



Dear Parents and Caregivers

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

In the Catholic liturgical calendar, the New Year begins on the First Sunday of Advent. Our liturgical calendar celebrates the life of Jesus Christ. We begin with the Advent and Christmas seasons, which revolve around Jesus' birth. Every year, on this first Sunday of Advent, the Gospel reading is about the end of the world. By looking to the end of the world, it helps us put everything into perspective. We can work towards our goal of where we want to be and during Advent we think about our lives and begin to prepare our hearts for the celebration of the birth of Jesus.



On Sunday Father lit the first of the four candles on the Advent wreath.

An Advent Blessing

**See the guiding light that shows you the
road to travel.
As you listen for the cry, and watch for
the light on your journey,
Feel the presence of hope, peace and
love,
With the blessing of the Father, Son and
Holy Spirit,
Within you, beside you, and before you.
Amen.**

We are reminded that for the Advent Season: "Advent is a time of waiting, it is a time of joy because the coming of Christ is not only a gift of grace and salvation but it is also a time of commitment because it motivates us to live the present as a time of responsibility and vigilance.

Decile Rating

There has been quite a large amount of publicity in the news in the last few weeks about **Decile Ratings** for schools and how the particular rating for a school affects the funding levels for that school. The Ministry of Education uses Census Data to determine how 'needy', school communities are and then uses this information to work out how much each schools gets for its operational budget. School communities are divided into ten Decile Groups dependent on such information as property values, how many people are living in houses, average house hold incomes as well as the number of bedrooms to determine overcrowding. The recent census was delayed because of the Christchurch earthquake and so has only just been completed.

St Pius X, along with all our Tamaki Cluster of schools have been in the lowest group (Decile 1) for many years. The decile 1 group is divided into three sections 1A, 1B and 1C and we were rated 1B. We received advice last week that we have been moved to Decile 1C which means we will receive a cut in funding by about \$13,000. Our Board of Trustees has the right to appeal this decision and have started that process. The only difference I have seen in this community is that the property values have increased dramatically. There is still the same level of overcrowding in many homes, very few of our families actually own their homes and many share with other family members. Our appeal may require us asking families for more information about their circumstances to get more accurate information. I understand this can be sensitive so I will let people know the process as soon as it is finalised.

Safety at the School Gate



I have mentioned many times over the last few months about the problems we have at the school gate after school in relation to parking. The council parking wardens have been coming to school regularly and giving out tickets to those who choose to park over driveways or on the broken yellow lines.

In the past we would usually get one or two wardens coming but as you can see from the picture we have been getting a whole team here lately. They are here to keep the children safe. They have told me that mostly our parents are very cooperative and friendly but they will still give out tickets, if required.

The other important issue we are facing are the number of children being driven home who are under 7yrs old and not in car booster seats. Our Police Education Officer has spoken to several parents about this, so please do everything you can to abide by the law and

keep your children safe.

Before and After School Supervision

I usually arrive at school before 7.30am. On several occasions recently there have been children at school already before this time. I know it is difficult for families, particularly if you need to get to work early but it is not acceptable to leave children here unsupervised at school so early. Children should not be coming to school before 8.00am at the earliest. I need to remind parents also, that we finish school at 2.45pm each day. We are getting many children still here well after that time. The teachers are often in meetings and so cannot be expected to be responsible for children after school unless it is for an organised activity for which we will let you know about in advance. We had one child still here at 5.30pm last week. Phone numbers had changed and the family had not told us about the change. Please give any changes of contact information to Philippa in our school office, as soon as possible. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Te Rangatira Group Activity



As you know we have a group of talented students who meet each week to develop their leadership skills. They have been responsible for planning and organising many 'events' throughout the year. Last week they ran a very successful **biscuit decorating** activity. They did all the organising with the help of Mrs Kelway and Mrs Ringwood. This included going to Pak N Save to price and purchase the required items, liaising with teachers, setting up and cleaning up as well as supervising all the classes, as they had their turn. They decided that Soul Friend groups would work best. As you can see from Iverson below, they were delicious.



Year 7 and 8 Camp to Piha



Once again we have had an outstandingly successful camp to Piha. Most of our students had never been to a West Coast beach or had the chance to walk in the bush and experience the beautiful Waitakere Ranges. We also had the opportunity to try some new activities like archery and Burma Trails. Special thanks to our fantastic adult helpers, Sonny, Will, William, Alisi, Luci and Siueli, as well as Mrs Tui and Mr Slade. Excellent organisation ensured a wonderful experience for all the students.

Movie Night



Manu and Osca enjoying the VIP section at the **Movie Night** last week. Thanks to our Te Rangatira Group and Room 7 for organising a wonderful, sharing evening. We not only saw all the fantastic **Festival** movies for this year but also the best from the last five years. Great memories of some

very talented students. Thanks also to Mr Tai for cooking the BBQ and to all the parents who supplied the drinks and other food.

You can logon and see all the Cluster Movies for the last 6 years at the link below.

<https://sites.google.com/a/ptengland.school.nz/film-festival-2011/home>

A Writing Sample from Alecia from Room 6

Today I will be explaining about a Library!

A library is a facility that will help you with your reading. It is also a place that will connect communities and to study!

There are different types of parts to a library. The big parts are the walls, the roof, the windows, the doors & the floor/carpet. Then there are the books, the shelves, the tables, the chairs etc. The main parts of a library are the books. Without the books there would be no library!

A library basically looks like a normal facility where you will see people reading. If the builders wanted to make the building look creative, then maybe your library looks like a huge ship! The facility of the library could be anything as long as it has the books for the members to read, because that is the main point.

Usually people that read or study use a library however you could also use a library for a peaceful time or a place to relax. Maybe even to play a quiet board game. Like Chess or Checkers. A library is definitely not used to watch a loud rugby game. No, you have to be silent at all times.

My special place (the library) is special to me because it can take you on imaginary rides. Whenever I read a book at a library I feel like I've gone to another dimension. Then on that dimension I can see what the characters in the book can see. Example: Goldilocks & the 3 Bears. When Goldilocks ate the porridge, I saw her, or when she broke the chairs, I saw her. It just takes me on imaginary adventures!

A library is important because it will help you with your education. It will also help you to learn little things like using your inside voice.

Overall I think that a library is a great way to learn and to connect communities. I hope that you now understand why a library is special to me!

Alecia Room 6

Term 4 2014

December 2014				
1/12	2/12	3/12	4/12	5/12
8/12 BOT Meeting	9/12 Advent Liturgy 6.00pm	10/12	11/12	12/12 Graduation Mass 9.15am
15/12 Prizegiving 11.00am Picnic lunch	16/12 Last Day of Term 12.30pm finish			

Coming Up

- **Advent Liturgy 6.00pm Tuesday 9th December**
- **Graduation Mass 9.15am Friday 12th December**
- **Prizegiving 11.00am Monday 15th December followed by shared picnic lunch and waterslide.**
- **Final Day School finishes at 12.30pm Tuesday 16th December**