



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 2nd February
2017

Principal: Brian Belczacki.
Deputy Principal: Cass Sutton. **Assistant Principal:** Marcus Oxenham.
Director of Religious Studies: Gabrielle Balemi.
Office Staff: Celena O'Donnell.
Bursar/ Accounts: Dana Macdonald.
Parish Priest: Fr Joe Stack.
BOT Chairperson: Lorraine Kendrick.

Kia ora Parents, Guardians and Children,

The Virtue for this week is:

Justice™

Welcome back to school for 2017

It is great to see everyone back all fresh and rested after the holidays...

A Charism or a Virtue?

This year we will be moving away from the term 'Charism' to use a more correct term 'virtue,' but why?

A **Charism** is a term used to describe an important aspect that characterises the life of a person e.g. the Charism exhibited by St Mary of the Cross MacKillop was her love of children and love of families.

A **virtue** on the other hand, is disposition to do good and give the best of oneself. This is what we are encouraging our students to do.

We will be reflecting on five virtues, concentrating on one over a period of time.

The Newsletter is going digital only....

This will be the last newsletter in hard copy format unless specifically requested, **with the newsletter being available in digital format only.** Access is as follows:

- sent to your email address (if we do not have this, please provide – via the database update form)
- accessed through our website (link from the home page of the website)
- accessed through a link provided weekly on our Facebook page

The newsletter will be online by 3pm each Thursday. Hard copies can be requested from the office and are small number will be in the foyer of the church for parishioners.



JOIN US ON FACEBOOK....

To find us following the link...

<https://www.facebook.com/stpatsteawamutu>
TERM DIARY

Wk 2	Mon 6 th Feb: Waitangi Day Holiday – School is Closed. Tues 7 th Feb: Prayer Assembly @ 8:55am Virtue : JUSTICE School Swimming Programme commences Fri 10 th Feb: Whole school Assembly 2.15pm @ Hall Meet the Teachers evenings @ 5.30pm
Wk 3	Mon 13 th Feb: Prayer Ass 8:55am Virtue : JUSTICE HPV Session Y7&8 @ 9.30am Wed 15 th Feb: Commissioning Mass Hamilton Cathedral@6-7pm Thu 16 th Feb: Senior Block BBQ Sun 19 th Feb: Weetbix Tryathlon (Hamilton)
Wk 4	Mon 20 th Feb: Prayer Ass 8:55am Virtue : JUSTICE Mid/Snr School Swimming Sports@ TA Event Centre. Wed 22 nd Feb: BOT Meeting 6pm Fri 24 th Feb: School Assembly 2.15pm @ Hall

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

A quote from St Mary of the Cross MacKillop



'I can never think of God but as one of such tenderness that cannot be cast off.'

14th December 1890

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



Welcome to our school...

Gabriella Fernandez, Ruby Wrathall, Brody and Lucy Barbour, Sophie Howse, Mason Jellie, McKenzie Dowle, Cameron Mitchell, Mila Kerr-Bell, Ingoa Kidwell-Woolly. **We hope you enjoy your learning journey here at St Pats!!**

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

'Empowered today for tomorrow's world'

Team structure for 2017.

This year we will continue to operate a '3 team structure':

Team 1: Rooms 1-4 form our junior team with Judy Graham as team leader. Classes are as follows: Room 1: Gabrielle Balemi (Y0-1), Gabrielle is also our Director of Religious Studies. Room 2: Judy Graham (Y0-1).

Room 3: Patsy Wisnewski (Y1). Room 4: Paula Carr (Y2-3)

Team 2: Aimee MacMillan is the team leader in the 'Colgan Learning Hub' with Michaela Jesney and Nicole Voorend also in the team. The FLE caters for most of our Y2-4s. The children will be taught by all three teachers but will have a 'Kaitiaki teacher' who has overall responsibility for a particular (mixed) group of students and is the first contact regarding social issues, behaviour and general wellbeing.

Team 3: Rooms 8-11 form our senior team with Marcus Oxenham as team leader. Classes are as Room 8: Nicola Prescott (Y4-5), Room 11: Marcus Oxenham (Y5-6), in Room 9: Amy Knight (Y6-7), and Room 10: Michelle Russ (Y7-8). Marcus (as Assistant Principal) will be released by Katharine Eyre who will teach in Room 11 class one day per week. Katharine will also be teaching in Room 8 for one day per week as Nicola only works 4 days per week.

Cass as Deputy Principal has school wide responsibilities in curriculum leadership and is our Special Needs co-ordinator (SENCO).

Marcus Oxenham as Assistant Principal also has school wide responsibilities in student welfare and team leadership, Marcus also has overall responsibility for the delivery of the Te Reo Maori programme.

MEET THE TEACHERS EVENING

On Friday 10th February from 5:30pmHere is our first opportunity to gather together and mix n' mingle. Come along and have an informal chat with your child's teacher and look around the classrooms

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!

Changes in the Office...

Sadly we said farewell Patty Dudson last year after many years of faithful service. The office has now been restructured with Celena and Dana our main office people and a change too, to how we will be doing our accounting processes. Celena will be our main 'first contact' person in the office with Dana taking on the accounts role with an online accounting tool to assist.

You may have seen Maree Orr helping out in the office recently. Maree will be our 'office reliever' and will take over the role of sports co-ordinator which was part of Celena's role.

From the Bursar...

Thank you to everyone who are settling 2016 accounts, paying for stationery, swimming etc. The system for money coming to school is to place the cash/cheque in a sealed envelope along with the tear-off slip (if there is one) and clearly write the student's name and room number on the front. These envelopes are placed in the yellow ASB locked box just inside the student entrance door to the office. Office staff will clear this after 9am and process any payments. This container will also continue to be used for ASB banking as normal.

