



Dear Parents and Caregivers

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

Welcome back to a very busy term after what I hope was a relaxing Easter Season and holiday. Special welcome to **Julia** (Room 3) who has joined us from Brazil. **“Bem-vinda à sua nova escola, Julia”**. Julia speaks Portuguese and has very little English. Thank you to Room 3, for making Julia feel so welcome.

### Confirmed Special Character Review

In the last week of Term 1, we received our confirmed Catholic Character Report after the review visit early in the term. Our Board of Trustees are extremely happy and wish to thank the staff and children for the wonderful report received. The full report may be read by following the links on the school website but I have copied their final conclusions below. Well done, once again St Pius X.

#### Conclusion:

***St Pius X Catholic School provides a happy, cohesive Catholic learning environment. The school has committed and passionate staff, a strengthening connection with the Parish, very supportive families and friendly children who love coming to school.***

***The senior children interviewed by the reviewers are a living testament that the school is achieving what the community aspires to in their Mission Statement:***

***“Excellence in education: working together as a Catholic community.”***

***The school provides an environment and many opportunities for each child to have a genuine and ongoing encounter with Christ, to grow in knowledge and understanding of Christ’s teaching and to live a life of Christian witness within the Catholic Church.***

***Confirmed Catholic Special Character Review 2017***

In Week 3 of this term we will be hosting visitors from the **Education Review Office (ERO)**. Parents are welcome to join us for a short welcome liturgy at 11.00am on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May if they wish. The reviewers will then spend the next four days working mostly with our senior staff discussing how well we are meeting the needs of our students. They will also meet with the Board of Trustees, staff and students.

### Mother’s Day Mass

This Friday, all Parents and Caregivers are invited to join us at our special **Mother’s Day Mass** in the church at 9.00am. At the mass we will be presenting an award to a ‘Caught Being Good’, Mother as part of our Duffy Books in Homes Programme.

### 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. We are in the planning stages of producing a smartphone App which will make communication between school and home even easier.



**Ako faka taha** and **Aoaoina Faatasi** Groups have now started. **'Learning together'** as family groups.

After the success of our first Ako faka taha group last year where a small group of parents and children met at a family home each week to support home learning, we have expanded this year to form two further groups. The programme is about parents committing to make sure they spend some time with each of their children, every night, supporting home learning. They then come together once each week to share ideas and support. Special thanks to the families who have generously offered to host meetings.



Aaliyah, Malia and Telesia doing their home learning with their very supportive parents.



This week is **National Sign Language Week**. 'Sign' is one of New Zealand's three official languages.

Room 5 have been learning the **Sign of the Cross** in 'sign'.

Other cultural languages will be recognised during the remainder of the year.

## Discovery Weekend

A group of our senior students were invited to a **'Discovery' Leadership** weekend last term held at Glen Taylor School. Parents were required to

attend the Friday evening meeting, before the children themselves spent all day Saturday and Sunday. They had an interactive and inspiring opportunity to meet up with student leaders from our other cluster schools. The children had a great time. Special thanks to the **Rotary Club of St John's** for sponsoring the event.





## Te Taiao o Tāmaki Celebration at Te Oro

I am sure all parents heard about the fantastic celebration day of learning held at **Te Oro** in the last week of Term 1. All our Cluster schools showcased what they had been learning about the environment of Tāmaki and how we need to look after the rivers, creeks and wildlife of our community. The St Pius X children used Pope Francis' message that '**The Earth is our Common Home**' from **Laudato Si** to inspire their learning. Each class took a slightly different perspective which was displayed for students and teachers from the other schools to see. Each school also put on a performance to show what they had been learning in a more creative way. I was so proud of all our St Pius X children and teachers for putting on such a wonderful show. Each schools' performance was recorded and can be watched by following the links on the [Manaiaakalani Website](#) or through class blogs.



*Laudato Si*



# Term 2 2017

| May 2017   |  |   |                                    |   |
|--|--|---|------------------------------------|---|
| 1<br>R.E. Focus<br>Jesus Strand  | 2  | 3   | 4                                  | 5   |
| 8<br>R.E. Focus<br>Jesus Strand<br>BOT Meeting 7pm   | 9<br>In-class individual<br>testing starts<br>Netball starts | 10  | 11<br>Mrs Tui at DRS<br>Conference | 12<br>Mrs Tui at DRS<br>Conference<br>Mothers' Day Mass<br>9am<br>Photolife Portraits |
| 15<br>R.E. Focus<br>Jesus Strand<br>ERO Visit  | 16<br>ERO Visit  | 17<br>ERO Visit   | 18<br>ERO Visit                    | 19  |
| 22<br>R.E. Focus<br>Jesus Strand   | 23   | 24  | 25                                 | 26<br>Learning<br>Celebration SPX<br>Nu'u   |
| 29<br>R.E. Focus<br>Pentecost<br>Samoan Language<br>Week   | 30   | 31  |                                    |   |
| June   |  |   |                                    |   |
|  |  |   | 1                                  | 2<br>Testing completed<br>4/6 Pentecost   |
| 5<br>Queen's Birthday<br>Holiday   | 6<br>R.E. Focus<br>Holy Spirit                               | 7   | 8                                  | 9   |
| 12<br>R.E. Focus<br>Holy Spirit<br>Keeping Ourselves<br>Safe (KOS) begins<br>Class Photos<br>BOT Meeting 7pm | 13   | 14  | 15                                 | 16  |
| 19<br>R.E. Focus<br>Holy Spirit  | 20   | 21<br>Mr Coakley at<br>NZCPPA<br>Conference<br>Wellington 21-23rd | 22<br>Year 8 Retreat               | 23<br>Year 8 Retreat<br>Feast of Sacred<br>Heart<br>Learning<br>Celebration Rm 5      |
| 26<br>R.E. Focus<br>Holy Spirit  | 27   | 28  | 29                                 | 30  |
| July   |  |   |                                    |   |
| 3<br>R.E. Focus<br>Imaginative Prayer  | 4  | 5<br>12.30pm finish<br>3 Way Conferences                          | 6                                  | 7<br>Last Day of Term 2   |



Father Felise joined the school for our Holy Thursday 'Stations' celebration on the last day of Term 1. Each class led one part of the service. Many of the school children then played major roles in the Parish services over Good Friday to Easter Sunday.