



Dear Parents and Caregivers

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

Thank you so much to all the parents and caregivers who were able to come to our Meet the Teacher evening 22nd February. It was great to see such a large and enthusiastic group present. As well as introducing the teachers for each class, I also spoke about our goal of increasing parental involvement this year by challenging every parent to regularly go onto the student and class blogs and post positive comments about the learning happening in each classroom. All rooms have a class blog which can be found through a link on the school website. In the senior classes all children have their own individual blogs where they share their learning. We have set up a competition within the school between classes to encourage parents to make comments. Please click here for [Class Blogs](#)

I also explained to those present how we as a school will now track achievement levels given that National Standards have been discontinued as a Ministry of Education and Government priority.

Testing

Last week the children completed their Start of Year testing programme in Literacy and Numeracy using e-asTTle for **Writing** and Progress and Achievement Tests (PAT) for **Reading** and **Mathematics**. Yesterday Mrs Tui spent the day with teachers from all the schools in our Manaiaakalani Community of Learning (CoL), moderating writing papers to ensure there is consistency of assessment across all our schools. We are expecting good results after so many children took part in the Summer Learning Journey.

Parent Forum Report

The first Parents Forum for the year was held on Thursday 1 March, attended by 13 dedicated parents. **Involve2Understand** is the 2018 theme, based on the discussions that came out of the nine forums held last year.

Parents expressed the need for classes to regularly attend morning mass as a form of equipping our students in their faith and preparing them for the sacraments as this is an important aspect of the school's special character.

Key matters raised during the discussion: **(All points noted – P Coakley)**

- Better communication
- Last minute preparation and last minute notices are not appreciated
- Language Weeks - Parents offering to support events during language weeks
- Better quality school sandals in black only
- Volunteers required for Breakfast Club
- To support children's learning by going on the class blogs
- School sports calendar so option of coach for the codes can be shoulder tapped
- Need to have actual sports teams for the school
- Source funding to cover out-of-pocket expenses for coaching and volunteering
- Utilize the nurses' service for their sick children
- Create programs where talent is recognized and nurtured

Meetings: Thursdays 6 - 8pm

Term 2: 17 May Term 3: 23 August Term 4: 25 October

Facilitators: **Jeannie Pera & Siueli Vatikani**

Religious Education God Strand

Please talk to your children about their Religious Education work. All the classes are presently working on the God Strand. I have included a brief perspective for each class.

	Year Focus
Room 1	<p><u>Jesus My Friend</u> Catholics believe that Jesus of Nazareth, called Christ, is both human and divine. As a human being, Jesus was born into a particular society and culture, and lived in a certain geographical location, at a precise time in history. To properly appreciate his message we need some understanding of these realities of Jesus' life. In learning of Jesus' friendship with his disciples we can come to appreciate his calling us into friendship with him today.</p>
Room 4	<p><u>Jesus Showed His Love in Different Ways</u> Jesus showed his love and respect for the <i>tapu</i> of people in many different ways; talking, listening, sharing meals, touching, healing and, eventually, dying for them. We are called to follow Jesus' example. Our best resource for this is the stories of Jesus in the Bible.</p>
Room 3	<p><u>Jesus Gives Himself in the Eucharist</u> The best way of giving thanks to God is joining with Christ's gift of himself in the <i>Eucharist</i>. The <i>Eucharist</i> helps people to grow in <i>holiness</i> and <i>grace</i> – <i>tapu</i> and <i>mana</i> as they recognise Christ's presence in the gathering of his people and his ministry and in the proclamation of the Word. Above all, they recognise Christ's presence in the transformed bread and wine, which have become, 'in a way surpassing understanding', his Body and Blood.</p>
Room 5	<p><u>Jesus Came to Show People How to Live and Lead Them to God</u> Jesus invites people to grow closer to God – grow in <i>holiness</i> – <i>tapu</i> and <i>mana</i> by sharing in his life through the gift of God's <i>grace</i>. By accepting this invitation Christians share in Jesus' mission of worshipping God and bringing about the <i>Kingdom or Reign of God</i> – <i>Te Rangatiratanga</i>, 'on earth as it is in heaven'.</p>
Room 7	<p><u>Jesus - Saviour and Liberator</u> Through his life, death and resurrection, Jesus saves people from <i>sin</i> and death. As risen Lord he is with his people, freeing them from all that prevents them from responding as disciples in <i>faith</i> and love.</p>

Soul Friends Mass 16th March

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

College Open Days -

Sacred Heart College – Open Day Wednesday 7th March. Applications for both **Enrolment** or for **Endeavour Scholarship** close **29 March 2018**.

