

Newsletter – Week 5, Term 1

3 March 2020

Kia ora whanau



Our staff have provided our children with some truly outstanding opportunities during EOTC week, not only in the form of exciting physical activities and outings but also in the form of personal challenges.

It is so great to see our children having fun with their peers as they learn to surf, paddle board, kayak, participate in fun outdoor pursuits, bring their 'wheels' to school and climb the rock wall at the AUT Millennium centre. For the first time our Year 5 children had a sleep over at Kelly Tarlton's. The children came back

buzzing and full of stories. Thank you to Mrs Zaisluik, leader of the Waitemata team for organising and leading this new initiative.

Our Year 6 children, along with their teachers and a great group of parent helpers, have also had a great week at Camp Hunua. Miss Binns and I went to camp on Wednesday and I thoroughly enjoyed watching our children in this new environment. It is a great opportunity to see how they interact with others when out of their comfort zone, how they participate and contribute, and how they manage themselves away from school and home. Many thanks to Mrs Marsh, Mrs Taylor, Mrs Perry, Mrs Whiteman and Mrs Mountjoy for all their effort in organising and attending camp. I am also very thankful to our camp parents and to all of our parent helpers who gave so willingly of their time to support our weeks activities. This EOTC week would not happen without you.

Lent – A time to reflect on who and what we can be

Lent isn't, or at least shouldn't be, an obstacle course we have to get over to make it to the rejoicing of Easter. It is an integral part of that rejoicing. Lent is our recognition that the wonder of God's plan for us is so much greater than anything our own desires and efforts can bring about! (*Fr Chris Denham*)

I tend to publish this prayer from Pope Francis each year. It reminds us that fasting in the form of self-review is just as important as fasting from tangible options such as food, beverages and technology.

Catholic Schools Dedication Mass

Last Tuesday evening, our teachers attended the Auckland Diocese Catholic Schools Dedication Mass at Christ the King Church in Owairaka. The Mass is celebrated by Bishop Pat and a number of other priests from the Auckland Diocese.

This is a very special event for Catholic Schools as we come together to ask for God's blessing on the school year ahead. Several of our teachers received certificates in recognition for their work and study in Religious Education. We are very proud of the achievements of these teachers.

Carrie Mercer – Fully Registered Teacher 2019

Janet Blind & Claire Taylor – Classroom Level Certification

Laura Baddeley & Suzanne Zaisluik – Leadership Level Certification

Marina Binns – Special Character Leadership Level Certification

Viki Trainor – endorsement of Leadership Level Certificate

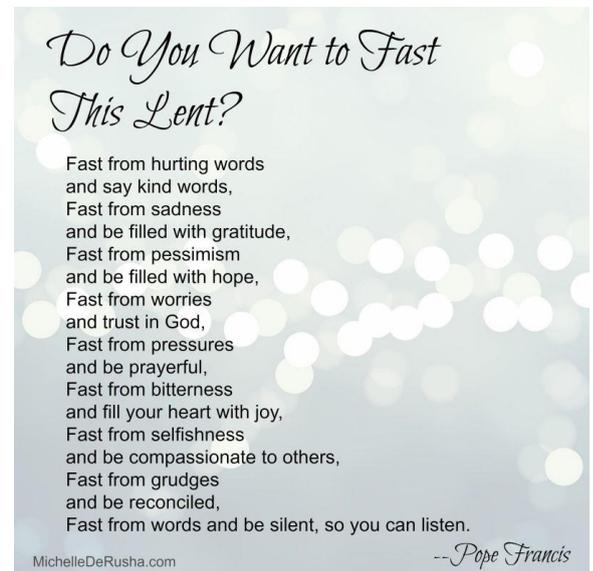
Suzanne Zaisluik – Having Life to the Full Certificate

PTFA Picnic

Last Friday our community came together to share our annual PTFA summer picnic. It is always so nice to see so many of our families relaxing on the grass banks and enjoying our pool. Many thanks to the PTFA for organising this event and for cooking sausages on the night.

