



St Joseph's School

TE KURA O HATO HOHEPA PAPANUI

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



NEWSLETTER ~ TERM 2 ~ No. 11 ~ 25 June 2020

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK - Aaron Richards

Pastoral Feast Day for the Christchurch Diocese:

The Nativity of St John the Baptist - St John the Baptist is the Patron Saint of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Christchurch. We celebrated the feast day of John the Baptist on 24 June. The Nativity of John the Baptist is a high-ranking liturgical feast, kept in the Roman Catholic church. The sole biblical account of the birth of John the Baptist comes from the Gospel of Luke. Unlike other feast days that celebrate the death of a saint, the feast of St John the Baptist celebrates his birth of nativity. Saint John the Baptist was Jesus' cousin. The story of his birth is very interesting. You can read this story in the Bible (Luke 1:5-25,57-80).

Director of Religious Studies - The Board of Trustees is in the process of appointing a permanent Director of Religious Studies. While the school moves through this process, Mrs Bennett has agreed to take up the fixed term position. Mrs Bennett will be busy reorganising the school's liturgy and Mass time table to make up for the opportunities lost during the Covid lockdown.

A Belated Farewell - The sudden move to Covid Level 4 meant that we were unable to farewell Mrs Culling and Mr Harrison. We will have a chance to farewell both teachers at a liturgy on Friday 3rd July. The liturgy will take place at 11.45am in the hall. We will have limited space for parents to attend.

Congratulations - Congratulations to the following learners who received Merit Certificates last week:

Harry Ahn, Zyla Abao, Julia Dorado, Levi Arthur, Isaac Coxon, Finn Claessens, James McLaughlin, Megan Batilong, Oliciya Lemalu-McDowell, Amber Phillips, Hunter Slee, James Myers, Lucy Mackenzie, Ella Brennan, Mason Kelly, Caleb Ruddenklau, Azhley Bernardino, Brody Leadley, Sadie Raines, Olivia Vivian, Isabella Berry, Lean Silmaro, Lila Rusbatch, Jai Anderson, Joe Baird, Thomas Roughan, Mia Desquitado, Matilda Maynard, Charles Tamagushiku, Mason Kenna, George Kneebone, Chase Davison, Georgia Crowther, Louis Sharp, Isaiah Dilip and Cooper McDowall.

School Improvement - As a Catholic School our point of difference is our mission to provide children with an encounter with Christ. Second to this is the role we play in educating our children and aspiring to provide children with the opportunity to reach their potential. The process involved in achieving this is not routine but is rather dynamic. The function of education is in itself about change and improvement.

There is a common misconception that teachers roll out the same programme each year and that the teaching approaches used today are similar to the teaching approaches used ten years ago.

The reality is that nothing could be further from the truth. Good schools develop learning environments that are responsive to the needs of all children. To achieve this, good schools monitor children's achievement and progress as well as evaluate the effectiveness of the teaching programmes in place. Programmes are enhanced, amended and changed to ensure that it is responding to the needs of the children.

Good teachers customize learning opportunities that engage children and accelerate progress. To do this good teachers are constantly monitoring children's achievement so they can identify what is and is not working. Good teachers use this information to enhance, amend and change the learning approach so that it is responsive to the needs of each individual child. Teachers make informed choices when they are making adjustments to their programmes. Informed choices require the teacher to use educational research to confirm what is or is not effective in the classroom.

Similar to other professions like medicine, engineering, and business, research is constantly evolving. As a result our understanding of effective and ineffective teaching is evolving. What we thought was good teaching may have changed. Good schools and good teachers are responsive to this and change in order to provide the children with a quality education. Change and improvement is an inherent part of how education works.

Coming Events

Tuesday 30 June—School Photos

Thurs, Friday 2, 3 July—PTA Second Hand Uniform Sale

Friday 3 July—End of Term 2

Monday 20 July—Start of Term 3

PRAYER TO SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST
God our strength and our hope, grant us the courage of John the Baptist, constantly to speak the truth, boldly to rebuke vice and patiently to suffer for the truth's sake; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit one God now and for ever. Amen.



First Holy Communion This weekend the First Holy Communion children will be given prayer cards of 'The Ten Commandments' and 'The Creed' at all of the 4 weekend Masses. Please choose which ever Mass you would like to attend (6.00pm Saturday, 8.30am or 10.00am or 5.00 pm Sunday) Your child's named prayer card and small gift will be in the main entrance foyer of St Gregory's. Please collect these cards before Mass.

FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Last year the school's special character was reviewed by the Christchurch Diocese. This is a regular event that occurs every 4-5 years. The review is carried out to evaluate the delivery of the Religious Education Programme as well as three aspects of special character that include:

- an encounter with Christ
- growth in knowledge,
- the development of Christian witness

The review also investigates stewardship of the relationship with the Church and the State. Reviewers encourage and commend best practice, and, working with the school, provide indications of opportunities to further strengthen and develop the Catholic culture.

As a Board of Trustees, we wanted to take this opportunity to share a number of the many positive comments we received from the reviewers.

- Students have a meaningful range of spiritual formation opportunities that encourage a personal relationship with Christ through regular school and class prayer and liturgies.
- Recently, the school introduced classes attending a Sunday Parish Mass once a month. This is a notable initiative with a real opportunity to evangelise and bring whānau back to the church. Two classes attend the 8.30am Mass each month. This allows all 18 classes one experience per year to join parishioners at Sunday Mass. The presence of the children is a delight to the parishioners and priests. Due to the size of St Gregory's Church, numbers of children must be restricted to cater for all attending parishioners. Whānau members are encouraged to attend with their tamariki. Assembly Liturgies occur regularly on a Friday morning.
- 'There is an expectation that staff support students who receive the Sacraments of Initiation. A significant number of staff attend the parish celebrations where students receive the Sacraments of the Eucharist and Confirmation.
- Inter-relationships among students and between staff and students are very respectful. Students shared that the school was a welcoming place where people treated others equally, that people were encouraging of others and that they respected their teachers.
- Displays and symbols provide witness to the Catholic identity of the school. Classrooms, the office foyer and staff room strongly featured content, statues and religious resources relating to the school's Catholic special character.

Religious Education

Reviewers observed a consistent level of good teaching practices in Religious Education lessons. Observations occurred in 17 classes. Ākonga were well engaged in their learning and there was a clear level of mutual respect and serenity within the classes. Teachers are delivering well planned and structured lessons. They shared and discussed the learning intentions with ākonga and provided clear links to their prior learning. Reviewers observed a range of different planning formats, however, there is an intention to use a more consistent school-wide plan in the future. There was a common thread of teaching the Holy Spirit strand throughout the scheduled observations. Some evidence of integration with writing and art was noted.

Teachers were well versed in their own content knowledge and confidently shared their understandings at an appropriate level according to the needs and abilities of their students. Students and teachers displayed pleasing content knowledge; a credit to the newly appointed teachers who were experiencing their first Catholic school.

We would like to say a thank you to the St Joseph's Leadership Team, Staff and to the rest of the School and Parish Community for supporting and encouraging our children to live faith filled lives. Our wish is to empower students to become confident, motivated learners, living out the Gospel Values.