



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 2017 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 our Catholic Schools' Religious Education Advisor, **Mrs Margaret Fitzpatrick**. The day finished with a very special mass celebrated in the beautiful Mary MacKillop Chapel by **Fr Chris**, one of the Tongan Chaplains in Auckland.

We also welcome Mrs Danielle Lauchlan this year as a part-time release teacher, working in Room 7.

Next week we have our **Catholic Character Review** and welcome reviewers from the Catholic Schools' Office, along with a visiting Principal to see how our Special Catholic Character permeates everything we do at St Pius X. I may approach a few parents to meet with the team to give their perspective. I thank you in advance if you are able to help.

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 once again 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.

Welcome Mass

This Friday, all Parents and Caregivers are invited to join us at our **Opening Mass** for the year in the church at 9.00am. Our student leaders and teachers will be commissioned and new students and their families welcomed to our St Pius X family.



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

Bereavements

We were very saddened to hear of the recent loss of **Siniva Moe Timu** who was the Grandmother and Great Grandmother of so many of our present and past pupils. Our prayers and thoughts extend to all the members of the family.

Prayers are also offered to **Mrs Kelway** who lost her Mother-in-Law during the holidays as well as for our students **Beni** and **Katelyn**, whose grandmother who passed away suddenly this week.

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 phoned 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, **Constable Gordon**, will be at school regularly talking to parents and checking cars and drivers both in the morning, and the afternoon.



Immunisations

This year HPV immunisation will be offered to boys as well as girls. School-based immunisation helps protect boys and girls against HPV, and whooping cough, tetanus and diphtheria. Public Health Nurses will be visiting participating schools with consent forms. Parents need to sign and return these forms to school to consent to or decline immunisation. If you have any questions, please discuss these with your local public health nurse, call 0800 IMMUNE, email the Ministry of Health at immunisation@moh.govt.nz or visit: www.health.govt.nz/imms-older-children.

Marist Rugby Registrations – Call Hamish Fraser on 0210316665 for details or email him at rdo@aucklandmarist.co.nz

School Docs/Policies

Our school has been working with **SchoolDocs** to create a website for our policies and procedures. We are excited to announce that the site is now live and available to our school community.

The school works on a subscription basis with **SchoolDocs** to maintain, update, and review our policies. **SchoolDocs** provides us with a comprehensive core set of policies, which have been well researched and follow the Ministry of Education National Administration Guidelines. The policies and procedures are tailored to our school, and the school supplies specific information such as our charter, and procedures for behaviour management, reporting to parents, etc.

SchoolDocs updates, modifies, or creates policies in response to changes in legislation or Ministry guidelines, significant events, reviews/requests from schools, and regular reviewing from the **SchoolDocs** team. Our board of trustees has the opportunity to view changes/additions and comment on them before they are implemented. We will advise you when policies are up for review and how you can take part in the review.

We invite you to visit the site at [http://saintpiusx.schooldocs.co.nz/](http://saintpiusx schooldocs.co.nz/) (note that there's no "www!"). Our username is **saintpiusx** and password **holylaith**.

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**

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.

Gladiators of Change

Free Parenting Event hosted by Pio Terei on Wednesday 22 February from 6pm to 8pm at Pt England School. Free sausage sizzle from 5.30pm. Special guests including Alfred Ngaro MP and Soana Pamaka (Principal of Tamaki College)

Term 1 2017

February 2017					
	Week 1			2 School Begins RE Focus – Charism	3
6	Week 2 Waitangi Day Holiday	7 RE Focus - Charism	8	9	10
13	Week 3 RE Focus – Prayer Testing Week	14 Kiwisport Juniors – Dance Seniors – Netball	15 BOT Finance Meeting 3.15pm	16	17 DRS Day Welcome Mass
20	Week 4 BOT Meeting 7.00pm	21 Vision & Hearing Testing Dedication Mass Christ the King	22 Catholic Character Review	23 Catholic Character Review	24
27	Week 5 Writing Moderation	28			
March 2017					
			1 Ash Wednesday	2	3
6	Week 6	7	8	9	10
13	Week 7	14	15	16	17 St Patrick's Day
20	Week 8 BOT Meeting 7.00pm	21	22	23 Mobile Ear Clinic	24
27	Week 9	28	29 HPV Year 7/8	30	31
April 2017					
3	Week 10	4	5	6	7
10	Week 11	11	12 HPV catch-ups Manaiakalani Learning Celebration at Te Oro	13 Holy Thursday Liturgy Last Day of Term	Good Friday