



St. Patrick's Catholic School News

625 Alexandra St, (PO Box 300) Te Awamutu 3800. School: Ph (07) 871 4669, Fax (07) 871 4818
Email: principal@stpatta.co.nz School website: www.stpatta.co.nz

Vol 1.1

**Thursday 31st January
2013**

Principal : Brian Belczacki
Deputy Principals: Cass Sutton, Graeme Norman
Director of Religious Studies : Raewyn Jackman
Office Staff : Sue Cresswell, Dana Macdonald
Bursar : Patty Dudson
Parish Priest : Fr Joe Stack
BOT Chairperson : Simon Brdanovic

Kia ora Parents, Guardians and Children,

**Welcome back to school
for 2013!!!**

The Charism for this week is :

Wonder & Awe



I hope you all had a lovely holiday with family and friends and have been enjoying the lovely summer days. It's a bit ironic that the weather has really settled as we head back to school!

**A quote from St Mary of
the Cross MacKillop**

'Everything that God blesses will prosper'.

14th December 1890

**St Mary of the Cross
MacKillop...Pray for us**



TERM DIARY

2013 Wk 1	
Wk 2	<p>Mon 4th Feb : Prayer Ass 8:55am CH : Wonder & Awe R10-11 Swimming TA Events 1:15-2:15pm</p> <p>Wed 6th Feb WAITANGI DAY – School Closed</p> <p>Thu 7th Feb : R4-5 Museum Visit 9am</p> <p>Fri 8th Feb : R8-9 Swimming TA Events 11:15am-12:15pm Team 1 (Jnr Sch) - Assembly 2:30pm Meet the Teachers from 5pm</p>
Wk 3	<p>Mon 11th Feb : Prayer Ass 8:55am CH : Justice R10-11 Swimming TA Events 1:15-2:15pm</p> <p>Tue 12th Feb : Academic Mass 6pm Cathedral Hamilton</p> <p>Wed 13th Feb : ASH WEDNESDAY : Mass & Ashes 9:15am R1-3 Museum Visit 11am R10-11 Swimming TA Events 1:15-2:15pm</p> <p>Fri 15th Feb : R8-9 Swimming TA Events 11:15am-12:15pm Team 2 (Snr Sch) Assembly 2:15pm</p> <p>Sun 17th Feb : Weetbix Tryathlon - Hamilton</p>
Wk 4	<p>Mon 18th Feb : Prayer Ass 8:55am CH : Justice R10-11 Swimming TA Events 1:15-2:15pm</p> <p>Wed 20th Feb : R10-11 Swimming TA Events 1:15-2:15pm BOT Meeting 6pm staffroom</p> <p>Thu 21st Feb : Pilgrimage to Rangiaowhia</p> <p>Fri 22nd Feb : Class Mass R7 & 6 9:15am R1-5 visit to Rangiaowhia R8-9 Swimming TA Events 11:15am-12:15pm Team 1 (Jnr Sch) - Assembly 2:30pm</p>

Please check the online version of the school calendar by following the link :

http://www.stpatta.co.nz/1/embedded_items/1-school-calendar as this is updated as events or changes come to light.

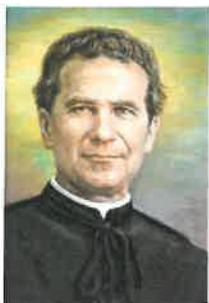
Welcome to our new students...

Kelly Cho (Rm 10), Regan Linehan (Rm 5). Liam Bourke (Rm 5), Georgia Kendrick (Rm 2), Eliza Songhak (Rm2), Sophia Tauai (Rm 2), Rory Kendrick (Rm2).

We hope you enjoy your learning journey here at St Pat's.

Our Vision: 'To provide 21st century learning in a Catholic environment which empowers children to strive for excellence'.

'Empowered today for tomorrow's world'



Today is the Feast of St John Bosco...

1815 -1882

Known as a father and teacher of the Youth...

Welcomes and Farewells... comings and goings....

During the holidays we said farewell to Fr Adrie who has returned to the Philippines and say welcome to Fr Joe Stack who will say his first Mass in our parish this Sunday.

It's great to have Ms Donaldson back in Room 2 and we have Mrs Graham with us just for a few weeks until the tertiary year begins later in February and then Judy will be away completing her degree and will return to us in mid November.

I have resumed studies towards a Masters in Educational Leadership, spending four days in Wellington with lecturers from Australian catholic Universities in mid January, So for the next few holiday breaks, I continue to return to Wellington to begin another paper.

We are very excited for Mrs Carr who is expecting their second child. Paula will leave us at the end of Term 1 and will return in 2014.

