



Dear Parents and Caregivers

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

We are now well into **Holy Week** with the end of Lent and the Easter celebrations close. We will be holding our **Holy Thursday Liturgy at 11.00am** on Thursday. All parents and Caregivers are welcome to join us. I also encourage all families to join in the Parish Easter celebrations over this weekend.

St Pius X Parish Easter Celebrations

Holy Thursday 7.00pm Mass

Good Friday 10.00am Stations of the Cross lead by the Parish Youth

Good Friday 3.00pm Veneration of the Cross

Easter Saturday – Vigil Mass 7.30pm

Easter Sunday - Mass at 9.00am

Soul Friends Mass

On Thursday 15th March, Father Felise celebrated a beautiful mass for both **St Patrick's Day** and our **Soul Friend** programme. Each class teams up with another and then students are chosen to look after and support each other during the year. At different times classes have shared lunches and do Buddy Reading together. Both the older and the younger children enjoy this programme that has been in place for many years. See below from some of the class blogs !!!



Viane & Mele

My soul friend is Viane and he is a boy. He is 13 years old. He really likes a lot of sports and wants to be a boxer when hes older. His favourite subject is maths because he is good at it. And he is a year 8. And he likes listening to music. His favourite thing to do is playing games. My soul friend gave me some food today for our share lunch and Morning tea as will and he is kind.

My Soul Friend is Mikaela and she is a year 8 student. She loves sport and her favourite food is butter chicken. She always cares for her friends and for other people too. Her favourite sport is netball and she also plays basketball. Mikaela is just like my mum because she is a kind person that helps me do my work. She is 12 years old and she is a very smart person. Her best friends are Aaliyah, Katelyn and Von but she treats everybody as her friend. I like my soul friend because she lovely and confident in what she does.



Mikaela & Monique

Meet some more important staff members.
The wonderful people who help make St Pius X tick !!!
(Interviews conducted by Student Reporter Katelyn Room 7)

Mrs Ruth Round has been working at St Pius for over 3 years as a music specialist and loves the students and staff. Since she was a child she has had a strong love of music and has played lots of it as she grew up. Music was still a very big passion of hers as she grew older so she studied it and got a professional degree. When she got her degree she really wanted to teach music to kids because she wanted to share her passion for music with others that enjoyed it as much as she did. She loves gardening and spending time with her grandchildren.



Lavinia Motulalo-Tafa has been working at St Pius X for 4 years as our Community Health Worker. She loves working with people to learn and connect about the different ways they do things. Her favourite part of her job is helping and working with children. She loves trying to find answers and reasons to her patient's health issues. She has swabbed more throats than she has had hot dinners but loves helping all the children and families.

Mrs Susan Kelway has been working at St Pius X for 18 years. She chose her career path to become a **Reading Recovery** teacher because she has always wanted to help children with their learning and also her nephew had learning difficulties and it inspired her to try and help him. Her friend was teaching at St Pius X School and wanted Mrs Kelway to come join her so she tried it and enjoyed it so much she didn't want to leave. The school community was very welcoming. Her favourite part of her job is watching children achieve their learning goals. She really enjoys reading, going to opera shows and different art festivals.



. . . and don't forget

Our Social Worker (SWiS) Siueli Vatikani who we share with Glen Innes School. **Siueli** has become an important member of our school community. **Siueli** works with families and students to make sure they can access all the support services they are able to. She also coordinates our Breakfast Club and works with **Ms Jeannie** supporting our Parents Forum. She also runs various support programmes for our senior students.



One of our key **Breakfast Club** helpers is **Helen H.** With **Beni's** help, Helen sets up breakfast each Monday morning and is always ready with a welcoming smile for any children who need breakfast before school. All of **Helen's** other sons have been through St Pius X and now only **Beni** is here for his last year.



Life Education

We have just completed our bi-annual visit by **Harold** and the **Life Education Caravan**. Each of the classes selected a particular Health aspect to focus on during their visits. This was teacher **Lynn's** first visit to St Pius and she reported that she had a fabulous time. She was very impressed with the excellent questions our students asked, particularly the younger ones. Many thanks to our Board of Trustees who fund this visit rather than charging parents, as many other schools do. Excellent driving by the wonderful driver of the huge truck that

brought the caravan up the driveway and past the church safely.

Driveway Rules

Please drive very carefully whenever you use the school or church driveway to keep the children safe and please also refrain from driving up after school, even if the cones have not been put out yet.

If you do get here early please come in and we will find a device for you to spend some time commenting on your child's blog.

A Blogging Explosion has hit SPX !!!

Parents will be well aware that a major goal for this year is to improve parent involvement with children's learning by regularly engaging in blogging. All the classrooms have been busy posting all sorts of learning on their class sites and asking parents and friends to make comments on that learning. The junior classes have class sites and the senior children have their own personal sites as well as a general class site. We are running a school - wide competition to see which class can get the most comments and I have promised the children that if we can get every parent to make at least one comment, I will buy the whole school lunch. We are still counting all the comments but the improvement on last year has been fantastic. At present Room 1 is leading the way with individual postings, although they do get some help from their very competitive teachers. Room 4 has received the most individual comments and the most page views with 2022 to date. It is far more difficult to record numbers for Rooms 5 and 7 as there are so many individual sites to check. Room 3 has had over 1700 page views, which is remarkable.

Parents please remember you can find your child's class site on the school website www.saintpiusx.school.nz and if you do not have a computer or device please come into school either before or after school and your child will show you how to leave a comment.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE DUES FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Financial assistance is available to assist families who may need financial support with the payment of attendance dues for preference students attending Catholic schools in Auckland Diocese, both primary and secondary.

Families facing financial difficulties can contact their school office, their Parish Priest or the Revenue Manager at the Catholic Diocese of Auckland for further information.

Application forms for the Hardship Scheme are available from school and parish offices, or can be down-loaded from the Catholic Diocese of Auckland website:

www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/catholic-schools/

(go to Catholic Schools in Auckland / Attendance Dues and Special Character Contributions)

Term 1 2018

March					
26	Week 9	27	28	29 Holy Thursday Liturgy 11.00am	30 Good Friday Holiday
April					
2	Week 10	3 Easter Monday Holiday	4 Easter Tuesday Holiday	5	6
9	Week 11	10	11	12	13 Last Day of Term 2.45pm finish. Mr Coakley's last day until Term 3