



# 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](mailto:principal@stpatta.co.nz) School website: [www.stpatta.co.nz](http://www.stpatta.co.nz)

Vol 4.10

**Tuesday 16th  
December 2014**



Principal : Brian Belczacki  
Deputy Principals: Cass Sutton,  
Director of Religious Studies : Paula Carr (Acting)  
Office Staff : Sue Cresswell, Dana Macdonald  
Bursar : Patty Dudson  
Parish Priest : Fr Joe Stack  
BOT Chairperson : Kyle Owens

Kia ora Parents, Guardians and Children

**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all  
From The Staff!!!**



Merry Xmas to  
you all!  
Patty  
Dudson

Have a great  
family time &  
keep safe.  
All the best  
Gabrielle Mulvaney

Have a happy  
and healthy  
Christmas! Paula Carr

Safe holidays  
- Have a wonderful  
Christmas + holiday  
Sue Cresswell

Have a wonderful  
Christmas and  
restful holidays.  
God bless  
Judy Graham

Merry Christmas,  
A time to enjoy your  
families, relax and  
Have a safe & happy time.  
Cathy White.

Ruaghaidh  
All the best  
for  
2015

Wishing you all a  
happy & holy Christmas  
Enjoy your time  
together over the  
break.  
Patsy Wisniewski

Happy Christmas  
and New Year!  
to you all!  
Vivian Davis

May the peace  
and joy of Christmas  
last the whole holidays.  
- Cass  
Have a Happy Christmas  
and safe & Fun  
Holiday, Mary-Ann  
Laidlaw

Enjoy your  
holidays!!!  
Merry Xmas  
Dana Macdonald

May the joy, peace and  
love of Christmas be  
with you now and in  
the coming year.  
Raewyn  
Sutton

Enjoy this Christmas  
by spending time w  
loved ones. Happy  
holidays.  
Deborah Savory

Have a wonderful  
Christmas - Aimee Comas  
Enjoy your family  
time - enjoy the  
laughter!  
Merry Christmas  
L. Russ.

Merry Christmas  
and Happy New  
Year to everyone!  
Michael Jersey

Have a safe and  
happy holidays.  
Merry Christmas  
Amy Knight

Have a great  
Christmas with  
your family  
"Have a wonderful and safe Christmas Everyone"



## TERM DIARY

### **HAPPY HOLIDAYS !!! AS WE MOVE INTO 2015**

#### *Holiday Hours for the School Office*

Tue 27<sup>th</sup> Jan : CLOSED – All staff on PD.

Wed 28<sup>th</sup> Jan : 8:30 – 12:30pm

Thurs 29<sup>th</sup> Jan : CLOSED – All staff on PD

Fri 30<sup>th</sup> Jan : 8:30-12:30pm

**2015** Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb : Office is open 8:30am – 12:30pm

**Wk 1** Tues 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb : School opens @ 8:55am

Fri 6<sup>th</sup> Feb : School Closed – Waitangi Day

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

“Be faithful and lose not one opportunity of merit that presents itself to you”.

26<sup>th</sup> April 1873

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



### **The Third Sunday of Advent – 14<sup>th</sup> December**



We again light the candles of **hope** and **love**. Today we add the **PINK (ROSE)** candle of **joy**. Prophecy has been fulfilled. The long-awaited Messiah has come. Joy is the mood of all earnest seekers.

### **The Fourth Sunday of Advent – 21<sup>st</sup> December**



We light again the candles of **hope**, **love**, and **joy**, and the fourth **PURPLE** candle, the candle of **peace**.

Christ is the Prince of peace, come to reconcile us with God and others.  
Christ helps us to see that peace is possible.



### **Farewell to the following families who are leaving us as Year 8's...**

Aquirre family (Ave), Cho family (Kelly), Fraser family (Josh), Higgs family (Lauren), Hohepa-TeHuia whanau (Marihi), Horne family (Zac & Seth), Illott family (Tommy), Karl family (Nikki), Mason family (Arden), Macdonald family (Keiton), Meadows family (Mya), Tadulan family (Syth), Tauroa whanau (Westen), Wells-Dally family (Grea).

