

29 November 2011

In a Christian way we learn today for tomorrow

Dear Parents, Pupils and Parishioners,

“Heaven is under our feet as well as over our heads”

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

Cody Wise and family. Cody's Grandfather passed away during the weekend. May he rest in peace.

MUFTI DAY THANK YOU

Jamie, Kylie and Max would like to thank our St Patrick's School family for their support and generosity last Friday. **\$614** was raised to assist Max as he lives with Diabetes.

RACING TO AN END

The term is flying by and Christmas holidays are only two weeks away. Lots going on in every syndicate:- Camps, fishing, plays, Masses, gymnastics, swimming, discovery, sport and SCHOOL WORK!

FINAL SENIOR SYNDICATE MASS - TOMORROW

Join our Senior Syndicate as they celebrate Mass together for the last time as a syndicate tomorrow, **Wednesday 30th November at 9am** in our Sacred Space.

CHRISTMAS GIVING – HELPING THOSE WE KNOW!

Miss Jobbins and her Year 3 class, **M8** discussed Christmas as a time for giving. They talked about the many people who go without at this time of year, in particular those in our own school community. So they are starting to collect goods to make gift baskets (edible Christmas treats.) that we can distribute to a number of families to make their Christmas better. They thought if the **WHOLE SCHOOL** could bring something it would mean we would be able to help **LOTS OF OUR FAMILIES**. Thank you Room 8, that is what Christmas is about. If you would like to donate over the next 2 weeks please send your items to either Room 8 or the school office.

ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND – IT IS UP!

Our children are enjoying the fruits of a year's fundraising, Gala, Trivia Nights and raffles. Our **NEW ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND** is up and running.

THANK YOU P.T.A and all who have helped to make this possible.

Once a date has been finalized, we will hold an official opening.

ROAD PATROL FUN DAY

Our fantastic Road Patrollers (Year 6 & 7) who keep our children safe are to be rewarded with a **FREE FUN DAY** at Splash Planet this Friday. We appreciate all that they do, their commitment and responsibility. Have a well-deserved day out. For those in M6 who will be at Blackhead Beach Camp – we have a fun event and lunch for you next Monday.

END OF YEAR SCHOOL MASS –PLEASE JOIN US

Next **Thursday – 8th December – ST PATRICK'S CHURCH, 9.30am**. As we thank God for the many blessings 2011 has brought us and celebrate for the final time this year.

OUTSTANDING ACCOUNTS - \$4000 OWING

Could these be settled **this week please**. You may have recently received an account in the post and received a call from me. We need to start 2012 with a clean slate. Please pay at the school office (we have EFTPOS).

END OF YEAR PUPIL REPORTS AND PORTFOLIOS

These will be given to pupils on **Monday 12th** at school and should be opened **at home with you**. Please be positive about the reports when you discuss them. There has been some great progress made by your children this year.

(The “next steps” are a guide for next year.!) Your child's class and year level for 2012 is included in the report. Reports will be in your child's Pupil Portfolio.

Please note:- Year 8 reports will be given out at prizegiving on Wednesday 14th.

PTA CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

The PTA have a Christmas Raffle on display in the office foyer. Prizes include **toys, chocolates, wine, toiletries** and a **\$100 meal voucher for the “Hogs Breath”**.

Tickets are \$1 each or 3 for \$2 - available from the school office.

NICE TO WIN FOR CHRISTMAS.

TEA TOWELS – AMAZING GIFT FOR CHRISTMAS

The perfect gift for family and friends both in NEW ZEALAND and OVERSEAS. **Your children** have created these wonderful creations (one per syndicate) and they look fantastic. A lasting treasure of St Patrick's School. They can be viewed at the school office. **COST:** \$10 for one, \$18 for two, \$26 for three and \$35 for four.

IF YOU HAVE PRE-ORDERED – THEY ARE READY FOR YOU NOW.

FINAL PTA MEETING – AND THANK YOU

Next **Thursday, 8 December** at **The Thirsty Whale**. Join us at 7pm as we reflect on 2011 and look ahead to 2012 with a glass and a bite to eat.

ADVENT WREATH (ADVENT BEGAN SUNDAY 28 NOVEMBER)

The Advent wreath dates back to the celebrations of the winter solstice (northern hemisphere), the time of the year when the sun reaches its southernmost point in its heavens. Because they longed for the return of the sun's light, the ancients stopped their regular activity, sacrificed the use of their wagon wheels and hung them up, decorated with lights and greenery. They awaited the return of the Sun God, thinking of the light and warmth he brought. Celebrations culminated in the 'nativity of the sun', the turning point of the year. As Christians we use the same custom to anticipate the feast of light and life – the Nativity of the Saviour.

The Advent Wreath is significant in that unlike holly or floral wreaths, it has candles standing upright, representing the four Sundays of Advent and the thousands of years that God's people awaited the promised Messiah.

The round ring of the Advent Wreath represents eternity – time without end. As the circle is never-ending, so time with God goes on and on. The evergreens stand for eternal life, life without end. Evergreens don't die in the winter and, like them, God is always fresh and new. The candles remind us of Christ, “the light of the world”. A new candle is lit each Sunday as the celebration of Christ's coming draws nearer. Three candles are purple – reminders of the spirit of penance. A red candle (for joy) is lit on the third Sunday.

SCHOOL FINISHES

Thursday 15th December at 12.30. All children need to be picked up at 12.30pm. Taradale & Tamatea buses will run at 12.30. (Bayview and Clive children will need to be picked up by their parents).

THIS WEEK'S QUIZ

Regards & Blessings

Jurek Wypych
PRINCIPAL

