leader board. Register on <http://auckland.yellowlocal.co.nz/schools> to get behind St Joseph's. Ask your friends, family and colleagues to register too. We only need 250 points to win one iPad, so make your nomination count!

God Bless  
Kathryn Hira



### Our Focus School Value for Term 2 is FAITH

"Faith is to believe what you do not see; the reward of this faith is to see what you believe."

~ Saint Augustine

# Room 2 Learning

## REMINDERS

### ARRIVAL TIME AT SCHOOL

Please do what you can to ensure your children are at school and on time each day. We have many students arriving after the first bell which is disruptive to classes. All children should be present before the bell rings at 8.55am.

### HELP REDUCE TRAFFIC CHAOS

Have you considered car pooling with other parents?  
Have you considered collecting your child from the Anglican Church carpark in the afternoons?

These simple actions will help reduce the amount of traffic trying to get in and out of Brenton Place in the afternoons.

## TERM 2 MASSES



Class Masses are Wednesday mornings at 9.15am - everyone welcome!

Wednesday 29 June - Rm 3

End of term Mass - Friday 15th July at 2pm.



### 2012 ENROLMENTS

are now being accepted - limited places available.

We have been learning about Matariki in Room 2. Have you ever looked up at the night sky and gazed at the stars? You might have seen a group of 7 stars called MATARIKI. You can see the stars of Matariki for most of the year but they disappear from the night sky in Aotearoa in late April. The stars appear again in winter (late May or early June).

Matariki is a time for : sharing family stories, learning about the land and how to look after it, hearing old stories, learning about how people used the stars in the past, planting trees and winter crops, fishing and gathering kaimoana, making things, to learn to weave and carve, making and flying kites and it is a time for making plans for the future and to forgive and forget. It's a time to enjoy being with our family and friends. In room 2 we are learning to greet each other by saying:

NGA MIHI MATARIKI- Happy New Year!

We worked in groups to make posters of Matariki and also did some paper weaving. Our work is displayed outside our classroom.



May the gentle light of Matariki guide and inspire us all this year. Amen

## SCHOOL PHOTOS

Class, individual and family photos will be taken on Monday 27th June. Please return envelopes and money by this Friday. No individual or sibling photos will be taken unless paid for.

# Congratulations

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

**Jacob Castle, Martha Petersen,  
Hachyn Afakasi, Kiana Cook**

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

Enjoy the little things.  
One day you may look back and realise ...they were the big things.

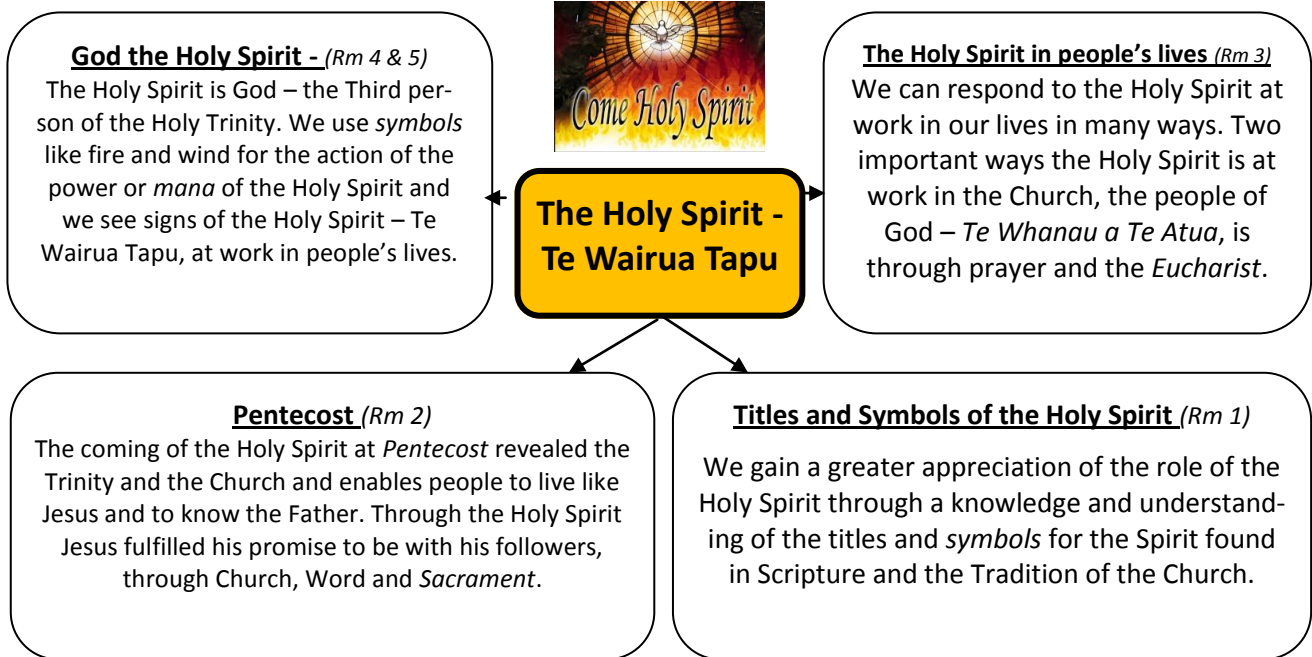
# Special Character News



Last Sunday we celebrated the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity. The Church’s prayer is always addressed to the Father, through his Son, Jesus, in the Holy Spirit. We concentrate on this “Mystery of Faith” which is at the beginning of all and which Jesus revealed to us. In fact, only the Son of God could have spoken to us of the Father and of the Holy Spirit, which unites them in a bond of indescribable love.

