

Special points of interest:

- Classroom Blessing
- Important Dates
- Preparing for Baptism Programme



A happy summer welcome to our first newsletter of 2011 !

Happy New Year to everyone who I haven't seen or wished yet! I hope 2011 is filled with blessings for all our school and parish community. I find it surreal in a way that we are in 2011 - the World cup year already, and I know that we'll all be in our supporters gear yelling for the All Blacks (I am assuming!!) before we can blink an eye!

Reflecting on last year and the holiday that has just so abruptly ended, I thank God for all the blessings our school receives and that I personally have received. The summer break was so eventful both positively and (negatively for some, and here I'm thinking about both Australia and New Zealand.)

Many communities have had their fair share of catastrophies, which are still very fresh for us, one being the flooding across the ditch which was almost too incredible to comprehend. The thought that comes through when disasters like the earthquakes, mine explosions, fires and flooding hit a place, is that it all becomes "about community". Suddenly, the individual is not that important - it is the community spirit, the community help, the community camaraderie that helps people to get back on their feet and start again. The same idea is relevant to a school, it is also not about an individual student, individual teacher or individual principal - it is all the individuals together who make a community what it is. One person can't make a school - it takes all of us. So my prayer for this great year - 2011 is that every person who is connected to Pompallier Catholic School will contribute their little bit in a positive way to make our school a very successful well oiled machine that shines the light of Christ in our town! My favourite saying of "*it takes a village to raise a child*" is part of this idea that I am going on about. Our PTFA slogan of "**Gimme 5**" is quite an important part of building a community that is strong and successful, so I do hope that you are all able to contribute in some way at some stage - any contribution is always appreciated. On this note, thank you to the parents and whanau who turned up to help clean the newly renovated classrooms and shift some of the furniture - many hands do make light work and we managed to earn a few dollars for our school at the same time!

Our annual whole school theme this year is
Nga Whetu / The Stars

In 2010, we tried our best to SHINE in all areas of our lives and this year we will keep shining as bright **STARS** in Christ. Your children will be talking about different ways they can be a **star** though out the

year with the rest of the Pompallier **stars** around them!

ORGANISATION

Most of you will have had the opportunity to have a little look at our BEAUTIFUL newly renovated classrooms. It has been a very exciting and busy start for the teachers this year as the time frame was quite limited from the handover day to the start of school. However—in saying this—PCS staff are **STARS**—they got it all sorted in time for the first day of school—and the classrooms are all looking great so far (even though the teachers may be a bit deprived of sleep!!)

On this note I would like to welcome all our new staff members to PCS. Mr Gunn, Mrs Murray, Mrs Hammon and Mrs Doak are new and Mrs Watson has changed her role from teacher aide to teacher. Many of you will have received their classroom newsletters yesterday, but I will pop a paragraph into this newsletter about each of them too.

Classes for 2011:

Teacher	Class Name	Room number	Class level
Mrs Watson	Kiwi	3	New Entrants
Mrs Murray	Pukeko	1	Y2
Miss Clarke	Piwakawaka	2	Y3
Mr Gunn	Kea	4	Y4
Mr McDonald	Tui	5	Y5/Y6
Mrs Hammon	Kakapo	6	Y6/Y7
Mrs Carey	Te Kahu	7	Y8

Uniform

If we are to be Pompallier **STARS** shining in Christ—we take this to all aspects of school life which includes school rules, expectations and school uniforms.

A reminder of our requirements at PCS:

We are still wearing summer uniforms for Term 1. This means that sandals and hats are required. ROMAN Sandals are the best choice, but it is understandable that there is a limited choice of shopping in Kaitaia. Thanks to all the parents for their efforts with keeping to the correct uniform. If you are unsure of uniform requirements, please see Helen in the front Office. Uniforms set the tone of a school and allow all children to feel part of something. Every one is the same, and 'labels' do not become the focus.

Please note hats need to be clearly named!

No hat/No play.

By week 2, it is expected that all students will be wearing correct uniforms and hats.

Hairstyles

- **No hair dye or bleach.**
- **No "mohawks".**
- **No shaved patterns.**
- **No "rat tails"**
- **Girls tie long hair up**
- **Boys keep their hair short**—(or tie it up using girl rule below)

Girls should wear their hair back from their faces. Only uniform (bottle) green and black hair ties, head bands and clips are allowed. Boys spikes should be no longer than two centimetres and should not hang over their shirt collar.

If you would like to read the full School rules handout and Behaviour Management policy—ask at the office.

HOME TIME ROUTINES

As always, your child's safety is paramount while in our care, and we have to establish routines and procedures that cater to ALL children's safety. For this reason we do ask you to adhere to some things that may be slightly inconvenient to you. The one expectation is that students who are being picked up by their parents, from within the school grounds, be collected at the deck in front of Rooms 4 and 5 (Tui and Kea). At the end of the day teachers line their classes up and dismiss them to the various points of lining up—the steps of the deck is one of these points to avoid children rushing around all over. We do have a teacher on "carpark" duty who will keep students from running out there and cars from stopping at inappropriate places. Please don't be offended if you are asked to move your vehicle. The students who catch the bus or are collected on Dominion Road or Vegar Street, line up with the teacher on duty and walk there together. During the Swimming Season—we also stopped students being collected from the Eden Terrace exit as it was not safe. This is still the case—no students walk down the hill to be picked up. I apologise for any inconvenience, but as I said safety is vital and we would rather build a fence than have the ambulance waiting at the bottom of the hill.