Thank you so much for your support of our school, for some families stretching over many years.

– God bless you all!

### **Winning House – Pirongia!!!**

#### **HOUSE POINTS FINAL END OF YEAR**

Kakepuku	Maungatautari	Pirongia	Te Kawa
70,761	73,167	<b>77,330</b>	59,938
3 <sup>rd</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	4 <sup>th</sup>

## **Congratulations to our awards recipients at the End of Year Prizegiving - 2014**

### **Special Catholic Character :**

Te Awamutu CWL Trophy – Kelly Cho

### **Sports :**

Effort : Mason Cup – Grea Wells-Dally

Excellence : Gibson Family Cup – Keiton Macdonald & Marihi Hohepa-TeHuia

Cultural Cup – Mya Meadows

### **Service :**

Head Girl –Arden Mason

Head Boy –Keiton Macdonald

Enviro Leaders – Arden Mason, Kelly Cho

Vinnies leadership – Mya Chaitika, Kendall Payne

Liturgical leadership – Ave Aguirre, Syth Tadulan

Cultural Leaders – Phoenix Smith & Jahvani Growe-Lolesi

ICT Leaders – Tommy Illott

Sports Leaders – Erin Penny, Marihi Hohepa-TeHuia

Librarian Leader – Lauren Higgs

House Leaders : Pirongia – Grea Wells-Dally & Max Southcombe

(House champions 2014)

Kakepuku – Ross Cockburn &

Danielle Brdanovic

Maungatautari – Harry Russ

& Erin Penny

Te Kawa – Mya Meadows &

Emily Gleeson

### **Academic :**

Whakamarama Marae Award for Perseverance

– Marihi Hohepa-Te Huia

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Trophy for Effort

– Lauren Higgs

St Patrick's Parish Centennial Trophy for Excellence

– Christine Tubilla

**Head Girl 2015 – Danielle Brdanovic**

**Head Boy 2015 – Harry Russ**



**Our 2014 winners**

**Congratulations to you all !!**

### **Classes 2015 - DRAFT**

Information about what class your child is in is out today. Draft lists will also be on display from Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January – please be aware that as information comes to

hand, that these lists may vary right up until school starts (and even after).

**Stationary lists** are on our website and are also available at Paper Plus (Te Awamutu).

### HEAD GIRL & BOY ANNOUNCED FOR 2015



Arden Mason congratulates our new head girl for 2015 – Danielle Brdanovic



Keiton Macdonald congratulates our new head boy for 2015 – Harry Russ

**Situations Vacant** Applications are invited for the position Office Assistant / Sports Co-ordinator to a) Assist in our busy office (approx. 20 hours per week – fixed) AND b) To be our Sports co-ordinator (140 hours per year – flexible). All information is on our website, please follow the link to : [http://www.stpatta.co.nz/803/vacancy\\_areas/4-staff-vacancies](http://www.stpatta.co.nz/803/vacancy_areas/4-staff-vacancies) Applications by email with CV to [principal@stpatta.co.nz](mailto:principal@stpatta.co.nz) Applications close on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2015, a likely start date is Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2015.

**End of Year student accounts...** Thank you to all those who have paid their school accounts in full, and also to those who have made some arrangement to pay regularly to clear existing accounts. As our financial year ends on 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2014, all remaining debts will be rolled over to your child's account for 2015. Online payments can be made throughout the holidays. Our account details are as follows:  
**St Patrick's Catholic School BOT**  
**ASB Bank, Te Awamutu 12-3134-0048177-00.**  
Thank you for your co-operation over the 2014 financial year. It has made my job much easier. Happy Christmas  
Patty Dudson Bursar

## Annual Reports for 2014

from the Board Chairperson & Principal are enclosed with this newsletter.

## PTA NEWS

Well another year has passed us by, we have had a very busy year and we thank you all for your support during our fundraising events. Have a happy Christmas from the PTA!!

Happy Christmas and God bless!!