Mike Kiely continues in the role of caretaker for Term 1 while Bibi remains in Fiji. We welcome back Bibi in Term 2. Whaea Nessa has added to her role in Te Reo this year and will also be Mr Norman's DP release teacher in Room 11. Mrs Balemi has been accepted into the Reading Recovery Training Programme this year and so Mrs Hoskin will be the Reading Recovery Release teacher in Room 3. Mrs Prescott continues working 4 days each week and Mr Laidlaw will be Nic's release teacher on Fridays, Ruary will also continue to support the school's ICT initiatives this year .

MEET THE TEACHERS.....

Here's our first opportunity to gather together and mix n' mingle. Bring your BBQ's and tea and have an informal chat with the teachers from **5:00pm next Friday 8th February**. Even if you are an 'old' parent come along and meet some of our newer families and make them feel welcome.

The pool will be open as well !!!

Further information will come home next Tuesday.

School Assemblies. Will continue to operate with fewer Whole School Assemblies and more team assemblies. The first Assembly will be on Friday 8th February (Wk 2) @ 2:30pm which will be a Junior School Assembly (Rms 1-5) and held in the Junior quad area.

The first Senior team Assembly (Rms 6-11) will be the following Friday 15th February (Wk 3) @ 2:15pm in the school hall. Assemblies will alternate Junior / Senior with a Whole School Celebration Assembly in Week 12. The whole school assemblies will focus on a celebration of the work carried out in the unit studies across the school.

Our weekly Prayer Assemblies on a Monday morning @ 8:55am will continue this year.

Absences... Just a timely reminder about the process to follow when your child is absent from school.



Because it is a legal requirement that all children attend school in NZ, all absences should be notified formally in writing. Where your child is sick in the morning, a phone call to the office will notify the school, but should be followed by a note from you when your child returns to school. If the absence is known in advance (ie a family trip/ long weekend) this should be notified in writing to the school before the event. If your child is not at school and no notification is received, the school has a responsibility to make contact with you to find out where the child is. You are still expected to furnish a note when your child returns to school.

If your child becomes unwell at school, the teacher will send them to the office and a decision will be made to either make contact with you (for them to go home) or if deemed to be minor, some timeout in the sickbay followed by a return to class.

If you are collecting your child from class during school time, please ensure that you come to the office with your child and if they are arriving / returning to school in school time, this should also be done through the office.

Holidays during term time...

I have noticed that over the past few years there has been a trend developing where families are planning overseas or local holidays in term time. Often this is to take advantage of 'off peak fares' or to holiday in less busy times. While overseas holidays can be a valuable learning experience, please consider that your child is also missing out on valuable learning opportunities within the formal school environment. Please think this through carefully when considering planning these holidays. We are happy to advise...



School Pool.... The pool is up and running for 2013. Pool keys are available from the office, the price is \$25.00 with a \$5.00 refund on the return of the key at the end of the season.

Pilgrimage to Rangiaowhia

The school will be participating in this pilgrimage to the birthplace of Catholicism in the Waikato region. The date is Thursday 21st February – please watch out for further details.

Term Dates for 2013. These are as follows :

Term 1	12 weeks 108 ½ days	Weds 30 th Jan – Fri 19 th April (Easter : Fri 29 th Mar – Tue 2 nd Apr)
Term 2	10 weeks 94 ½ days	Mon 6 th May – Fri 11 th July (Teacher only Day – Cath Schls Mon 27 th May) (Teacher only Day - All TA Schls – Date TBA) (Queens Birthday Mon 3 rd Jun)
Term 3	9 weeks 90 ½ days	Mon 29 th Jul – Fri 27 th Sep
Term 4	10 weeks 92 ½ days	Mon 14 th Oct – Tue 17 th Dec (Labour Day 28 th Oct – Wk 3)
Total days open for instruction in 2013 = 384½ days		

School Uniform

The children look really great in their summer/ new uniforms ! Just a reminder about hats – students should have the hat as described in the uniform requirements and we enforce a NO HAT - NO PLAY policy. ***We really do encourage the new bucket hat as this gives good protection against the sun.*** The uniform policy is specific about NO dyed hair and there are specific requirements in regards to jewellery – one plain stud per ear, cultural or religious icons/emblems worn under uniform, watch may be worn. It is also specific about – no makeup or nail polish and long hair tied back (girls & boys) using hair clips or ties of school colours only; navy, maroon, black.

Please be reminded that if your child comes to school in any non-regulation uniform (including hats and footwear) that we require a note from you explaining the reasons why.

