

Special points of interest:

- Catholic Schools Day "Be the Change"
- Invitation to Korou Kore
- Mother's Day
- Parent Feedback



A warm hello to you all as the weather turns down the temperature a notch or two!

Those of you who are involved in Saturday winter sports will either relate to my next comment or totally disagree with it!Wet grass, a bit of mud and a whole heap of kids having an awesome time on the paddock....what a great way to spend a morning (for some their only free morning!) as a parent and spectator! I know by the end of the season and a few really "wet" games, I'll probably sound a little different, but isn't it just great at the start!

As always, from school, we encourage our students to **participate and contribute** in a variety of activities, including learning and sport. This bold text is one of the *key competencies* you will find in the New Zealand Curriculum. Being part of a team is one way of putting the learning of this competency into action. Another *key competency* which can be practised on a paddock is **relating to others**. The understanding of this competency shows up in sportsmanship and attitude—how we win or lose. I love the quote "Be a gracious loser and a humble winner".

As most educators do; I believe that what is learned in the classroom needs to be transferred into everyday life. There is no point in teachers spending their days with their students, planning their lessons on weekends and holidays, and thinking about their students progress in their free time if those same students forget their learning as they walk out of the classroom door or the school grounds. We know that our wonderful Pompallier Catholic School students carry most of their learning and PCS attitudes with them when they are out and about—we hear comments from you as parents about how they show their values at home, we also hear from parishioners and people we might bump into at Pak 'n Save how polite our students are. It is a good feeling to know that what we teach at our school does have an impact on the child. We are proud of our students and how they **shine** out in the community.



Parent Interviews

We were all very pleased with the great turnout of parents on the days that we held our parent/teacher interviews last week. It is so good to see how interested you as parents are in your children's progress at school. We encourage continuous communication between whanau and school for the success of our students learning and we love welcoming you to share your views, ideas and concerns with us. Thank you for taking time to fill in the green and pink survey sheets that we put out. This is one of the ways where I can get your feedback and ideas of where our school's next steps should be heading towards, and I appreciate your contributions. Those of you who requested to see me, or your child's teacher, will be contacted within the next week to arrange a suitable time. If you missed out on filling in a survey, and would still like to have a say... there are a few empty forms in the office! I have put some of the comments and suggestions from this survey and the "Meet the teacher Family Picnic" night in this newsletter for you to read.

Catholic School's Day



As mentioned in the last news letter, we will be celebrating Catholic School's Day Nation ally, on Wednesday the 19th May. The theme is "Be the Change". This theme is to focus our attention on a time in world history where positively managing change is a significant challenge. For us as a National Catholic Community, "standing still" is not an option if we are to be faithful to the

Gospel. It is our responsibility as part of the Catholic School System to inspire our students to believe it is possible to change things, to enable our world to become a better place in an ever changing society. We want our students to be people who are courageous in their faith and be a sign of hope to others. Our school values are based on the Gospel as are those of other Catholic Schools—these common ideas help to build a united, nation-wide community of hope. This is the point of celebrating together nationally and recognising the reason for our schools.

So what is Pompallier Catholic School doing to celebrate that we are the top Catholic School in New Zealand on Catholic School's Day?

We are unique, so we are going to connect to the fact that we are all about *community* in a Catholic way. Part of our curriculum is to value our cultural diversity, and we will be doing this by celebrating Catholic School's Day on a marae.

This is going to be

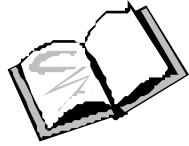
- an exciting opportunity for our students to learn a little about marae protocol and traditions
- an interesting opportunity to hear if their teacher snores at a sleepover on the marae.
- an informative opportunity for you as parents and caregivers to have a bit more explained to you about how our school works
- a time to ask questions
- an opportunity to enjoy a great dinner that your children have prepared
- a time for us all to enjoy getting to know one another informally
- an occasion to meet students and teachers from other Catholic schools

This is going to be a big event that involves quite a bit of preparation, so we are going to ask you to fill in a RSVP for dinner on the evening of 18th May. All the school community is invited to attend this evening and if they wish to stay over at the marae, all are welcome. We are not expecting the junior school to stay over, however, if they wish to and you wish to accompany them, it is up to you as a parent. The year 5—8 students are expected to stay over, as they will be welcoming the rest of our school and our guests on Wednesday—the official celebration of Catholic School's Day. There will also be Mass celebrated on Wednesday at 12 o'clock, with lunch after this. Please read the attached schedule of events for the two days.

Mother's Day

Mothers create miracles:
you and me

An award goes to a mum being
caught good, sponsored by
DUFFY BOOKS.



Our winner is.....

DONNA SCUTT !!!

