




Dear Parents and Caregivers

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

The First Sunday of Advent was last weekend and we have now started preparing for Christmas. We realise that Christ has already come and His coming into the world was a real event in history. We also realise that it was not just something that happened long ago. Christ comes into people's lives today. Please support your child's spiritual growth by taking the time to attend the Parish Christmas celebrations over the coming weeks.

May Jesus watch over each and every family and may the blessings of Christmas be upon you all.

<p>Lord,</p> <p>May we all use this Advent to prepare our soul for Jesus</p> <p>Amen</p>		<p>The season of Advent is like springtime in nature, When everything is renewed and so is fresh and healthy. Advent is also meant to do this to us – to refresh us and make us healthy, to be able to receive Christ in whatever form He may come to us.</p>
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**“Each one should use whatever gift he has to serve others.”**

1 Peter 4:10

This will be my last Newsletter for this year so I wish to formally thank the tremendous effort our teachers and families have made to make this year so successful in so many ways. The opportunities the children have experienced have played a huge part in enriching all of their learning. It has been such another full on, busy year. Apart from all the great classroom learning, we have had trips to St Patrick's Cathedral for Catholic Schools' Day, the whole school hikoi to the Ruapotaka Marae, Manaiaakalani Film Festival, sports exchanges, inter-school netball and basketball teams in cluster leagues, as well as special school masses and sacramental celebrations with our Parish of St Pius X. Our **Ako Fakataha Pilot Programme** has been very successful and so we will be expanding it to, hopefully, two more groups next year. It has been great to have had three of our **Holy Faith Sisters** working with the school children and staff this year. Planning is well underway for the redevelopment of the school with the latest news being that plans will be going through the Auckland City Council Consent process before the end of the year, with detailed plans being completed next year with (hopefully), construction starting in 2018.

### End of Year Dates

Ukulele Festival  
Christmas Carols  
Year 5/6 Sailing Day  
Year 1 Xmas Trip  
Graduation Mass  
Graduation Dinner for Year 8 students  
Final Prizegiving  
School Picnic afternoon  
School Finishes for year

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December  
Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December 6.00pm  
Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December  
Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December  
Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December 9.00am  
Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December  
Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 11.00am  
Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December (after prizegiving)  
Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December 12.30pm (sharp)

## End of Year National Standards results for 2016

At this week's Board of Trustees' meeting I presented our **End of Year National Standards Results**. Although we did not quite make our very ambitious goal of having 65% of children achieving 'At' or 'Above' the Standard in all learning areas, we have still had satisfactory results. Our Writing results have gone up to 60%, with Reading and Mathematics at similar levels to last year with 60 and 62% respectively 'At' or 'Above'. Obviously we always want to do better but these results are still commendable as our school role has changed quite considerably this year with far more, younger children attending than previously. We also have more children this year who qualify for extra funding as ESOL or children who do not have English as their first language.

## Summer Learning Journey

After a very successful 'blogging' programme during the mid-year holidays, we will be joining with most of our other Cluster schools on the 'Summer Learning Journey'. All our senior students will have the opportunity to continue with their learning each day of the summer break, when a teacher will set learning tasks and respond to postings on individual blogs. Hopefully this will help stop the traditional 'drop off' of results over the summer season while children are not at school. Rachel, the teacher employed by the Manaiakalani Trust, has visited the senior classrooms to talk about the programme with the children so I hope parents will also encourage their children to get involved.

## Guitar Group

Our fantastic Guitar Group were invited by the Rotary Club of St John's to perform at their Breakfast meeting last week. We received wonderful reports from their members about how much they enjoyed the performance and praise about how good they were after such a short time learning. Extra special thanks to Andrew and Agnes for the great teaching.



## St Pius X Parish Fund Raising Social

The parish is having a social to raise money to upgrade the hall. Tickets are available from the Parish Office for \$10 entry and \$10 for a plate of delicious food on the night. Please come along to support this great event. **Saturday December 17<sup>th</sup> – 6.30pm until late.**

## You can't stop progress ! ! !



This photo was taken this morning of the property over our back fence. The site has been cleared of trees and the four houses that used to occupy this piece of land. Next year construction of 15 terraced houses and 4 large 4 bedroom homes will be built on the same site. Let's hope the new owners have many children to join our school in the future. I took the Room 1 children out to watch the very large digger cutting down the trees and was very impressed with some of the language they were able to use.



## Year 7 and 8 Camp to Piha

Last week Mrs Tui and I took the senior class to Piha for their EOTC experience. We must have had the best weather of the summer so far. We were very blessed. The rain only came as we were loading the bus to come home on Friday. Enjoy just some of the cool experiences from Camp Piha.

Thanks to the **Lion Foundation** and **Rotary Club of St John's** for helping fund the camp.



Burma Trail after dark. "I'm scared!"



Cocoa Pops on Yogurt on Toast ???



The famous Kitekite Falls



"Are there any eels in the water"?



Toasting marshmallows 'Delicious'



Mrs Tui and Mr MacKinnon loving Camp



JT enjoying the beach. Help !!!



Chairman Sonny catching some zzzzzzz's



# Term 4 2016

November 2016				
28 <b>Week 8</b> BOT Meeting 7.00pm	29	30		
December 2016				
			1 Selwyn College Testing	2 Helpers' Morning Tea  Uke Festival Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December
5 <b>Week 9</b> RE: Christmas	6	7 Year 5/6 Sailing	8 Room 1 Xmas Outing	9 Graduation Mass 9.00am
12 <b>Week 10</b> Year 8 Graduation Dinner	13 Prizegiving 11.00am followed by school/family BBQ picnic	14 Last Day School finishes at 12.30pm	Christmas Holidays School starts Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February, 2017	

## Robots come to St Pius X

Earlier this year we received a very generous donation from our **Creating Communities and Arcus Construction** sponsors. We have finally spent the money on a set of Robots. These will be used as very cool teaching and learning aids next year. Earlier this week **Mr Paul Engles**, an old boy of our school and ex-school principal of many years, came and ran some professional development training for the teachers. He will do more training with the students next year.

