

13 February 2018

In a Christian way we learn today for tomorrow

“Your WORDS carry amazing power.
So when you speak, make sure you
Uplift someone and not put them down.”

Dear Parents, Pupils and Parishioners,

OUR LATEST TAONGA (TREASURES)

After 3 older brothers at St Patrick’s we welcome **Maisie Hollands** to A1 (at last!). Welcome also to **Joel Burkett-Murillo** (A1) who joins big brother Jake and to **Corbin Simpson** (SJ14) and his family who are new to St Patrick’s. We also welcome (talofa) **Jacob** (SJ14) and **Christina** (SJ13) **Konelio** to St Patrick’s. They have recently arrived from Samoa and have settled in well thanks to our welcoming students and staff.

COOL AT SCHOOL

Our first recipient for 2018 is **Vincent Vo**, a Year 8 student who demonstrates the Gospel Values as a role model and is very welcoming to our new students.

DOUBLE DELIGHT

Last week I had the pleasure to attend the St John’s College and Sacred Heart College’s beginning of year Masses. Special occasions made even more special by the announcement of their head and deputy prefects (you guessed it... both ex St Pats!) Congratulations to head girl, Grace Burrell and deputy Ella Whiteshaw from Sacred Heart and to Phillip Halpin and Paul Mauga at St John’s. We are very proud of them and also a number of ex-pupils who were made prefects for 2018.

SCHOOL WELCOME MASS – NEXT WEDNESDAY

Join us next **Wednesday (21st) at 9.30am** in St Patrick’s Church as we celebrate our Beginning of Year School Mass and pray for the year ahead.

ART DECO PICNIC – THIS FRIDAY

Join us this Friday **16th February at 12.30** under the trees near the Junior Rooms and picnic with your children. Wear your “Art Deco” clothes to school (we would like all children to make an effort. Something made at home will be great). Parents, grandparents etc most welcome, bring a picnic and blanket. (If it rains – we will “picnic” in our classrooms). All pupils must wear a hat (school sunhat will do!)

ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED

If you would like to be an altar server at St Patrick’s Church, please contact the Parish Office 844 2224, Mrs Bartlett 843 6647 or Mrs Campbell at school. Then we can arrange training for you.

WEETBIX TRYATHLON

We have 50 students competing in Hastings tomorrow. Good luck and enjoy this amazing event. Thank you to Sam Weber and all parents for your organization and support.



ASH WEDNESDAY – TOMORROW (40 DAYS OF LENT)

We celebrate Ash Wednesday tomorrow and distribute the “Ashes” to all the students in the hall at 11.30am in a special liturgy.

THE ‘40 DAYS’ OF LENT

Our “40 days” is a round number with symbolic meaning. The Jews spent “40 years” in the desert on their way to the Promised Land. Jesus spent “40 days and 40 nights” fasting in the desert before beginning his ministry.

However, fasting was always prohibited on Sunday, which meant there were only 36 fasting days in the six week period. To make the Lenten fast include 40 days, the Church added four days of fasting (Ash Wednesday, and the Thursday, Friday and Saturday after Ash Wednesday). Lent itself ends on the evening of Holy Thursday (the vigil of Good Friday). We then begin the **Triduum**, the most sacred three days of the year, lasting through Easter Sunday evening.

GOSPEL VALUE FOR FEBRUARY

February Focus: - SPEAKING WITH GENTLENESS. How do we speak to each other? Do we use people’s proper names? Is our language appropriate? Do we greet people in a friendly manner? So a good way for everyone to practise this skill is to say GOOD MORNING / TALOFA / KIA ORA – to everyone they see when they arrive at school.

CAN YOU HELP – RIDE NEEDED?

Are you able to help one of our lovely students (Year 5/6) get to school (Kinross-White St near Downeys Butcher). This is just a temporary situation. If you are able to help please contact Kate 021 431 299.

PARENT / WHANAU MEET THE TEACHER EVENING – 22 FEBRUARY

A ‘new’ short format (5.30-6.15pm) on **THURSDAY 22 FEBRUARY** to meet your child’s teacher (teachers) and find out about your child’s classroom, their expectations and a chance to ask questions. (You will also meet other parents).

Two sessions (**5.30 – 5.50** and **5.55 – 6.15**) in case you have more than one child at school. We would love to see you there. Your child is most welcome to come.

HAVE YOUR SAY – WE WELCOME YOUR INPUT

The Board of Trustees will be reviewing the following POLICIES and the SCHOOL CHARTER by **1 March**. They are available for you to view in the office foyer.

POLICIES REVIEWED: Community Partnership, Equal Employment.

EATS, BEATS & TREATS – A NIGHT OUT

St John’s College – Friday 23rd February 5 – 8pm.

Kapa Haka, Pasifika, music, games, stalls, hangi, pizza, and more. A family evening for a good cause. Gold coin donation.

Regards & Blessings

Jurek Wypych
PRINCIPAL

