



Dear Parents and Caregivers

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

Welcome back to school and what is probably our busiest term. I hope everybody has had a relaxing break and is ready for the challenges in store, over the next couple of months leading up to Christmas. Please check the Calendar of Events on the back page of this newsletter for school events this term.

With the new government now sworn in, it seems there may be some changes with education, especially with a new Minister and the strong influence from the coalition partners, all who have said they want to change education. At the moment we just carry on doing the best job we can until the new rules are finalised. Rest assured, our teachers will continue to provide the best possible opportunities which meet the needs of every one of our students.

Our R.E. Focus for the coming week is **All Saints** and **All Souls Feast Days**. The whole school will attend mass on Wednesday morning and as always, families are invited to join us for this special celebration.



End of Year Testing

Our formal testing starts for senior classes next week. Please ensure children are well rested and get a good night's sleep. Please also help us by getting children to school on time each day. Many students are arriving after the bell, and in some cases very late. As the testing is mostly completed online this can cause issues for both them and their teachers. I appreciate your support.

Hats/sandals

Please remember that our school uniform requires all students to wear their school hat while outside during break times during the First and Fourth terms. We have given the children, as usual, until Labour Weekend to find their hats, or in some cases buy a new one. Teachers will be enforcing compulsory sitting in the shade area for any student not wearing their hat this term. Students should also now be in sandals, although at this stage I am happy if black school shoes and school socks are worn. Sports shoes may be worn while playing but are not acceptable coming to and going home from school or during any formal occasion such as trips, assembly or mass.

Parking at the gate

Auckland City Council will start monitoring traffic outside school at the end of the day again, shortly. They will ticket anybody who is illegally parked on yellow lines, in the bus stop or over driveways. Keeping our children safe must take precedence over lazy parking. Please help us!



Early to school

Some children have been dropped off at school very early on occasions this term. There is no supervision until the teachers arrive so please make other arrangements. Our local **SKIDS** offers **Before** school as well as **After** school supervision. Please make enquiries at our school office for more details.

Staff News

Mr Tim Burkhill will be teaching in SPX Nu'u each Friday this term giving Mrs Tui the release time she is entitled to. Mr Burkhill is an experienced music teacher. We are very pleased to have him join our team.

Holly Christina – Singer / Song writer



Our Year 4 to 8 students had the chance to experience live entertainment this week when singer/song writer **Holly Christina** came to school. Holly grew up in Auckland and currently teaches guitar and performs across New Zealand. Over the last few years she has starred in her own show '**Break the Mould**' where she entertains young people and educates them about making good choices in their lives. She encouraged the students to have dreams and then make a plan to achieve those dreams and not get caught up in the peer pressures that challenge so many young people today.



Throat Swabbing and Skin Checks

Parents will be well aware that the Public Health Nurses come into school each week and swab the throats of any child who says they have a sore throat. This is to check for Strep Throat which can lead on to Rheumatic Fever, if not treated. This programme has been successful although not as much as hoped for, as numbers of positive results have not dropped remarkably. The sick children have still been identified though, and treated, so the programme is continuing. However there will be a few changes going forward. The nurses have found they get a bigger success rate when the whole school is swabbed rather than just when children self-refer, so from next year, all children will have their throats swabbed every term, not just when they say they have a sore throat. The nurses will still come into school each week but will only swab on two days rather than the normal three, as for this year. Skin will still be checked the same, as and when required. This will allow the nurses to attend to other health needs, rather than just throats and skin which have been their number one focus area recently.



Kiwisport Cricket

Kiwisport has now started for this term with our senior classes learning about **Blitz Cricket** and the junior classes completing the **Get, Set, Go**, a Fundamental Movement Skills Programme.

Film Festival

This year we have entered 5 movies into the Festival which will be held on **Wednesday 8th November**. We will bus the whole school to the 1pm session at **Hoyts Sylvia Park**. We are not sure yet, which of our movies have been selected for the evening session. There were over 120 movies in total from all our Cluster schools produced, so only a few will be screened in the evening.



Property Update

I have been informed by the property manager from the Catholic Schools' Office that we will be beginning the detailed planning for our new school later this term. Resource consents have already been approved by the Auckland Council so now building consents are required. I will keep parents informed about time frames as they are confirmed.

New Enrolments

Please let our school office know if you have any children turning 5 within the next year, so we can get the enrolment process underway. It is important for us to make sure we have space. A waiting list may also help the Catholic Office work out our needs as the community housing project increases around the school and in the wider Tamaki area.

Robots come to Room 4



Senior student experts have been working with the Room 4 students using our new **BeeBots** to help with their learning. **Jerome, Maris-Stella, George** and **Samuel** have been teaching the juniors about basic programming and using the robots to help them with spelling and numbers. This will be very useful in the future as these children move into a more digital classroom next year. **Mrs Pulotu** has been helping as well.

St Pius X Parish Gala

The parish gala will be held on **Saturday 2nd December**. As part of our school contribution we will be helping with the cake stall. We would like each family to bring a cake for sale, or a plate of cookies. We will send home more details closer to the date, but please keep the date free so we can support our parish in this major fundraiser for the year.

Australian Visitors

Last term we hosted a group of Catholic Principals and Senior Leaders from Cairns as part of their study tour of New Zealand. I received a lovely thankyou letter from Mr Bill Dixon, the Executive Director of the Cairns Diocese this week.

“The hospitality extended to them by your students and staff was humbling. The participants each described how your students clearly articulated what they were learning and why. Students and teachers were delighted to share with the group. It was a privilege to be so welcomed.

The group was most impressed by the absolute integration of faith and culture into community life at every level. It is our hope that we can take this learning and develop a similar, seamless approach”

Bill Dixon, Executive Director

Term 4 2017

October 2017				
23 Week 2 Labour Day Holiday	24 R.E. Focus Charism	25 'Break the Mould' show in hall 11am Year 4-8	26 Music today	27 Room 1 Garden Harvest
30 R.E. Focus All Saints/All Souls Testing Begins	31			
November				
		1 All Saints Mass 9.00am	2 Tamaki Boards Forum 6.30 Pt England School	3
6 R.E. Focus BOT Meeting 7pm	7	8 Manaiakalani Film Festival 1pm	9	10 Duffy Theatre Show 11am
13 Dental Van until 24/11/17	14	15 Kids4Kids Show Room 5	16	17 Year 4-8 Mass
20 Week 6	21	22	23	24
27 Year 8 Leadership Retreat Friary	28 Year 8 Leadership Retreat Friary Cluster Athletics	29	30	
December				
				1 Year 4-8 Mass Sat 2nd Dec St Pius X Parish Gala
4 R.E. Focus Advent BOT Meeting 7pm Year 7/8 Careers Week	5	6	7	8 Sat 9th Dec St Pius X Parish Social
11 Week 9 Whole school Christmas Nativity Show 6pm	12	13 Year 7/8 Tiritiri Matangi trip	14	15 Year 8 Graduation Mass
18 Week 10 School Prizegiving School finishes at 12.30pm Last Day of Term		School starts again on Thursday 1 st February 2018		