

TERM 1 - No. 1 ~ 4 February 2010

WELCOME BACK

The school year has started superbly well. Smiles are aplenty by staff and students alike. If this is the beginning of your association with our school, I trust you will find this a positive experience and rewarding partnership.

STAFF NEWS

We would like to welcome our three new teachers to St Joseph's School:

- Mrs Philippa Green, R10 teaching Y3-4
- Miss Katherine Murdoch, R 9 teaching Y3-4
- Mr Gerry Kelly, R14 teaching Y7-8

WELCOME

Welcome to the following new children who started at our school on Tuesday:

Jacob van Peer, Matthew van Peer, Meghan Shatford, Kate McCormick, Cindy Kwon and Rosemary Hamilton.

Also a special welcome to our new five year olds:

Annabelle Rushton-Pearce, Lily-Mae Baird, Shaun Lane, Isabella Shatford, Ruby Maguire, Ryan O'Sullivan, Holly Myers, and Megan Townshend.



CLASS MEETINGS TONIGHT

Class meetings will be held this evening at 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. Hopefully you received the earlier notice sent home on Tuesday.

IMPORTANT PARENT MEETING

The Board of Trustees is hosting a parent education evening with Nathan Mikaere-Wallis on **Wednesday 24 February** at 7.30pm in the school hall.

Nathan is a superb speaker who will cover recent research on brain development and learning. The research contradicts a lot of practices parents, teachers and coaches have used in the past. He will give a clear insight into understanding the human brain and how best to facilitate children reaching their full potential.

RSVP to the school office, 352 8779 by Friday 12 Feb.

Loving God

Thank you for the gift of this new year.

*Help us to find you in every day, every hour,
every minute of the year ahead of us. Amen*



SCHOOL MASS

Our school Mass celebrating the beginning of the school year will be held on Friday 12 February at 9.15am. Badges will be presented to our school leaders. Parents are most welcome to join us.

NATIONAL STANDARDS

I'm sure you are all aware of the requirement for schools to implement the National Standards in primary and intermediate schools from the beginning of 2010.

We received the National Standards Reading, Writing and Mathematics in booklet form at the end of last year. To date, no training or support has been received as to how schools should effectively implement these standards. We are still waiting for an indication as to when schools will be provided with some form of support and guidance.

As a school, we have no issues with informing parents about the achievement levels of their children and where they stand in relation to national norms or averages. We have done so over many years using standardized tests such as PATs, and more recently, the introduction of Asttle as a well recognised assessment tool for Years 4-8.

Ideally, we would prefer a trial of the National Standards in a selected group of schools throughout the country to test the validity and accuracy of them before they are implemented nationally.

Ultimately, schools must implement government policy and our reporting to you as parents will change accordingly to reflect the new requirements.

SENIORS ON CAMP

Year 7 and 8 students will be on camp from Monday to Wednesday of next week. Their three-day experience is at Wainui, opposite Akaroa on Banks Peninsula. Further details will be provided to the senior students.

PROPERTY ENHANCEMENTS

During January, the following enhancements occurred within the school grounds:

- Repaint of the library and Rooms 9 and 10 with the new colour scheme
- Converting the ESOL room back to a classroom, Room 17.
- Converting the computer suite into four separate rooms to cater for teacher aides and our English second language tutor.
- New seating area on Vagues Road for students to wait for parents.

Special thanks to the property committee of the board for the work on the above improvements.

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 school pool we ask all girls to wear a one-piece swim suit please.

PARKING

We are lucky to have such a long road for parents to park before and after school. Unfortunately, the school has no parking facilities for parents on site. There is a car park beside Room 8 for staff only, and of course the winner of the car park raffle **Mrs Jill Parkyn** for Term 1 2010.

The parish car park is for parishioners attending mass and meetings, for parish staff and some school staff cars. In the interests of maintaining our strong relationship with our parish church please refrain from using their car park before and after school. The Vagues Road footpath will be much safer without vehicles driving in and out of the parish and staff car parks during peak pedestrian traffic. Thank you for your support.

LOST PROPERTY

A large stock of lost property exists from 2009. This will be on display before and after school on Friday opposite the office entrance.

Also please check that your child hasn't mistakenly taken home someone else's belongings at the end of the year.

TERM 1 CALENDAR

4 Feb	- Class Meetings, 7.00 pm
8 Feb	- P.T.A. mtg, 7.00 pm
8-10 Feb	- Y7-8 to Wainui Camp
9 Feb	- Parent Meeting, First Penance
12 Feb	- School Mass, 9.15 am
14 Feb	- Parish Picnic
16 Feb	- Parent Meeting, First Penance
17 Feb	- Ash Wednesday
19 Feb	- School Triathlon
24 Feb	- Y5-8 Swimming Sports—Jellie Park
	- Parent Mtg, Nathan Mikaere-Wallis
26 Feb	- Y1-4 Swimming Demonstration at school
8 Mar	- Zone Swimming Sports
9 Mar	- Parent Meeting, First Penance
10,11 Mar	- Parent/Teacher mtgs—goal settings
17 Mar	- Triathlon Championships
19 Mar	- St Joseph's Day—Picnic at Groynes
28 Mar	- Swimming Champs—QEII
28 Mar	- Celebration of First Penance
30 Mar	- Parent Meeting, First Communion
1 April	- End of Term 1
2 April	- Good Friday
3 April	- Easter Sunday

2010 ALTAR SERVERS

Could all Altar Server consent forms (available from school or Parish office) be completed and returned to the Parish Office or placed in the green box in the back of the church by **Sunday 14 February**. Thank you.

PARISH PICNIC

The picnic will be held this year on Sunday 14 February from 11am - 2pm. A sausage sizzle is provided, please bring a salad and serving utensils to share. If wet on the day, it will be held in the Parish Centre and School Hall. All welcome.

VALENTINE'S DAY LITURGY

A Liturgy is to be held at The Cathedral, Barbadoes Street on **Sunday 14th February, 2pm**. A time to reflect on the gift of love for one another in marriage. All welcome. Light refreshments to follow.

PTA – Meeting - Monday 8 February – 7pm

All parents and caregivers are welcome to attend our first PTA meeting for 2010 to be held in the Teacher's Staff room.

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday 8 March – 7pm, where we will appoint new positions for 2010. Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer. If you would like to be involved please come along to either meeting we would love to see some new faces.