

Special points of interest:

- Saint Patrick's Day & Saint Joseph's Day
- Teacher Only Day Week 8
- National Standards



A Blessed Saint Patrick's day to you all

What a great place Pompallier Catholic School is! There is always so much happening, that is connected to opportunities that fulfil our **vision statement**. Last week our students had a fun filled and, for some, challenging day at our annual school swimming sports. Physical education is an important part of our curriculum and that is why every child is encouraged to take the

opportunity to participate in these types of events. Teachers and students have spent many hours at the pool learning skills and getting ready for this day, where we can showcase our successes. Part of our vision statement says "**That every child is able to take risks in a safe Christ-centered environment...**" Well, that day at the pool was a prime example of many children taking risks and feeling safe enough to do so. The support and positive encouragement from peers and spectators was what Jesus would have done. A **big thank you** to all the parent helpers who gave of their time once again to help out. As a school we really appreciate the help you give to us. Not only are we busy on the PE side to our learning at PCS, we have also been hard at work academically in the classrooms. At the end of the term, our Learning Folders will be going home so everyone is making an effort to SHINE and show you, their Parents and Caregivers, what they have been learning at school. We have had some really great results in literacy testing throughout the school.

This week is going to be one exciting event after another. Firstly we have Saint Patrick's Day today and then Saint Joseph's Day on Friday. A flyer was sent home about these yesterday. Please join us at Mass on Friday morning to start our celebrations off at 9.15am. We have invited all the special men in your children's lives to come and have lunch and games with us. We will also be doing some art based activities in classrooms if you would like to stay for the morning after Mass. Bring a painting shirt along! (Friday is NOT a mufti day). Saint Joseph's Day is special to our school because he is the Patron Saint of our Church. Joseph was the earthly father in Jesus' life which is why we are emphasising the idea of inviting your child's significant male to school on that day. "**...that focuses on family and community values.**" is the rest of our vision statement. On celebration days like these we are able to live our vision as a school community. Pompallier Catholic School is all about the students. The way they learn; academically, socially, physically and spiritually is our complete focus. Our **vision** states this in a very simple straight forward way.

Farewell

Once again we are about to say goodbye to a new friend. Ruth Hyland is leaving the Far North and will be taking up a position in Auckland from Term 2. Ruth has been with us from the beginning of the term in Room 2. She has decided to take up an irresistible offer with 12 new entrants in Auckland. It has been a short time, but we have all got to know Ruth quite well and will miss all her interesting stories! Best of luck in your new position Ruth !

SPECIAL CHARACTER COLUMN Lent

We are half way through the season of Lent. I was sent some tips on fasting which I'll share with you.

Fast from judging others—before making any judgments, recall how Jesus overlooks our faults.

Fast from complaining—when you find yourself about to complain, close your eyes and recall some of the moments of joy you have received.

Fast from resentment or bitterness—work on forgiving those who may have hurt you

Fast from spending too much money—try to reduce your spending by ten percent and give those savings to the poor

Fast from anger and hatred—give your family an extra dose of love each day

STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Four of our teachers are attending a RE course in Whangarei this week. This is a nation wide PD opportunity which all teachers in Catholic Schools are encouraged to attend.

We are also very fortunate to have a whole staff professional development opportunity next Friday in Whangarei. This is the reason for our **TEACHER ONLY DAY on the 26th March**. We will all be attending a seminar with Dr Elio Capra who is a renowned theologian and priest, who has been brought out from Australia by the Catholic School's office to share his wisdom with us.

Caritas

On Wednesday of week 8, we will be welcoming guest speakers from Caritas NZ. Caritas is the official Catholic Charity organisation. Next term we will be having a focus on helping others through Caritas.

The Annunciation of the Lord

We celebrate this Mass as a whole school on Thursday of Week 8. Please come and join your children at 9.15am if you are able. This is the Church's celebration of the Annunciation. It is believed to date to the early 5th century, possibly originating at about the time of the Council of Ephesus (c 431). The Annunciation is a feast of Christ, but in the Latin Church it is a feast of Mary. The Annunciation has always been celebrated on March 25, exactly nine months before Christmas Day.

Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday is the beginning of Holy Week which we will be reflecting and learning about in Week 9. Palm Sunday (also known as Passion Sunday) is on

SUNDAY 28th March @ 9am

This is not an official family Mass, however I do encourage you to bring your children as it will help their learning the following week and they will be able to make the connection between Palm Sunday and Ash Wednesday. Remember that attending Mass now and then is a part of your obligation to your children attending PCS. Children's Liturgy is offered for younger children too.

SPORTS NEWS

This is a final call for soccer recruitment. For those of you who have already handed their forms in for soccer or netball - they are still here. If you haven't put your name down for soccer/netball yet and want to join a team, **please** fill in the attached form.



The **sports committee** is a parent run group made up of ANY parents who would like to share their time developing their child's (and others) talents in any sport code. At this stage we are needing potential soccer and netball coaches to step forward and offer their invaluable services! You just need to be willing—not an All White or a Silver Fern! We also need some parents to step up and join the sports committee to help with the organisation of "out of school sports." Netball is represented by the club secretary, Jacinta Beatson, but she would love more netball helpers I'm sure! We also have a treasurer, Debra Hartnell who is a soccer mum. Anyone else out there ready to help?? Let us know. Teams are dependent on the number of players. Pop your name on the form along with your child's and we will be in touch.



I am interested in
(Please circle)

Netball / Soccer

Child's Name: _____

Parent's Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Age as at 1 January 2010: _____

Gender: _____

Contact phone number: _____

Yes I am interested in (Please circle)
coaching / managing / committee member

Name: _____

Grade: _____

Contact Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Hand in by Friday 19th March Please

BOT Elections

The timeline given in our last newsletter is on track. If you are interested in serving on the BOT, remember that your nomination form has to be in by noon on the 23rd April. This is when nominations close for all BOT elections. A note about this committee is that the BOT is here to serve our school community as a team for the benefit of **all** our students following our school's **Vision and Mission Statement.**

WELCOME

We would love to take this opportunity to welcome our new students and families to our great school.

Charlton Simmons

Charlton Simmons Room 1

National Standards

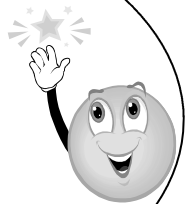
From this year, schools with children in Years 1-8 will be using National Standards. The standards show what New Zealand children are expected to be able to do in reading, writing and mathematics at each period or year of schooling. Doing well in reading, writing and mathematics gives children the skills they need to do well in other curriculum areas at school.

Reporting to you in plain language is an important part of the new National Standards. You can expect to receive written reporting, twice a year, on how your child is doing in reading, writing and mathematics, in relation to National Standards. As part of reporting, teachers will also talk to you about your child's progress and achievement, including against National Standards, as part of parent-teacher meetings, informal discussions and/or student-led conferences. To work out where each child is at, teachers will make an overall teacher judgement using a range of assessments, including:

- what they have seen in the classroom
- talking about learning with students
- children's assessment of their own and each others' work
- results from formal tests.

Student of the Week

Room 1: Nicola Perkuma
Room 2: Emily Hewitt
Room 3: Danny Greenall
Room 4: Connor Maskell
Room 5: Ashley Ujdur
Room 6: Renee Hilton-Jones /
Nathan Edwards
Room 7: Jackson Aiono /
Hayley Davis



COOPER'S BEACH CAMP

Theme:

Jesus is our Light—He gives us direction

When:

Wednesday 14 April - Saturday 17 April

Cost:

\$45.00 per person

Family Rate:

This is worked out individually

Registration forms will be available in the office from next week.

Please contact Helen Payne on 4060842 if you have any queries.



Te Rarawa JMB

Training Day 17th March

U7, U9 - 4 to 5pm

15th & 17th March

U13's - 4 to 5 pm

U11's - 24th March 4pm

Thanks Jane
4094114



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