



# St Joseph's School

TE KURA O HATO HOHEPA PAPANUI

EMPOWERING STUDENTS TO BECOME CONFIDENT, MOTIVATED LEARNERS, LIVING GOSPEL VALUES.



## NEWSLETTER ~ TERM 1 - No. 6 - 8 March 2018



On behalf of the Board of Trustees, we would like to welcome back all students, families and staff who have returned after the summer break, as well as extending a warm welcome to all those new to the St Joseph's community.

### Who are the Board of Trustees and what is the role we play?

As part of the recent community survey that we carried out, it became clear that one of the areas of improvement was communication from the Board of Trustees. This is therefore intended as the first of six updates which we hope to provide throughout the year.

It may be worth starting off by explaining the role of the Board of Trustees.

The Board of Trustees is a Crown entity. A Crown entity is an organisation that is part of New Zealand's public sector.

The Board's job is one of governance, to see that everything that needs to be done gets done - legally, ethically, and as well as possible in the best interests of its students. To achieve this, the Board is also legally responsible for the curriculum (what is taught), property, personnel, finance and health and safety.

It is also the employer of all staff, including the principal, and sets the overall strategic direction for the school. The principal is the board's 'chief executive' and manages the school in line with the board's direction and policies.

The Board is made up of the following representations:

- 5 parent trustees: Michelle Sharp, Steve Prentice, Debbie Behrnes, Steve Glen and Rachel Scott.
- 4 proprietor (Bishop's) trustees: Fr John Adams, Monique Kearns, Jon Robertson and Wendy Skinner
- The principal, Aaron Richards and staff trustee, Marietjie Verweij

### St Joseph Special Charter

At the teacher only days at the start of the year the teachers had an opportunity to re-examine the purpose of Catholic Education. They also investigated the school values. The information has been collated and along with the community survey information, the following is a revision of the school's Charter.

### Special Catholic Character

St. Joseph's is a state integrated school - a school with a Special Catholic Character. The special character of our school is founded on our patron St. Joseph and the Gospel values from which flows the educational philosophy of Catherine McAuley as gifted to us by the Sisters of Mercy.

### Catholic Character Goal

We aim to prepare our children for life by providing an education within a caring environment where everybody

shares and lives the values, teachings and traditions of the Catholic Church. Following in the footsteps of Catherine McAuley, and in the tradition of Mercy, we seek to realise the potential of every member of our school community and to answer the Gospel call to make a difference in the world, with humility as befitting a school that bears St Joseph's name.

**These influences are made manifest in an education committed to the following objectives:**

- fostering a faith that is integral to each member of the school community
- fostering a respect for the high value placed on education
- fostering the social and emotional development of each student
- foster a faith community that actively contributes to the common good.

### Property Update

You will have noticed a number of changes that took place last year and over the summer break. As a result of the new classroom blocks, the cricket nets had to be relocated. They are now up and running and in full use.

The earth taken from the buildings and cricket net foundations were used to form a bike track. This was opened this week and has proven very popular.

There are a number of plans in place to uplift the school property. These include starting work on repainting the exterior of the school, an upgrade of the Ashby block that includes renovation of the Ashby toilets.

### Coming up...

#### New classroom official Opening

It was decided by the leadership team to plan the official opening of the new classrooms on the same day as the school celebrates St Joseph's Day (16 March). The day will start with an outdoor Mass at 9.15am. This will be followed by the opening at 10.15am. Parents and caregivers are very welcome.

#### Youth Ambassador Project

This year the Board approved the school's involvement in the Global Youth Ambassador Project. The GYAP is formed through a network of schools from across the world. These schools all have mutual goals of international collaboration and cultural exchange. Mr Richards will represent our school at a GYAP summit in May. This is followed by a GYAP Panda Camp during the July school holidays for up to eight year 8 students from our school, who would travel to China to participate in a Panda Camp and finally the hosting of a Chinese Student Group. The Board believes this is a great opportunity to strengthen international relationships as well as provide some of our senior students a leadership and cultural experience. More details will follow if this goes ahead.

*Michelle Sharp*

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK - Aaron Richards

### Class Liturgy

Hanrahan 2 will lead the first class liturgy for the year. This will take place at 11am and 11.45am in the hall. Parents and friends of the school are welcome to come along and support the children.

