

Special points of interest:

- Maori Consultation Hui
- Praisegiving
- Last week of school



Tena koutou katoa,

Well, once again we have reached another end of the year newsletter. This is my second one as principal and it feels like it has come very quickly! It feels quite surreal that we are already at the end of another year, and that I am no longer classed as a first time principal—now I have to get on with it in the big wide world! Thankfully, being principal of this amazing school is the best job in the world, so I really am looking forward to my 3rd year in this role in 2012. I would like to thank all of you—students, staff, families and parishioners for making our school what it is. Our teachers are very hardworking, and they do rely on your support as parents and whanau. Without every person who contributes and participates in the day to day existence and workings of our school—we would be nothing. My favourite *pēpeha* is—

* **"It takes a village to raise a child"** -

and this is truly what works here in our place. Thank you to all of you for the partnership we have between home, school and parish. I will also take this opportunity to wish you all a very blessed Christmas and happy holiday with your beautiful children!

**(An African proverb which possibly originated from St Francis of Assisi).*

Maori Consultation Hui

Last night we held our annual hui to talk and share with our Maori whanau. Thank you to those who managed to attend, it was a very good meeting. At times like this, the opportunity for change often arises, but there is also a place for reflecting on what is going well and shouldn't be changed too much. As always the students at our school are the priority, so the discussions were based on what our tamariki's thoughts were. I would like to share some of these students thoughts with all of you.

The most important things to learn at school are:

- Showing the values
- Respect
- Helping others
- Reading, writing, Religious Education and maths

- Most importantly how to manage yourself
- About Jesus because we are a Catholic school
- How to communicate with people
- To make friends and get along with people that you might not like too much
- Physical education
- All the things you want to do in the future

What you should learn at school is:

- Reading, maths, writing, Religious Education, science, how to spell
- About other countries, space, planets and stars
- Some Maori language
- Sports
- What we are going to do when we are adults
- Technology stuff like at the college
- How to take things seriously in life and that it is not a joke
- Knowing what is right and wrong

What helps you to learn at school is:

- Know what I am doing and what I need to do next
- Somewhere quiet
- Thinking about my own learning
- When the teacher explains my learning more
- Good listening skills
- Being focussed, concentrating
- The environment I am working in
- The right resources
- School equipment like pencils and stuff
- A clean environment

A good teacher is someone who:

- Gives you put up's
- A good learner themselves
- Encourages you to do the best you can
- Knows what they are doing
- A good listener and can communicate with students
- Has good self management
- Likes their job, likes to teach
- Treats everyone the same
- Will help you when you are stuck
- Is well planned
- Is a good role model
- Focusses on the learning

These are just some snippets of what our students said when they were interviewed by me. As a school, we will take what the students said and work on what is going well and improve where the gaps are. From these and the whanau comments, we make recommendations a part of our self review and add them to the next annual plan for 2012.

END OF YEAR

You will all have received the notice last Friday about the last two weeks of school, but I would like to talk a bit more about two important whole school events, Praisegiving and End of Year Mass.

PRAISEGIVING

This will begin at 10.45am on Friday at our church. The programme was in the notice you received on Friday. Unfortunately we cannot give exact times for when individual classes will be receiving prizes, so I hope the programme helps a bit!

As we have 21 year eight students this year, we are having to take out some bits of the praisegiving and include these in our end of year Mass. Each year 8 student has the opportunity to say their farewell speech at praisegiving which will take quite a long time this year.

The certificates which each child receives at the end of the year will be put into their report envelope as it was last year. This is to save them being bent or bitten during the praisegiving ceremony! They will still be read out at praise giving and students will still come forward for the acknowledgement.

- We ask that ALL our students wear their tidiest and correct uniform on the day of praisegiving.
- We will not accept incorrect shoes, jewelry and hair accessories.
- Please respect and support us in this. (The same sandals are to be worn in Term 1 next year, so if yours are broken or incorrect you wont only be replacing them for a week of school.)

Thank you.

END OF YEAR MASS

Our end of year Mass is on

Wednesday 14 December at 9.15am.

At this Mass we will celebrate the Years 7 and 8 Candle Ceremony, The Year 8 farewell and we will also farewell Mr McDonald and Miss Clarke. This is a special time for our students and staff and we would love you to attend if at all possible.

We do understand that it is difficult for many of you to get time off work, but as our school grows, we have to split some events up to accommodate all our celebrations!

Reports

Reports will go home with your children on Wednesday 13th December. If you require your child's report any earlier, please give us at least one day's notice. The praisegiving certificates will be included in the report envelope. Thank you.

God Bless, Michele Mill

Special Character Column

Advent

Last week we were graced by the presence of Von Cassidy and Raquel Biggar from the Catholic Schools Office in Auckland. Advent has been our RE focus for the past two weeks so Von and Raquel gave our staff some professional development around this topic.

Advent literally means "coming". It is a time of preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas. Being the beginning of the liturgical year, this important time is symbolised by various traditions such as decorating a Jesse Tree - this involves decorating a tree with symbols of the ancestors of Christ and reading the stories that lead up to Christ's birth completing the 'family tree' with Christ on the top. A more common tradition is the lighting of candles on an Advent Wreath - Set on the branches of a wreath are four candles: three purple candles and one pink candle. In the centre of the wreath sits a white candle. As a whole, these candles represent the coming of the *Light of Christ* into the world. Each candle is lit for the first time each Sunday leading up to Christmas. The circular shape of the wreath represents eternity. The first candle represents hope and is sometimes known as the prophecy candle in remembrance of Isaiah who foretold the coming of Christ. The second candle represents love in remembrance of Jesus being born in a manger. The third candle (rose coloured), the Shepherd's candle represents joy. The 4th and last purple candle is the Angels candle which represents peace and the White 'Christ Candle' in the centre is typically lit on Christmas eve to represent the life of Christ coming into our world—the white symbolising purity.



