



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 2018 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 at the Spectrum Education - Teachers Matter Conference on the North Shore investigating Thinking Skills. It was very refreshing to spend time with over 250 other teachers from our region, upskilling and discussing how the brain works and how we learn more effectively. Last week we followed this professional development day with what has become our annual Staff Retreat Day at the Mary MacKillop Centre in Mission Bay. Sr Jill from the Sisters of St Joseph led our day in the beautiful surroundings after we joined their community for mass to start the day. We have all come away refreshed and even more motivated to support the children as best we can

Our major goal for the year is to continue the wonderful progress achieved by so many last year and to build on this by helping them get even more excited about their learning this year.

Our overarching theme of the year is:

### **‘Curiosity did not kill the Cat’**

We want the children to become more interested about what they are learning and not just complete their tasks because the teacher asked them to. We want all students to know why they are learning something because if they know the reason then they will be more motivated to do their best.



#### **Our Lady of Fatima**

On Wednesday of last week we were very blessed to host one of six special statues blessed by Pope Francis to commemorate the centenary of the Vision at Fatima in 1916. Each statue was assigned to one of the six continents and has spent the last year travelling the world visiting parishes and schools in remembrance of what happened at Fatima, Portugal.



We were very saddened to hear about the sudden passing during the holidays of a long-time friend of our school, Miss **Dorita Hannah**. Dorita has been working voluntarily with our students for many, many years supporting our Reading Programme. A huge number of students built up a wonderful relationship with this very kind and thoughtful helper each week as they increased their Reading mileage and practice. Dorita loved the children and really enjoyed talking to them about their lives and experiences. She was a faithful member of the Glendowie Parish and regularly joined by other wonderful Parish members helping our learners. R.I.P. Dorita 1930 - 2017



### 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.

### 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](mailto: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 once again participating in Auckland Transport's '**Safety at the School Gate**' programme. 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.



## School Documents and Policies

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 **holyfaith**.

## 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](mailto: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.

## Notice

**Marcellin College's 60th Jubilee is on 23-25 March 2018. Registrations now open at [www.marcellin.school.nz](http://www.marcellin.school.nz).**



# Term 1 2018

February				
5 <b>Week 2</b> <i>RE: Prayer Strand</i>	6 <i>Waitangi Day Holiday</i>	7	8	9
12 <b>Week 3</b>	13	14 <i>Ash Wednesday Mass 9.00am Lent begins</i>	15	16 <i>DRS Day</i>
19 <b>Week 4</b> <i>RE: God Strand BOT Meeting 7pm</i>	20	21	22 <i>Meet the Teacher Evening 6pm</i>	23
26 <b>Week 5</b> <i>Ear Van at School</i>	27 <i>Dedication Mass at Christ the King 7pm All Welcome</i>	28		
March				
			1	2
5 <b>Week 6</b>	6	7	8	9
12 <b>Week 7</b>	13	14	15	16
19 <b>Week 8</b> <i>RE: Jesus Strand BOT Meeting 7pm Life Ed Caravan</i>	20 <i>Life Ed Caravan</i>	21 <i>Life Ed Caravan</i>	22 <i>Life Ed Caravan</i>	23 <i>Life Ed Caravan</i>
26 <b>Week 9</b>	27	28	29 <i>Holy Thursday Liturgy</i>	30 <i>Good Friday Holiday</i>
April				
2 <b>Week 10</b>	3 <i>Easter Monday Holiday</i>	4 <i>Easter Tuesday Holiday</i>	5	6
9 <b>Week 11</b>	10	11	12	13 <i>Last Day of Term 2.45pm finish.</i>



Wonderful images of our students praying to the statue of **Our Lady of Fatima** last week.  
Each child received a set of **Rosary** beads and a beautiful Prayer Card.