

Special points of interest:

- Learning Sample Folders
- **Easter**
- Parent Interviews



Tena Koutou Katoa,

I know it's a cliché....but where has the term gone?!!

I find it incredible that time flies by so quickly—we MUST be having fun!!

Our great school community has had a lot going on in the two weeks since our last newsletter. One of the highlights was St Joseph's Day. What a great turnout we had. It was really great to see how many **significant men** turned up to spend time with their child/ren, grandchild/ren, nieces and nephews, brothers and sisters or Godchildren. The point of this school celebration of Saint Joseph's Day is to highlight that, whoever the important man in a child's life is, they are very special and time with that significant man is precious. Joseph was that significant man in Jesus' life and you men are that in our students lives. As we like to use Jesus as our role model all the time, this was a great opportunity to link His earthly life to ours. It was so good to see dads, uncles, and granddad's out on the field playing soccer in their ties and having a great time with our students. Seeing that made me feel that our goal for the day had been reached—time was shared between the people it was meant for in an enjoyable way.

To celebrate literacy at Pompallier Catholic School, we are part of the books in homes initiative—Duffy Books. As a part of this we are privileged to be visited by some great people who promote reading to our students. Last week, Linda Vagana was one of those special guests. I was really disappointed, as I couldn't be here to meet her because I was at a national standards meeting, but I have been assured that she was made to feel welcome by our wonderful students and staff. Linda was a played top level netball for 17 years and came to promote reading to our students. The next day we had another visitor! She was Mary Betz who works for Caritas our Catholic Charity Organisation. She went around all the classrooms teaching about how Caritas helps people in need. Her presentation is very powerful with images from disaster zones and poor areas, that make you think about how lucky we are to live where and how we live here in Aotearoa. Next term, we will be having a focus on Caritas and how we can help.

Another special day that was celebrated at school and at the church, was Father Pat's 69th birthday!! A special man to us, may he celebrate many more; with us as his parish and school!



PTFA

The PTFA held a Sausage sizzle up at the airport last week as a fundraiser. This was very successful due to the commitment shown by our great parents!! Thank you to Susan Wintraecken and her helpers for organising this—you make things happen and definitely do more than Gimme 5!!!

Far North Swimming Finals

We had a group of sixteen students compete in the Far North Swimming finals last week. Once again there were a few very helpful parents who gave of their time to help at this event. Congratulations to the swimmers and thank you to the parents and teachers !

SPECIAL CHARACTER COLUMN

Holy Week

Holy week is finally here. This is the Holiest week in our church calendar, with the ultimate celebration of Easter.

Easter is recognised as the most important day of celebration in our church.

Easter is the reason for Christ becoming human—so that He could die for us.

Holy week is a historical event which relates just as much to us in our lives today, as it did to the disciples of Jesus back then.

Tomorrow, as a whole school, we will be acting out the story of the last week of Jesus' life on earth. Every child will participate and demonstrate their understanding of what happened in those days.

If your child has not yet asked, could you please send a piece of material or dressing gown to school for your child to dress up like a person in the time of Jesus. You are also invited to attend our re enactment at 11.30. This will be in the quad (unless it is raining— where we will go to the church)

Times of Mass over the Easter period are:

Holy Thursday	7pm
Good Friday	3pm
Easter Vigil	7pm
Easter Sunday	9am

Please bring your child(ren) to Mass if you are here over the weekend. Important feasts like this are part of their learning and faith journey at our school.

Their learning at school is the practise for the actual reality of the game; why practise if you are never going to take part in the real thing?

STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

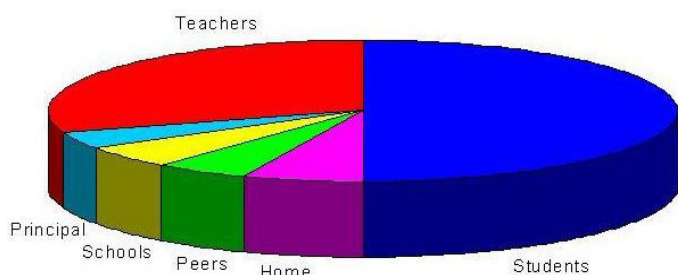
As you know, we had a teacher only day on Friday for our whole staff to attend a seminar at Pompallier College with a few other Catholic schools' staff from the North. The speaker was Father Elio Capra, who was brought out from Melbourne by the Catholic Schools Office. We found Father Elio to be an inspirational speaker who kept us laughing and engaged the whole day. His topic was 'What makes a school Catholic', and after listening to him and participating in his seminar—there is no other kind of school I would rather be in. Our goal as teachers is to bring Jesus to our students through education. Our mission statement says itread the front cover of our newsletter. That is what we are about at this school and we are proud of it.

