



Dear Parents and Caregivers

Kia ora, Talofa lava, Malo e lelei, Kia orana, Bula vinaka, Warmest Greetings

The term has started well after the terrible weather over the previous couple of weeks. I would like to thank Mrs Williams and the rest of the staff for all the hard work last term. They have been very busy helping the children develop their learning goals for this term. These will be discussed with all parents at our Three-Way Conferences for Years 4-8 students on Thursday afternoon and evening. Thank you to those who were able to get your appointment sheets back in plenty of time. If you still do not have an appointment please either contact the school office or just turn up, although you may have to wait for a gap in the teachers' timetable. Remember school closes at 12.30pm.

This week Mrs Tui, our Director of Religious Studies and I, along with other Catholic Leaders from Auckland schools, were invited by Bishop Pat to a presentation about Catholic Education and the mission of Catholic Schools in New Zealand. Bishop Charles Drennan from Palmerston North spoke about the different roles the schools and the Parish plays in developing the faith of our children, particularly in relation to the sacraments. He talked about what preference means and the desire to ensure as many of our children are baptised as possible, so they can take part fully in the sacramental life of the church. Parents choose Catholic education for a reason and that means being fully part of the Catholic Community, including church life. He challenged schools and families to work towards ensuring all children in our schools are baptised by supporting Parish sacramental programmes. At St Pius X we do work closely with the Parish and will continue to do so in the future.

Education Review Office Report

As you are all aware last term we had a visit from the Education Review Office to review how we are doing as a school and the opportunities we are able to offer our students. As I have reported previously the team met with the Staff, Board, Parents and students and thanked us for the very warm welcome they received and the openness and friendliness of the children. They were particularly impressed with the sense of family and how much the parents they met, felt part of the school. They have come up with some suggestions and recommendations for us to continue to improve. The staff and Board will now form an action plan so that so that we can move forward and continue to meet all our goals. They will visit again in three years' time as part of the normal review process. I have put a copy of the full report on the school website for your benefit.

Kiwisport

This term all the children will be learning all the skills and discipline of **Tae Kwon Do** with an expert coach coming each week. This is the second time we have had tae kwon do and it was good to see some of the skills learned last time had not been forgotten.



Board Talk

1. ERO

As you know, ERO came into our school in the first week of Term 2. The confirmed report has been made public and you can read it on : <http://www.ero.govt.nz/Early-Childhood-School-Reports/School-Reports/St-Pius-X-Catholic-School-Glen-Innes-27-06-2014> or on the school website.

The Board wants to thank the teachers and staff for all their hard work. ERO acknowledged the work our teachers and staff have done, and have given us recommendations on how to make our school even better. The Board and the Senior Leadership team will organise an action plan to ensure we follow-up on their recommendations.

2. Farewell Mrs. Pole

Thank you to all those in our community who came to our Farewell Mass for Mrs. Pole at the end of Term 2. It was lovely to see many ex-students come back to share her last Mass as a teacher at St. Pius X.

3. Student Achievement Evening

Thank you to all our parents who participated and shared their ideas. The Board values your ideas and comments. It is great to see our school vision in action – working together as a Catholic Community.

4. Board Training

With funding from NZSTA, the board are taking part in training to help us understand more about our board role and what else we can do to help raise student achievement. This training is free for our school.

Board Reminders

Next Board Meeting : Monday 18th August at 6.30 – 9.00pm. Parents and caregivers are also welcome to come.

Board Training for all Board Members : **Monday 4th August 2014. Starting at 6.00pm.**

Netball Results

Netball has started again for Term 3 with the first round of games on Tuesday evening this week. Our Year 7 side continued their winning way and the Year 8 team, who have been graded to a higher division, had a narrow loss.

Future All Black . . . ?



Congratulations to Sefesi from Room 7 who was selected for the Auckland Intermediate schools' Rugby Representative Team for Auckland East Bill McLaren Tournament which happened in the holidays.

Sefesi played all the warm-up games as well as all the tournament games against Central, West and South Auckland sides. The Auckland East team won the trophy and were crowned champions for 2014.

Well done, Sefesi!

One of our previous representative players, Nili Latu went on to play professional rugby and Captain Tonga.

Term 3 2014

July 2014					
21/7 School Starts	Wk 1	22/7	23/7	24/7	25/7
28/7 R.E. Church Strand/St Pius X Kiwisport starts Tae Kwon Do	Wk 2	29/7 Netball starts	30/7 Newsletter	31/7 3-Way conferences School closes 12.30pm	1/8 Room 7 Mass
August 2014					
4/8 BOT Training 6.00pm	Wk 3	5/8 St Mary's girls visit NED Show 1.45pm	6/8	7/8	8/8 Room 6 Assembly
11/8	Wk 4	12/8 Y1-4 trip to Ambury Farm Y5-8 WALA show at GI Primary	13/8 Newsletter Cluster Soccer	14/8 Cluster BOT training	15/8 Y5-8 Ambury Farm visit
18/8 BOT Meeting 6.30pm	Wk 5	19/8	20/8	21/8 Feast of Assumption	22/8 Manaiaikalani Annual Hui
25/8 R.E. Sacrament Strand	Wk 6	26/8	27/8 Newsletter	28/8	29/8 Sunday 31 st Aug School Mass
September 2014					
1/9	Wk 7	2/9	3/9	4/9 Kids 4 Kids show - Rehearsal in morning. Main show in evening	5/9 SPX Cross Country
8/9	Wk 8	9/9	10/9 Newsletter Cluster Rugby	11/9	12/9
15/9 R.E. Cluster meetings	Wk 9	16/9	17/9	18/9	19/9
22/9	Wk 10	23/9	24/9 Newsletter Cluster Cross Country	25/9	26/9 Last Day of Term



I need to remind all parents about our 'Safety at the School Gate' programme. Please remember to take care when collecting your children and make sure you park legally as the parking wardens will be coming to school regularly and they will fine people who break the rules. Keep out of the bus stop and do not park over driveways.

Matariki

Room 6 students, with the help of a group of Community artists produced the great sculpture which was on display at the recent Matariki Festival of Light in Glen Innes. The sculpture will soon find a home back at St Pius X for future students to enjoy.



Last week was Maori Language Week, as well as being the end of Matariki, the Maori New Year.

We had the opportunity to take a hīkoi (walk) through the heart of the village and stroll through Maybury Reserve. We followed the flax-lined pathway leading to an amazing light display, a playful and quirky celebration of Matariki. Local youth have worked with The Roots Collective (professional artists and designers) to create the displays.

The event revived the tradition of giving thanks for the harvest and celebrating the new year planting season, all within a modern context. Entertainment and traditional Māori foods prepared by local groups were on offer nightly.

The final night on Saturday 26 July closed with a community concert and a spectacular fireworks display to Māori and Pasifika music meaningful to the celebration.

Special thanks to old boy **Petelo Esekielu** for arranging the St Pius involvement and for helping our students feel even more part of the community.