Blessings on your path

Jonathan McDonald

Upcoming Mass Times

Thursday 8 Dec - *The Immaculate Conception*

Wednesday 14 Dec - *Whole School End of Year Mass*

NOTICE BOARD

Kaimanga :
Food for
thought

"Maybe Christmas," he thought,
"doesn't come from a store. Maybe
Christmas... perhaps... means a little bit
more."


~ *Dr. Seuss (1904-1991), American author of children's
books. From 'How The Grinch Stole Christmas'*

Jesus Christ is the centre of our Christmas



November 2011

December 2011

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Week 7	5 Y8 Retreat	6 Y8 Retreat Maori Consultation Hui	7 Newsletter 	8 <i>Whole School Mass</i> Immaculate Concep- tion	9 Praise Giving	10	11
Week 8	12 Te Kahu Outing to Lake Ngatu	13 Junior's Christmas Party Outing	14 Junior Switzer Visit End of Year Mass	15 Classroom Cleaning Day	16 Pompallier Pool Party & Tabloids	17-18 SUMMER HOLIDAY BEGINS	
	19	20	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Mass: Waiharara 7pm Midnight Mass : Kaitaia	25 Christmas Day Mass 9am : Kaitaia

Christmas Mass times

As always we try to keep you informed well in advance of what's happening around school—I hope this little calendar helps us all to remember what is happening at our busy school. We usually send out a flyer, when appropriate, as a gentle reminder, and sometimes this is 24 hours before. **Please note the days that support your child's faith journey and help them to attend celebrations that are not necessarily during school hours.**

Star of the Week

Kiwi	Blake Wells
Pukeko	Emma Mayes
Piwakawaka	Christopher Thaggard
Kea	Electra Devalli
Tui	Oceanna Pritchard
Kakapo	Hunter Masters
Te Kahu	Ben Ulkeman
	Elyza Marsden
	Ricki Cassidy
	Tynan May
	Mineva Tamaofa
	Tomi Baker
	Rebecca Uiese
	Rahiri Henry



TERM 1 2012
begins Tuesday 31
January 2012

Parents please come and collect your
Duffy Book orders from
the office. We do not
know if some of them
were ordered by Santa or
not, so we are not
handing out to the
students. Thank you!



You're their lifeguard - Keep your Child safe at the pool this summer!



Over the Summer School holidays many families will be enjoying all the fun and excitement local swimming pools have to offer.

Water Safety NZ and NZ Recreation Association would like to remind families about the Pool Alone policy that public pools in New Zealand are required to adhere to:

Children under 8 must be actively supervised by a caregiver 16 years or over.

Actively supervised means watching your child at all times; Able to provide immediate assistance*

Lifeguards are an important safety feature, but they are not intended to replace the close supervision of parents or caregivers.

Tragically many drowning deaths occur in the few seconds that parents are distracted. The role of a lifeguard is to ensure people are safe in the water - they are not babysitters.

Remembering this when you take your family for a swim will help our pools to remain safe and fun places for everyone to enjoy.

*Please note that some pools have a stricter policy than the one above



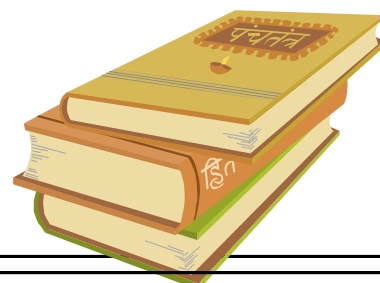
BOOK and T-Shirt AMNESTY



We only have just over a week of school left this year and so we are starting to take stock of essentials !!!

PLEASE look around your houses, under your beds and behind cupboards for any books or uniforms that belong to our school or any other students.

There will be an amnesty box in the office or you can hand these to your teachers. Sports shirt and jackets can come straight to the office. We will be VERY appreciative of returns as these items are very expensive to replace!!!



A reminder about our cleaning day on Thursday 15th and Pool party on Friday 16th. We will sell sausages and drinks at the pool party—\$2 each. Students may come in mufti.

Kiwi and Pukeko Classes went to visit the Switzer Residents today



We want to show our love, joy and hope to people around us— we are a Mercy school and we show the Acts of Mercy. We visited the old people at Switzer residential Care and shared our dancing and singing. They said thank you and shared their food and drink with us.



YEAR 8 Retreat 2011

"Moving on" was the theme with the LOGOS team 2011. This was a fantastic experience again! Great to work with Helen Payne from the parish! Thank you to Kelvin Davis for giving up his time and the wonderful parents who transported us out to Coopers Beach.



They made the learning fun – **Jessica**.....I came away with a 21st speech! – **Bailey** I came back ready to "move on" – **Rebecca**.....I like the God factor of the retreat – **Jackson**.....I liked the balloon event to choose my values – **Tarlynn**.....I ended up crying with laughter – **Jake**.....We learnt lots of different team building activities – **Camryn**.....I had heaps of confidence doing the "rope walk" – **Rahul**.....I came away with strong team building skills – **Jade**.....It was awesome – **Finn**.....I came with a little more confidence for next year – **McKenna**.....I learnt how to work in a team with different people – **Kaaiwa**.....I have taken away the affirmations – **Greer**.....I have learnt to work with other people – **Rahiri**.....I came away with good team work skills – **Jenny**

