



Dear Parents and Caregivers

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

This is our last newsletter for the year and I know the teachers and students are looking forward to the holidays which start on Tuesday afternoon. We have had an incredible year with some wonderful achievements. I have just finished reading every child's report and so many have made excellent progress. We started the year with a wonderful Catholic Character Review which showed we are absolutely living the values the Holy Faith Sisters brought to our school when they founded St Pius X School so long ago. We have continued our e-learning by extending the technology available to our junior classes. Now, as well as classroom computers, each class also has 6 Ipads which our youngest students are really loving.

One of our main strategic goals this year was to increase Parental involvement in their children's education. We have certainly had excellent attendance at our **Home School Partnership** meetings, particularly the one we had with a health focus. We also had great numbers at our **Strategic Consultation Evening** last term. It is great that parents are supporting the children and the school by coming to these meetings and it is absolutely necessary for this to continue next year. Our goal for next year though, is to increase parental involvement with the children while at home. We do not need parents to teach the children, we can do that. We need parents to talk to the children about what they are doing, to look at the children's blogs and make comments regularly. In this way you will know exactly what they are learning and they will know you are actively involved with them. More on this next year.

The following children received Virtues Certificates at our last assembly.

Lenleigh	- Excellence	Joseph	- Kindness
Helena	- Creativity	Akesa	- Creativity
Samasoni	- Commitment	Beni	- Caring
Kanesini	- Patience	Rosalina	- Responsibility
Patience	- Compassion	Gabriel	- Helpfulness
Folauhola	- Helpfulness	Oselise	- Generosity
Dawn	- Kindness	Zhyeina	- Helpfulness

The following children received Duffy books for 'Caught Being Good'

Sefopalu Rm 1,	Patience Rm 1,	Gabriel Rm 1,	Iverson Rm 2,	Mele Rm 1,
Malakai Rm 2,	Lili Rm 1,	Vaine Rm 3		

Important Dates for your Diary

Friday 13th December – Graduation Mass 9.30am in church.

Monday 16th December – Prizegiving 10.00am. Family Picnic lunch on field.

Tuesday 17th December – School closes at 12.30pm for holidays.

School reopens on Monday 3rd February 2014 at 8.55am.

Year 7 and 8 Activities



Last week our Year 7 and 8 leaders had their Activities Week which everybody enjoyed greatly. The week started with a day of intensive art work at school before heading the next day to **Orakei Basin** for a day of Kayaking with the experts from Adventure Specialties. On Thursday the group once again boarded the train to Britomat to catch the ferry to **Rangitoto Island**. This was the first time for all the children and for most it was the first time going out onto the Waitemata Harbour. The weather was great as we climbed to the very top for a magnificent view of our city. The last day of activities had the group going back to the **Auckland CBD** to compete in an amazing race type challenge finding many main landmarks around the city. Special thanks to Mrs Tui for all her organisation and to the Lion Foundation which provided a grant to pay for some of the activities. Next year these classes go on an overnight camp as part of their Outdoor Education Programme.

Gospel High School

On Monday last week we were very privileged to have a visit from Gospel High School from Fiji who were touring New Zealand and performing as a thank you for all the support their school has received from New Zealand over many years. There was wonderful singing and dancing which everybody enjoyed very much.



From our Wonderful Nurses !!!

Summer Holiday Health Care

1. Skin health

Summer holidays are a time when we are outdoors a lot. The warm weather brings lots of mosquitoes and other insects. Insect bites can easily become infected.

It is the time to be extra careful with skin conditions.

Remember: Check skin often, clean and cover all cuts, scratches, itchy bites etc, and keep fingernails clean and short. Wash and dry hands often to stop bugs spreading. Show an adult.

Easy to read information about skin infections can be found at <http://www.health.govt.nz/publication/health-literacy-and-prevention-and-management-skin-infections>



2. Sore Throat Checks

STOP sore throats hurting hearts – sore throats and Rheumatic fever
Get all sore throats checked and treated straight away. Every time.

During the school holidays, if your child complains about a sore throat take them to see your family doctor as soon as possible, so that they can check and swab to make sure the Strep A bug is identified and treated.

You can also get **FREE CHECKS** for your child's sore throat from:

Coxs 7 Day Pharmacy

Langimalie (Panmure and Onehunga)

Mount Wellington Integrated Family Health Centre

Information about Rheumatic fever and the free clinics can be found by calling Healthline on **0800 611 116** (free phone call) or at <http://www.health.govt.nz/your-health/conditions-and-treatments/diseases-and-illnesses/sore-throat/sore-throat-clinics>

Manaiakalani Bikes

Last week at our assembly two more of our hard working students received new bikes and helmets from the **Manaiakalani Trust** for their efforts with their learning. **Patrick** was commended for the quality and quantity of his blogging, particularly over the holiday periods during the year. **Alecia** blogged regularly but also was very helpful as a netbook monitor throughout the year.



Honours Badge

Last week we were very pleased to award our final **Honours Badges** to two more outstanding Year 8 students. Isaiah and Tevita have worked hard to gain their badge and are well deserved recipients. They are very much respected by their teachers and classmates alike. They have both been very involved across a range of activities and are always outstanding role models to our younger students.



Tevita



Isaiah

December 2013					
9	Wk 9	10	11	12	13
Xmas Carol Evening 6.00pm					Graduation Mass 9.30am Farewell Morning Tea
16	Wk 10	17			
School Prizegiving 10.00am followed by picnic lunch and activities.		Last Day of Year School closes at 12.30pm.			

2014

School starts again on Monday 3rd February. The school office will be open for uniforms and stationery from Tuesday 28th January between 9.00am and 12.00pm mid-day. Have a wonderful and Holy Christmas holiday and a safe New Year from all the staff.

