

Special points of interest:

- Change of guard!
- 2010 goals



11th November 2009

Week 5 Term 4

Kia Ora Tatou, Greetings to all,

The end of the year is around the corner and with this comes change to our school.

After nearly five years Sarah and I have decided it is time to return to Auckland, where I have accepted a position at St Dominic's Primary School in Blockhouse Bay.

We have come to love Kaitia and we will miss the Far North and all the wonderful people that we have come to know.

Pompallier Catholic School is such a special place and I am very thankful that my children have had the opportunity to grow up here and for two of them to have started their learning journey at our school. At all times, the standard of learning has been high and my two children have loved their teachers and the safe and supportive learning environment that embraces them everyday.

Pompallier Catholic School Board of Trustees will employ a new principal and so the progression of the school will continue. We are so lucky to have the people on the Board that we do, and they will select a principal that will continue to aim high and make decisions based on student achievement.

Our school's expectations and high standards that the staff demand from our children makes the school what it is. Our children are never allowed to give anything but 100% and this I believe makes the school the place it is.

Parent Helpers

A big thank you to all the parent helpers that have been helping out over the last two weeks. There has been so much going on and having your support has been great.

An even bigger thanks to those that helped with the Junior Lake trip. We were let down by the educational provider on the day however the little ones enjoyed their day out, even though it was cold and windy! Please email any photos taken to office.pompallier.school@xtra.co.nz

School yearbook

As you read this, Miss Hill is busy at work collating our 2009 yearbook. All staff have put together a class page and Miss Hill has been trying to capture the year we have had. Can you please make sure that you order these from the office as soon as possible. We ran out last year, so please make sure you get in quick. They are \$10 if you pre order now!

2010 Goals

Currently the senior team are planning the 2010 year. The focus for the year will be on Reading extension throughout the school using deeper questions to help children unpack and gain a better understanding of the text they have read. Professional development will be pushed for the staff so that they will be better equipped to support your child's learning progressions. This focus fits directly into the school strategic plan which looks into building up the school ability to focus on the 'core' subjects.

The budget set for 2010 will enable the school to purchase more laptops for the school and two extra interactive white boards. This use of funds will directly support children's achievement in learning which is any school's primary focus.

School strategic plan 2010

The school strategic plan will be up for redirection in 2010 and you will again be asked to have your say on how and where you want the school to position itself for the next 3 years. A very exciting opportunity for the whole school community.

School Testing

Currently all classrooms are testing for the end of year. Information from these tests will be placed into their end of year reports and be used to support and assist next year teachers in setting learning journeys for your child. The information will also be used school-wide to see of as a school we have meet our achievement targets that were set at the start of the year. All this data, will be published for you to read, both in the newsletter, and on my wiki, that you can read via our school website. Target results are sent though to the Ministry of Education so that they can monitor our school's progression for the year.

Sun Safe at school.

Hat everyday is compulsory!

Please make sure that your child has sun screen applied before school and remind them that sun screen is available during morning tea and lunchtime.

Keeping children safe while at school is a paramount concern!

Catholic School Review 2009

Our catholic review has come through and it was a pleasure to read. We are blessed to have the staff we have and Mrs. Mill as Director of religious Studies.

I have taken the conclusion for you to read and please feel free to come into the foyer and read the full report. I will also be placing a copy of the report in the church foyer for the parishioners to read.

The Kaitaia Catholic community and the Mercy Sisters can justifiably feel very proud of the catholic education that the children at Pompallier Catholic School receive. It is an education steeped in the catholic Tradition and Mercy values and the students graduate with strong sense of their identity as young Catholics.

'All staff are exemplary and fully committed to ensuring that all children have the opportunity to experience a quality catholic education, one that challenges and engages them and asks them to reflect on why they come to this school'

Cake Stall this Friday

This Friday sees an old classic back with **Wacky Hair Day**. On this day children are able to wear mufti and do what they like to their hair. No cost!

We would like all year 5-8 students to bring a homemade cake. These will be cut up and all students are able to buy a piece at morning tea and lunchtime for 50c.

