

Special points of interest:

- Term calendar
- Meet the Teacher night
- Parent homework



Kia ora all,

A warm welcome to the 2009 school year. I trust that you have made the most of a stunning summer and that you are now looking forward to the challenges ahead. Welcome too, to new staff : Mrs Robinson who is teaching Year 2/3 and Mr Fillis who is our year 6 teacher. Both teachers come with outstanding credentials and we are fortunate to have them as part of our school family.

Mrs Paton and Mrs Pepper are job sharing in our new entrant class and Mr King is our release teacher for the year.

The staff are well prepared and have spent considerable holiday time organising their classrooms and preparing programmes to meet the needs of their new classrooms.

Two teacher only days held before school started, reiterated the kind of work ethic and behaviour we expect at Pompallier Catholic School. Staff went through the behaviour management procedures here at school.

I have attached a copy of this for you to read and also the complaints procedures for your to look through. It is important that you understand the process so that issues with your child's education can be solved using the right channels.

Please make sure you are aware of the emergency procedures at school. A copy of this is available at the office. Every term the children are taken through a fire drill so that they understand what to do in case of emergency. Your child's safety is paramount and all decisions and systems within the school reflect this.

Parent consent forms

These need to be returned to school. It is important that the school has your permission to carry out activities as the year progresses.

Homework

Our school has a homework policy which states that homework will be given as maintenance. It supports classroom programmes and is a great way for getting them ready for college routines. Each class has a time allocation that teachers follow when organising the homework. Please note that reading is also part of what a child needs to be doing at home.

Year 1-3 10-15 mins

Year 4-6 20-40 mins

Year 7-8 40-60 mins

Homework should not require you to help them. It is for the child to complete by themselves.

If the homework is too difficult please have a chat with your class teacher so that they can adjust the level and amount.

School Uniform

A **BIG** thanks to all the parents for their efforts with uniform. It is not easy in the current climate to purchase uniform items for school however the children all look fantastic in the first week, and are wearing their uniforms with pride. Uniforms set the tone of a school and allow all children to feel part of something. Every one is the same and 'labels' do not become the focus. Please note hats need to be clearly named!

No hat/No play

Thank you to the PTFA for running the second hand uniform collection. This will be available every day this week. There are stacks of uniform items there so please come in and have a look through.

New bell times

Feedback from teachers is that the new bell times are working well and having that 2 hour learning session first off at 9:00am is proving very good. At the moment the change is for term 1 only. Please make sure your child has a healthy breakfast and plenty of lunch packed for their day at school. They are able to bring a water bottle into class and in the junior classes teachers allow them to have a piece of fruit at 10:00am to carry them through to 11:00am. Please note that all rubbish brought to school from home is returned to home. Please remind your child of this.

Stationary and school fees

These are now payable at the school office.

School canteen

As you are aware there is no school canteen while the administration block is being built. This is due to lack of space and no sink to clean dishes etc. Starting on the 20th February, a local business 'The Paua Shell', has offered their services to put together a school lunch menu for **FRIDAY ONLY**. So Friday would be the only day your child could order from the school. This lunch menu would be healthy and offer you the chance to get out of making a school lunch leading up to the weekend. Please note that on **Sausage Sizzle Fridays** the Lunch Menu would not be available. No heat ups!

Menu out next week!

Student Council/House group leaders

These are very sort after titles and every child in Year 7 and 8 has made an application. The process involves writing a job application and then the senior staff sit down and make our choice.

I will announce the members of both these groups at Friday's assembly.

Meet the Teacher

This has been postponed to the 19th February due to rain forecasted for Thursday night.

We will be selling sausages and drinks for \$1 on the Meet the teacher night. You are able to use the school BBQ to cook on as well if Fish and Chips are not your thing!

Programme

5:30 Eating with school family

6:15 Children play games on field

7:30 Finish up.

All classrooms will be opened on this night for you to have a look through, and Room 7 will be set up with consultation boards for you to **'have a say'** about areas of school life.

Parent Homework

Yes you have read it right. Homework for parents.