This coming Saturday evening (25 June) at 5.30pm Mass, 16 St Joseph’s school students and 6 students from other schools will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. The children have learned that through Baptism they have become members of God’s family and that at Confirmation they will receive the Holy Spirit as God’s gift to them. This gift given to the Disciples at Pentecost gave them the strength to live the way Jesus had shown them. The students understand that the Holy Spirit will help them to live like Jesus too. The St Joseph’s School family are all warmly invited to join the children and their families in this joyous celebration. Bishop Robin Leamy will officiate.

At school the children have just completed the Jesus Christ – Hehu Karaiti Strand and hopefully you have all had the opportunity to share what your child has learnt. This is an important element of the Religious Education programme as it reinforces that you value and encourage them on their faith journeys. The next learning strand is The Holy Spirit – Te Wairua Tapu and below is the overview of learning for each class:



*Yours in Christ, Justine Agnew*

## DP News

We have begun the new topic for the next 10 weeks, it is a Science and Technology topic called **Movement**. The Enduring Understanding is that Movement is generated or sustained by power or force of some kind. The Essential Question is ‘How do different things move?’

As part of this topic the whole school is visiting MOTAT tomorrow. Children will have an opportunity to identify and describe the use of the simple machines at the museum. They will also work towards solving a technological problem by constructing a machine using simple mechanisms.



At home you might like to talk to your children about how machines have changed from when you, or their grandparents, were their age. You could also encourage them to notice machines that are being used at home and when they go out, and talk about what makes the machines move/work.

*Sue Bennett*

# Numeracy Parent Evening

It was great to see so many parents turn out for our Numeracy Parent Information evening. In total there were 28 families represented. Here is a summary of the feedback forms that were distributed at the end of the evening:

- ◆ The evening was  
Very helpful: 25    Somewhat helpful: 3    Not Helpful: 0
- ◆ I now have a better understanding of how Numeracy is taught in school.  
Yes: 28    No: 0
- ◆ I now have a better understanding of the stages of Numeracy.  
Yes: 28    No: 0
- ◆ I have gained some ideas on how I can help support my child's maths learning  
Yes: 27    No: 1



## Some common general comments were:

*"A great evening" "Really useful information" "Interesting and informative" "Just brilliant"*  
*"Great to see that the children can enjoy maths – interactive games look great!" "Great resources/games"*  
*"I have a much better appreciation for what our children should be doing at home and how we can help"*

## The following are a list of common questions/queries from the feedback forms that I have endeavoured to answer:

*"Can you clarify again for me the difference between Knowledge and Strategy"*

Knowledge is something that we learn and we just know. For example, if I asked you  $10+4$  we know the answer is 14 right away. We don't even have to work it out. However, if I asked you  $52-26$  we need to go through a process in order to work it out. The way that we work it out is our Strategy. There are 3 Strategy domains: Addition & Subtraction, Multiplication & Division, Fractions and Ratios. There is a progression of Knowledge and Strategies from Stage 0-8. Each Stage has a component of Knowledge and Strategy. The children will be taught Knowledge and Strategy through the different stages. The knowledge is the foundation upon which the strategy can be taught, learnt and used effectively. Without the underlying knowledge, the strategy cannot be understood or performed.

*"Would love to know what stage my child is working at so we can help at home"*

It is important to speak with your child's teacher to find out where they are working. The best thing that you can work on at home is the **Knowledge** activities (see the evening handouts). These take lots of time and repetition so that they are engrained and can be recalled instantly. Without a solid knowledge foundation, your child will find it very hard to progress through the Strategy Stages, especially beyond Stage 4. Your child's teacher can point out to you which knowledge goals your child is working towards. The following websites are a great place to find lots of activities/games:

<http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/maths/index.html> - links off to a variety of some of the best Maths websites around the world.  
[www.funbrain.com](http://www.funbrain.com)    [www.topmarks.co.uk](http://www.topmarks.co.uk)    <http://hoodamath.com/games/>  
[www.nzmaths.co.nz/families](http://www.nzmaths.co.nz/families) - Visit this site for information on Numeracy teaching and learning in New Zealand.

*"What is the 'ideal' stage for my child to be working at in each year?"*

The National Standards are as follows:

After 1 year at school:	Stage 2-3
After 2 years at school:	Stage 4
After 3 years at school:	Early Stage 5
At the end of Year 4:	Late Stage 5
At the end of Year 5:	Early Stage 6
At the end of Year 6:	Late Stage 6



It is important to remember that to be achieving at these Stages, your child must be using the Strategy and have the Knowledge for that stage.

*"Can we see the Numeracy Parent Information Evening happening regularly? Annually? Earlier in the year?"*

We are hoping to repeat the evening every other year, alternating with an Literacy Parent Information evening. We will consider holding future such events earlier in the year.

*Victoria Viall*