Brian Belczacki  
Principal

## ST PATRICK'S PARISH NEWS

**St Patrick's Catholic Church - Te Awamutu**

Phone 871 6109

PO Box 191, Te Awamutu

Parish Priest: Fr Joe Stack



Email : [parishpriest@stpatta.org.nz](mailto:parishpriest@stpatta.org.nz)

### Weekday Masses

Wednesday to Friday 9.15am

**Holy Hour:** after 9:15am Mass each Friday  
with Benediction around 10:30am

### Weekend Masses

#### Fourth Sunday ADVENT

Vigil Mass @ 5:30pm  
(Saturday)

**SUNDAY MASS @  
10AM**



**Gospel Reading : Luke 1:26-38**

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."

**Christmas Reconciliation – Rite 2**

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> Dec & 7pm

### CHRISTMAS LITURGICAL TIMETABLE

**CHRISTMAS EVE 24<sup>th</sup> Dec : Vigil @ 6:30pm**

**CHRISTMAS DAY 25<sup>th</sup> Dec : Mass @ 10am**

(There are no week day masses between  
Christmas & new year)

**NEW YEAR'S DAY 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2014 : Mass @ 10am**

After New Year's Day, Mass times revert back to the normal  
schedule



## PRINCIPAL'S ANNUAL REPORT – 2014.

*E to matau matua i te rangi manaakitia mai matou i tenei ra ake, ake ake Amene  
Tihei Mauriora, tena koutou. Ka nui te mihi ki a koutou*



Greetings to you all, in the name of God: Father, Son and Spirit. Greetings to this place and to our ancestors who always go before us.

There is an old saying – and it's true – that it takes a village to raise a child, and it is true for us here in Te Awamutu especially as many of our schools are now involved in a Learning and Change Network.

Although being part of the community schools, we are still very much a Catholic School and this defines who we are, what we believe and where we have come from. Our Catholic school has a long history in this town stretching back to 1921 and continues to recognise the charism of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop firstly through the lives of the many Sisters of St Joseph who staffed this school and more recently through the dedication of lay teaching and other staff. Our school is very well respected in our community and as with other Catholic schools across New Zealand, provides high quality education that is extremely cost effective when compared with the value of Catholic Education in many other countries.

It is a privilege to have the opportunity for our families to enjoy a Catholic Education but there are expectations with this, as it means that being part of our school means you are part of the parish worshipping community of St Patrick's also. They need you ! Our community is the lesser without you...

Our society puts great pressures on families and as a school we find it more difficult to engage with our community due to the busyness of life. However there are ways that we can support each other and keys are to support the activities of the school ... family groups, involvement in the PTA, attending school events, fundraising, parent education evenings, the list goes on... Don't wait for the invitation..... You are already invited ! As our community is the lesser without you...

As reported last year, our school will undergo some major property development next year and which over a ten year period will see major changes to Learning Environments. Learning continues to dramatically change as our children will begin to learn in digitally rich, 21<sup>st</sup> Century environments. Meanwhile, the purpose to having our School Administration building up near the church is to communicate to our community that we are ONE community.

Our school continues to use the National Standards Assessment and reporting framework in Reading, Writing and Maths and I believe our teachers are making very accurate 'overall teacher judgements (OTJ's) which includes using moderation process between schools across our network. A breakdown of our results for 2014 show that 91.8% of our students achieving at or above the standards in Reading, 83.2% in Writing and 87% in Maths. This year, we have been involved in Ministry funded intervention programmes in Writing and Maths that have seen targeted groups make considerable accelerated progress and these programmes widen across the school next year and form part of the robust support systems already in place to enable those students who are currently below the standard to make solid improvements which, for some, will see them reach the relevant standard in 2015. We believe that it is important that all students have success even if this means that for some, they will not meet the standards.

We are very blessed with a hugely talented staff and your children are truly very fortunate to have some of the best teachers around. I see them teaching often as I move around the rooms.

This year our management team underwent some change with Graeme Norman departing for principalship at St Anthony's Catholic School in Huntly at the end of term 2 and Paula Carr acting as DRS for the year. Cass of course remained as Deputy Principal, taking up extra schoolwide responsibilities in terms 3 and 4.

