



Angel Whānau Newsletter **Term 1 2020**

Welcome back to the start of a busy and exciting term! A special welcome to our newest Angels in A1, and especially families new to St Patrick's School. As teachers we consider it an honour to be entrusted with your child and look forward to working in partnership with you throughout the year.

The team this year is Jan Bevan and Anna Piper in A1, Pip Draeger and Nadine McEwan in A2, Raewyn Williams and Kim Sommerville in A3 and Kaehler Dawson in A4. We are all very excited about what 2020 has in store and sharing in your child's learning journey.

Pūtātara - A call to action:

Our overarching theme for the year is 'A Call to Action - Pūtātara'. We will be linking our learning across the curriculum into developing knowledge and understanding around:

- Turangawaewae - Being in and of this world - Connecting our being with that of the natural world.
- Kaitiakitanga - Our wonderful world - Learning about and contributing to the incredible diversity of our natural world in Aotearoa New Zealand.
- Kaitiakitanga - Think globally, act locally - Responding to global climate challenges at a local level.
- Whakapuawai - Flourishing ever forward - Exploring new paradigms of progress, based on the wellbeing of ourselves and our planet.

In the first few weeks there will be a focus on us getting to know your child, what makes them special, what their gifts/taonga are and how their family and culture impact on who they are. If there are any particular taonga/gifts you would be able to share with our tamariki please let your child's teacher know.

The St Pat's Way:

We have worked hard to develop an understanding of what 'The St Pat's Way' means to us and how we act with Whakautē, Manaaki and Nanaiore. We will continue to live these values, so here is a quick reminder of what these words mean to us:

- **Kia Whakautē** is showing respect, appreciating and treasuring.
- **Kia Manaaki** is supporting, caring, protecting and being generous.
- **Kia Nanaiore** is striving to be our best, reaching for our goals and being resilient.

Learning through Play

Our Play Based Learning (PBL) environment is designed to make the transition from preschool to school a smooth, enjoyable, highly motivating and engaging one. A place where the children feel safe to try new things, to enhance their sense of wonder and learn persistence, cooperation, negotiation, resilience and a strong sense of belonging.

Planned opportunities are carefully thought out invitations that develop the children's own interests or urges. We constantly look for ways children demonstrate the national 'Key Competencies', the St Pats Way and the Learning Areas of the Curriculum.

Our learning environment lends itself to opportunities for small group sessions of explicit teaching to happen alongside PBL.

"Children learn as they play. Most importantly, in play children learn how to learn"

- O. Fred Donaldson

Literacy/Numeracy:

Developing a Growth Mindset and using that language in our learning will be a focus of our Literacy and Numeracy programmes throughout the year. Key ideas of having a Growth Mindset are:

- Mistakes are okay, failures can lead to success. Mistakes help me grow.
- I might not know it YET, but I will get there. I can train my brain to do it.

Through shared texts we will be focusing on **Oral language** this term. As we continue to learn more about each other, sharing our stories becomes an important part of learning about each other's similarities and differences and how to positively communicate our thoughts and feelings.

Developing Mathematical Inquiry Communities (DMIC): We are continuing to develop the skills and attitudes towards maths through this approach. We have been excited to see the changes all the children made in confidence, problem solving and involvement last year. We appreciate this is all a bit new, so don't hesitate to pop in and ask us questions.

Religious Education:

We will begin our year by exploring **Prayer** and establishing class routines for this. Following on, we begin the **God** strand. Our focus will be on how the gift of God's creation, both nature and people, are a sign of His love for us. Our theme of A Call to Action will be strongly linked in developing and growing our relationship with God and the part we play in caring for all of creation.

Sport:

Our PE focus this term will be on Athletics.

The sports available to the Year 1&2's this term are: Miniball, Netball, Hockey and Tee Ball. Permission slips were returned last Wednesday 5th February but if your child missed out, please let their teacher know as soon as possible. Registration for all teams will be completed this week.

Currently, we do not have enough players to enter a Netball team and we require two more parents to coach Miniball to be able to enter all our students. A reminder that if your child is wanting to play Hockey, then their registration needs to be completed by you at

<https://hbhockey.org.nz/summer-hockey/#funs>

School App/Facebook:

Don't forget to sign up to the school app and our school facebook page to keep up to date.

We are looking forward to meeting you all and getting to know your child.

Ngā mihi.

The Angel Whanau

