



Dear Parents and Caregivers

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

Welcome back to school and to an exciting 2015 school year. Special welcome to our new students and their families. I am sure you will enjoy your time at St Pius X School 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. We have a special Parents Evening planned for Tuesday 24th February when we will talk with all parents about the coming year and our expectations of the children and how the families must get involved. This year, it will not be an informal chat and picnic tea as we have done in the last few years. We need all parents to be here to commit to working with us to raise achievement levels and give our children the best opportunities for success. I will present achievement data from last year and discuss our school goals in relation to our Charter. We will start at 7.00pm but will send home a more formal invitation before then. It is really important every family is represented.

In the week before school started, all our teachers spent a day on retreat at the Mary MacKillop Centre, facilitated by Sr Anne Warren, an ex principal of this school and Holy Faith Sister. Sr Anne spoke about what Pope Francis has been preaching including the 'Joy of the Gospel'. The day finished with a very special mass celebrated by Fr Iosevo in the beautiful Mary MacKillop Chapel.

We welcome back Mrs Margaret Deeney this year as a part-time release teacher, working mostly in the senior area of the school. I have included a full staff list in this newsletter.

Opening Mass

All parents and caregivers are invited to our opening mass this **Thursday 12th February at 9.00am** in the church.

Please note that this is a change from the original date of Friday 13th February.

R.E. Focus for this week is learning about our school charism and where it comes from.

Calendar of Events

Please check the Calendar of Events on the back of this newsletter and diary the main dates such as parent evenings and 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.

Netbook Contract Concerns

Anita Sarich from the Manaiakalani Trust will be at school here each week on Wednesday mornings to meet with parents 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.

Parking at the School Gate

The Auckland City Council have spoken to me about their concerns around schools in general especially when parents are dropping off or picking up in the afternoon

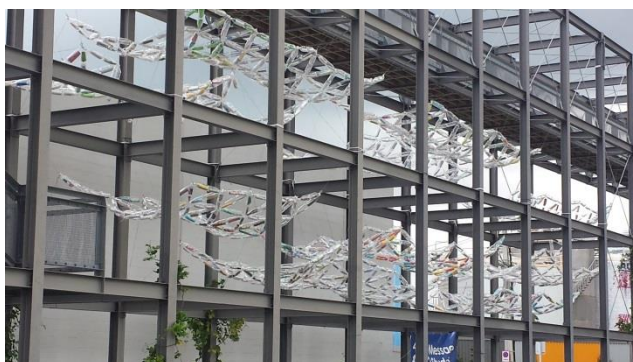
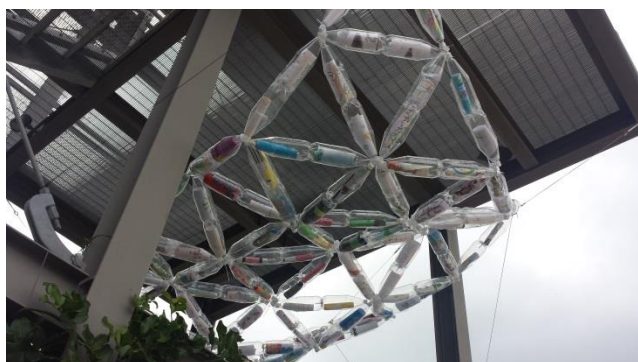
This term our school is participating in Auckland Transport's '**Safety at the School Gate**' programme once again. Drivers who stop in the wrong place to drop off passengers put the safety of children at risk. Parking officers will be on patrol outside the school this term and will be issuing tickets to drivers who park illegally.

The agreed approach is 'zero tolerance' – There will be **no warnings** issued, you will receive a ticket if you are double parked, parked on yellow lines, or over someone's driveway – or for any other vehicle safety offence.

Please park legally to keep our children safe and to avoid being ticketed.

Car Booster Seats are also required by law for children under 7 years of age. Our local police education officer will be at school regularly talking to parents and checking cars and drivers both in the morning and the afternoon.

Message in a Bottle Installation (Silo Park)



Late last year all our students, along with about 4000 other children from ten schools took part in the Roots Wave Project. 4000 recyclable plastic bottles shelter the collected messages of hope from the children of Auckland. ROOTS have created an art installation piece on/in and around the gantry – and it's a wave sculpture. These same bottles were then woven into an undulating 100 metre wave that moves and twists in the gantry spaces. Children from Whangaparaoa, Otara, Mt Roskill, Meadowbank to Glen Innes contributed their creative, thoughtful and heartfelt messages and drawings to the sculpture by placing them into bottles.

ST PIUS X CATHOLIC SCHOOL STAFF LIST 2015

Position	Name	Class
Principal	Paul Coakley	
Teacher & Director of Religious Studies (DRS)	Ana Tui	Room 7, Year 7 & 8
Teacher	Eric Slade	Room 6, Years 6 & 7
Teacher	Sharon Middleton	Room 5, Year 5 & 6
Teacher	Alan Gaffney	Room 3, Year 3 & 4
Teacher	Kuilei Pulotu	Room 4, Year 2 & 3
Teacher & Associate Principal (AP)	Debra Williams	Room 1, Year 0 & 1
Reading Recovery Teacher	Sue Kelway	Mornings
Music Teacher	Kathleen Marich	One day per week
Teacher Release	Margaret Deeney	Part-time
Teacher Release (Mrs Williams)	Viv Logan	Part-time
School Secretary	Philippa Bell	
Teacher Aide	Mafu Faletanoai	
Teacher Aide	Shona Hoggins	
Teacher Aide	Mat Kanuta	
Teacher Aide	Jeannie Pera	
School/Parish Liaison Person	Halamehi Anae	
Caretaker	Sepulona Tai	
Cleaner	Kakala Mafi	

Incredible Years Parent Programme

This is a free 14 week parenting programme for parents of children aged 3-8 years. Over the weeks, parents develop strategies to build positive relationships with their children and to manage unwanted behaviours such as aggressiveness, tantrums, swearing, yelling, hitting, answering back and refusing to do as asked.

Programme Details: Starts on 24th February at Grace International Church, 77-79 Line Road, Glen Innes from 9.30am – 12 noon. Free child care available. To Book please call 09 5801284 or contact Ute on 0210481404 or Hilda on 0272346865

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 2015

February 2015					
2 School Opens RE Focus Charism/Prayer	Week 1	3	4	5	6 Waitangi Day Holiday
9	Week 2	10 Technology Begins Year 7/8 Road Patrol Training	11	12 Opening Mass 9.00am Church	13
16 RE Focus Jesus Strand BOT Meeting 6.30pm	Week 3	17 Education Dedication Mass Christ the King Church 7.00pm 'Stepping Out' Programme 17 th -20 th Rm 1/4	18 Ash Wednesday 9.00am Mass	19	20 Room 7 Assembly
23 Assessment Week	Week 4	24 Parent Evening 7.00pm All Parents	25	26 Immunisation Letters to go home Yrs 7 and 8	27
March 2015					
2 RE Focus Lent/Jesus Strand/ Holy Week	Week 5	3	4	5	6
9 'Getwise Programme' All classes	Week 6	10	11	12	13 Room 6 Assembly
16 RE Focus Jesus Strand	Week 7	17 St Patrick's Day Soul Friends' Mass	18	19	20
23 RE Focus Jesus Strand	Week 8	24	25 Feast of Annunciation	26	27 Room 5 Assembly 29 th Palm Sunday
30 RE Focus Jesus Strand	Week 9	31 Year 7/8 Immunisations			
April 2015					
		1	2 Holy Thursday Easter Liturgy Last Day of Term 1	3 Good Friday Holiday	

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.