



Dear Parents and Caregivers

Kia ora, Talofa lava, Malo e lelei, Kia orana, Bula vinaka, Ciao, Warmest Greetings to you all.

Welcome back to school and to an exciting 2019 school year. Special welcome to our new students and their families. I am sure you will enjoy your time at St Pius X School and that very soon you will be calling this place home, as so many have in the past. Please ask if you are unsure of anything. We understand there are so many new things to remember and we are more than happy to help in any way we can to make the transition from either preschool or another school, as easy as possible. The teachers have been hard at work for a couple of weeks now and are also excited about the coming year and working with you and the children again.

As we have done for many years now, our staff had a special Retreat Day at the Mary MacKillop Centre in Mission Bay. **Sr Anne** from the Holy Faith Sisters led our day in the beautiful surroundings after we joined their community for mass to start the day. During the day we reflected on our school motto of **Advancing in Faith, Hope and Love**. We have all come away refreshed and even more motivated to support the children as best we can during this year.

Our major goal for the year is to continue the wonderful progress achieved by so many last year and to build on this by helping the students get even more excited about their learning. Our overarching theme of the year is:

‘A Time of Re-Building’

We want the children to become more interested about what they are learning and not just complete their tasks because the teacher asked them to. We want all students to know why they are learning something because if they know the reason then they will be more motivated to do their best.

New Teacher

We would like to introduce **Miss Monique Nees-Kairua** who will be teaching in **Room 5** this year. Monique grew up in a small town in Central Otago and enjoys being outdoors. She has played competitive sport. She spent three years teaching and travelling in Europe and Asia before completing her **Masters in Teaching** degree last year at Otago University. Huge welcome to the St Pius X family.



New School Buildings

Finally, after so many years of planning meetings, work on our new school has now started. The construction crews have been very pleased with their progress so far, particularly as the weather has been so good, while they complete most of the earth works. If all goes well we should begin next year in very different facilities. I will keep everybody up-dated on progress, as we watch these fantastic new facilities rise out of the ground. The church driveway should be back to normal later this week.



Preference Enrolment

Bishop Pat has asked schools to reflect on their role as evangelists and how we support our children in their faith and spiritual journeys. It is the role of the Parish to run Sacramental Programmes but the school is very happy to support these programmes. I have noticed many of our children have not yet made their first **Reconciliation, Confirmation or First Communion**. During this year we will once again be encouraging families to enrol their children into these programmes as they happen. Remember part of our commitment as parents is to bring our children up in the Catholic Church, which means taking part in the sacraments.

In addition to this **Mrs Tui**, our Director of Religious Studies, and **Father Felise** will train a new group of boys and girls to be **altar servers** at our school masses and liturgies. I thank you for supporting us in this matter.

Sacramental Programme at St Pius X Parish

For parents/guardians who wish to have their children receive the sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion, application forms are available in the church porch. Registrations close Saturday 9th March with the first session for FHC and Confirmation starting on Sunday 10th March 2019 after 10.00am Mass at the Presbytery. Please support your children through this important stage in their spiritual development.

Blessing of Refurbished Classrooms

Last week **Fr Felise** celebrated a special blessing for our totally refurbished Rooms 1 and 2. They look fantastic. **Nu'utofi** and **Valentine** can be seen helping **Fr Felise** sprinkle Holy Water all around the Learning Space. All the Room 1 children had a turn at helping. We were very pleased that many of our Parish friends were able to join us.



Patrol Crossing Training.



Constable Gordon visited school last week to complete our Patrol Training for our senior students. We really appreciate all the students who volunteer to help in this important service and leadership opportunity at school. Please support these students by listening to their instructions when crossing the road to be good role models for all the children. Always use the crossing when walking your children to or home from school, particular with the construction work that continues all around our school.

Calendar of Events

Please check the Calendar of Events on the back of this newsletter and diary the main dates such as any special school functions where you are invited to attend. We need to work together to give our children the best opportunities for success that we can.

Sick or Absent Children



Please let the school know as early as possible if a child is going to be away from school when sick. This saves our office staff a huge amount of time as we are required to make contact with families when children don't show up. Also please let us know any changes to telephone numbers or emergency contacts.



Netbook Contract Concerns

Anita Sarich from the Manaiakalani Trust is based at Sommerville Special School but is happy to meet parents at St Pius X if necessary to discuss any payment or contract issues. She may be emailed at anita.sarich@manaiakalani.org or phoned on 021838947 or visited at Sommerville School.

