

Week 1 Term 4 10th October

Special points of interest:

- ERO report
- Spelling programme
- Bavarian Evening
- Working Bee 10th November

Kia ora everyone. Welcome to Term 4.

School holidays go so fast, however saying that, so did the last 10 minutes of the All black game!

It's great to see all the children back looking so refreshed and keen to get back to the chalk face.

Term 4 is always a very busy term and looking at our time table this is certainly proving to be the case. Please make sure you place our term calendar somewhere safe and refer to it at the start of every week so that you can stay as informed as possible.

There is also the white board in the school office of daily and up and coming events as a point of reference. Please note that if any dates do change the school will try to inform you as soon as possible.

Education Review report.

In September Pompallier Catholic School was reviewed and this report has now been confirmed.

Please find enclosed the letter to the community that makes up that report. The full report is available at the school office and is also online at www.ero.govt.co.nz.

The report has placed Pompallier Catholic School back onto the normal cycle of review of every three years. It also affirms that the school is providing sound educational programmes for our children.

Some main points that I have

taken from the full report.

Pompallier Catholic School has **committed staff** that seek to provide the best for your children. They have high expectation for learning and together offer a safe learning environment. They work together well and at all times make decisions that will improve your child's learning.

Father Pat's presence within the school community and his way of creating a sense of community between school and parish is certainly something we need to celebrate. Father Pat has an excellent way with the students and relates gospel values to life in such a way that the children are made to think about them and how they can live them.

The reports comments on the way our **children** conduct themselves and how confident and valued they feel. This is extremely affirming as this after all is what a school is all about. The 'end product' being confident and well balanced young people that have the necessary skills to go and get life and be all that they can.

The '**where to next**' is so important now. There is much that we have to improve on here at school. Areas within the curriculum that need addressing and systems and programmes that need overhauling.

To constantly want better for our students is surely what a school should be working towards so now together we move forward.

If there are any comments or if you have any questions about the review please do not hesitate to come in for a chat.

Spelling programme

Last term we completed a school review on our spelling programme.

Up until this point children have been taken through a individual programme based on memorizing words in isolation.

Research tells us that this works fine in a testing situation however when it comes to transferring correct spelling into written work most children come up short.

When children are not confident spellers they tend to use the words they do know how to spell all the time in their written work and do not use a wide range of vocabulary for fear of 'getting it wrong'

The majority of our children do well in testing situations however in their written work they have trouble with simple words.

After going through base line data and introducing a new testing system, a new spelling programme has been introduced and will start next week school wide. This new programme is based on spelling strategies so that children will be able to recognize misspelt words and correct them.

It builds on the Letter land phonic programme introduced 2005 in the Junior classes.

Some children have a natural ability with spelling however most children need to be taught skills and have the necessary strategies to be able to attack an unknown word and 'get them right'.

As parents you can be testing your children each night and going over the sound or blend with them. Children will have one spelling strategy for two weeks so that they really understand and learn it. Every children will have 10-12 words every week that are based on that spelling strategy.

The aim of this new programme is create confident and proactive spellers that use new and exciting words in their written work.

Bavarian evening Saturday 13th October

Due to lack of ticket sales this has been cancelled for this year.

I wish to thank Vee Crene for her time on this event and all the PTFA that have helped up until this point.

Also a big thank you to the school parent community for all that you do to support events like this.

Fundraising is part of what a school has to do if the community want the extras for their children.

It is also important in the fact that it creates a sense of community and belonging to something. Our children are special and we all want the best for them. Giving of your time and/or something to help out an event goes a long way and should never be undervalued.

We have a very proactive PTFA which is of great asset to the school. Any parent is welcome to join and is certainly encouraged to do so.

Refunds at the Info Centre for you to pick up.

Food items can be collected from Susan Wintraecken if you had already dropped them off.

There will be a brief PTFA meeting tomorrow after school 3.10 in the library to discuss future plans

Thanks again Vee.

Summer uniforms.

All children need to have a school hat and also sandals in term 1 and term 4.

This is part of our school uniform policy and sun smart policy.

Thanks to those parents that got this organized during the holidays. It is difficult at times to get sandals due to the lack of retailers selling them so just a note explaining this is fine.