As part of getting to know your child and to be able to better understand them as learners, teachers need to know what makes them 'tick'. Using the form attached please write down a little about your child/ren and return it to school. These will be read and will help your child/ren teacher/s form better relationships with each other. It's a great way for you to tell the teacher why they are so special and offer up hints to aide the teacher in their quest to 'get learning right' for them.

Term dates for the year

Just for your information.

- **Term 1:** Between Tuesday 27 January and Thursday 5 February to Thursday 9 April
- **Term 2:** Monday 27 April to Friday 3 July
- **Term 3:** Monday 20 July to Friday 25 September
- **Term 4:** Monday 12 October to no later than Friday 18 December

Parent Information

How do students learn best?

- **Teachers need to:** create a supportive learning environment
- **Students need to:** accept one another and form positive relationships with students and teachers
- **Teachers need to:** deliver effective instruction based on the student needs
- **Students need to:** help to set individual learning goals and monitor their progress
- **Teachers need to:** encourage reflective thought and action
- **Students need to:** stand back from the information or ideas that they have engaged with, think about these objectively and translate thought into action
- **Teachers need to:** enhance the relevance of new learning
- **Students need to:** understand what they are learning, why they are learning it, and how they will be able to use their new learning
- **Teachers need to:** facilitate shared learning
- **Students need to:** take part in shared activities and conversations with other people, including family members and people in the wider community
- **Teachers need to:** make connections
- **Students need to:** integrate new learning with what they already understand

This Thursday night is a parent information hour about the **Keeping OurSelves Safe programme** that will be run in school starting next week.

Matthew Tailby will be there to take you through the programme and answer any questions you may have.

5:30—6:30pm 12th February

Please feed children before you come. Movie showing for children Rm 6 while you are at meeting.

Catholic Character

Pope Speaks on Education

In an address to a group of diplomats on 13 December 2007 the Pope said, "A technical and scientific training is not enough to fashion men and women who are responsible in their families and on every level of society. To reach this objective, one has to promote education based on human and moral values that enable each young person to trust in himself, to hope in the future, concerning himself with his brothers and sister and taking on his role in the development of the nation, with an ever increasing and acute sense of concern for others (Source: <http://zenit.org>)

It's important that we do not lose sight of the real meaning of what a Catholic school provides and how it can develop the 'whole child'.

My child in a million words or less!

Childs name _____

Teachers name _____

**Please write down, using some of the clues, a short passage about your child.
Please note this will not be marked!**

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Likes / Dislikes• Routines at home• Sports they play• Favorite subjects at school | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Books they like to read• What they do in the weekend• Attitude to school and why?• Chores they carry out at home |
|--|---|

**You can draw a picture if you wish!
Return to school by next Monday!**

Pompallier Catholic School Notice Board

School assembly

This Friday 2:00pm

Please note that school assembly is the week of the newsletter.

At school assemblies child may receive classroom awards, house team points are celebrated and classrooms carry out items. Come along and join in the fun!

After school pick up.

Just a reminder about no cars in the school car park at the end of the day.

If it is raining children are asked to wear a raincoat or umbrella.

Please make sure your plans are relayed to your child BEFORE you drop them off as Helen can not run around at 5 to 3pm carrying out messages.

SPORTS CLUB MEETING

This will be held **next Tuesday at 3:00pm in Room 7**. Soccer and Netball needs to be organized well in advance if they are to take off. This means coaches and managers and a real commitment to the team. If your child wants to play, please encourage them to do so and get behind them.

Last year we had 5 soccer teams and 3 netball teams.

The meeting next week will be signing up your child, getting names on paper for coaches and managers and organizing the Sports Club committee for 2009.

School Newsletters

Save the Trees!

If you have an e mail address, can you please fill in the space below and send it back to school or email Helen at school so that she can place your email address onto the school newsletter community address book.

We are hoping for a goal of **50%** school newsletters being sent via the net.

Do your bit for our planet!

Name _____
Email _____

Year Book 2008

This is coming!

A slight hitch with lap tops and programmes and information being lost however we are back on track and it will be going to print next week.

They say the best news is news that you have to wait for!

Thanks for being patient.

Wearing my favourite striped shirt to school last week a child in Room 4 asked me "Mr. Pepper, why are you wearing your pyjamas to school?"

If I wasn't laughing so much I might have been offended!