



St Joseph's School

TE KURA O HATO HOHEPA PAPANUI

EMPOWERING STUDENTS TO BECOME CONFIDENT, MOTIVATED LEARNERS, LIVING GOSPEL VALUES.



NEWSLETTER ~ TERM 1 - No. 1 - 30 January 2020

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK - Aaron Richards

Welcome

Welcome back, one and all to the 2020 school year. I hope that you have taken the opportunity over the summer break to find some quality family time together.

Over the last few weeks the teachers have been in and out of school preparing for an exciting and action packed year at St Joseph's School. We are all eager to welcome the children as they arrive safe on Monday refreshed and a little taller than when we last saw them.

The school will celebrate the start of the year with a mihi whakatau. During this event we will officially welcome all new staff and students to our school. The mihi whakatau will take place on Monday 3 February. All students will need to go to their class before 9am. The teachers will settle the children and check attendance. Parents are welcome to stay with children. At 9.15am all new staff and new students will assemble at the parish gate while the rest of the school takes their place in the quadrangle in front of the office. Parents of new students are welcome to gather at the parish gate with their children and participate in the mihi whakatau. At the end of the mihi whakatau the new students will take their place with the rest of the school ready for the Waitangi Day liturgy. After the liturgy the school will initiate a new tradition called, the first bell. After the first bell has rung all children will return to their class before morning tea. New parents are welcome to the staffroom to have morning tea with the staff.

Staffing 2020

We start back at school fully staffed for the year. We have reorganised the teachers a little differently this year to increase collaboration across the school. It is our hope that greater collaboration will enable us to customise learning and increase the learning opportunities we can provide children. This organisation is detailed below. From a parents perspective looking inwards at the school, you should not notice much difference in the way we work in partnership with you.

On behalf of the school community I would like to welcome Sarah Philpott, Melissa Tucker and Katrina Taylor to the teaching team. All three teachers have been working with the team over the last few days to ensure that they are prepared for the children on Monday.

Congratulations to our junior school teacher, Angela Bennett (nee Gilligan) on her marriage to Dillon at the end of last year. Our best wishes to them both for the future.

On behalf of the school community I would also like to welcome our new team of priests who will be working with St Joseph's School. Fr. Rick Loughnan is the new priest. Fr. Rick will be supported by three assistant priests: Fr Alister Castillo, Fr Edwin Colaco SBD, Fr Kevin Wei.

The school, in partnership with the PTA, has organised a back to school BBQ for Thursday 13th of February from 6pm to 7pm. This is a great opportunity for parents to meet their children's teachers as well as meet the parents of some of their children's friends.

This event was a great hit last year. So please take the time to come along to this fantastic community event. The PTA will organise a free BBQ sausage. Please feel free to come along with a picnic, fish 'n chips or take away dinner for your family.

Senior Leadership Team

Aaron Richards (Principal), Marietjie Verweij (Deputy Principal), Liz Beattie (Deputy Principal)

Junior Team

New Entrant Collaboration: Annette Fraser and Sarah Philpott—Timoney 2/3

Year 1-2 Collaboration: Katrina Taylor - Ashby 1, Angela Bennett (nee Gilligan) - Ashby 2, Annie Woods - Ashby 3

Year 3-4 Collaboration: Isabella Byers - Mercy 1, Karen Burt - Mercy 2, Nina Kickhefer - Mercy 3, Matt McGuire - Mercy 4

Senior Team

Year 5-6 Collaboration: Erin Kreft - Kealy 1, Mel Walsh - Kealy 2, Jacque Culling - McAuley 1, Philippa Green/Sally Ward - McAuley 2

Year 7-8 Collaboration: Phillip Gray - McAuley 3, Alice Johns - McAuley 4, Melissa Tucker - Hanrahan 1, David Harrison - Hanrahan 2

Learning Support Team

Melissa Segar (Specialist Teacher), Melissa Clease (English Teacher), Angela O'Connell (Reading Recovery Teacher)

Support Staff Team

Pauline Knaggs (Office Administrator) Maureen Anderson (Office Assistant), Manja Pieters (Librarian), Blair Roberts (Caretaker), Jo Ford, Mary Marshall, Jackie Boyce and Charmari de Silva (Teacher Aides).

