



Dear Parents and Caregivers

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

Welcome to my last newsletter for the term. I will be away from school for the last week of term travelling to Eastern Europe, returning before school starts again after the holidays on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October. Mrs Williams will be Acting Principal while I am away, so please give her a call if you have any issues or concerns. I know many of our senior syndicate students are quite excited as I will actually be in a couple of the countries they are studying. I know one child asked me to bring him back a piece of the Berlin Wall. I am sure I will take plenty of photos to share with them.

### Strategic Plan update.

Thank you to everyone who was able to complete the written survey form following our meeting last week. I will have all the responses collated after the holidays and send information about our plan as it develops, next term. We really do appreciate your input and value the great ideas that have come forward. We will also be getting the children to complete surveys as it is important we have 'student voice' in our plans.

### Senior Leaders Conference



Genevieve



Sione



Jordan



Maxine

Last Friday our Senior Leaders were invited to take part in the first Manaiakalani Student Hui. Year 8 students from all our schools spent the day at Tamaki College hearing keynote speakers about digital learning and sharing their learning experiences over the last few years using netbooks for most of their work. The day was sponsored by Telecom and each participated in a challenge activity to finish off the day and received a nice 'goody' bag before they left. Sione was very fortunate to also win a new cell phone during the day. It is so wonderful that our leaders are getting the chance to mix with other students from our cluster in such a positive way.

### Random Act of Kindness – Ice Blocks for Everybody

Last Friday everybody at the school received a free ice block. A group of senior students from Baradene College visited as part of their 'Random Act of Kindness' programme and gave everybody a refreshing surprise. It was a lovely gesture which I hope we can '**pay it forward**' sometime soon. I will be having a chat with our senior students about possibilities early next term.

### Library books overdue

All library books should be returned to the library next week. We still have many books overdue so please check bedrooms, lounges, cupboards or any other place the children may have left the books. We need them back. Overdue books will generate an invoice to replace the lost book so I thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

## Kids 4 Kids

This year we once again entered Room 3 into the World Vision sponsored Kids 4 Kids Festival. This event has now been happening for over twenty years and gives our children the chance to join with hundreds of other children performing on the big stage with celebrity entertainers singing some of New Zealand's favourite songs. This year Jackie Clarke and Nathan King led the performance. As a school we were thrilled to have several of our girls selected to perform on their own. Rosalina sang solo, Kanesini played the ukulele and Stephanie performed poi. Special thanks to Mrs Carter, Miss G and Mrs Deeney for teaching all the songs.



Rosalina sings on her own beautifully.



Jackie and Nathan lead the choir during practise.



The girls had a great time waiting for their turn.



So did the boys! . . . and a few more girls.



## Duffy Role Model Assembly

On Tuesday we had a visit from **Mr Nathan Gray** who came to our assembly as part of the **Duffy Books in Homes Programme** to give out the children's books. Mr Gray gave a wonderful talk about his adventures with four friends, when they walked the entire length of **The Great Wall of China**. He talked about the extremes of weather they had to deal with, getting lost many times, nearly freezing and starving. He talked about the wonderful generosity of the local people, most of whom had never seen anybody who was not Chinese. He gave a strong message to the children that they can achieve any goal provided they are prepared to work hard and never give up. He was very generous and donated copies of the two books he has written to the school. He was very impressed with the quality of questions our children asked him after his speech.

## **Board Talk**

### 1. Community Consultation

Thank you to all you who came to our community consultation. There is still time to tell the school and the board what you like, what you think we could do better and how you would like to see our special school in the future. We value your ideas and thoughts. Please share them with us.

### 2. Parent Social – Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2013

Keep this date free! The board is going to have an end of year social for the parents. Look out for further information!

### 2. Wireless Development

The board decided in our August meeting to have two more wireless points in our school and that we will again apply to the Mt. Wellington Foundation for funding to support ICT equipment in the school. Thank you Mt. Wellington Foundation!

### 3. Training

Board members have been busy attending training to help them understand their roles. This training has included topics such as governance, the Pasifika Education Plan and student-led conferences.

### 4. Change of Member

It is great news that Mr Sepulona Tai has accepted the position of part-time caretaker at our school. Unfortunately this means he can no longer be a board member, but will still advise our property committee. The Bishop will organise a replacement for Mr Tai on our board. We will let you all know who the replacement is, as soon as the board knows. Thank you, Sepulona for continuing to be on our property committee as an advisor.

## **Board Reminders**

Board Training Dates **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November 6.30 – 9pm** Focus : **Property & Money** at **Stanhope Road School.**

It is important that as many as possible attend these training sessions, so that we all have a shared understanding. If you need transport, let either Paul or Catherine know.

### Next Board Committee Meetings:

Special Character – (to be confirmed)

Community – 4<sup>th</sup> November 6.00 – 7.00pm

Property – 4<sup>th</sup> November 7.00 – 8.00pm

Finance – 16<sup>th</sup> October 3.15pm - 4.00pm

Policy – 14<sup>th</sup> October 6.00 – 7.00 pm

Next Board Meeting : Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October :- new time – 6.30 – 9.00pm Parents and caregivers are also welcome to come.

### **Rheumatic Fever and Skin Infection Screening.**

Next term you will be receiving information about this combined Ministry of Health and Auckland District Health Board initiative to identify symptoms early and offer free treatment when required.

### **Catholic Schools' Quiz**

Today eight of our Year 6 students travelled to St Ignatius Catholic School to compete in this annual event. Last year our students combined with the children from St Ignatius. This was so successful that this year the organisers decided to mix all the children up to form combined teams. In this way the children have a far better opportunity to meet and get to know the other competitors.



## **NB Room 7 Assembly**

We will be having Room 7's Assembly on Friday morning at the earlier time of 10.30am. This will double as an Honours Badge Assembly when we will name two more recipients of this very high honour in our school.

## **School Disco**

There will be a school disco this Friday evening. All St Pius children are invited. There will be a separate info sheet sent home with details. All children will need to be collected from the hall by a parent or older sibling after the disco. Children will **not** be allowed to walk home by themselves afterwards.



## **Term 3 2013**

September 2013				
16 Junior CRT day BOT Meeting 6.30pm	17 Duffy Role Model Assembly at 1.30pm	18	19 Catholic Schools Quiz at St Ignatius Year 6	20 <b>Room 7 Assembly at earlier time of 10.30am</b> School Disco
23 Mr Coakley away all week Duffy Theatre 11.00 RE Cluster meetings	24 Last Day for League	25 Cluster Cross Country	26	27 Room 6 Mass Last Day of Term

## **Important Notice**

Occasionally we need to call parents during the day. Over the last few weeks we have had trouble making contact with several families as their phone details had changed. It is absolutely vital that if there have been any changes since enrolment time that you let Philippa in our office know so she can update our school database. We had the situation recently when we could not contact parents when we had a very sick child at school. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

**Term 4 starts on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October.**