



Dear Parents and Caregivers

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

The second term has started well and everybody seems well rested after their break. The winter weather has arrived with a vengeance so the children, staff and some parents have had to put up with some flooding around the entrance to the hall and driveway. We also had some leaks through the roof of the main block. Fortunately the Catholic Schools' Office has responded quickly to my pleas for help and have sorted the leaky roof straight away. They are getting the drains cleared and then putting a camera down to see what the problem is. It was great to get such a quick response from them this time. We have also had other contractors in assessing the overall quality and life expectancy of the buildings with the view to a complete upgrade or rebuild in the next few years. We will have to wait and see about that but it is encouraging all the same.

Urgent Swimming Pool

Urgent

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Urgent

This coming Monday the heated swimming pool and tent will be arriving. Fortunately this time they are sending some workers to help install the pool but we have been asked to provide a group of 4 or 5 parents who are able to help for a few hours during the day. We need at least a couple of adult males of average strength. They will need to be here by about 8.30am to prepare the site before the pool trailer arrives later in the morning. We also need two or three people who are able to be trained to help manage water quality. This training will happen straight after the pool is filled. If you are able to help with either of these jobs please let the school office know as soon as possible.

Mother's Day Mass

Last Friday we had a wonderful mass to celebrate Mother's Day. Mrs Pole, Miss Gleeson and their classes prepared a beautiful service with many children taking part. As part of the Duffy Books in Schools Programme, all the children wrote about their mothers or some other female caregiver. Most of this writing will appear on the children's blogs but we selected two to be read out at mass. These two children were joined by their mothers on the altar as the children read about what made their mothers, so special. These were beautiful examples of fantastic children's writing. Congratulations to **Theresa Esera** and **Uina Mahe** for receiving beautiful books as great **Duffy Mothers** and to **Esera** and **Deja** for writing so well about them.

School Catholic Character Review

We have received our unconfirmed Catholic Character Review which the Board of Trustees and staff must now check for accuracy before it is confirmed as a **Final Report** later in the term. I am very happy with what the reviewers found and have been asked to thank the parents who spoke to the review team while they were here last term. Once the Review has been confirmed I will make it available on the school website for all to see.

Board of Trustee Elections

It has been great to see so many parents putting themselves forward to stand for our Board of Trustee elections this year. Nominations must be received by the returning officer by mid-day Thursday 16th May. If you have not sent your form in yet please bring it to school first thing on Thursday morning and we will fax it from school, so it arrives on time. You cannot be late !!!

Calendar of Events

Please check the Calendar of Events on the back of this newsletter and diary the main dates such as parent evenings and 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.

Manaiakalani Update

Many of you may have seen the TV news last week where music star **Will.i.am** presented our Cluster with a cheque for \$100,000 to support the work we are doing providing e-learning to our school. He was a surprise guest at a special celebration at Pt England School last week. I was invited to attend to represent St Pius and took two of our Senior Leaders with me. They had the chance to talk to Will.i.am and get lots of photos. They were very excited and pleased to be able to meet a megastar. I know one particular staff member who was very jealous when we returned to school and found out who we had been with. He donated the money to help us complete the wireless net. Which we will all be able to use to get internet access from home for our learning.



Netball update

Our two teams started their grading games last night and look forward to an enjoyable season.

Parking Outside the school

I have mentioned in many newsletters last term that the Auckland City Council were going to send their officers to monitor our parents when they collect their children after school. They have been instructed to give out tickets to parents who park in the wrong place, either over drive - ways or in the bus stop. These officers have started coming and so far have just asked parents to move along. They did say that from what they have seen so far our parents are behaving very well so please keep that up, use the crossing when coming to meet your children and always be good role models to the children. It is so important we keep them safe.

Home School Partnership Meeting

Please keep Thursday 6th June free for our important Home School Partnership meeting for this term. We are presently planning the evening which all families are expected to send a representative to. This will have a Health focus and start at 6.00pm and go for about an hour and a half.

Music Group Runner up in New Zealand Music Month Song Writing Contest

Last year we had two of our music groups write and perform songs as part of the Music Mentoring in schools Project. One of the songs was selected and entered into the New Zealand Music Month Song Writing Contest. Our group called '**Uprising Vibrations**' was placed second out of the whole of New Zealand which is a fantastic achievement. They were invited during the last school holidays to perform their song with New Zealand Boy Band **Titanium** at a special event at the Auckland City Library attended by city councillors and the **Minister of Youth Affairs, Nikki Kaye**. The group performed wonderfully and are a real credit to our school. I am sure some of these students will end up on **X Factor** or **New Zealand's Got Talent** in the future.

Angelica, Robertanna, Lavinia, Agnes and **Phoenix** enjoyed hanging out with **Titanium** back stage before performing their original song on the steps of the Auckland City Library.



Mrs Carter also enjoyed organising the extra practises and getting the group to Auckland City to perform. I am not sure who was more excited, Mrs Carter or the children.

Term 2 2013

May 2013				
6 School Opens RE Focus Holy Spirit Strand Weeks 1 - 5	7	8	9 DRS Conference	10 Rooms 3 and 4 Mother's Day Whole School Mass DRS Conference
13	14 Kiwisport Football begins	15	16 Room 3 Assembly 9.00am	17
20 Swimming Pool arrives – volunteers needed	21 Catholic Schools' Day St Joseph's Orakei joining St Pius for day	22	23 Year 8 Leadership Retreat at Friary Day 1	24 Year 8 Leadership Retreat at Friary Day 2
27	28	29	30	31
June 2013				
3 Queen's Birthday Holiday	4	5 Cluster Netball Field Day Auckland Netball Centre	6 Home School Partnership Meeting 6.00pm Each family needs to be represented	7 Rooms 5 and 7 Feast of SHJ Whole School Mass
10 RE Focus God Strand Weeks 6 – 9 Class and Team Photos	11	12 Hearing and Vision Testing	13	14
17	18 Last Day of Football	19	20	21 Rooms 1, 2 and 6 Mass
24	25	26	27	28
July 2012				
1	2	3	4	5 Rooms 3 and 4 attend Mass
8 RE Focus Charism	9	10 Parent Interviews School closes 12.30pm	11 Last Day of Term for students	12 Teacher Only Day

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.