Coronavirus

About 10 years ago all New Zealand schools were required to prepare a pandemic plan in preparation for such a situation we have developed with the coronavirus. This is not new to us. In the past we have had bird flu and swine flu. The school has protocols in place we can implement depending on how this virus continues to evolve.

The school is provided regular updates by the Ministry of Education. We can also access advice from the Canterbury Area Health Board who are working with the Ministry of Health to monitor the situation. We have been provided the following information.

- the risk of an outbreak in New Zealand is currently low and Health's current advice is that there is no specific action to be taken at this time
- there are no cases of the virus in New Zealand currently
- should the situation change, as we do with other infectious diseases, we will follow our pandemic plan for managing the illness
- If you or a family member you live with has been in China over the last two weeks, we recommend that you do not come to school. The incubation period for the virus is 14 days. So if you have visited China, please do not visit the school within 14 days of your return.

Communication

Communication is key to the efficient operation of the school. That is why it is our goal to ensure that all parents and caregivers get timely information regarding their children's education as well as school events and parish events. The school uses a variety of communication methods. It is important that parents engage in these different forms of communication to keep themselves updated with school information.

At St Joseph's School, we believe that home and school partnership is the foundation of a high quality education. Effective partnership requires a high level of trust, mutual respect and effective communication. St Joseph's School, Papanui prides itself on the variety and quality of communication we provide parents. This communication ensures parents understand how the school operates, are up to date with recent events and have a deep understanding of their children's learning. Communication is a two way process. As a result, the school operates an open door policy where we encourage open communication with parents. Parents are encouraged to have regular dialogue with the teachers and the school. Parents are asked to immediately contact the appropriate teacher as soon as an issue or query arises.

The school has many communication tools to use to ensure parents can find out information about school operation as well as different events that are coming up or have taken place. These tools include:

Website - The school website has all the information you could possibly want to know about the school, ranging from board policies to school lunches. All newsletters are archived on the website for easy access and reference to when required. Parents can access the school's website - <http://www.stjopapa.school.nz/Home/>

Facebook - Facebook is an effective tool the school uses to celebrate students learning and success. The school's Facebook page is regularly updated with fun photos as well as messages. The school's Facebook page is also linked to other useful Facebook pages such as the PTA or parish Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/SJSPapanui/>

Weekly Newsletter - At this point in time the school newsletter is produced each week, usually on Thursdays. The newsletter contains important information that allows parents to keep up with the latest events. The newsletter is emailed to all parents on the register as a PDF using School-Links. The newsletter is also uploaded onto the website.

School-links - School-links is the online software that helps schools connect and communicate with students and their caregivers. School-links allows the school to send out group texts and emails quickly. This is essential in an emergency so please ensure you keep the school office up-to-date with your email address and cell phone number. As we learn more about our new Student Management System this process may change in the future. If things change we will inform you of the changes.

Emails - All teachers can be contacted using their school email. Parents should feel free to send a classroom teacher or the school office an email with information or a query. We will always endeavour to respond to your email promptly. Email addresses can be found on the school's website - <http://www.stjopapa.school.nz/Web/37/>

Conversations - Parents may enter the classrooms at any time provided that they do not disrupt the children's learning. Parents are encouraged to approach the classroom teacher before or after school to discuss any issue. However it is more effective if parents organise a meeting with the classroom teacher to discuss any issue in depth. Teachers can also be contacted by phone through the school office. The best time to contact a teacher by phone is after school. The Principal and Deputy Principals are also available for feedback or to listen to any concerns you may have. We will make ourselves available in the playground after school on most days.

