

## Special points of interest:

- Catholic Schools Day "Be the Change"
- Teacher Only Day
- New BOT
- Dates to remember



Wow! Another fortnight has flown by!

Hello once again everyone. As I write this newsletter tonight, I am reflecting on the past two days... It all started on Tuesday morning just after 9am, when a group of very excited, some nervous, but still full of energy, year 5—8 students hopped on the buses that were taking them out to Korou Kore marae on Foreshore Road, Ahipara. It all ended this afternoon, when our whole school returned on those buses, somewhat tired and basking in the glow of a great life experience for some.

As we all know, today was **Catholic School's Day** which was celebrated nation wide. The experience that we offered to our students this week, was very new for some, and more familiar for others. Nevertheless, all of them got something from this cultural experience and were changed in some way. The theme: **Be the Change**, is vast. Our students and staff experience change all the time in a learning sense. We also experience change in a spiritual context and life experience context. This is what the past two days have been about. The change could have been as big as; never having been on a marae before, to as small as; mastering the making of a cross out of flax: whatever it was, a change took place. It was also a great opportunity to meet some students from other Catholic Schools. We welcomed Te Kura O Hata Maria (Pawarenga) and Hato Hohepa te Kamura (Waitaruke) for the day, where we got to know a few new friends through making crosses together and spending time outside.

Father Pat celebrated Mass with us at the marae and spoke of change in different scenarios. The readings at the Mass were about proclaiming the Gospel. Well one of my favourite quotes is by Saint Francis of Assisi who says:

*"preach the Gospel; and if necessary use words"*

Our students are able to practise just this at our school, they learn the **values** and receive the knowledge, and we encourage them continuously to show this learning in their behaviour and attitudes. It's not just a matter of repeating the words like *Mercy, Love, Truth and Integrity*; actioning these words is what we teach.

Last newsletter I spoke about the opportunities that our students would have to learn new things, and I am very proud of what they achieved on the marae. Those of you who were lucky enough to sample the hangi and fried bread prepared by them will know what I am talking about! Their waiata was also absolutely moving. The harakeke experience was also new learning with a change in understanding for some (Mrs Carey was even able to reinforce her need for regular hand washing because of what she learned: that the secretion from the flax plant can make you quite ill, should you not be careful and accidentally touch your lips, thus the need to wash your hands with soap!) A **big thank you** to our very hard working teachers and helpers from REAP, Dale Johnson and Sonny Harrison. I would also like to mention Mr Wilkinson, who put in a huge amount of time planning this marae visit for our students, to make their learning authentic and valid. **Thank you** Mr Wilkinson from all of us. Another **big thank you** to Bell's Produce who gave us a really good deal on all the food! **Thank you** to all the parents who gave us a helping

hand and to those who came out to celebrate with us. Pompallier parents are really awesome!

**Information Evening**

Part of our marae visit was a very well attended dinner and information evening for you, our parent and whanau community. From many of your comments, I think we had a very informative and useful hui. David Seaman, our guest speaker, was able to explain national standards at ground level and clear up some misconceptions. I would also like to take this opportunity to **thank** our really dedicated teachers who spent time preparing "Information Stations" for you as parents to browse through. Miss Clarke thought she might run a little competition to see whose was the "best display", but I think we can safely say that *all* the information that our teachers prepared was top quality! She thinks so too! If anyone couldn't make the hui, and would like some of the little information booklets that we gave out at the evening, please ask at the office.

**TEACHER ONLY DAY**

One of the reasons we have such great teachers, is that they keep up to date with any learning that is suitable and available to them, to improve their own practise. This is why we have a **Teacher Only Day tomorrow (Friday 21st May)**. This day and Saturday, are for our whole staff's professional development in a Religious Education based area. Some staff have done the first half of this course and we are all doing *Module B of Understanding Sexuality*. Last Friday, most of our teachers went on a literacy development workshop. This had a focus on phonics through *Letterland*. Many of you will know about *Letterland* and how it helps our students to learn phonics and spelling.

**FAMILY MASS**

At 9am this Sunday, 23rd May, is our termly Family Mass. As I always say it is an expectation, of attending this school, that students attend Sunday Mass regularly. This Sunday is even more important than usual, because it is a special celebration in two ways. Firstly it is **Pentecost** Sunday, which is the church's "birthday". This is the day we remember the coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples, who went out and converted thousands to become followers of Christ. How?

Through preaching and talking.

Secondly, it is a celebration of **First Holy Communion** for some of our students. This is a very important Sacrament in our church, and it is a valuable opportunity for all out students to witness what they learn about Eucharist in class; happening at Mass.

