



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 2016 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.

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 '**Year of Mercy**'. The day started with a very special mass where we joined with the sisters and residents 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.

New Parish Priest

We received the news in late January that **Fr Iosevo** had been replaced by **Fr Felise** as Parish Priest. Many of our families attended the beautiful farewell mass for Fr Iosevo and celebrations held afterwards in the hall with so many of our children involved. I was so impressed with all our present students as well as our old boys and girls who are so talented and put on such a fabulous show for **Fr Iosevo**. The school wishes **Fr Iosevo** well in his recuperation and all the best for the future.

Our new Parish Priest has settled in well and the children have already had the opportunity for two school masses, the first being on Ash Wednesday followed by our opening school mass last Friday. Father Felise gave a special blessing to all our staff and our Senior Student leaders. Father has told me he is looking forward to getting to know the children and staff and to be involved in the school as much as possible.



Preference Enrolment

Bishop Pat has asked schools to reflect on their role as evangelists and how we support our children in their faith and spiritual journeys. It is the role of the Parish to run Sacramental Programmes but the school is very happy to support these programmes. I have noticed many of our children have not yet made their first **Reconciliation, Confirmation or First Communion**. During this year we will be encouraging families to enrol their children into these programmes as they happen. Remember part of our commitment as parents is to bring our children up in the Catholic Church which means taking part in the sacraments.

In addition to this **Mrs Tui**, our Director of Religious Studies and **Father Felise** will train a new group of boys and girls to be **altar servers** at our school masses and liturgies. I thank you for supporting us in this matter.

Student Leaders 2016 (To start the Year)



*Kia Ora my name is **Alecia** and I am a Year 8 in Room 7. I am 12 years-old and I am a school leader this year. My favourite subject in school is Reading and this year my goals are to excel in Maths and Spelling. I am looking forward to this year because this is my last year in St Pius and next year I will be heading to Baradene College. As a school leader I hope to act as a role model and showcase Respect, Responsibility and Fairness to our younger students of St Pius. But other than that I am really looking forward for this year!*

Alecia H

Being a leader is one of the most astonishing feelings ever. Since I entered St Pius X Catholic School, I didn't see myself as a leader or even a role model to the Juniors. Now that I am a leader of the school and even if I wasn't a leader, I want to help the Juniors or even the Seniors to reach their goals and to lift them up, whenever they are down. Malo Aupito!

Rosrine V

Hi, my name is Joshua and I am one of the school student leaders for 2016. I really appreciate being a leader because it will help me get into the college I want for next year. I also I really appreciate the opportunity for being a leader because I believe it will make me a better person in the future.

Joshua H

It was a privilege to receive the Honours Badge at our school Mass. I hope to achieve my learning goals this year and to experience many different learning opportunities. I have a huge passion for sports and hope to be a sports journalist in the future.

Patrick M-F

St Pius X Strategic Goal 3 - Parent Engagement

We have known for many years that the children who do the best learning while at school have parents who get involved with the school and their education. I am sure all parents want their children to be successful, but that means 'getting involved'. Please make an extra effort to talk to your children about what they are learning at school and in particular leave a comment on either their class or personal blogs. They will show you how to do it so no excuses !!!

Blog

Blog

Blog

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 is based at Sommerville Special School but is happy to meet parents at St Pius X if necessary to discuss any payment or contract issues. She may be emailed at anita.sarich@manaiakalani.org or text on 021838947 or visited at Sommerville School.

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.



Catholic High School Open Days

Sacred Heart College – Wednesday 9 March 12.00pm. Enrolments close Friday 1st April.

St Mary's College – Wednesday 16th March 6.30pm. Enrolments close 25th March.

Marcellin College – Thursday 10th March Tours at 11.00, 1.30 and 6.30pm.

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.



**DON'T WORRY
BEE HAPPY**

February 2016				
15 Testing Week RE Focus Lent/Jesus Strand BOT Meeting 6.30pm	16 Education Dedication Mass Christ the King Church 7.00pm	17	18 Ako Fakataha Parents Meeting	19 Whole School Stations of the Cross 12.30pm
22 Kiwisport Gymnastics-Juniors Tennis - Seniors		24	25	26 Room 7 Learning Celebration Rooms 1,3, 4 attend Mass
29 Week 5				
March 2016				
RE Focus Lent/Jesus Strand/ Holy Week	1	2	3	4 Rooms 5 and 7 attend Mass
7 Week 6	8	9	10	11 Whole School Stations of the Cross 12.30pm
14 RE Focus Jesus Strand Last week Tennis	15	16	17 Whole School Mass Soul Friends St Patrick's Day	18
21 RE Focus Holy Week / Easter BOT Meeting 7.00pm	22	23	24 Holy Thursday Liturgy	25 Good Friday Holiday
28 Easter Monday Holiday	29 Easter Tuesday Holiday	30 Immunisations Year 7/8 Girls	31	
April 2016				
				1
4 Week 10	5	6	7	8
11 R.E. Focus Holy Spirit Strand	12	13	14	15 Last Day of Term

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. Sandals should be worn in Terms 1 and 4.

*Please be careful when collecting children after school. Use the pedestrian crossing and park legally.

