



St Joseph's School

TE KURA O HATO HOHEPA PAPANUI

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



NEWSLETTER ~ TERM 2 - No. 5 - 30 May 2019

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK - Aaron Richards

Teacher Industrial Action - On behalf of the teachers I would like to thank parents for their patience and support during the recent industrial action. On Wednesday over 50,000 Primary and Secondary teachers took to the street to voice their concern about the current crisis in education. Teachers believe that the current shortage of teachers, unsustainable workloads and lack of resourcing for students who require additional learning support are threatening the quality of education that is provided to children in their care.

The Primary and Secondary teachers' unions are asking for the government to take immediate action to fix the problems facing all schools throughout the country.

- Increase teacher pay so that it attracts high quality new teachers to the profession
- Increase release time so that teachers have time to teach and time to lead.
- Increase the support provided to assist children who require additional learning support.

At this point in time the government has not been responsive so it looks like ongoing industrial action is likely. This is not a decision taken lightly by teachers because they are not paid for the days that industrial action takes place. However they are passionate about providing high quality education for the children they teach. Parent patience and support during this time is greatly appreciated.

Road Patrol - A few weeks ago we placed a notice in the newsletter asking for parent help to supervise road patrol on a Thursday morning. Unfortunately we have not had anyone volunteer. The teachers and I are unable to fill this gap because we are busy preparing for the day or are regularly attending meetings before the school day begins. As a result there will not be a road patrol on Thursday mornings. We ask parents to take great care to ensure they cross their children across the road when there is not a road patrol present.

Student-Led Conferences - St Joseph's School has been involved in a number of initiatives over the years, all focused on improving student achievement. Through this involvement, our experiences confirm all the research we have read — developing students' ability to talk about their learning and their progress makes a difference! Research also shows parental involvement in schools and classrooms has a positive impact on children's learning.

Student-led conferences were developed in response to this overwhelming research. Student-led conferences are not a new phenomenon. The concept was introduced to St Joseph's School ten years ago.

The purpose of Conferences is to put the student in the driving seat to share their learning with their parents or caregivers. Teachers encourage students to take more ownership over their learning, knowing they will be sharing their progress and learning with their parents.

Teachers are present to support and prompt if necessary and are available for around 10 minutes of the conference time to talk to parents. This time will be used to work with students and parents to reflect on the next learning steps and how parents can support their child at home.

We appreciate that at times parents might want to talk to their child's teacher in confidence because they have a concern about their child's learning. If this is the case it is not appropriate that parents delay the discussion to the conference time. Concerns should be discussed at the time they arise so that they can be sorted as soon as possible. So if you have a concern, please contact your child's teacher now so a meeting can be arranged. Conferences on the other hand are a celebration of learning so it is essential that students are present at the event.

Student-led conferences will take place at the end of term for all levels through the school. However as Mrs Ward will be starting her maternity leave, she will run her student-led conferences early so she has an opportunity to make contact with parents over their students progress before she leaves.

If you would like more information about student-led conference, please check out the school website - <https://stjopapa.ultranet.school.nz/Web/88/>

FROM THE BOARD - Wendy Skinner

BOT Elections—Thanks to the following parents who have willingly put their names forward to stand for the parent trustee positions.

- Leanne Anderson
- Shannon Bennett
- Nathan Bradley
- Andre de Roo
- Paul Knill
- Cedreece Tamagushiku
- Matthew Williams

Please take the time to read the profiles of the nominees and the information regarding voting.

Voting closes at midday Friday 7th June.

PMP

We are very grateful for all our parent helpers on the Junior PMP Roster.

Thank you to the following families who are listed to help for this term:

Tuesday 4 June	de Bruin	D'Mello
Monday 10 June	Batilong	Hampton
Tuesday 11 June	Lee	Marriott
Monday 17 June	Rubin	Pryce
Tuesday 18 June	Zivkovic	Briones
Monday 24 June	Hubble	Dijamco
Tuesday 25 June	Frickleton	Gorman

ONLINE SAFETY WEEKLY ADVICE: KEEPING KIDS SAFE

One of the best ways to help children navigate online safety challenges is by making an online safety plan. It's important to make this plan together, so you both understand what to do if something goes wrong or they need help. Part of your plan should include how to use the block and report features on apps/ websites, and who they can get help or advice from. Learn more about online safety plans netsafe.org.nz/make-a-plan.

PTA LUNCHES TOMORROW—HOT DOGS, \$2.50

Thank you to our volunteers—**Jo Bothwell and Jude Pryce.**

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS

Please return payment, or any unwanted Entertainment Books, to the school office.

In Sympathy - We offer our deepest sympathy to **Honor** (Hanrahan 2) and **Ryker Hope** (Mercy 4) on the death of their grandfather. Our thoughts and prayers are with them and their family at this sad time.



FROM THE PARISH

Bishop's Announcement

Bishop Paul has been working on a vision for our diocese and next weekend (Pentecost) we will get to hear what he is proposing. We would encourage and welcome you to all be at any of the Masses beginning with the Saturday 6pm Mass, where you will hear a video message from the Bishop, and at the end of Mass, receive a handout with more detail. There will be a cup of tea after each Mass and members of the Parish Pastoral Council will be available to answer your questions or direct you on the feedback process.

Preference Cards

Many of you are wishing to get Preference Cards signed for your child's Secondary School applications. The process is as follows:

- You need to visit Wilma in the Parish Office at St. Joseph's Parish Centre with your child's Baptism Certificate.
- Wilma will then complete the paper work and give the Preference Form to Fr Benito.
- Fr Benito would then very much like to see you and your child at the Presbytery, beside the Church at St. Gregory's, on the last Friday of the month, any time between 3:30pm-5:30pm. He will have the completed Preference Card ready for you.

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