Flag pole at school

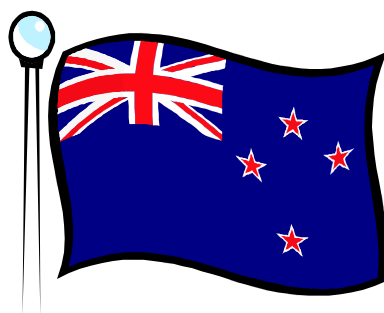
Yes we now have a flag pole!

It was unfortunate that the first time we got to use it was at half mast however the new Zealand flag flew with pride yesterday and today.

This is very fortunate as some of the knots that some of our senior boys have been using have certainly been an eye opener. Next week sees a crash course on knot tying in the library for any student that want to help out with the raising of our flag each morning.

Mrs. Mill has ordered her South African flag and I think secretly she is hoping to fly it at the final of the World Cup.

Oh the tragedy of it all!



Working Bee at School

9th November 9:00 -12:00

If any body is available to help build and plant a garden can you please give of your time on Saturday the 27th October.

We have been granted \$860 from the council to build a native garden at the back of the school behind the sandpit.

I have had a landscape designer look at the area and so now it's time to bring out those spades.

We will be digging the area, barking it and also planting.

We are also going to be tiding up the other gardens here at school. If you have an hour on the Saturday please feel free to come along. Bring all the garden equipment you have.

See you there!

Learning Book feedback

Please note that your feedback is important about your child's learning book. At the back of your child's week of learning was a sheet that needs to filled out with your child. As a parent talking and discussing your child's/ren learning is very important. All comments are read and help form a good picture for your child's teacher.

Strategic Planning

During the holidays the strategic planning committee met and formulated a draft strategic plan for the school.

Maori parents will be consulted in the next two weeks (date to be advised)

The direction of our school needs to be student achievement based and by using parent/parish feedback, staff and children's ideas and the latest ERO report the BOT hope to create a solid and meaningful plan that will help and move the school for the next three years.

Pompallier Catholic School Notice Board

The more you ask how much longer it will take the longer the journey will seem to take.

This beauty comes from New Zealand. How long till we win the world cup?

Please remember that Bishop Pat will be here at School on the 27th October at 6:00 in the evening for confirmation.

Please note that everyone is welcome to come along a join in this very special occasion.

Kalani Matijevich
Jackson Aiono
Asha Hayward
Tomislav Baker
Tashana Pure
Teagan Davis
Yarna Ulkeman
Madison Scutt
Ella Harris
Marlon Harris
Georgia Buckingham
Jack Kelleher
Angela Kelleher
Caleb Ujdur
McKenna Jones
Camryn Stewart

Please make sure that you inform the school if picking up and dropping off arrangements change for your child/ren. It's important that the school is fully informed about this. We need to keep our children safe at all times.

Athletics Term 4 2007

Athletics will start again on the 1st November. This term it will run every Thursday night 3:20-4:20

All are welcome. It will be run similar to last time and again parent support would very much be appreciated.

We have been asked to affiliate ourselves to the New Zealand Athletics foundation so as a parent body you need to decide how big you want this to be?

If your child/ren is interested in joining in please leave your name and age at the office by next Wednesday and we can go from there.



Thank you once again Clive Patterson and also Mark this year Speech finals were a huge hit and certainly showed that our children are confident at public speaking. Winners

Year 0 Acima Mabidikama
Year 1 Jacob Thomson
Year 2 Tashana Pure
Year 3 Teagan Davis
Year 4 Camryn Stewart
Year 5 Hillary Peeters
Year 6 Lisa Hilton-Jones
Year 7 Parker Bellingham
Year 8 Cara Berghan

Web site up date.

We are currently having our web site fixed and brought into the 20th century. This is going to be very exciting and will allow for another way for your to be informed about your childs/ren place of learning.

Pompallier Catholic School Prayer

We ask you Lord to help us

'Seek Wisdom'

today in all that we do,

Both learning and play

With your **Love** as we see

others,

Truth as we do your will,

Mercy we remember our founding mothers

Integrity your teachings we shall fill

Give us strength in all that we do and let us always walk closer to you.

Amen

Quiz for the week

If the time is 4:00pm . What will be the time in 4 days and 9 hours?

Answer _____

Name _____ Room _____

Please get this into the office as fast as you can.