Please bring a plate for morning tea after Mass. It will be great to see you there.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

You might have already seen our newly elected BOT in the newspaper, but as principal I would like to formally welcome our new BOT members to their important role of governing our great school. I would like to say thank you to Helen Phillips, who was the Returning Officer for our elections. She was exceptionally well organised and spent many hours making sure that the whole process was done to the book and on time. Great job Helen!! The BOT is the governance body of a school and the principal is the manager of a school, these two work in

unison to lead the school. Five members of the board are elected by you as a parent body, and four are Bishop's Representatives. One is a staff representative. At Pompallier Catholic School, we are privileged to have the following members on our BOT:

Jo Buckingham	Chairperson
Rachel Thompson	Secretary
Sheryl Hansford	Treasurer
Rose Baker	Property and Maintenance
Tony Hassan	Equal Employment Officer
Father Pat	Bishop's Representative
Bill Pomare	Bishop's Representative
Helena Payne	Bishop's Representative
Lou King	Staff Representative

Congratulations to you all on your elections, and welcome to your role for the next three years. I am looking forward to working with you all.

### Upcoming Term Calendar Dates and Changes to Remember

Friday 21st May:	Teacher Only Day
Friday 21st May:	Rippa Rugby for Y3/4/5/6 (Those students involved in above received a notice)
Sunday 23rd May:	Family Mass 1st Holy Communion
Monday 24th May:	Maria Day
Tuesday 25th May:	Y5-8 bring sports gear (Active Schools)

**No Disco** on 28th May—we've had this

#### Week 7

Friday 4th June:	Marcellin Day (Notice week 7) SPELLING BEE !! 11.30am
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### MARIA DAY

Our RED house group, Maria, will be celebrating their feast day on Monday. What this means for you as parents is—simply allow your child to dress in RED on Monday. If they do not wish to dress in RED, school uniform applies. We will have a liturgy at school and do a little art activity within class to acknowledge the day. Monday's official feast day is **Mary, help of Christians**. Mary is also the Patron Saint of New Zealand and this is the day recognised.

We will send out information about Marcellin Day and the Spelling Bee in Week 7.

### SCHOOL LUNCHES

Just an update on our routines and expectations for eating at school.

All students are expected to bring a healthy morning tea and lunch to school. Without the right nutrition, children are unable to concentrate and therefore learn. You have all seen the advert on TV about the "fuzzy brain" - well it's probably true! I know I often have "3 o'clockitis" as they also say on the soup advert! So we are asking you as parents to please ensure your children eat a good breakfast and

bring healthy food to school.

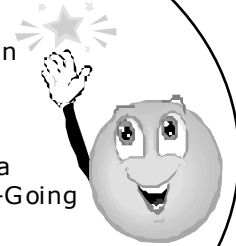
- We **do not** encourage lollies, chocolate, colourant filled jellies and fizzy drinks in lunch boxes.
- We do encourage lots of water
- All wrappings from bars and sandwiches are to be taken home in lunch boxes (we do not have rubbish bins)
- All crusts and any uneaten food is to be taken home in lunchboxes

We have also noticed that children are eating their morning tea as soon as they arrive at school, and they say they are still hungry. It would be a good idea to give an extra piece of fruit or a banana to them just before school if they eat their breakfast early. We do allow students to have a snack at 10am—provided by KidsCan Charity.

Please work with us on this matter as it helps your child's learning.

## Student of the Week

- Room 1 : Tyler Haines
- Room 2 : Christopher Wintraecken  
Tyla Johnson
- Room 3 : Kobie Scutt  
Mateja Wiki
- Room 4 : Acima Mabidikama
- Room 5 : Waikotahi Pitman-Going
- Room 6 : Niskyla Pritchard  
Ben Walters
- Room 7 : Daniel Crene  
Ella Harris

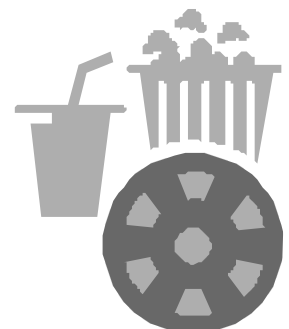


## MOVIE NIGHT

**When:** Friday 11th June  
**Where:** Pompallier Catholic School  
**Time:** 6pm  
**Cost:** \$5

Your ticket will include

- **Movie**
- **A drink**
- **Chippies**
- **A glo stick!**



*PTFA will sell tickets in Week 8 after Queen's birthday weekend.*