



Dear Parents and Caregivers

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

### World Famous in Glen Innes

Most parents, especially from our senior classes, will be aware that the children have had the opportunity to continue their learning during the holidays with our online 'Blogging Programme'. Once again this year it was called the **Summer Learning Journey** and was not only offered to the children from St Pius X and our Manaiakalani Cluster, but to similar clusters from around New Zealand. There were over 500 students from our area involved with hundreds more around the country.

The children committed to logging on and completing learning activities each day of the Christmas holidays. We have found that this had a huge effect on the usual fall off in achievement levels from our End of Year testing and the beginning of the next year. Last week we had a TV crew from **Seven Sharp** come and do a story on a couple of our students, **Katelyn and Aaliyah**. They were fantastic and made us all very proud. Along with the programme there was a competition between schools and students to encourage participation. St Pius X was clearly the best school and had some of the best results. Tremendous thanks to **Mrs Middleton** and **Mrs Tui** for spending their time during the holidays by going on line and encouraging their students. Mrs Middleton even won a special prize of a new Bean Bag chair for her classroom.



Congratulations to **Katelyn** who was the overall winner as the most active blogger who not only completed her own activities but spent many hours commenting and supporting other students.



**Jerome, Aliyah and Mikaela** were our other school winners. **Akesa, Opeti, Dianne and Laki** along with **Dr Rachel Williamson** from

**Auckland University** who was the coordinator of the programme. Some of the other active participants are pictured below.



## Ash Wednesday Mass



Last Wednesday signified the start of our Lenten Journey in preparation for Easter. The whole school joined with the Parish to celebrate our Opening Mass of the year and to receive the blessed Ashes. Father reminded the children about this special time and the need to focus on our Catholic duty of Prayer, Fasting and Alms giving. All the children have been encouraged to bring any mission money to their class for our **Caritas** Collection.

**Meet the Teacher Evening** this Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February at 6pm in the hall. At the meeting I will outline our school goals for the year and parents will have the chance for an informal meeting with class teachers. Children may come but they do not need to. Hopefully it will only last for about an hour so it is expected all parents will attend.



## KIWISPORT

Our Kiwisport for this term is **Hip Hop Dancing**. **Coach Jesse** has been fantastic and all the children are having a great time. Jesse was so impressed at the attitude of all the children as she visits many schools and that is not always the case.

Here are the Room 1 Learners strutting their stuff in time to the music.

## Breakfast Club

Once again we will be offering a free Breakfast Club to any children who may miss out at home before coming to school. This is run by our Social Worker Mrs Vatakani and a team of volunteers. Anyone is welcome. This is sponsored by Kid Can Children's Charity and Fonterra Milk in Schools.

## Rugby

Both University and Marist Rugby Clubs are recruiting players for the coming season. I am happy to pass on contact details to any parents about costs etc. Some of the clubs have sponsorship schemes to make sure nobody misses out. Games are on Saturday mornings so parents would need to get players to games as well as training during the week.

Hopefully we will once again be able to put together a couple of school teams for our Cluster Field Days, later in the year. Both Marist and University Rugby Development Officers have said they are happy to help with our teams.

**Hamish at Marist 0210316665**

**Matt at University 0214331023**



## Soul Friends Mass 16<sup>th</sup> March

All family members are invited to join us at our **Soul Friends Mass** on **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March** in the church at 9.00am. We usually celebrate this mass in conjunction with **St Patrick's Day** which is on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March this year.

**College Open Days - The boys' schools have not sent information yet.**

**ST MARY'S COLLEGE OPEN DAY – Wednesday 8 March 2018 Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March at 2.30pm and 6.30pm.**

**BARADENE COLLEGE - OPEN EVENING - will be held on Thursday 8 March, 2018 at 6.30 p.m. We welcome all prospective parents and students to visit the College. Entry at Gate 2 to the Auditorium.**

A limited number of place in Year 9 will be available and applications will close on **Thursday 22 March, 2018.**

**Marcellin College's 60th Jubilee is on 23-25 March 2018. Registrations now open at [www.marcellin.school.nz](http://www.marcellin.school.nz).**



### Green Fingers

Last year I gave regular updates about the different class garden projects, which were kindly supported by the **Rotary Club of St John's**. Over the long, hot and more recently, wet summer the gardens have flourished. Anisi and Ms Mafu showing off some of the bounty!



Pumpkin soup and carrot cake coming soon . . .

### 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](mailto:anita.sarich@manaiakalani.org) or phoned on 021838947 or visited at Sommerville School.

**Any Worries . . . tell us about it. We want to help.**

# Term 1 2018

February				
19 <b>Week 4</b> <b>RE: God Strand</b> BOT Meeting 7pm	20	21	22 Meet the Teacher Evening 6pm	23
26 <b>Week 5</b> Ear Van at School	27 Dedication Mass at Christ the King 7pm All Welcome	28		
March				
			1	2
5 <b>Week 6</b>	6	7	8	9
12 <b>Week 7</b>	13	14	15	16
19 <b>Week 8</b> <b>RE: Jesus Strand</b> BOT Meeting 7pm Life Ed Caravan	20 Life Ed Caravan	21 Life Ed Caravan	22 Life Ed Caravan	23 Life Ed Caravan
26 <b>Week 9</b>	27	28	29 Holy Thursday Liturgy	30 Good Friday Holiday
April				
2 <b>Week 10</b>	3 Easter Monday Holiday	4 Easter Tuesday Holiday	5	6
9 <b>Week 11</b>	10	11	12	13 Last Day of Term 2.45pm finish.

## Principal Sabbatical

The New Zealand Teachers Council and Ministry of Education have granted me a **Sabbatical** for **Term 2** this year. This means I will be away from school for the entire term. **Mrs Williams** will be **Acting Principal** while I am away. As part of this award I will be travelling to both **Tonga and Samoa** to visit schools and learn more about how education works in these countries. Although most of our children were born in New Zealand, most of our parent group were educated in the islands. I also plan to investigate what particular teacher competencies work best for our Pasifika children. I am still working out the details of exactly where I will be going, but if families do have any close connections with any schools I would be very pleased to talk to you about possible introductions.

Our Board of Trustees fully supported my application.