Parking at the School Gate



The Auckland City Council have spoken to me about their concerns around schools in general especially when parents are dropping off or picking up in the afternoon.

This term our school is once again participating in Auckland Transport's '**Safety at the School Gate**' programme. Drivers who stop in the wrong place to drop off passengers put the safety of children at risk. Parking officers will be on patrol outside the school this term and will be issuing tickets to drivers who park illegally.

The agreed approach is 'zero tolerance' – There will be **no warnings** issued, you will receive a ticket if you are double parked, parked on yellow lines, or over someone's driveway – or for any other vehicle safety offence.

Please park legally to keep our children safe and to avoid being ticketed and always use the Pedestrian Crossing as a good example to the children.

Car Booster Seats are also required by law for children under 7 years of age. Our local police education officer, **Constable Gordon**, will be at school regularly talking to parents and checking cars and drivers both in the morning, and the afternoon.



School Documents and Policies

The school works on a subscription basis with **SchoolDocs** to maintain, update, and review our policies. **SchoolDocs** provides us with a comprehensive core set of policies, which have been well researched and follow the Ministry of Education National Administration Guidelines. The policies and procedures are tailored to our school, and the school supplies specific information such as our charter, and procedures for behaviour management, reporting to parents, etc.

SchoolDocs updates, modifies, or creates policies in response to changes in legislation or Ministry guidelines, significant events, reviews/requests from schools, and regular reviewing from the **SchoolDocs** team. Our board of trustees has the opportunity to view changes/additions and comment on them before they are implemented. We will advise you when policies are up for review and how you can take part in the review.

We invite you to visit the site at <http://saintpiusx.schooldocs.co.nz/> (note that there's no "www"!). Our username is **saintpiusx** and password **holyfaith**.

Any Worries . . .

Please remember we want to hear from you if you have any concerns about your child or their learning. Please contact the school office on 5287257 to leave a message for your child's teacher or email us at office@saintpiusx.school.nz

If you have more serious concerns please drop in to see me or give me a call to discuss the issue. It is always far better to sort things out early than to have to deal with things afterwards when sometimes they have escalated more than necessary. I will certainly call parents in, if I have issues with student behaviour.



**DON'T WORRY
BEE HAPPY**

High School Open Days

McAuley High School – Year 9 2020 Tuesday 19th February at 5.00pm in Gymnasium.

Marcellin College – Year 9 2020 Saturday 9th March 10.00am – 12.00pm

Baradene College – Year 9 2020 (Limited spaces available) Thursday 7 March at 6.30pm

Sacred Heart College – 2020 Tuesday 5 March – Tours of school at 11.45am and 1.30pm

Term 1 2019

February				
Week 2 11 R.E. – Charism Kiwi Sport Music –Jelly Beans	12	13 Year 7/8 Technology starts Tamaki College	14	15 Whole school Opening Mass 9.00am
Week 3 18 R.E. – God Strand BOT Meeting 7.00pm	19 Vision & Hearing Testing	20	21 Ear Clinic	22
Week 4 25 R.E. – God Strand Testing Week	26 Dedication Mass Christ the King Church, Owairaka 7.00pm	27	28	
March				
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Week 5 4 R.E. – God Strand	5	6 Ash Wednesday	7	8 Learning Celebration Assembly DRS Day
Week 6 11 R.E. – God Strand	12	13	14	15 Soul Friends' Mass
Week 7 18 R.E. – Jesus Strand	19	20	21	22
Week 8 25 R.E. – Jesus Strand	26	27	28	29 HPV Immunisations Year 7/8
April				
Week 9 1 R.E. – Jesus Strand	2	3	4	5 Learning Celebration Assembly
Week 10 8 R.E. – Jesus Strand	9	10	11	12 Last Day of Term Term 2 begins 29 April

Don't Forget . . .

Please help your child to make sure their uniform is clearly named so it is easy for us to return it to them if lost. All children need to wear a hat when playing outside during Terms 1 and 4. School hats are available through our school office and every child will need their own school hat. Alternative hats will **not** be accepted this year. Sandals should be worn in Terms 1 and 4.



*Please be careful when collecting children after school. Use the pedestrian crossing and park legally. Take extreme care when walking up Castledine Crescent especially as you pass the entrance to the new school building site, as there could be trucks and heavy machinery crossing the footpath at any time.