Some of our little ones have the odd accident !! If you have any spare undies for those accidents – especially girl's undies – please bring them into Cass.

Bus Children

Our school students are eligible for free bus transport if they live further than 3.2km (under 10 years) or 4.8km (over 10 years) away from the school. If you wish your child to catch the school bus and you live within these limits the cost is \$30.00 per term.

Parents please could you let the office know if your child is not going home by bus in the afternoon.



Swimming @ St Patrick's



There has been a lot of information in the media recently about the nation's comparatively high statistics for drownings. It is of concern to us

here at school and our goal is **that all students who leave our school have a high level of confidence with good competence around water.** This does not mean that all of our students will be 'heading for the Olympics' in swimming but it does mean that we want our students to learn to **'swim to survive.'**

So what are we doing about it ?

All teaching staff attended a PD session and we use the programme. Students in the senior school were involved in a swim to survive programme .

In 2013 - All classes will continue operate a swimming programme with Rms 8-11 using the TA Events Centre and other classes using the school pool from the 1st 6 weeks or so. It is important that your child has their swimming gear when required and if you do not wish them to swim (because of illness) a note from you is required. A reminder too about togs – girl's two piece can sometimes be inappropriate for the swimming instructions being set. One piece is far more appropriate. Programmes using outside venues and providers cost money. We try to to minimize any costs and to give advance notice if we can. Students do take part even if they haven't paid as this is charged to student's accounts and so can be paid off.

We are really serious about making our students 'water smart' and look forward to you support !!

Students doing well...

We have a number of students that continue to do well. Let's celebrate in their achievements.

Samantha White – 1st in her age group, 8 years and under, for the Te Awamutu Swimming Club.

Simon Cox (now Y9 at TAC), 2nd in his age group, for the Te Awamutu Swimming Club.

Shantel O'Keeffe – won single medal at the Waikato/Bay of Plenty Athletics Field Relays held at Tauranga. This was her personal best.

Arden Mason – placed second in the Shot Put at the Waikato/Bay of Plenty Athletics Field Relays held at Tauranga.

Harry Russ – making the Waikato Touch Development Team for 2012/2013.

Annual update of our database

This is coming home with next week's newsletter to all students. When you receive this, please read through, complete as needed, and return to school as soon as possible.

Finance.... That ugly word!

We are increasingly aware that times are tough on families financially and we are adamant that students' access to learning is not limited because of costs. Each child has a 'student account' with the school and any debts are put onto this account and payments are credited to here also.

For internet banking to pay for school based costs (not attendance dues) our bank details are :

St Patrick's Catholic School BOT

ASB Te Awamutu 12-3134-0048177-00

If you are making payments via this method, please include your child's name and what the payment is for, an email to patty@stpatta.co.nz is also very handy.

Donations:

The Board of Trustees ask parents to pay two donations:

1. **ICT** : This supports the schools ability to increasingly deliver a 21st Century Learning Programme which is becoming even more dependant on teachers and students using ICT to access the internet for their learning. A further 22 computers have been leased by renewing an expired lease. This gives us at least 4 computers in each class. Our network is constantly being maintained by our technician to ensure that things are running smoothly and as we await for the go ahead for the SNUP upgrade (that all NZ schools will receive as part of the Government's Ultra high speed broadband initiative).
2. **RE – Digital Resource** : This resource replace the old write in books of a few years ago and enables an interactive platform for student and teachers.

The amounts of these donations will be advised over the next couple of weeks.

Attendance Dues

As our buildings are owned by the Catholic Church, we are entitled through the Integration act to charge an attendance due that is used for the upkeep of buildings. This is charged by Diocese and payment is made directly to them. There is available financial assistance in the case of financial hardship. If you are finding these fees difficult to pay, PLEASE come and see me.

NO SCHOOL LUNCHES TOMORROW...

Lunches start next Friday 8th February. These need to be ordered in the library before school.

The pricelist is on the website.

PTA NEWS

Watch this space for 2013!!!

SPORTS NEWS

2013 will be another busy year with Swimming Sports, Cricket, football, Top Schools, Sailing Week and Team Building days in Term 1; Netball, Basketball, Touch and Winter Sports Exchanges in Term 2; Netball & Basketball again, Table tennis, Gymnastics, Cross Country, Milo Cricket and Fred Amess Cup in Term 3; And in Term 4 there is Cricket Awareness, swim to survive, Touch and Athletics. This a broad overview of what is in store. There are many other opportunities to become involved in sporting activities and we will let you know about these as they arise.

With such a busy sports calendar, it is important to gain parent support. This year again, I would like to throw the net wider to include support from our extended families or communities that could be asked to provide supervision or transport to these events. Many of our sporting endeavours depend on parent/community support – we need your help!!