Parents are also able to purchase whole cakes in the morning if they wish. These are great as you can tell people in the weekend that you have made it!

Please support this Student Council initiative. All proceeds go towards funding petrol cost for the senior camp.

School Jackets Year 7/8

All those year 6 students that are wanting a senior jacket for next year please make sure you place your orders with Helen. It would be great to have them first day 2010.

Yours in Christ

Daniel Pepper



Special Character Column

44 days 'til Christmas ! It's almost unbelievable. To start this 5th week of term, Miss Hill led us through a very apt staff reflection. It was titled " Taking Time".

Our school is a very busy little place; as are most of all of our lives. But it is important to remember that in all this "busyness", *God is always there*. At the end of the month, we will be heading into the Advent season on our liturgical calendar, which is preparing for the birth of our Saviour. This will be a time for prayer and reflection. One line from Miss Hill's prayer focus stood out for me and it was this:

TAKE time to pray; it is the greatest power on earth.

Last week I went down to Auckland for a DRS Day. (For those who are wondering what DRS means....it is *Director of Religious Studies*, and all Catholic schools have one!) This day is usually spent on up-skilling us on the most recent information or trends in religious education; as well as being an opportunity to share with colleagues in the same position. I left Auckland feeling really excited about 2010. There is a new initiative happening next year in our RE programme, namely we are going digital. All our learning strands have been turned into an E-Resource, which will aide excitement and engagement for the 21st century learner, which our students are. All teachers will be trained on how to use this new resource effectively through staff meetings. I think that our students are going to love the new look to RE.

I am still compiling a list for the **Sacraments of Initiation for 2010.**

(Baptism, Reconciliation, Holy Communion, Confirmation)

Please contact me if you have any queries regarding this. If you are unsure about anything, it is part of my role to help you work through any issues or questions.

It is part of your obligation as a parent of a preference enrolled child, to have your child baptised.

The Mass timetable for the next two weeks is:

Friday 13th Nov	Rooms 1, 3, 4 and 7.
Wed 18th Nov	Whole School (Seniors will be at camp)

PLEASE BOOK IN SUNDAY 22 NOVEMBER for our FAMILY MASS

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

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Monday 19th November at 6pm in the School Staffroom
All parents are welcome to attend these meetings.

WACKY HAIR DAY

Friday

Please bring 50c for a piece of cake at the cake stall.
Year 5-8 will be selling slices cake to raise funds for the camp next week.
Any money raised will offset petrol cost for parents taking their cars down to Whangarei.
We appreciate your support.

PTFA Meeting

What a great meeting we had last week. The following events have been planned for next years PTFA fundraising.

- Term 1 - 20th March Trolley Derby**
- Term 2 - Disco**
- Term 3 - Movie night**
- Term 4 - BBQ/Family night**

We will alternate the Trolley Derby with the Food Fair so that we are not doing two big events in one year.

Any queries please contact Susan Wintraecken 4067246 or Brenda Aspin 4087241.

Some light humour!

A Catholic boy and a Jewish boy were talking and the Catholic boy said, "My priest knows more than your rabbi." The Jewish boy said, "Of course he does, you tell him everything."

The children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Catholic elementary school for lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. The nun made a note, and posted on the apple tray: "Take only ONE. God is watching."

Moving further along the lunch line, at the other end of the table was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies. A child had written a note, "Take all you want. God is watching the apples."

School Values

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

TRUTH

Telling the truth at all times

Knowing the difference between right and wrong

Acting honestly and as your parents would want you to

Discussing the school values with your child is all part of supporting the Special character of our school.

Chanel 15678

Marcellin 15344

Maria 14789

McAuley 15890

The house teams points are announced at every assembly!

House Group Points

School Lunches are still available every Friday.

Order with Mel in the morning.

Remember that Newsletter week is Assembly week



What's coming up in the next two weeks?

Teachers Only Day 12th (Tomorrow)

Year 5-8 camp
16/17/18/19th November

BOT meeting 19th

Activities day 20th Year 8 students

Family Mass 22nd Sunday

Check calendar for dates!