Parent Workshops - We are planning a number of meetings throughout the year to keep parents updated with changes in the education system and to gather your feedback. We are planning two parent workshops this term. The first will look at the school's behaviour programme. The second will look at changes to the way we report student achievement. Details regarding these events will be provided shortly. Please keep an eye out for this information.

It is vital that we hold accurate and up to date contact information for all students. If your address, contact phone numbers, email address, living arrangements or emergency contact information has changed, please contact the office as soon as possible so we can update our records.

Absences

We need parent cooperation to ensure that students safely arrive at school each morning. For this to happen it is essential that parents and / or caregivers advise the school office if their child will not be attending school, or if they will be arriving late. Please email or call the school before 8.55am to advise the reason for the absence. It is very time consuming for the office to chase up parents who have not advised us of their child's absence from school. The Ministry of Education has very strict attendance guidelines. The school is required to maintain a record of students' attendance and punctuality each and every day the school is open. It is very important that students attend school every day unless they are sick. Students are recorded as justifiably absent if they are sick, have a medical appointment, are attending another education activity. Students absent for other reasons are recorded down as unjustifiably absent. If we have not heard from a parent we are required to record the student as truant.

Uniform and Stationery

Information relating to school stationery was sent out to all families at the end of 2020. This information is also available on the school's website -

<http://www.stjopapa.school.nz/Web/106/>

Parents can either order stationery through the OfficeMax My School website

<https://www.myschool.co.nz/> or from any good stationery retailer.

During terms 1 and 4 students are required to wear the summer uniform. Details are available on the school website -

<http://www.stjopapa.school.nz/Web/45/>

Uniform items can be purchased from Mainland Uniform who are located on Wairakei Road.

<https://www.mainlanduniforms.nz/>

The school's uniform policy requires all students to wear black school shoes with leather uppers and rubber soles. Active-wear school shoes may be worn as an alternative, however they must have a black upper and sole. Soles must not have a white sole or noticeable branding.



St Joseph's School is a Sunsmart school. As a result we take precautions to ensure that students are sun safe. The school's Sun Safe policy requires all students in years 1-6 to wear a royal blue wide-brim hat when they are playing outside. Year 7-8 students have the option of purchasing a senior cap from the school office. The caps cost \$15 each.

FAITH FACT

The ONLY Christian church in existence for the first 1,000 years of Christian history was the Roman Catholic Church. All other Christian churches which exist today can trace their lineage back to the Roman Catholic Church. Most non-Catholic churches which exist today are less than a century or two old by comparison.

Swimming 2020

Normally in the first few weeks of Term 1 all students at St Joseph's School, Papanui would participate in swimming lessons. As the Graham Condon Pool is closed for maintenance, this will not be possible. As a result, swimming lessons will now take place in Term 2.

Upcoming Events

Monday 3 Feb	8.55am—School Year begins 9.30am—Mihi Whakatau and Waitangi Day Liturgy
Mon 3—Wed 5	Year 7 Camp at Hanmer
Thurs 6 Feb	Waitangi Day (School closed)
Thurs 13 Feb	6 -7pm, Back to School BBQ
Mon 17—Wed 19	Year 8 Camp at Wainui
Thur 20 Feb	School Duathlon
Sun 23 Feb	Weetbix Tryathlon
Tues 25 Feb	Timoney and Ashby FireWise programme
Tues 25 Feb	First Holy Communion lessons begin for Year 4 children
Tues 25—Fri 28	Year 6 Cycle Safety

In Sympathy

*We offer our deepest sympathy to **Marietjie Verweij**, our Deputy Principal, on the death of her daughter-in-law, Anè who passed away recently in England. Our thoughts and prayers are with Marietjie and her family at this sad time.*



*Bless us, Spirit of Life, during this new school year.
Bless us with the light of the new dawn
the radiance of the rainbow
the gratitude of thirsty ground in the rain
the steadiness of the mountains
the delight of the morning song of birds
the industry of the insects
the glory and beauty of the flowers
the same awe and wonder of the children that we teach
and the resolve of a mountain stream. Amen*