



Dear Parents and Caregivers

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

Welcome back to school for our first full year in our new buildings. What a lovely summer break it has been and it looks like it is going to be warm for a little while longer. Special welcome to our new students and their families. I am sure you will enjoy your time at St Pius X and that very soon you will be calling this place home, as so many have in the past. Please ask if you are unsure of anything. We understand there are so many new things to remember and we are more than happy to help in any way we can to make the transition from either preschool or another school, as easy as possible. The teachers have been hard at work for a couple of weeks now and are also excited about the coming year and working with you and the children again.

As we have done for many years now, our staff had a special Retreat Day at the **Mary MacKillop Centre** in Mission Bay. Fr Line, whom many of you will know, led us during this day with our theme being **'We are called in our Baptism'**. It was a very inspiring and energising day which all the staff enjoyed very much.

A major goal for this year is to build on the progress being made in our achievement levels in recent years and to maximise the wonderful opportunities our new Modern Learning spaces provide and to embrace the improved collaboration between teachers that comes with this. We have adopted the theme of **'Kindness'** and this virtue will run through everything we do at school this year.

Official Blessing and Opening Ceremony Friday 21st February 11.00am

Parents, grandparents and friends of St Pius X School are invited to share this special occasion with us on Friday 21st February when **Bishop Pat** will formally bless our new school buildings. We have many invited guests including members of the Auckland Catholic Diocesan Property Committee, the Vicar for Education, the Holy Faith Sisters Community, our local Member of Parliament and City Councillors, local Catholic High School Principals, our own Manaiakalani Principals as well as many, many friends of the school. The architects, engineers and construction managers will also attend. The children will be performing several items during the ceremony before all the guests will have the opportunity to have a closer look through our beautiful new school facilities. Our Board of Trustees have also invited **Mr Pio Timu**, the Samoan Master Carver who carved the beautiful pou that now stands at our school entrance. Special thanks to **Mrs Vicky Coakley** who helped design and build the new rock garden at its base.

Bishop Pat will also bless a special commemorative plaque which will be later attached to the wall outside the main entrance to mark this special occasion.

We are asking guests to park in the new carpark behind the church rather than in the school carpark, which will be reserved for Bishop Pat, the Sisters and other invited guests.



Jelly Beans Music



Welcome back **Mr Kevin Kim** who worked with our children last year. Mr Kim will run his programme this term while **Mrs Carter** is on leave overseas. Mr Kim is a professional recorder performer. He has studied at the Royal Conservatory in the Hague, in the Netherlands. He also plays ukulele, guitar and keyboard. He is very pleased to be back teaching our talented children. They also, are all pleased to have him back.

Calendar of Events

Please check the Calendar of Events on the back of this newsletter and diary the main dates such as any special school functions where you are invited to attend. We need to work together to give our children the best opportunities for success that we can.

Sick or Absent Children



Please let the school know as early as possible if a child is going to be away from school when sick. This saves our office staff a huge amount of time as we are required to make contact with families when children don't show up. Also please let us know any changes to telephone numbers or emergency contacts.



Novel coronavirus: Information for Parents and Caregivers — From the Ministry of Education

Children and young people are currently returning to classrooms, and the health of students and staff is a priority for all. We encourage you to err on the side of caution. Here are some steps you can take: Please click on the links if reading this newsletter on line.

- [Advice for an unwell child](#)
- [Length of stay at home period](#)
- [Authority to prevent a student's attendance](#)
- [Keeping you and your family well](#)
- [Local District Health Boards](#)

Advice for an unwell child

Anyone who is unwell should not be at school. If you have a particular concern about your child, please contact Healthline at 0800 358 5453 or your GP for medical advice.

Healthline has translators and interpreters available 24/7 in 150 languages.

The incubation period is up to 14 days.

Length of stay at home period

For a child who may be at high risk of exposure because they have travelled recently to China or have been in close contact with someone confirmed with the virus, we ask you to delay the start of their school year for 14 days or delay attending their early learning service and stay home.

Authority to prevent a student's attendance

If your child attends school or an early learning service while showing symptoms, they may be asked to return home by the Principal of a state school, an early learning service provider or home-based educator.