### St Joseph's Celebration—Friday 16 March

Start of year surprises are testing our ability to respond to events in a flexible way. On the weekend Mrs Verweij did some reconnaissance at Spencer Park. She was shocked to find that a large proportion of the park was either under water or mud. This has made the venue unsuitable to host the school. As a result the decision has been made to continue the St Joseph's Day celebration at school. Similar to last year a number of inflatables will be provided to entertain the children along with house games and a space for bikes and scooters. Plans might have changed, but I am sure the children will enjoy celebrating St Joseph's day at school. Please note that children are to wear their school uniform to school and will change into their sports uniform at lunch time.

### Filipino Community Consultation

The school is committed to serving all members of the community. On Tuesday 20 March a Filipino Community Consultation meeting has been organized to gather information on how the school can better serve the Filipino members of the St Joseph's Community. The meeting will take place between 3.30pm and 4.30pm. An invitation will be sent out to all families next week.

### Sexuality Education

During the last 4 weeks of this term each class at St Joseph's will be taught Sexuality Education lessons at the level of the children in that syndicate. However, the Senior team may not have their lessons until mid year, as in previous years. If you would like more information about these lessons please talk to your child's classroom teacher or email [lianneke.lodge@stjopapa.school.nz](mailto:lianneke.lodge@stjopapa.school.nz)

### Swimming Sports

Amid a compromised pool facility and altered programme the School Swimming Sports ran very smoothly. It was great watching all the children trying their best. It was fantastic watching the comradery and support the children provided each other during the event.

Thanks to all the parents and grandparents who came along to support the children. A huge thanks to Mr McGuire and his team for putting on a well organised event.

Congratulations to the following children who have qualified to represent the school at the North Zone Swimming competition at Jellie Park on 13 March. These swimmers will receive a separate letter.

Year 5/6: **Bridie Quayle, Niamh Quayle, Angus Patrick, Lucas Romero, Jorja Rennell, Cerys Jones, Alex Cowan, Eddie Price, Claudia Vivian, Zara McDonnell, Adam Robertson, Bianca Skilton Woods, Randall Young and Will O'Donnell.**

Year 7/8: **Hannah Johanson, Ruby Moore, Kate Young, Hamish Meates, Harry Gorman, Hugo Smolej, Caleb Stevens, Maya Kumagai, Lucy Eccleton-Allen, Catie McEwan, Zoe Blacklow, Ollie Lutton, Angus Nevin, Lochie McLean and Finlay Neale.**

### School Duathlon

**Duathlon**—On the 15 March, we have the SJS Duathlon for Y5-8 at school and would appreciate helpers/marshals on the day. Please email [mathew.mcguire@stjopapa.school.nz](mailto:mathew.mcguire@stjopapa.school.nz) if you can help. Thank you. Further details relating to this event will be sent home separately.

### Reminders

- 12 March PTA meeting
- 13 March North Zone Swimming Sports
- 15 March School Duathlon
- 16 March St Joseph's Day celebrations, Opening of new classrooms
- 18 March McAuley 3, Timoney 3 Sunday Mass
- 20 March Filipino Community Consultation

### **FAITH FACT—Week 6, 5 to 9 March**

**This coming Sunday the Church celebrates *Laetare Sunday*, the fourth Sunday of Lent, during which we express hope and joy in the midst of our Lenten fasts and penances. *Laetare* means *rejoice*. You may notice a change in the colour of the vestments worn by the priest too, from violet to pink, or more fittingly, rose. This colour change is optional. The change in colour indicates a glimpse of the joy that awaits us at Easter, just before we enter into the sombre days of Passiontide, the two weeks between Palm Sunday and Easter.**

### **PTA LUNCHES tomorrow—Hot Dogs—\$2.50.**

Thank you to our volunteer helpers, **Barb Tecofsky and Penny Price.**



**PLAY HOCKEY-2018**  
Come Join the  
**"GREEN MACHINE"**

Register  
**ONLINE**  
**NOW!**

Returning or new players are invited to register at <https://memberdesq.sportstg.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=main&OrgID=16493> or email [maristhockeyjunior@gmail.com](mailto:maristhockeyjunior@gmail.com). Alternatively come to Marist Park on Sunday 11 March 2018 from 11-2pm and meet the team and register onsite.