

Special points of interest:

- Gimmie 5
- Xmas Boxes



14th October 2009

Week 1 Term 4

Kia Ora Tatou, Greetings to all,

Term 4 is here with a bang and I always ask myself 'Where did those holidays go?' The weather did not help and at times it seemed that we were heading into winter again.

The start of term is always an exciting time at school with children seeing their friends again and fitting back into classroom routines and ways. School uniforms look fantastic and a big thank you to you all for the effort on making the change from winter to summer.

Many stories about the holidays and what the children have been up to have been circulating around the playground and in the classrooms.

Once again, many parents were crying, dropping their children off on Monday and again we had to supply tissues in the car park.

Please note the term 4 calendar will be out on Friday. Please make sure this is placed somewhere in the house so that you are aware of the events each day. At times, some things will change, however, please be accepting of this and we always try to give warning if it is out of our hands.

I am continuing to unpack our mission statement.

Mission Statement

Pompallier School is committed to provide quality education where the values of Jesus Christ expressed through the Catholic Faith is paramount, and to promote each person's full growth in a continuing tradition of excellence.

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As a Catholic School we need to be integrating the faith in all areas of your child's day. Last term and this term sees a trial being run when it comes to planning for units of learning. Rather than having RE off to the side pre planned, we are incorporating it into as many areas throughout the day in all areas of learning. By doing this we are opening the children's eyes to the 'bigger picture' and they start to understand where the teachings of our faith fit into their journey through life.

Our staff are excellent role models for our children in promoting and living the catholic faith. The way they interact with the students is always through respect and an understanding of the values we hold strong to.

Twice a year I interview the students from each class about our 4 school values and what they mean to the children. This was recently carried out and once again the feedback was very positive. All children understand the need for them and why we have them. They are able to relate them back to our faith and the teachings of Jesus Christ.

This is great feedback for the staff and allows us to further improve the learning environment here at school.

GIMMIE 5

This will take place next Thursday night 22nd at 5:30pm. Please take time to come along and bring a picnic blanket. There will be sausages for the children and BBQ for you to cook your meat. Please feel free to bring refreshments if you wish. The idea is to meet as a school community and start the summer off on the right foot. I will be having a chat about the launch of GIMMIE 5 and playing some of the games that our great seniors will organise. See you there.

Portfolios Term 3

Can you please make sure that these come back to school so that teachers can read your comments. It is your chance to give feedback to the teachers that they will read. Remember that all staff are more than happy to meet with you at any times before and after school, if you have any issues or concerns.

Getting it right –Home and school!

Monday prayer assemblies Friday assemblies

It is always so great to see parents attend our assemblies. The children love seeing you there and it let's them feel part of a wider community. Monday—9:00am Friday—2:00pm

WATERSAFE 09

In week 3-4 all children in the school will be spending time in the pool going over simple water safe practices. This is not swimming teaching rather developing the children knowledge on safety aspects when it comes to water. Safety at the beach, rivers and the pool will be touched upon. Please make sure that your child has their swimming gear on the days they will be entering the pool.

Swimming caps are compulsory.

Camps Year 4 and Year 5-8

Two camps are taking place this term. Year 4 are going to Coopers Beach for an overnight stay and the Year 5-8 will be travelling to Marsden Point for 3 nights. Camps are a great way for children to experience a different setting outside of the normal school boundaries.

Information about these camps will be out next week. Both camps are still looking for helpers and the more helpers we can get the better camp it will be. Please check the calendar for dates and see Helen in the office to put your name down if you haven't already.

Physical Sports

At lunch times various games of touch, tackle rugby take place. This is played mainly by our boys and 99% of the time the games are played well and fairly. For that last 1%, the game boils over and someone gets hurt or takes the game too seriously.

I have spoken to the boys about fair play, the need to be careful and also tackling people smaller than themselves. The duty teachers also monitor these games closely.

I am not going to stop these games because of a few minor eruptions. Boys need to be physical. It is part of their make up and by burning off their energy they are able to focus better on their learning and engage in their lessons.

Christmas Boxes

The school will once again be filling up boxes as a way of supporting those less fortunate than ourselves. Over the next week can you please send to school something small that fits into the criteria below. I encourage you to visit the web-site to see where our boxes will go.

Every classroom will have **house buckets**. The children will get points when they fill them. Please make sure that items being sent in will fit into a ruler length shoe box.