Waterwise

A reminder that not only do the children need to be waterwise when IN the water but they should also be DRINKING plenty of water in this hot weather. Mrs Bridges is seeing an increase in children visiting the sick bay who are feeling unwell but have hardly had any water due to not having a water bottle at school. We appreciate your support in ensuring your children have their water bottle with them everyday and reiterating the importance of the water being drunk.



MichelleDeRusha.com

--Pope Francis



CHURCH CARPARK

I wish to remind you that the church carpark is for short term drop offs **only**.

It is also essential that you do not park in or obstruct Father's driveway as he often needs to leave the Parish office or presbytery urgently.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Last week we marked the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday. Lent is the period of preparation for Easter – a time of prayer, fasting and almsgiving to those in need. During this time, we have an opportunity to draw nearer to God and be transformed by the Holy Spirit. The theme for Lent 2020 is *'Renewed by the Spirit'*. Pope Francis says, "Let yourself be transformed. Let yourself be renewed by the Spirit... do not abandon the path of love but remain ever open to his supernatural grace, which purifies and enlightens." (Gaudete et Exsultate #24).

Throughout the season of Lent, your child will learn about the call to care for creation which has a strong connection to the Caritas themes for 2020.

HEARING & VISION TECHNICIANS

A Hearing and Vision Technician will be at school on **Friday, 13th March**. Children eligible to be tested include our New Entrants who have not had a B4 School Hearing and Vision test at Pre-school, children who need rescreening or were absent from previous testing and children new to the school who have not been tested in New Zealand.

SECOND HAND UNIFORM SALE

The next second hand uniform sale will be held **THIS Thursday 5th March** in the school hall from 2:30-3:00pm. We have plenty of stock of the old uniform grey shorts - brand new with tags selling at a very low price. Please bring cash. Thank you, Francine Gilchrist 021488279

PTFA AGM - Tuesday 10th March 7pm

Everyone is welcome to come along to our Annual General PTFA meeting in the school staff room. Please join us for a drink as we review 2019 and plan our activities for 2020. In line with the Constitution, nominations are open for all positions on the Committee. Nominations can be sent to the PTFA via office@sjmb.school.nz or raised at the meeting itself. The key positions are:

LEAD TALKER – commonly known as a Chair person, someone who can chair the meetings and take charge where needed.

LEAD NOTE TAKER – commonly known as a Secretary. Someone who can take minutes of the meeting and deal with any incoming correspondence.

LEAD MONEY COUNTER – commonly known as a Treasurer, someone who will look after the PTFA Bank Accounts, bank money & reconcile the accounts.

There are also a few pop-up jobs that would be perfect for anyone who is keen to help with a one off event. These include the ANNUAL KIDS DISCO, the PARENTS NIGHTS, SCHOOL BBQ'S and one- off fundraising events like THE FUN RUN.

HOT CROSS BUN FUNDRAISER



This year we have teamed up with Couplands Bakery to sell delicious Hot Cross Buns through school. Each Hot Cross Bun six-pack will cost you \$5.50, with \$2 of each pack sold going directly back to the PTFA.

Sell them to your friends, family and neighbours! There will be ice blocks given out to the class that sells the most packets. Order forms will be coming home with children next week.

There are two yummy flavours to choose from:

- Traditional
- Chocolate



Hot Cross Buns will be delivered to school for you to **pick up on Wednesday, 8th April.**

SCHOLASTIC LUCKY BOOK CLUB

Orders that were placed prior to Sunday, 23rd February have now been delivered to school and are being sent home with the children today.

Please return loaned bags to the Library asap after delivery. Thank you.

WEETBIX KIDS 2020 TRYATHLON

St. John's now has 40 children registered to participate in the Hibiscus Coast Weetbix TRYathlon to be held Sunday, 22nd March at Manly Reserve, Whangaparaoa. This is a fun event for children aged 6-15 years old which involves a swim, cycle and run over varying distances depending on age.