Keeping you and your family well

In terms of keeping yourself and your family well, the Ministry of Health suggests the following:

- regularly washing hands (for at least 20 seconds with warm water and soap and dry thoroughly)
- covering your mouth and nose when you sneeze
- staying home if you are sick
- avoiding close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms
- if you feel unwell you should avoid public gatherings and events.

You can contact your local public health unit/district health board if you require further information:

BARADENE COLLEGE - OPEN EVENING will be held on Thursday 5 March, 2020 at 6.30 p.m. We welcome all prospective parents and students to visit the College. Entry at Gate 2 to the Auditorium.

Enrolments for Year 7, 2021 are presently being accepted and will close on **Friday 13 March 2020 at 3.00pm**. A limited number of places in Year 9 will be available and applications will close on **Friday 13 March 2020 at 3.00 pm**.

ST MARY'S COLLEGE OPEN DAY

Open Day on Thursday 5 March at 2.30pm & 6.30pm.

SACRED HEART COLLEGE OPEN DAY

Open Day Wednesday 4th March. Tours of the school at 11.45am and 1.30pm. Principal's Welcome Address at 1.00pm

Netbook Contract Concerns

Anita Sarich from the Manaiakalani Trust is based at Tamaki College 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 or phoned on 021838947 or visited at Tamaki College.

Any Worries . . .

Please remember we want to hear from you if you have any concerns about your child or their learning. Please contact the school office on 5287257 to leave a message for your child's teacher or email us at office@saintpiusx.school.nz

If you have more serious concerns please drop in to see me or give me a call to discuss the issue. It is always far better to sort things out early than to have to deal with things afterwards when sometimes they have escalated more than necessary. I will certainly call parents in, if I have issues with student behaviour.

Term 1 2020

February				
Week 2 10 <i>R.E. – Charism</i> <i>Kiwi Sport</i> <i>Music – Jelly Beans</i>	11	12 <i>Year 7/8</i> <i>Technology starts</i> <i>Tamaki College</i>	13	14 <i>Whole school</i> <i>Opening Mass</i> <i>9.00am</i>
Week 3 17 <i>R.E. – God Strand</i> <i>BOT Meeting</i> <i>7.00pm</i>	18 <i>Education</i> <i>Dedication Mass at</i> <i>Christ the King</i> <i>7pm</i>	19	20 <i>Ear Clinic</i>	21 <i>Blessing Ceremony</i> <i>for new buildings</i> <i>11am</i>
Week 4 24 <i>R.E. – God Strand</i> <i>Testing Week</i>	25 <i>Dedication Mass</i> <i>Christ the King</i> <i>Church, Owairaka</i> <i>7.00pm</i>	26	27	28
March				
Week 5 2 <i>Ear Clinic</i>	3 <i>Ear Clinic</i>	4 <i>SHC Open Day</i> <i>11.45 and 1.30pm</i>	5 <i>Baradene College</i> <i>Open Evening</i> <i>6.30pm</i>	6
Week 6 9 <i>R.E. – God Strand</i>	10	11 <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	12	13 <i>Learning</i> <i>Celebration</i> <i>Assembly</i> <i>DRS Day</i>
Week 8 16 <i>R.E. – God Strand</i>	17 <i>St Patrick's Day</i>	18	19	20 <i>Soul Friends' Mass</i>
Week 7 23 <i>R.E. – Jesus Strand</i>	24	25	26	27 <i>Teachers' Only Day</i> <i>No school</i>
Week 8 30 <i>R.E. – Jesus Strand</i>	31 <i>HPV 1 / Boostrix</i> <i>Immunisations</i>			
April				
		1	2	3
Week 9 6	7	8	9 <i>Holy Thursday.</i> <i>Last Day of Term.</i> <i>Term 2 begins</i> <i>Tuesday 28 April</i>	10 <i>Good Friday</i>

Don't Forget . . .

Please help your child to make sure their uniform is clearly named so it is easy for us to return it to them if lost. All children need to wear a hat when playing outside during Terms 1 and 4. School hats are available through our school office and every child will need their own school hat. Alternative hats will **not** be accepted this year. Sandals should be worn in Terms 1 and 4.

