

## Special points of interest:

- Catholic Schools Day "Be the Change"
- Term Calendar
- Parent Interviews



Hello and welcome back to another busy term! Wasn't it great to have a break with family and friends? I always love the Easter break. It is great to be able to wind down after a busy term and get out of routine for a bit. Being able to enjoy a bit of camping and the amazing outdoors of Northland before winter sets in is always refreshing. Of course all the chocolate is an added bonus for some of us! The end of Lent and a new beginning, in remembering Christ's resurrection also gives me a sense of newness. Easter, as we know, is our church's most important celebration. World wide, this is probably the most attended Mass (other than Christmas), even in small places like Kaitaia. It was interesting meeting some "out of town" people on the Easter weekend at Mass, some of who came from Blockhouse Bay- the Pepper family's new parish. Our Mass is one of the important parts of our Catholic community that unites people from all over the world. Our students are privileged to be a part of this universal community. This term we will be celebrating being part of this wider community in a *national* sense. Every three years, all Catholic Schools in New Zealand, celebrate being a part of the Catholic Schools system on the same day. This year Catholic School's Day is on the 19th May and the theme is "Be the Change". We will also be inviting nearby Catholic Schools to be a part of our celebration. As a school we will be going to Marae Karau Kore on Foreshore Road Ahipara for this celebration. The night before Catholic Schools Day, we are planning a sleepover at the Marae and a day for the senior school to learn Marae protocol. That night we will be having a whole school community consultation hui and dinner for our community. A timetable and order of events will be issued in due course. It is going to be a great event and we hope that all of you will make the time to be a part of it, either during one of the days or the night that we are on the Marae. We as a staff want you as parents to have a say in your children's learning journey and well being at Pompallier Catholic School.

### Welcome to new staff

It is my great pleasure to welcome three new staff members to our great little school. Mrs Stacey Cutler, who many of you already know, and Mrs Marguerita Wedding will be job-sharing in Room 2. Mrs Cutler will be in Room 2 from Monday to Wednesday and Mrs Wedding will be teaching on Thursday and Friday. They are both great teachers who are going to make Room 2 a very happy place to be. Because of Mrs Cutler moving into Room 2, we have a new release teacher on the staff who will be teaching in Room 3 with Miss Clarke on a Monday. Mrs Moira Davis is going to take this role on and we are very happy to welcome her back to Pompallier Catholic School.

### Parent Interviews

On Tuesday and Wednesday of next week we will be having our parent interviews. This is a fantastic opportunity to have scheduled, one on one time with your child's teacher. **School will be finishing at 1pm on Tuesday 27th**, so that interviews can begin at 1.30pm. If you are unable to take your children home before 3pm, there will be supervision available for them in the library. Please take this op-

portunity to make an appointment with Mrs Phillips in the office to meet with your child and their teacher. The interviews are 10 minutes in length and if you would like more time another appointment can be arranged at a suitable time. We do encourage your children to be a part of this interview, as it is about their learning.

### Learning Sample Folders

Thank you for sending your children's learning sample folders back to school this week. We hope you enjoyed looking through these folders with them and discussing their learning with them. A huge amount of teachers' time was spent on these folders last term to give you as parents an insight to your child's levels of learning. The Learning Sample Folder will be the starting point of your discussion at the parent interview. Any questions or interpretation of contents, as well as concerns will hopefully be clarified by your child's teacher. Please feel free to also celebrate the positive aspects to your child's learning with their teachers. Here are a few questions you might like to ask your child's teacher at the interview:

- Is my child on track with their learning?
- What could I do at home to help my child with...?
- Can you explain the level my child is at in comparison to their age?
- How will I know if my child is successful at....?
- What resources do you have to help me with.....?
- What do the colours mean in the reading levels?
- What do the 'stages' mean in numeracy?
- What are stanines and how do they give you, as a teacher, information?
- What do the grey boxes mean on the graphs?
- What are my child's next steps / learning goals?

### Term Calendar

You will find our term 2 calendar in this weeks newsletter. Please note that we try to stick to the dates on this calendar and usually also send out extra notices to keep you up to date, however there may be the occasional change, of which you will be notified.

### Celebrating our Catholic Character

This year we are taking the time to explore what makes up our school in a bit more detail. Our House groups, of which we are all very proud, are named after people who made some kind of difference. We will be celebrating each of these feast days as part of building up our team spirit and recognising those who came before us. The first house group to celebrate their namesake is Chanel, who is named after Saint Peter Chanel. On this day our whole school will acknowledge Chanel and celebrate their day together. As the Chanel house group colour is green, students will be allowed to wear multi if it is all green. Our uniforms are green which may be handy for some! Mr McDonald and Mrs Carey will be sending out a flyer with more details early next week.