Anyone else keen to participate should go to www.try.weetbix.co.nz for more information and to register. Please be sure to join the St John's School group when registering or contact Leanne at deuchrassl@gmail.com for more information.

RECYCLING AND SUSTAINABILITY



Last year, one of our old Year 6 students, Zach Walpert, told the school about an initiative to recycle broken and old pens. All gel pens, normal pens, mechanical pencils, white-out or 'Twink' pens can be recycled.

We will be supporting this initiative again this year, so if you come across any old or broken pens, bring them to Room 6 and pop them in the box for recycling. Thank you!

BREADTAGS FOR WHEELCHAIRS

YES, we are still collecting **Bread Tags** at the school office! Bread tags come in many shapes, sizes and colours and are made of High Impact Polystyrene. During the recycling process bread tags usually end up in land fill as they are so small they are 'filtered out'. However, gathered together they can make a difference. It takes 200kg of tags to buy one wheelchair so lets all start collecting as a community! For more information visit: <https://www.breadtagsforwheelchairs.co.za/> or the New Zealand Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/nzbreadtags/>



CONGRATULATIONS TO...

Isaac Reade (Cricket & Basketball)

PARISH NEWS

An open invitation by Bishop Pat to the **Episcopal Ordination of Father Michael Gielan** as Auxiliary Bishop of Auckland at the Vodafone Events Centre at 11am on Saturday, 7th March 2020. If you attend with your children, the Bishop has asked that they are dressed in their school uniform.



Our Angel Award this week goes to... St. Johns School children & their teachers for the respect they show when they are in church especially through Mass.

East Coast Bays Parish Junior Choir. We are currently seeking new members for this Children's choir which sing approximately five times a year at both the 9.00am St John's Mass and the 10:30am St Francis' Mass. (five masses in total). If you have children aged 7yrs or older, **who love to sing** and can commit to five, one hour Saturday afternoon practices throughout the year, please email lindy@willplan.co.nz for more details. This is not a huge commitment and a wonderful opportunity for your children to be involved in the life of our Parish. Thank you! Lindy Williams.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

De Paul House Movie Fundraiser. Thursday, 12th March 5.30pm for 6.15pm Screening of the film 'Military Wives' at Bridgeway Theatre, Northcote Point. \$30 includes glass of wine or ice cream/popcorn. Raffle tickets for sale in the foyer, plus lucky door prize. To book Tel: 09 480 5959 or email: reception@depaulhouse.org.nz or collect from De Paul House office, Gate 2, 92 Onewa Rd, Northcote.

Dove Fellowship for Women. Wednesday, 18th March, 7.30pm, St Thomas More Catholic Church, 336 Wairau Rd, Glenfield. Speaker: Jane Thomsen, "Breastplate of Righteousness". For information contact Sylvia, Tel: 0210 882 2990

Browns Bay Preschool 20th Year Celebration and Reunion. Saturday, 4th April, 10.00am – 1.00pm, 55 Browns Bay Road. Coffee and ice cream for sale, free sausage sizzle, bouncy castles. If you still have your portfolio please bring it along. For more information Tel: 09 479 3008 or visit www.brownsbaypreschool.co.nz

Torbay Plunket Nearly New Sale Saturday 4th April 10am – 12pm at East Coast Bays Leisure Centre, 12 Bute Road, Browns Bay. Come along, grab a bargain and support a fantastic cause. Entry fee for shoppers is a gold coin donation with the proceeds going to Torbay Plunket to continue the great work they do in our local community. Thousands of items will be for sale - new and second hand. Baby and children's clothing (newborn to 10 yrs.), maternity gear, nursery equipment, prams and strollers, toys, books and much, much more!

STAFF WANTED

Part time childcare staff member for Kids Choice Ltd, negotiable hours approx. 2.45pm – 6.00pm, Monday – Friday based at St John's School. Full NZ driving licence preferred but not essential. Start immediately or no later than Monday, 9th March. Please contact Barbara, Tel: 027 440 6363