In our Junior teaching team; Nic Prescott left us in term 2 to go on parental leave and had a little boy. Nic's leave allowed for the return Aimee Connors from parental leave. Claire Donaldson left us to take up a teaching position at Rototuna School in Hamilton and we welcomed a beginning teacher Michaela Jesney. Judy Graham, Gabrielle Belami

(who continued with Reading Recovery this year) with Raewyn Hoskin and Vivien Davies completed the team that ensures that your children get the very best start to their schooling life.

At the upper end of the junior team and moving into the middle school, Raewyn Jackman, Paula Carr and Amy Knight worked to ground this learning, by teaching your children to access the curriculum. The process continued with Patsy Wisnewski and Raury Laidlaw readying your children for their intermediate learning while Michelle Russ, Graeme Norman (terms 1 and 2) and Deb Sanerivi began the process of preparing your young people for secondary learning. Our year began with the news that Patsy had cancer and during the year we watched Patsy bravely go through some pretty harsh treatment regimes, we are really pleased at the outcome and thank Ruary for just stepping into Room 9 as needed. Whaea Nessa Gotty was able to continue with Te Reo Maori programmes operating in all classes as well as having a kapahaka group that represented our school at the TA Schools Kapahaka Festival for the third year running. This year very little funding was available from the Open Waananga that has now been amalgamated into Te Waananga o Aotearoa. Funding to allow this programme to continue remain bleak.

Our teaching staff are ably supported by Cathy White and Mary Anne Laidlaw our very talented teacher aides.

My thanks to Sue Cresswell, Dana Macdonald, Patty Dudson in the office who are great support assisting with the administration tasks that are both diverse and demanding.

My thanks also to Bibi Nasilasila, Mike Kiely and Vilma Hunwick who look after our physical environment.

Comings and goings next year...

Amy Knight leaves us as she wants to begin some extended travel next year, we may see her back in some relieving capacity. Deb leaves us to take up a position at St Peter's in Cambridge. We will also be leaving Sue Cresswell from our office early in the new year as she moves to work in a family business. We are thrilled to welcome Marcus Oxenham as Assistant Principal and team leader for the senior school and Raewyn Jackman will return as DRS.

My deepest gratitude and thanks to all those who are involved in our community this year; parents and caregivers, teachers and support staff, Board of Trustees and members of the PTA, in particular Louise Livingstone and Maree Orr who, though a small group, continued to fundraise for your kids this year. As already outlined, the PTA do need further members next year, so this is your opportunity to step up and take your turn!

I wish to acknowledge the support and care from our parish priest Fr Joe Stack and the continued support of Sisters Margaret and Maria, we wish Maria every blessing as she has taken up residence back at Mission Bay - they are our treasures. Thank you to the Parish Community especially our 'golden oldies' who pray for our school at daily mass, the wider community of Te Awamutu, Bishop Dennis as proprietor, who now moves into a well earned retirement, the Diocesan office staff, Br Pat Lynch and staff of the NZ Catholic Education Office (Wellington), and the staff at the Ministry of Education both locally and nationally.

We have a number of long established families moving on from our school this year. To these families, we wish you every blessing.



*We aspire to the charism of St Mary of the Cross Mackillop, which is ; A deep faith and trust in God, great courage, a love of children, a love of people and families and a determination to never see a need without doing something about it, we try live this charism to keep alive her legacy, the sister's legacy and indeed the Catholic community's legacy on which the foundations of our school lie.*

May God bless and keep you during this holy time of Christmas!  
No reira, tena koutou, tena koutou, tena koutou katoa.

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

**St Patrick ..... Pray for us**

*'Be faithful and lose not one opportunity of merit that presents itself to you.'*

*St Mary of the Cross Mackillop - 26<sup>th</sup> April 1868*

Brian Belczacki  
Principal

16<sup>th</sup> December 2014.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES – ST PATRICK’S CATHOLIC SCHOOL – TE AWAMUTU

### CHAIRPERSON’S ANNUAL REPORT – 2014

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Friends of St Patrick’s Catholic School.

