



Mission Statement: Excellence in Education: Working together as a Catholic Community

Dear Parents and Caregivers

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

Welcome to my last newsletter for the term. We have had an outstanding term in respect to student achievement outside the classroom. The teachers have all worked extremely hard helping the children and ensuring they were well prepared for all the numerous events and activities during the term. They have not let us down and have been a real credit to their school. We have, however, had a couple of instances where children have deliberately damaged the school either through deliberate acts such as tagging or unintentional but very careless behaviour in relation to a window being broken. Parents are called when this happens and expected to work with us to deal with the behaviour when it occurs. Children are taught to respect property and need to understand there are consequences if they don't.

Last week our teachers had the opportunity to meet with teachers from all the other Catholic Schools in our part of the city, to look at the **Liturgical Year** and how that relates to the seasons. We particularly discussed how we, in the Southern Hemisphere, relate to the different church seasons and the symbols we use to get this message to the children. It is always great to link up with other Catholic educators and talk about what we are doing in our own schools. This was organised by the Catholic Schools' Office and funded in part by Attendance Dues. We attend two or three of these Cluster meetings each year.



Last Friday we celebrated our annual **Grandparents Mass**. This is a time when the children get a chance to thank their grandparents for being so wonderful and caring. At the mass we awarded a 'Caught Being Good Grand Parent Award' to Precious, Monique and Zheyina's grandfather, Fonofili Saofai, which was a beautiful book donated by the Duffy Books in Home Programme. Here are just some of our wonderful Grandparents enjoying a cup of tea after mass

The following children received Virtues Certificates at our last assembly.

Alfred S	- Enthusiasm	Jireh T	- Perseverance
Laki P	- Self-Control	Maris-Stella S	- Service
Dianne F	- Gentleness	Sefopalulu M	- Determination
Kalolaine T	- Caring	Tokolupe F	- Caring
Rosrine V	- Enthusiasm	Folauhola F	- Responsibility
Szaskia L	- Determination		

The following students have been awarded Duffy Books in the last couple of weeks after being selected at our 'Caught Being Good' draw.

Zahara Rm 4, Seine Rm 1, Monique Rm 6, Kilistina Rm 6, Alilia Rm 3, Helena Rm 4, Raphael Rm 5

Speech Competitions

On Friday the whole school had the pleasure of hearing our very best speeches from our Senior classes. The top three or four from each of Rooms 5, 6 and 7 were selected during class time to compete for the top awards for their year levels. We were very blessed to have Sr Johanna and Ms Miriam Hollins, who both work each week at school helping with Reading, to act as judges. They were very impressed with the range and quality of the speeches and stated that it was very hard to select the eventual winners at each level.

The winners were:

Year 5	1 st	Raphael M	with	'My Culture'
	2 nd	Saveu U	with	'Cookies'
	3 rd	Sammy C	with	'Love'
Year 6	1 st	Seuati P	with	'Super Heros'
	2 nd	Joshua U	with	'How to pack a suit case'
	3 rd	Rosrine V	with	'Friendship'
Year 7	1 st	Jane S	with	'No Netbook in the Classroom'
	2 nd	Sonya H	with	'Nature'
	3 rd	Valenisia	with	'Netbook Disadvantages'
Year 8	1 st	Deja T	with	'School Motto'
	2 nd	Ascott M	with	'Pacific Islander'
	3 rd	Zheiyana R	with	'Embracing Yourself'



We were also entertained by Tangi, who gave his speech completely in Tongan and Osca who also gave an entertaining speech while the judges were checking the scores.

Ripper Rugby

For the last few weeks our Year 3 and 4 students have been training with Hamish from the Marist Rugby Club in preparation for the combined Cluster Ripper Rugby Tournament which was held at Mt Wellington Reserve after school last week. This is a very talented team with huge potential. They won all but one of their games, going down narrowly to Panmure Bridge School in the final. We had lots of



parents supporting the team as well as a couple of senior students on the night. It was great to see the team dressed in our brand new school team uniforms, which were provided by sponsorship by Creating Communities.

Special thanks to Mr Gaffney, Mr Slade and Mrs Tui for organising the team.

School House Trophy for Cross Country



Last week Ascott and Christian were awarded the House Trophy on behalf of their respective Houses being the winning team on the day. After all the races the Geckos and Tuis were equal on points so share the trophy this year. Our school team is competing at Bailey Road School today.

Duffy Role Model Assembly

Last week we were privileged to have a wonderful role model visit our assembly to talk about why reading was so important. Her name was Christine Ferneyhough. Christine has been a teacher, business woman and educator - co-founding, with Alan Duff, the hugely successful Duffy Books in Homes programme and then the Gifted Kids Programme. In 2004 she spied an advertisement for the sale of the legendary Castle Hill Station, near Porter Heights in the Canterbury Alps. Christine threw herself into station life with gusto. Since living at Castle Hill she has also written two books 'Ben and Mark: Boys of the High Country' and 'The Road to Castle Hill'. In the 2011 New Year's Honours she became a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit (CNZM) for services to the community.



Farewell to Mrs Margaret Deeney.

On Friday we say farewell to Mrs Margaret Deeney who has taught in both Rooms 5 and 4 this year. She was going to leave at the end of last term but agreed to cover Room 4 until Mrs Poles's replacement was able to begin next term. We will miss her hard work and dedicated service. If we are lucky, she will visit in the future and may even do a little relief teaching.

Free Lunch on Friday Free Lunch on Friday Free Lunch on Friday

Gattings Catering, who have been supporting our Breakfast Club during the term have offered a free lunch to all the children and staff on Friday as a celebration of a very successful term.

Prayers Please

It was with sadness we heard about the passing of **Mr Brendan Schollum**, ex principal of Sacred Heart College and long-time friend of St Pius X. He will be missed by everybody who knew him after many, many years in Catholic Education.

Here Comes Mrs Wishy Washy!



At our Assembly last week the whole school was entertained by a very talented group of students and teachers as they presented the **Virtue of Trust**, for the rest of the school to focus on over the coming weeks. Some of these Room 1 children have only been at school for a few weeks but were able to make us laugh and enjoy a wonderful assembly. Great acting and beautiful singing, especially by Alfred who sang solo expertly.



Holidays

School finishes on Friday for the well deserved break. I will be travelling to Samoa to spend some time in the Marist Brothers school at Mulivai where I hope to build a close relationship with St Pius X over the coming years. Their Principal Br John Hazelman visited St Pius X last week and it will be great to return the favour. Please have a relaxing holiday and ensure all your children read as much as possible as our assessments start pretty much straight away in the new term.