LEARNING SAMPLE FOLDERS

Tomorrow, your children will be bringing their Learning Sample Folders home for you to look at. Please take the time to talk about their learning with them in the holidays. There is a lot of information in these folders and a lot of time has been spent by teachers to give you a good picture of where your child is in their learning journey at Pompallier Catholic School. We have introduced a progress report according to National Standards in this folder. There is also a page with tables showing levels which are expected.

It is IMPORTANT to note that these are the END of year expectations. The important thing to note about your child's learning is that not everyone is on the same level. The vital thing is that your child needs to be progressing, moving forward at their pace is what needs to be considered at all times. John Hattie from the University of Auckland says that there are six factors which have the most influence on the variation between students academic outcomes. A graph that illustrates this is:

From this you can see that the most important factor (half of the pie!) in academic achievement for a student is their own engagement and attitude. Teachers have a big chunk of the pie, but they do need their students to have



a learning attitude when they come to school. Home is the next biggest piece, which tells me that your children need your support and positive attitude to be shared before they even get to school, and when they bring homework home. It is so important to have learning conversations with your children, ask them what they are learning and why they are learning. Talk to them about being positive learners; it all helps with achievement.

Parent Interviews

We will be having parent interviews with you as parents, your child and their teacher; in **Week 2 of Term 2**. These will be over two days and you will be able to book your times with Mrs Phillips in the office. The first day (Tuesday) will be from 1.30pm to 6pm and the second day (Wednesday) from 3.20 to 6pm. This will be the time when you can clarify any concerns or questions that you may have about the Learning Sample Folders and your child's learning journey at school. I will put some questions you can ask your child's teacher into the first newsletter next term. Please can you fill in the comment sheet in the folder with your child—it is really important for us as teachers to get your feedback, so that we know where to go next.

If you have any queries about the national standards, we have inserted a flyer about them into this newsletter, and you are welcome to come and ask questions any time.

PLEASE return Learning Sample Folders by Friday of Week 1 Term 2

There will be house points up for grabs for those who do !!!

Have a very blessed Easter break and come back safely to school!!!

God Bless
Mrs Mill



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.

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

WELCOME

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

Misty Graham Room 5

SOCCER SEASON - 2010

We have two teams competing this year. One team for the Under 7's and one team for the Under 9's.

Under 7's coach:	Heather Hewitt (4087033)
Under 7's manager:	Erana (0212928760) and Bonnie Greenall (4080199)
Under 9's coach:	John Hartnell (4083363)
Under 9's manager:	Brenda Johnson (4081682)

TRAINING NIGHTS

Under 7's
will train on WEDNESDAYS 3.15pm – 4.00pm
The first training will start on Wednesday 21st April.

Under 9's
will train on THURSDAYS 3.15pm – 5.00pm.
The first training will start on Thursday 22nd April.

Training is an important part of being involved in a sports team, therefore it is hoped that all children attend training sessions when possible.

FEES

Fees this year is \$35.00 per player and must be paid by Saturday the 24th of April. The fees can be handed to Deborah Hartnell or left at the school office for Deborah to collect and get a receipt back to you. Please put the name of your child or children with the money or cheque so Deborah knows who has paid. Cheques are to be made out to "Pompallier Sports Club".

DATES TO REMEMBER

Soccer starts at the beginning of next term. There is a fun day at Taipa on Saturday the 24th of April. The children play several short games and it gives them a chance to see what soccer is like. Starting time to be confirmed.

The following Saturday, the 1st of May, is the first game of the season. Starting time and venue to be confirmed.

Thank you and have a great soccer season!
John Hartnell