

TERM 1 - No. 1 ~ 2 February 2012

WELCOME BACK

On behalf of the staff, I welcome all children, and their parents, back to school for the 2012 year. By the large number of smiles from children, staff and parents, everyone is thrilled to be back at school after a long restful holiday.

For those families beginning their association with St Joseph's, I trust you will find this a positive experience and rewarding partnership.

STAFF NEWS

A special welcome to our new teachers:

- **Miss Rachel Cook** R 4, Year 5-6
- **Ms Melissa Thompson** R17, Year 5-6

Rachel Cook was employed to cater for the increased number of children in the Year 5-6 classes and Melissa Thompson replaced Mathew McGuire, who was offered a rugby contract in England.

WELCOME

We welcome the 29 new students, who have transferred to St Joseph's and the following five year olds who started as new entrants yesterday:



**Honor Hope,
Yahwei Te
Rangi
And Laura
Townshend.**

CLASS MEETINGS—Thursday 9 February

Class meetings will be held next Thursday 9 February 7.00 pm and repeated at 7.30 pm. Each teacher will conduct two identical sessions to allow those parents with more than one child the opportunity of visiting different classrooms.

KAPA HAKA

We were very disappointed to hear that our excellent tutor, Travis Cooper, has moved to Wellington. We are endeavouring to find a replacement but people possessing these skills are very few and far between. If you are aware of any suitable candidate I would be very grateful hearing from you.

Prayer for the Day

Caring God,
To make this world happy and peaceful as you want it we must work hard at loving and helping all people.
Make us strong to do your work, as we begin this new school year.
We ask this through Jesus, your Son. Amen

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION

SchoolLinks, our emergency contact program for texting, emailing newsletters, and reporting absences has had a major upgrade by the software developers. The company has assured us it will be fully operational early next week.

Due to this delay, we are unable to email the school newsletter this week or send text messages in an emergency. In the interim, any emergency messages will be placed on the home page of our school website: www.stjopapa.school.nz

JUNIOR ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND

Thanks to a very generous grant of \$20,000 from Air Rescue and Community Services, \$7,000 from the Canterbury Community Trust and over \$9,000 from our school's PTA, the junior adventure playground is being installed with safety matting. This is an exciting development improving the safety and appearance of this very popular playground area.

The playground should be ready for use again within 10-12 days.

CYCLES / SCOOTERS

In the interests of safety, cycles must be placed in the cycle stands near the library. While scooters must be placed in the scooter shed between Rooms 10 and 11.

We remind all cyclists and those on scooters to walk them within the school grounds before and after school.

BEFORE SCHOOL

With the excitement of returning to school, we have a large number arriving at school before 8.30am.

Please respect the valuable preparation time of the teachers before 8.30am by remaining on the asphalt area near the office until the 8.30am bell rings.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAMME

We begin with the Prayer Module which helps establish pray routines in the class.

The first Strand to be taught in classes is the Jesus Strand which continues throughout the term allowing for our Lenten teaching and the Ash Wednesday Liturgy. The term concludes with the teaching of Passion/Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter.

Please refer to the Family Whanua book for assistance with your child's level.

We strongly encourage parents to support our RE programme by discussing RE homework and by filling out the comment box at the end of each strand. Please try and make a comment rather than just signing. Again refer to the following pages in the Family Whanua Book for guidance.

Comments for Strands pg 39- 41

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Please ensure your child is dressed in correct school uniform at all times. For safety reasons jewellery is not part of the school uniform. However, one small stud per ear is allowed and items of cultural significance can be worn at the owner's risk.

We ask that all children keep to their natural hair colour and use hair ties according to the school colours. As classes will be using the Graham Condon Leisure Centre for swimming instruction, we ask all girls to wear a one-piece swimming costume please.

SWIMMING INSTRUCTION

Due to the closure of the school pool, we have been able to secure swimming instruction sessions at the Graham Condon Centre behind Northlands Shopping Centre.

Children will walk to and from swimming escorted by teaching staff. As you will appreciate there is an extra cost. The cost is \$2.70 per child per lesson and will be added to your school account. Every student will have 10 lessons over a period of two weeks.

The lessons are taken by trained swimming instructors. Please note, there is no provision for any refunds should your child miss a swimming lesson. Swimming lessons will commence the week of Monday 20 February.

As the Graham Condon Centre cannot host swimming sports, our annual event for students in Years 5-8 will be held at Jellie Park on Thursday 8 March.

YEAR 7-8 CAMP

Prior warning is given of the senior school's outdoor educational experience at Wainui from Monday 26 March to Wednesday—28 March. This is the second last week of the term.

WAITANGI DAY

Waitangi Day is a New Zealand national day celebrated every year on February 6th. It marks the occasion on which the Māori chiefs signed the Treaty of Waitangi with British representatives in 1840. The Waitangi Treaty is known as New Zealand's founding document, covering matters of sovereignty and citizenship. Waitangi Day is a day in which New Zealanders can reflect on their past and think about the future. Visit www.wikihow.com/Celebrate-Waitangi-Day for ideas on how you can celebrate Waitangi Day.

PTA FRIDAY LUNCHES

Within the next couple of weeks we will be restarting our Friday lunches. This is a major fundraiser for the PTA and we are looking for volunteers to help. This only requires a commitment of 2-3 times per year. If you would like to help out, please put your details on the form in the office. For further information, please contact Ann Kofoed on 354 9116.

FUNDRAISING QUIZ NIGHT FOR THE HART FAMILY

We are planning a quiz night to raise funds for one of our school parents, Steve Hart, who requires expensive healthcare treatment (see website: <http://stc.school.nz/steve-s-progress/>).

The quiz will be a classroom challenge, with 1 team of 6 adults from each classroom, competing for a trophy and a fish 'n chip lunch for the children in the winning class.

To be held **Thursday 1st March 7pm at Robbie's Elmwood.**

We are looking for prizes and auction items, so if you have any goods/services/cash/vouchers/anything (at all!) that you can offer, please contact Ann Kofoed on 021819116 or ann_kof@yahoo.com

Please come along for a fun evening and support this worthy cause. More details to follow.

FIRST RECONCILIATION AND HOLY COMMUNION

An enquiry meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 21st February, in the St Joseph's Parish Centre. This meeting is essential for parents of any child who wishes to make First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. A letter outlining the process is being sent to parents of known Year 5 candidates. Completed pre-enrolment form and copy of baptism certificate are to be returned to the parish office prior to this meeting. For further information, please contact Marie-Therese McRae, Phone 352 5119.

COMING EVENTS

Mon 6 Feb	-	Waitangi Day—school closed
7-13 Feb	-	Cycle Safe—Yr6
Thu 9 Feb	-	Class Meetings, 7pm
Mon 20 Feb	-	Swimming Lessons begin
Tue 21 Feb	-	Parent enquiry mtg, Parish Centre
Wed 23 Feb	-	Ash Wednesday