Accounts can be paid by internet banking, our A/C number is 12-3134-0048177-00, please use your child's name (and surname!) as the reference.

The email address for Dana in her role as bursar is accounts1@stpatta.co.nz

Just a reminder that there will be no receipts issued unless specifically requested and ICT & RE donations are tax deductible.

Assemblies for 2017. This year we will be moving back to more regular whole School Assemblies. These will begin on the Friday of Week 2 – Friday 10th February at 2:15pm, and will be each fortnight.

Delivering/picking up children from school...

We all agree that the safety of our students is paramount. To this end, we ask that when dropping off or picking up your children from St Patrick's, you park in a responsible place and DO NOT double park or stop in front of the driveway entrances or on yellow lines.



REWI STREET: Students are to wait in the Junior Courtyard area. Parents/caregivers are expected to PARK responsibly and walk in to drop off/collect children. Please do not pull into the school driveway as the risks are great when reversing around small children. **KEA CROSSING:** PLEASE use the Kea Crossing located beside the driveway into the Junior School. We encourage all parents to use this crossing regardless of whether the patrols are out. Be a good role model to your children....**We encourage all parents of students in Rooms 1-4 and the FLE to use Rewi Street as the drop and collection point for their children.**

ALEXANDRA STREET – Church carpark: **Until the parish building programme has been completed which includes a re-design of the entrance ways for school and parish, please do not use this entrance after school as there is only a single in/out driveway that would very quickly develop into a 'traffic jam'.** Students in Rooms 8-11 are to use the MAIN SCHOOL DRIVEWAY as their way into and out of school, they are not to walk through the church carpark unless accompanied by a parent. **Parents: could you please park on Alexandra Street, extra staff will be on duty to help supervise.**

Duty teachers are actively supervising these areas so please do not ask your child to wait anywhere else other than the two collection points and please do not be offended if your child is not where you planned to pick them up because they have been told to return to the correct collection point!

CYCLING to school....Children should be 10 years or older to ride to and from school unless accompanied by a parent or adult. (This is in-line with Police recommendations). Only Standards approved helmets must be worn.

Scooters to school...Although there are no specific laws around the operation of scooters, the Police have advised us that they should be walked across roads.

NO bikes or scooters are to be ridden on school grounds

SCHOOL BUS STUDENTS: Bus children will be receiving their bus tags and their



code of conduct agreement next week. These need to be signed and returned to the school office by Friday 10th February. Please note the instructions in the agreements and follow these as they are there to ensure your child's safety.

Uniform... If your child is not in correct uniform (including footwear), please ensure that they have a note explaining the reason why.

HATS... The uniform hat is the monogrammed bucket hat. These give good protection against the sun, hence the reason why we would prefer NO caps. The school policy is '**NO HAT, NO PLAY**'.

Stationery 2017... Students should have their stationery packs so they can get started with classroom learning. A number of families purchased stationery from Paper Plus and unfortunately some of the items provided on 'their lists' were not correct. Classroom teachers will make contact with you to ensure that these students have purchased the additional items.

Annual update of our database and cybersafety agreement

These important documents came home yesterday. Please return these to school by Friday 3rd February.

BYOD 2017-UPDATE Last year BYOD was introduced in team 3 and this is now being extended into team 2. Individual teachers will communicate with you about the process – **it is not compulsory that all students have a device**. All students (and parents) are expected to complete the cybersafety forms and those who want to bring a device need to complete the separate BYOD form as well. This applies to students who were bringing a device in 2016, you also need to complete new forms for 2017.

Lost Property... We still have a lot of lost property left over from last year. These items are available until tomorrow only please come and look. After tomorrow these will become second hand uniforms and will be sold and all other items will be dumped.

1 x P.E. shorts and 1 x sunhat named 'Oliver Buckle' have been lost. If found please return to Oliver in Room FLE BLUE.

Wanted... Coat hangers and clip hangers for uniforms. If you have any spare please bring them into the school office.

Term One Calendar... Key dates (known as at today's date) for Term One are enclosed with this newsletter. Please refer to this and then check subsequent dates / changes to dates that will be advised via the newsletter and/or updated on the 'real time' digital calendar (on the home page of the website) or advised via the school's facebook page. **The school is a busy place with lots going on, please do your bit by making yourself familiar with the various ways we are advising you about new dates and changes to dates.**

PTA NEWS

Hi everyone! Welcome back to school for 2017, we hope that you all had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday!

Friday School Lunches ...Currently we have no parents available to assist. If there is anyone that is able to help on a Friday from 11am to 12.45am please call the school office. We would love to get lunch orders underway on the Friday of Week 3 (17th February 2017).

SPORTS NEWS

Next week's newsletter will contain a more detailed outline of up and coming sports events and changes to our sporting organisations.

WeetBix Tryathlon - 19th February. Please contact Marcus if you are still interested in competing.

Have a happy Waitangi Day on Monday!

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



Mass Times

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

Sunday 5th February 2017

(Sat Vigil) 5pm St Patrick's Te Awamutu

Sunday Masses

9:30am St George's Te Kuiti

10:30am St Patrick's Te Awamutu

11:30am Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Otorohanga

Weekday Masses

Monday @ 7:15am

Tuesday @ 7:15am

Wednesday to Saturday @ 9.15am

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

Sunday's Gospel Reading: 'You are the light of the world...' Matt 5:13-16.

Parish Notices....

Preparation for Baptism – Tues 21st Feb 7:30-9pm Parish Lounge. This programme is for parents who wish to baptize their infants and or children up to 8 years of age. This is one session, lasting about an hour and a half.
Contact Wilma Schimanski Ph (07) 873 1702.