MEET THE TEACHER PICNIC NIGHT

Our first get together this year will be on the evening of Thursday 10th February. If the weather is uncooperative, we will postpone to the following Wednesday night. This is an opportunity not only to meet new staff, but also the Board of Trustees and new families. You are able to use the school BBQ to cook if the traditional fish and chips is not your thing! All classrooms will be open for you to have a look through and Te Kahu will be set up with current information and consultation boards for you to "have your say" about all aspects of school life.

Special Character Column

Welcome back everyone and a special welcome to Father Rodney who will be in our parish for the next few months until Father Pat returns.

Religious Education Programme

Our formal Religious Education programme will begin next week with a Prayer Module followed by the Jesus Strand. For this week the children will be looking at our 2011 theme of *Nga Whetu* meaning 'The Stars'. This is a continuation of last years *Shine* theme. The students will now be questioning how they can continue to shine like the stars they learnt to be last year.

We will also be researching the origins of our house groups and the Saints that they are named after. For those new students and staff we have four houses each named after a Saint with a corresponding colour

Chanel	Green
Marcellin	Yellow
Maria	Red
McAuley	Blue

New members to our school will be assigned a house group in the next week.

Values Focus

Week 1- **Mercy: to understand and live the acts of Mercy**

Week 2 - **Mercy: to help and support others when we can**

UPCOMING MASS TIMES

Friday 11th February

Pukeko, Kiwi, Kea, Te Kahu

Friday 18th February

Piwakawaka , Tui, Kakapo

***POMPALLIER FAMILY MASS 27th FEBRUARY ***



Blessings on your path
Jonathan McDonald

NOTICE BOARD

You can tell more about a person by what he says about others than you can by what others say about him..

Leo Aikman

**Kaimānga:
Food for
thought**

Do you want us to EMAIL your newsletter to you? Send an email to this address: office.pompallier.school@xtra.co.nz with "PLEASE EMAIL NEWSLETTER" in the subject line and we will email the latest newsletters every fortnight! You can also keep up to date with the latest newsletter online on our webpage www.pompallierschool.org.nz



SWIMMING

Swimming begins in Week 2. As usual no swimming on Fridays.

All students are expected to participate unless there is a medical reason not to—and a certificate would be required for this. Swimming is part of our curriculum and assessment at PCS. Boys togs should have no pockets and should not go below the knees. Girls should wear full togs—no bikinis. Rash vests are allowed. All swimmers are required to wear swimming caps. Please name towels and gear and send to school in a separate named bag. This begins on Monday—please be prepared.

Once again PARENTS have their annual homework to complete!!! Please use the attached form to inform your child's teacher about what makes your child "tick". It is a great way for teachers to get to know your child through a parents eye and helps to build relationships in the classroom.

STUDENT COUNCIL / POMPALLIER DISCIPLES / SPECIAL CHARACTER LEADERS / HOUSE CAPTAINS

The year 7 and 8 students will have the opportunity in week 2 to apply for these positions and take leadership responsibility. The successful applicants will be announced at Assembly in week 2 at 2.15pm.

PTFA

**2011 is our year for fundraising!!
and we truly hope you will all lend a hand in some way.
Gimme 5!**

If you would like to help out with the PTFA in any way, but can't make the first meeting which will be held on Wednesday 9th February at 3.15pm in the Library, please send and email to Susan at swintraecken@xtra.co.nz

Our strategy this year will be to elect one parent from each classroom to be that class's PTFA representative. This person would be expected to attend the PTFA meetings and to rustle up parent support within their class to help at fundraisers / functions etc. There will be class competitions this year to raise money for the school and win prizes for their class. It will be the representatives responsibility to coordinate and oversee these competitions. One of the first prizes up for grabs is a digital video camera for the winning class. If you would like to be nominated as a classroom representative, please fill in the attached slip on the notice board page and return to school or email Susan the following details:

NAME		Class to represent	
Home phone		Cell phone	
Work phone		Email	

Thank you for your support—we know there will be lots of new STARS shining for us in 2011 !!!

BAPTISM PROGRAMME

Please contact Mrs Mill to arrange to attend the Baptism programme which will be held in March. This will run for the first three Saturdays in March. It is your responsibility as the parent of a preference enrolled student to ensure that your child is given the opportunity to participate in the Sacraments of the church—the first being BAPTISM.



The preference agreement states:

...the child's participation in the life of the school...undertakes to support the child's formation in the faith and practices of the Catholic church...



SUBWAY

We will start our Subway orders this week on Friday as usual. Please try to put the correct amount of money in your child's envelope. We do encourage a proper lunch as opposed to only cookies.

DATES TO BOOK FOR TERM 1—calendar to follow

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| • Y8 Sailing at Taipa | 4 February |
| • Meet the teacher picnic | 10 February |
| • Family Mass | 27 February |
| • Shrove Tuesday | 8 March |
| • Ash Wednesday | 9 March |
| • PCS Swimming Sports | 11 March |
| • Working Bee | 12 March |
| • St Patrick's GREEN Day | 17 March |
| • St Joseph's Day—Significant Male day | 18 March |
| • Blessing New Classrooms | 22 March |

My child in a million words or less!

Child's name _____ Teacher's name _____

**Please write down, using some clues, a short passage about your child.
Please note this will not be marked!**

- Likes / Dislikes
- Routines at home
- Sports they play
- Favourite subjects at school

- Books they like to read
- What they do in the weekend
- Attitude to school and why?
- Chores they carry out at home

**You can draw a picture if you wish!
Please return to school by next Monday!**