

17 August 2010

In a Christian way we learn today for tomorrow

Dear Parents, Pupils and Parishioners,

*“Although the world is full of suffering,
It is full also of the overcoming of it.”*

SPECIAL CATHOLIC CHARACTER REVIEW – THE RESULT

As you know, the school was recently reviewed to see how our Special Catholic Character was promoted and delivered. We received a very positive report which has now been confirmed. The success of St Patrick’s School and its Special Character is due to a number of factors, one in particular is the faith and leadership of our Director of Religious Studies (D.R.S) Mrs Sue Marshall. We are truly blessed to have her here.

This is what they had to say:-

The notice board at the school gate declares that St Patrick’s is a Catholic School and this is visibly lived through the positive nurturing of the whole school community. The regular use of the Sacred Chapel shows that traditions and rituals of the Church are central to the every day life of the school.

This is a school community where faith is witnessed in the every day life of the school. An example of this is the gift of rosary beads to new students. This shows the importance of prayer in the school, particularly, the rosary. Students talked about how much these beads were treasured. The Principal is compassionate in word and deed. He is actively involved with the well being of staff, students and their families. He has a very visible presence in the parish, in the playground and outside the school gate at the end of school. He is a genuine witness to the Catholic faith.

The DRS provides strong leadership and effective management for sound delivery of the Religious Education programme. She leads staff meetings for the entry and exit of RE strands and the delivery of the Liturgical Year and Prayer modules.

The school families are to be praised for the very generous contributions to mufti days. These funds are distributed to Caritas, the Samoan Relief Fund and local causes. The newsletter keeps the community informed of who the recipients will be.

The staff acknowledges that parents and caregivers are the foremost educators of their children and support the involvement of parents in all aspects of educations and development. The students portfolios are sent home regularly and include an RE component as well as sections for student and parent comments.

The unique heritage of St Patrick’s School includes the merging of the Marist Brothers School and the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions School. The charism of these two orders is still reflected in the Gospel values, mission spirit, prayer, family spirit and simplicity of school life. All students know about the founding orders who started the school and the school’s history.

There is clearly a very caring and friendly relationship between staff and school families. It is apparent in the esteem students and parents hold for all the staff. The office staff are highly thought of by the students as being compassionate and kind when giving practical assistance.

Teachers show commitment to the sound communication of the Religious Education programme. Formative assessment takes place in the form of questioning and encouraging conversations between teachers and individual students, small groups and whole classes.

Wall displays include Liturgical Year and Columbian Calendars, prayer rosters, borders that declare ‘Jesus is my best friend’, class rules, value of the month, RE word banks and work that stems from the Religious Education programme.

The senior management team, the staff and the BOT all actively share in the responsibility to safeguard the special character of the school. The students are articulate about the benefits of attending this school. They are able to discuss the life of Jesus, his miracles, the Triduum of Easter and that he came to teach us about God’s love. The special character of St Patrick’s School is in safe hands.

OUR LATEST TREASURES – (TO BE SURE!!)

We welcome **Saoirse Kenny** to A4 and St Patrick’s School. She joins big sister Roisin here and she has settled in beautifully. Enjoy learning and making friends.

COOL AT SCHOOL

Congratulations to **Nikau Murray-McGregor**, a year 7 pupil who tries his best, has grown in maturity and responsibility. Great to see how our pupils develop over the years.

SENIOR CROSS COUNTRY – TOMORROW

Join us and encourage your children, tomorrow, **Wednesday 18th, 9am** at School as they compete in our annual cross-country event. Thank you to all parents who have volunteered to assist us.



DISCO DELIGHT

What fabulous fun – great for our children and school. Thank you to everyone who went, you behaved well, and danced so “coolly”!!

Thank you to Michelle, Tracey and Kenneth for your organization and supervision, to Kim and Aaron for “the sounds” and to our FANTASTIC House Captains who made the disco run so smoothly. We are truly proud of you all – you were amazing. We look forward to another disco in Term 4.



CHAMPION NETBALLERS

St Patrick’s Blue – Year 7 C Grade champions for 2010!! A thrilling final against Tamatea on Saturday kept us on the edge of our seats (even though we were standing!) until the final whistle. Girls – you played brilliantly. Thank you to our parents who were “positive” on the sideline and especially to their coach Barbara Northover, who did a fantastic job in turning this team into quality players.

SACRED HEART COLLEGE – YOUR DAUGHTER IN 2011?

YOU SHOULD attend our **Catholic Schools Open Day** and look at the excellent education and options we offer – it is a continuation of the Catholic Education choice you made when you enrolled at St Patrick’s School.

SACRED HEART COLLEGE – **SUNDAY 22 AUGUST** from 1 – 3pm

Make the time to go to this, I believe our Catholic Colleges offers our pupils an excellent education in a Christian environment that other Colleges cannot provide.

PARENT / PUPIL / TEACHER INTERVIEWS – NEXT WEEK!

Thank you to all who have returned their interview slips. To those who did not – you have been allocated an interview time. It is very important that we see parents / caregivers of **EVERY CHILD**. Interview CONFIRMATION SLIPS will be sent home with each child this week. (if you do not receive one by **Friday** – please contact us) Interviews are only 15 minutes in duration, please be punctual as we are on a tight timetable. You can always arrange for a fuller discussion / interview at a later date with the classroom teachers if you run out of time on the night – no problem.!

THIS WEEKS MATHS PROBLEM: - FIND ME!

A) I am a three digit odd number. B) I am a palindrome, the second and third digits are different. C) The sum of my digits is 14. D) The difference between smallest and largest digit is 5.

LAST WEEK’S ANSWER - **\$9.50** (\$9.50 + \$12.50 = \$22)

Regards and Blessings

Jurek Wypych
PRINCIPAL