Swimming programme Rooms 8, 9, 10 and 11 start their swimming programme at the Event Centre next week Likewise the rest of the school are underway with their swimming programmes at the school pool.

(Senior) School Swimming Sports. These are the first event on the sport calendar at the TA Events Centre on Thursday 7th March. Please watch this space for the date and venue for the Junior School Sports.

This is followed by the **TA Interschool Swimming Sports** (Y4-6) on Thursday 14th of March. We will need parents to help with timekeeping this year. If you can help with this event please email me on michelle@stpatta.co.nz. Also for Year 5 and 6 will attend the **Catholic Interschool Swimming Sports** in Matamata (date to be advised). This event is for our elite swimmers.

Our elite swimmers in the Senior school (Year 7 & 8) will attend the **Waikato Full Primary Swimming Sports** and the **Catholic Interschool Swimming Sports**. These dates will be advised when they come to hand.

God bless

Brian Belczacki
Principal

ST PATRICK'S PARISH NEWS

St Patrick's Catholic Church - Te Awamutu

Phone 871 6109 Fax : 871 6079

PO Box 191, Te Awamutu

Email : stpatsteawa@xtra.co.nz

Parish Priest: Fr Joe Stack

Parish Council Chairperson : Nick Prendergast

Parish Secretary : Julia Organ

Office Hours: 8am – 12noon Tuesday – Friday

Mass Times Tuesday 5.15pm, Wednesday – Friday
9.15am

Holy Hour: after 9:15am Mass each Friday

Weekend Masses - 5.30pm Sat (vigil)

Sunday Mass – 10am



4th Sunday in ordinary time (Yr C)

Gospel : Luke 4:21-30

'A prophet is never welcome in his own town'.

Cenacle of Prayer : Monday 9:15am – 10am

RECONCILIATION: Saturdays – 11:30am to 12noon

COMMUNITY NEWS

Te Awamutu Junior Hardball Cricket...

If you are aged 9-13 years old (years 5-8), and would like to play cricket on Saturday mornings in Term 1, please come to our registration nights on Tues 5th Feb or Thurs 7th Feb @ 5.30pm – 6.30pm (\$40 registration fee to be paid at registration). We meet at the Te Awamutu College cricket practice nets which are situated on the college fields in Factory Rd, next to Te Wananga o Aotearoa. Games begin Saturday the 15th Feb. If you cannot make it to registration night, or need further information, please phone Helen Bastion (07) 871 3321.

Guitar, Ukulele and Drum Lessons...

Musical instruments make great christmas gifts! Put them to good use with lessons in the new year. Sign up now for small group Guitar and Ukulele lessons starting in Term 1 of 2013. Also as a trial Drum lessons will be available in the first term and will continue depending on interest. Instruments are also available to **rent** while learning. For more information please contact Dave on 027 2 GUITAR (484827) or email dave.murray@musiqhub.co.nz

Census Collectors - Tuesday, 5th March 2013 is Census day.

- 7,000+ Jobs
- We need people in your community.
- Six weeks paid work.
- Flexible hours.
- Full training provided.

On Friday, 7 December we will commence advertising and recruiting for Census Collectors. This is a crucial role for the 2013 Census. Collectors are responsible for delivering and collecting census forms. The job involves six weeks' paid work from 11 February to 24 March 2013. You can work locally and do something unique for your community. Full training will be provided. As a Collector, you will be our representative in the community. You will need to ensure that people in your location have everything they require to correctly complete the census. Some evening and/or weekend work may be necessary to ensure that you personally deliver all forms in your location. The information we collect in the census is essential for future decision making, so we need you to be professional and friendly in encouraging people in your community to participate. With the next census, we want people to complete the census online. So you will play an important role in promoting the online option and in ensuring people have the relevant log-in codes and details. To join our team, apply online today www.census.govt.nz/jobs 0800 CENSUS Your application must be with us by Sunday, 13 January 2013.

DYNAMIC SPEECH CLASSES - 2013



Dynamic classes

which extend oral skills and give confidence to children to enable them to face High School, University and 'life's' speaking challenges.

Classes: Weds weekly Te Awamutu

ENQUIRIES: Roslyn 027 248 2888 or email info@chatterbox.net.nz www.chatterbox.net.nz

House to rent...

Three bedrooms, close to town, \$290.00 per week, available from 13th February.
Ph 027 664 7180

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Steve Gibson
Chartered Accountants Ltd

Steve Gibson CA
Email: steve@gibson.co.nz
Mobile: 0274 987 888

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