

St Joseph's Whanau Newsletter

Term 1 2021

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome to the start of the school year. We welcome new students and families from different parts of New Zealand and around the world and hope they all enjoy being part of the St Patrick's community.

The school year seems to get busier every year and the start of 2021 is no different. Hopefully this year we will be able to complete planned activities without any major disruptions!

If we do move up Alert Levels the children will be able to access their learning through the Whanau Learning Hub as they did last year.

There are many opportunities for extra-curricular activities and we have a number of children who are taking on leadership and responsibility with road patrol and PALs. Sports offered this term include, cricket, hockey and canoe polo. Miniball will only be offered to the Year 5 and 6 children in terms 2 and 4. This is due to the Centennial Hall still being unable to be used because of flood damage.

In March, the St John Association is coming to the school to work with the children and teach them basic first aid skills.

The children are going Optimist Yachting in Week 9 (29 March- 1 April). There will be further information coming home later in the term.

We also intend to have our Athletic sports later in the term- date to be confirmed.

Our school focus this year is 'Encounter'.

We will be linking our learning across the curriculum to develop knowledge and understanding around:

- An Encounter with Faith - Faith that holds you - understanding what faith is, it's importance and how this connects us as a community.
- An Encounter with Hope - Hope that guides you - with our faith we will have the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen.
- An Encounter with Love - Love that nurtures you - love is our encounter of God and the strength it gives us to be his disciples.

- An Encounter on our Journey - Faith, Hope and Love guide us on our journey - reflecting on our faith journeys and our next destination on the path.

Alongside our integrated curriculum our R.E. will also focus on Lent, Caritas and Easter.

We will be participating in the HB Lit Quiz competition this year which is held at the beginning of Term 2.

As part of the Coastal Cluster group of schools we will be sending students to participate in a variety of activities during the school year. These activities cover sporting, technology and literacy. One team will be selected to represent St Patrick's School. Unfortunately due to other activities we have planned we are unable to take part in any of these events in Term 1.

We are continuing with our third year of the DMIC mathematics programme and are looking forward to seeing the children developing their learning and skills with working cooperatively in problem solving tasks.

Our Meet the Teacher evening is on the 23 February and we are looking forward to meeting you. If you have any concerns that you think we need to know about your child please contact us. Your children are our priority and together we will work for them. We have decided this year that we will meet as a whanau and share our planning and programme all together in SJ14.



Thank you in advance for all the wonderful help you will give us over the coming year! Without our families' help many of what we plan for the children is unable to happen.

Nikki, Todd, Kate