Criteria for items

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| ⇒ Must be new | ⇒ Non breakable |
| ⇒ Non liquid | ⇒ No gambling |
| ⇒ No food | related items |
| | ⇒ No war toys |

250 points per bucket.

Please feel free to come and get a box for your family to fill individually. There is a box for you to look at in the office for sizes etc.

Yours in Christ Daniel Pepper

Special Character Column

Well, the Christmas decorations are already for sale.

That time of year is here.

For us as Catholic Christians it is obviously all about a lot more than sparkly lights and presents.

We begin Advent in just over a month.

All Saints and All Souls Feasts days are just around the corner and, this month is the month of the Rosary.

I always wish we could have the *whole* month of October to pray this old traditional and beautiful prayer together as a school

It is a traditional prayer that so many faithful (and many not so faithful) people in our world find real comfort in. I think it is really great that our students get the opportunity to learn and pray this prayer together as a group.

If your child has their own set of Rosary beads; they can bring them to school to use in our daily prayer time.

If you are not familiar with the Rosary and would like to find out more, I have pamphlets and information that could help you.

From now until Christmas, Mary, our Lady, is a big part of your child's learning at school. As I said, the month of October is dedicated to the Rosary.

On 1st November, it is All Saints Day, and Mary is *New Zealand's* Patron Saint.

We will also be starting the "Communion of Saints" Strand from next week, in which Mary will feature prominently. And thirdly, Mary is a key person in the Nativity story, which we will be focusing on in the lead up to Christmas.

Another important date to remember this term is that we will have a Rite 2 reconciliation on 26th November for all students and parents who wish to attend. This is in preparation for Advent.

I am compiling a list for the Sacraments of Initiation for 2010. If your child has not received the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist or Confirmation, and you would like them to receive these next year, please can you come and see me or give their name in to Helen at the office. If you would like to telephone me with any queries, I am usually available in the office on a Thursday. If you would like your child to be baptised it is very important that you get in touch with Father Pat and make an appointment to see him. Your child will not be able to receive the other Sacraments unless they have been baptised.

The Mass timetable for the next two weeks is:

Friday 16 October	No Mass
Friday 23 October	Rooms 1a, 1, 2 & 6

If you would like to join us to pray the Rosary this month, please feel free to do so:

Monday morning prayer assembly at 9am; Or in your child's classroom every other morning.

Please feel free to pop in any time and see me if you have any queries about your child's faith journey or about what they are learning in the Religious Education programme at our school. I will do my best to help you.

*Remember that **every** 4th Sunday is
Pompallier Community's turn to
provide and serve morning tea at Mass....9am!*

God Bless Michele Mill DRS

Pompallier Catholic School Notice Board

PTFA Pamper Raffle

Tickets available at staffroom / office.

\$2.00 per ticket.

Limited to 100 First in first served.

Funds to PTFA Drawn when all sold.

School Values

These are the values that we have been focusing on over the last week.

Mercy

To help and support others when we can

- ⇒ Being a leading hand in class and in the playground
- ⇒ Looking out to help others
- ⇒ Giving people Put Ups and supporting everyone

Please note that they are now on the calendar so that you will be able to help with our school values at home as well.

United Soccer Prize giving

17th October 9.00am at the
Community Centre.

It would be great to see all the children there. Managers will be handing out soccer shirts on the day for children to wear during prize giving.

Chanel 22,200

Marcellin 22,706

Maria 21,221

McAuley 22,425

The house
teams points
are
announced
at every
assembly!

House Group Points

MUFTI DAY this FRIDAY

For Samoa relief fund.
Gold coin donation.

Money is being sent
through to Caritas
who will use it
directly in Samoa.

ATTENTION

Please make sure that if you are wanting to have a formal chat with your classrooms teacher that you make a time with them.

Sometimes quickly stopping your child's teacher just before the bell rings is not the best time as it is hard for the teacher to totally focus on your concerns or issues. **Thanks for this!**

Thanks to those families that have been eating rice all holidays.

Every cut off needs to be brought into the school and given to the teacher so that they can mark off on the classroom tally.



You can check from home the progress the school is making by going to <http://sunricedifference.co.nz/competition>

Let's get behind this as I think it could be an easy \$10,000!



What's coming up in the next two weeks?

NZ Yachting Year 8
BOT training
GIMMIE 5 evening
Christmas Box collection
Mass Rm 1a,1,2 and 6
Life Education
Water safe swimming starts

Check calendar for dates!