Another good year of achievement has passed for St Patrick’s. Our students are continuing to have a positive impact on the Te Awamutu community, through our involvement in inter school activities, our academic results, and the development of cultural activities. This year our school hosted the inaugural Hui Katorika, a cultural day for the celebration of Catholic Character. A total of Ten Catholic Schools from the Diocese participated and this was a great success.

The Boards’ goals to comply with legislative requirements have been met again this year. One of our tasks as the Board’s role as Governor of the school each year is to re-evaluate the strategic plan for the school. We recently submitted to our school community in November an opportunity for parents to have your say in the forthcoming mission and strategy of the school. The board will now meet in December and in the New Year to develop this feedback further and to redesign our goals and strategy for the next few years. This is an important process for any organization, and in part we must retain our core values and purpose to bring education and Christian values to our children.

Over the past two years the school and staff have been committed to create with other schools in the Te Awamutu area a combined and interactive Learning Network. This Rural and Roses Group has meant a collaboration of teaching efforts, a bringing together of resources and the sharing of information. I feel that this has provided our staff with a further array of ideas, practice and development in order to deliver education and pedagogy to our children.

In regards student achievement, this past year has been again provided us with successful results. The Board wishes to maintain setting high achievement levels and for the previous years we have set target levels of ninety percent for reading, writing and mathematics.

Our results for the year were reading 91.8%, writing 83.2% and mathematics 87%. Whilst slightly below our targets we have been very focused at being able to provide for all children and to focus resources to give each of them the opportunity to learn and develop. Our results within the greater community and whole of New Zealand are well above national averages so we must be pleased with these results. We work with the principal and staff to monitor how this plan is delivered to our children.

We do acknowledge the further ongoing battle to build sufficient financial resources to provide a sustainable school for the future.

The development within child’s learning is very fast moving and the dominance of ICT devices now in education is important. We do not wish to be languishing where our students are not up to date with technology. So it is important that you as parents support the school in this cause. It has been encouraging to see the improvement in collections of ICT (65%) and Religious Education (75%) donations this year compared to previous years, but an overall non collection of \$7,892 is hugely significant. This could have been a further classroom of computers in our school!

The re-development within the school with the new teaching block and school administration building has been set for the middle of next year. This provides us an opportunity arrange some fundraising events early in the New Year. I encourage you to participate in any future fundraising events in order so that we can provide adequate and fun learning resources for the children.

I still maintain that we have something special within the 'life environment' of our school. The positive feedback we get when our children participate in town or regional events is always pleasing to hear. The Catholic Character of the School and Parish is passed through to the children and this gives them a strong foundation in life.

Our school community is paramount to this. Further to that we all have a role or a voice in the life of our school. We require your input and communication, either positive or negative, so that we are in a position to be able to make changes or provide compliments where necessary. We all must engage in an honest and open relationship as parents, teachers, or school administrators.

Our role within the Church is continually ongoing. We have junior groups involved with the Church through Vinnies and the children attend mass regularly during the school week. It would be wonderful to see more school families attending mass on the weekends. Our school, our children are the future of the St Patrick's Parish.

For those staff who have departed or who are in their last few days with us, we thank you for your time, contributions and efforts to the school and to the development and learning of the children.

I would like to thank our Principal, Teachers, Students, PTA Members and my fellow trustees, and to all of you parents who participate and contribute in activities of the school. Your contributions to volunteer and support help make the school a great place to be a part of.

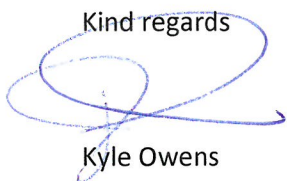
The year ahead for 2015 is exciting.

- We continue to aim for high student academic targets,
- We have a scheduled ERO (Education Review Office) visit this year,
- We are scheduled for our triennial Catholic Character Review from the Waikato Catholic Diocese, and
- We must continue to foster our community involvement – school, parish and town.

Lastly, the school requires your continued effort, support, and contribution along with your voice to provide a great life experience and learning environment for our kids.

I wish you all a safe and happy holiday season, and look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Kind regards



Kyle Owens

Chairperson

Board of Trustees

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