### PTFA NEWS

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On the Friday of Week 6 (28th May) at the Children's complex from 6-9pm. There will be hot dogs, chips and drinks for sale, glow sticks will also be available.  
Gold coin entry.

## Our Learning in Term 2

Our inquiry topic this term is still under the umbrella of "God is our Provider". The focus this term will be on Beautifying our school. This will be based on learning that has been happening since term 3 of 2009 (when we began the "God is our Provider" umbrella) and covered the following: sustainability, our environment, fresh water and native New Zealand. From all this learning, our technology based unit this term is, to decide on something native to New Zealand and use this to rename our classrooms and labels around our school in an appealing and creative way. Art and design will be a big focus in this undertaking; as will be the connecting of our previous learning to our current classrooms. We will learn to make choices and decisions based on good argument writing and persuasive talking.

In literacy we will continue with robust, achievement focused learning based on data, which was collected last term, and overall teacher judgement to improve your child's achievement.



A regular focus on spelling at home might help your child with a chance to get into the "Great PCS Spelling Bee" final on 4th June!

In Religious Education we have been focusing on Easter for this first week and will be moving on to the Holy Spirit Te Wairua Tapu Strand from Week 2 to Week 6.

The key focus ideas for this strand are as follows:

- Year 1 - God the Holy Spirit
- Year 2 - The Holy Spirit in people's lives
- Year 3 - The Fruits of the Holy Spirit
- Year 4 - Pentecost
- Year 5 - Titles and Symbols of the Holy Spirit
- Year 6 - Baptism and the Holy Spirit
- Year 7/8 - The mission of the Holy Spirit in the Church and in the World

It is really useful for you as parents and caregivers to read the Family/Whanau book to find out more about your child's learning in Religious Education. This book offers some simple ideas and explanations to help you to help your child in their learning.

We also have a very sport orientated term ahead with the help of Sport Northland and the Active Schools initiative, so PE gear will be used often. Please encourage self management in your child, so that they remember to bring their gear when they should. We are also focusing on ball skills and skipping and will be having a skip-a-thon later in the term.

### BOT Elections

A reminder that nominations for the Board of Trustees close this Friday 23rd April. I will publish profiles of the nominees in our next newsletter (Wednesday 5 May) and voting will then take place that Friday (7 May). Once again, I would like to encourage people who ...

- have a genuine interest in our school's Vision and Mission statement
  - want what is best for ALL the students at our school
  - are able to work cooperatively in a positive team environment
- ...to put their hand up for this role.

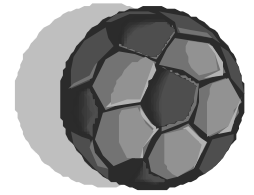
Our current BOT is amazing and I would encourage anyone who steps up to aspire to their standard of leadership.

Have a fantastic Term 2 Pompallier Catholic School Whanau!

Mrs Mill

## Sports Club Meeting

**When:** Monday 26th April  
**Where:** PCS Library  
**Time:** 3.00 pm  
**Who:** Anyone interested in their child's sport code !



**Please come and share your ideas, we value parent support as this is a parent initiative.**



We would love to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome our new students and families



Electra DeValli  
Jayden Schrafft

Room 1  
Room 1

## FAMILY MASS



**This term our School Family Mass is on 23rd May.**

Family Mass this term is a special one. Not only is it on **Pentecost Sunday** which is our church's "birthday"; it is also a **First Holy Communion** celebration for some of our students. This date is on the term calendar and also in this newsletter, as it is an important date to diarise. We want to celebrate, as a school and parish community, one of the most special Sacraments that our students will receive—Eucharist, the body and blood of Christ. It is also part of your commitment to your child's education at *this* school to enable them to attend Sunday Mass on a regular basis. The only reason our school exists is because of its *Catholic Character*. Mass is a part of your child's learning and faith journey.

The school and their families are warmly invited to the commemoration of the signing of the Tiriti o Waitangi held in Kaitia Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2010. Powhiri 10 am between Missionplace Kindergarten and Kaitia Primary School. Day will include:

1. Performances from kohanga reo kapa haka, waiata,
2. Games of "Ki o rahi" with Paulette Lewis – teams to register Te Oranga 09 408 0141 or email [paulette@terarawa.co.nz](mailto:paulette@terarawa.co.nz),
3. A discussion around a memorial monument for the day that will be informative and acknowledge the importance of the day for our community.

For more information contact Shirley Neho 408 0141 or [shirley@terarawa.co.nz](mailto:shirley@terarawa.co.nz)