Kobie will bring your beautiful book home for you.
Thank you for all you do for us as a school !



HIPPY

*Home Interaction Programme
For Pre-school Youngsters*

HIPPY is a home based programme designed to prepare your child for school and does not interfere with childcare, kohanga, kindy, or other preschools your child might attend. Your child may start HIPPY at the age of 3 ½ and is free to families who fit the criteria.

If you are interested in enrolling your Child on the HIPPY Programme or would like more information please contact Rita or Tonya on 408 1997



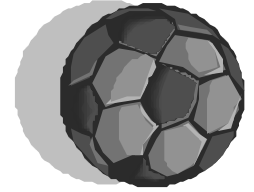
**FREE COMPUTING
LEARN MORE ABOUT**

- Design in Publisher
- Office skills in Word
- Computer WOF
- Microsoft skills in Excel and PowerPoint
- Digital communities with Email and the Web

Ph Rachelle 408 1851

Sports Club Meeting

When: Monday 10th May
Where: PCS Library
Time: 3.15 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.

FAMILY MASS



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

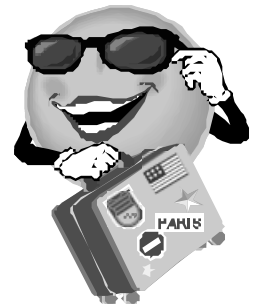
Family Mass this term is a special one. Not only is it on **Pentecost Sunday** which is our church's "birthday"; it is also a **First Holy Communion** celebration for some of our students. This date is on the term calendar and also in this newsletter, as it is an important date to diarise. We want to 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.

Visique

Visique optometrists offer
free sunglasses to
new entrants.

If you would like to
download a voucher for
these, visit

www.visique.co.nz



What a great freebie for our
new entrants!

PIANO & KEYBOARD Lessons

There are places available. Children are released from class for 30 minutes on Tuesdays. The cost is \$20 per individual 30 minute lesson. Please phone Margaret Matthews 4087476 or collect an enrolment form from the school office.



Some of your comments as a parent community from surveys taken this year

Q: Does the cultural dimension of our school meet your expectations? Suggestions...

Feedback from parents:

- It's ok! But not as a focus point!
- Yes, Pompallier's culture is – warm, friendly, welcoming, promotes achievement, develops well-rounded individuals
- Yes, important to have an appreciation and respect for the Maori culture and others
- Yes it does, children have a good reputation in the area
- Yes, nice to see it's not the WHOLE focus
- Love it. Warm, welcoming. Promotes cultural awareness & acceptance. Just great.
- I think the Kapa Haka group is great. Great influence with teachers on board with Te Reo.
- Cultural performances by our school Kapahaka group for our parents, parishioners and community
- Yes I think so Love the Kapa Haka group

Q: How helpful do you think homework is to your child's learning? Suggestions...

Feedback from parents:

- I like homework – more for me than my child, so I know what they are learning & what progress they are making
- Homework is important – it gives child and family responsibility for their learning and teaches kids time management
- Very helpful. Solidifies his understanding. One more guide, reinforcement of the materials. Glad it's not too much, too.
- I do think it is necessary. Good practice for college.
- Homework is very helpful because it will reinforce what the children have learnt at school.
- I LOVE homework. I think they need to be pushed. It gets us together to solve problems.
- Homework time can be a great time Homework is good for me to spend time with my kids – seeing what they are learning.
- Homework is good in moderation but should be kept to a minimum
- Believe reading & spelling is very beneficial, but worksheets can add stress to a busy evening. Should be suitable for children to work independently rather than parents doing it.
- Too much homework is expected to be completed each week would prefer just reading and maths
- I find homework a bit of a pressure on those nights we have other extra curricular activities. Supporting the days work is good if we have to have it.
- Great if you can get your child to do it without having a fit
- I think homework has a place but don't overload, a simple book to read is sufficient. Kids need to play and pursue creative activities too.
- Homework as reflection of work done in school is fine and kept to a minimum.
- Research proves that homework has little or no impact on student achievement. Do we really need it? It's reluctant learning at best.
- DITTO !
- Not at all. Except!! Yr 0,1,2 daily reading, words etc. Maybe just basic facts and spelling for others.
- I don't think homework is worth the hassle after a huge day of learning, the only thing I think they need to do is silent reading

Nau mai haere mai ki Korou kore marae

Venue: Korou kore marae, Foreshore Rd, Ahipara

Please return for RSVP

Name: _____ Child's Name: _____

I will attend (please circle the appropriate function)

*Tuesday with Y5-8 students

* Tuesday Welcome and dinner at 5.30pm

* Tuesday Information evening at 7pm—8.15pm

* Wednesday with whole school