



Dear Parents and Caregivers

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

As all our families will know, yesterday was Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. This is the time that we start the 40 day preparation time leading up to Easter. The children have been learning about the Catholic traditions at this time and most of the children have been thinking about what little extra things they can do to help others or what special treats they may be able to give up, as a sign of appreciation for those who do not have what we have. Each Friday during Lent we will be having a collection for the missions which will be presented to Caritas at the end of the term.

Dedication Mass

Last week all our teachers attended the annual Diocese Education Dedication Mass held at Christ the King Church in Owairaka. This mass was celebrated by **Bishop Pat** and attended by over 500 teachers from Catholic Schools across Auckland. At the end of the service Bishop Pat presented a Certificate to **Mr Gaffney** who has attained Classroom Level Accreditation and a Certificate of Service to **Mrs Middleton** who has competed two years teaching in a Catholic School.

Opening Mass

Last week, Fr Felise also celebrated our school Opening Mass where two more Student Leaders received Honours Badges. **Von** and **Samiuela** will now work with **Lusia** and **Ana-Lei**, who were named at our Prizegiving last year, to be our Student Leadership Team. We will probably add two or three more towards the end of this term. Congratulations to each of these fine role models. **Fr Felise** also commissioned our staff and our Liturgy Team for this year by giving a special blessing.

Catholic Character Review

Last week we had visitors from the Catholic Schools Office spending time at school reviewing our Catholic Character. These reviews happen every four years where all aspects of our Catholic Special Character are looked at. **Mr Philip Mahoney**, General Manager of the Auckland Office, **Mrs Colleen Gleeson**, the Chief Review Officer, and visiting Principal from St John the Evangelist School, Otara, **Mrs Wiki Whitakker**, made up the team. During the visit, Board, Teachers, Senior Leadership, Students, Parents and Parish Priest were all interviewed. I would like to personally thank each of these groups who spent time talking to the reviewers and especially **Mrs Ana Tui**, our Director of Religious Studies for all her hard work preparing for the visit. We can all be very proud of our very special school.

High School Open Days

All Year 8 students and their families should be thinking now, about which secondary school they will apply for. Most of the Catholic Colleges have Enrolment deadlines of the end of this term and are running Open Days at different times. Catholic Secondary schools are highly sought after so families MUST complete applications on time if they want to be accepted.

Sacred Heart College – Open Day Wed 8th March Tours 11.45am and 1.30pm. Applications Close Friday 31st March.

St Mary's College – Open Day Tues 7th March Tours 2.30 and 6.30pm. Closes Friday 24th March.

Marcellin College – Open Day Sat 11th March Tours at 10am and 12 noon.

Student Leaders 2017

Malo Lelei,

My name is Lusia Pahulu, I am a Year 8 student who attends S.P.X Catholic School. My favourite subject in school is Maths. One of my goals for this year is to try hard to focus on my learning and also to get ready for college. Also my strongest goal is to strive my hardest to become a great role model to the St Pius X kids. It was such a honour to receive the Honours badge at the mass last year. I am so proud that I was chosen to be the leader and that I can help others with their learning at school. I felt so emotional and so happy seeing my grandma, my brother, my principal and my teacher looking at me so proudly. I wouldn't have become a leader without them. They were the ones who put me up here and this is what I'm grateful for!



Hi, my name is Analei Angell Tumahai. I am 11 years old and a Year 8 student at St Pius X Catholic School. It was a privilege to receive an Honours Badge and to be chosen as one of our school leaders. I am going to try be a good role model for my fellow students. I like maths, sports, reading and spending time with my friends. My goals for this year are to excel in all my subjects and to keep on learning more about my Catholic faith.



Malo lelei my name is Von Falakika Tuakivakatau, I'm a year 8 student in St Pius X Catholic school. It was a great honour to receive the honours badge at the Mass last week on Friday the 17th of February 2017. I really appreciate that I was given an opportunity to be one of the leaders of the school this year! My mother is proud of me and I'm also proud of myself to receive something I never thought I could get. I am looking forward to helping others in my class and taking care of the environment in different parts of our school. For my last year here at S.P.X school my goal is to take my learning seriously with all my subjects and improving my results with every test I undertake.



Malo lelei, My name is Samiuela and it was a honour to be named one of the leaders at my school. This has to be the biggest accomplish I've achieved so far. I hope to achieve my learning goals this year and help out in the class and around the school. Malo Aupito.



Summer Learning Journey

Most of our Senior students spend most days over the recent holidays continuing their learning by being part of the Manaiakalani Cluster **Summer Learning Journey**. The children committed to completing online activities planned by a teacher and then blogging about what they had learned. There were over 350 participants from all the cluster schools and I was very proud to find that St Pius X had the most active participants overall and won the most prizes out of any school.



Pictured above are **Von**, who scored the 2nd highest number of points overall, **Jerome** who had the honour of being the first student to complete all the activities as well as **Stanley**, **Lusia** and **Saveu** who were all placed in the top three for our school. **Katelyn** also won a prize but was absent for the photo. The prizes included gifts from the countries studied as well as new cell phones with credit pre-loaded. Last year our research proved that the children who committed to the trial programme had considerably better achievement results throughout the year so we have high expectations for these children.

Participants were: **Lusia**, **Aaliyah**, **Von**, **Caroline**, **Courtney**, **Stanley**, **Mikaela**, **Samuel**, **Macky**, **Mei**, **Katelyn**, **Jerome**, **Annalisa**, **Maris-Stella**, **Falakiko**, **Samiuela**, **Helena**, **Saveu**. Special thanks to **Mrs Middleton** and **Mrs Tui** for supporting the children. Well done all of you.

Room 1

All St Pius X children who have spent time in Room 1 have loved their Developmental time on Friday afternoons. We can see two budding engineers working out how to solve Auckland's transport problems and coming up with some creative ideals for city trains.



Buddy Reading has started again with senior students spending time working with younger children. From the pictures below, it can be clearly seen that both enjoy this time immensely and both gain from the experience.



Term 1 2017

March 2017				
		1 Ash Wednesday Mass	2	3
6	Week 6	7	8	9
13	Week 7	14	15	16
				17 St Patrick's Day
20	Week 8 BOT Meeting 7.00pm	21	22	23 Mobile Ear Clinic
27	Week 9	28	29 HPV Year 7/8	30
				31
April 2017				
3	Week 10	4	5	6
10	Week 11	11	12 HPV catch-ups Manaiakalani Learning Celebration at Te Oro	13 Holy Thursday Liturgy Last Day of Term
				Good Friday