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 places in Year 9 will be available and applications will close on **Thursday 22 March, 2018**.

St Mary's College – Open Day/Evening Thursday 8th March at 2.30pm and 6.30pm. Closing Date **Wednesday 21st March**.

Marcellin College's 60th Jubilee is on 23-25 March 2018. Registrations now open at www.marcellin.school.nz.

Meet our Support Staff
The important people who help make St Pius X tick !!!
(Interviews conducted by Mikaela and Aaliyah Room 7)



Mrs Philippa Bell has been the face of our school office for the last 11 years. She loves working with the children and families of our community. In her spare time she loves travelling and spending time with her family and especially her grandchildren.



Ms Mafu has worked with the children of Room 1 for most of the last eleven years that she has been part of our school family. She also enjoys helping the older children as well. She loves going shopping when not at school and spending time with her grandson.



Mr Sepulona Tai has been our part-time caretaker for about 5 years and a member of the St Pius X Community for many more. He has been the father and grandfather of lots of our students over the years. He loves going fishing in his spare time although with his large family, there is not much of that.



Mrs Shona Hoggins is one of our longest serving staff members who has been at St Pius X for 17 years and has completed a range of tasks working with children and administration. In recent years she has looked after the library and coordinated our extra reading support programmes. She loves gardening, chatting to people and playing computer games.

Paid Union Meetings

Message for school whanāu

You may be aware of the nationwide crisis in recruiting and retaining teachers.

Children need teachers with enough time to teach so they can give each child the attention they deserve, and children need talented and inspiring people to be

attracted to teaching. Children are missing out on some opportunities to learn because teachers are bogged down in administration or are struggling to get enough support for children with additional learning needs.

Teachers at our school are joining an NZEI Te Riu Roa campaign, called *Kua Tae Te Wā – It's Time* to address these issues. Our goal is to free teachers to teach, and principals to lead, by getting the additional support and staff that schools need. And we'll attract more people to teaching by respecting and paying them as the professionals they are.

NZEI Te Riu Roa members at our school have been invited to paid union meetings in March so that we can plan and discuss the campaign and their upcoming collective agreement negotiations. The meeting schedule has been planned so that teachers and principals across the country can work out the best meetings for them to attend, including the option of groups of teachers attending meetings at different times. This is to help reduce disruption to teaching programmes, children and parents.

Our children deserve the best education in the world, and New Zealand can afford to provide it. It's just a matter of priorities. Thanks for your co-operation in this important matter.

Our teachers will be attending their PUM's over two different meetings on **Tuesday 20th March** so there will be some combining of classes. **The school will remain open on this day.**



Term 1 2018

March				
5 Week 6 <i>RE: God Strand</i>	6	7	8	9
12 Week 7	13	14 <i>BOT Finance Meeting</i>	15	16
19 Week 8 <i>RE: Jesus Strand</i> <i>BOT Meeting 7pm</i>	20 <i>PUM – Paid Union Meetings for Teachers</i>	21	22	23
<i>Life Ed Caravan</i>	<i>Life Ed Caravan</i>	<i>Life Ed Caravan</i>	<i>Life Ed Caravan</i>	<i>Life Ed Caravan</i>
26 Week 9	27	28	29 <i>Holy Thursday Liturgy</i>	30 <i>Good Friday Holiday</i>
April				
2 Week 10	3 <i>Easter Monday Holiday</i>	4 <i>Easter Tuesday Holiday</i>	5	6
9 Week 11	10	11	12	13 <i>Last Day of Term 2.45pm finish.</i> Mr Coakley's last day until Term 3