

ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL

We learn with faith for tomorrow.
Me ako tātou. Ma te pono. Mo apopo.
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6th April, 2017

Nga mihi nui ano ki te whānau tautoko o te Kura o Hato Hohepa ki te Wairoa!

Greetings to everyone and a very special welcome to our new students Arapera and Litia. Welcome to our special school and know that we are only too glad to help you if the need arises. Nau mai, haere mai!

ERO visit

We have had a wee visit from ERO and are looking forward to the insights into our school operation that they will have for us. We have worked hard to get our school to where it is and I would especially like to thank the Board and the Teaching Staff of our school in all of the extra efforts that they have made in preparation towards the visit. Although they came in the wind and rain, they enjoyed the friendly atmosphere at our school.

Last day of School

As you all know the last day of school is on the Wednesday of next week. We will be closing earlier as the teachers will be having a staff only day on the Thursday where we will be working with our maths advisor.

That afternoon is also busy for us as we will be celebrating Easter week. Please come and witness the pageant and if you want to start the holidays earlier than usual please let the teachers know that you will be taking your children after we have **all** packed up and **all** tidied up the classrooms and school. Have a great and restful holiday!

Swimming sports

Well done swimmers for getting out and representing your school so well! It was great to go down and see them giving their all.

Vomitting Bug

There is a bug going around at the moment. Please if your child is spewing or has diarrhoea, they should rest for at most two days after the last vomit before coming back into school. This is to ensure that other students do not get the bug. Handwashing and hygienic practises should also be stepped up during the sick time.

70th Birthday

On the 4th of April, some years ago a child was born and his name was Arthur Toothill. I know that I am not the only one who would have wished you a happy birthday. Have a great weekend Pa Arthur!

Speech Competitions

Pū kōrero

These will be happening tomorrow at Takitimu Marae. Good luck Kasey McEwan, Chelsie Cram and Starnee Hiko. Give it your best shot!

Music Extravaganza in Assembly

Over the term we have been running an extension music group. The students have enjoyed it immensely. We will be running it again next term for 5 more sessions. However if you would like your child to be able to learn music formally. Mrs Morin is willing to teach them. Lessons are \$22.00 for individual lessons and \$10.00 for group, each lesson will last for 30 minute durations. Please ask for a pamphlet at the office if you are interested. If you are a parent of or are interested in coming and seeing them please come to the school assembly at 2pm tomorrow afternoon. I can't wait to see all of the the good work and musical knowledge of this group. I think that we are going to be amazed by their brilliance. Thankyou Miss Morin for your efforts in this area.

Rokatahi believes that the music classes have been fun because they get to discover new music and beats that she has taught us. She is also fun to learn with.

Jack says that it is fun because it is music and music is fun to learn.

Coding in term 2

We are glad to say that we will be having Mr Andrew Hume come in for five days next term to work with students on coding and extension with computers. We are really lucky to have his input and I look forward to the students making some great gains. Mrs Morin will also be returning for 5 sessions in term 2.

Term 2 Excitement

Next term's learning will be focussed on the Arts, Drama, Music and the Visual Arts. It is going to be exciting! Just like this term we will be encouraging local artists to come into the school and developing our students skills along the arts. If you know of anyone who may be able to help us in this please let us know. I know that we are all looking forward to an exciting new term.

To the Staff of St Joseph's

Just in case I miss it out in the next newsletter. Thankyou very much for all of your great work this term. I know that we have been working hard for the last 15months, learning and growing together. Get a good rest over the holidays.

2017 Hockey

The hockey season is fast approaching and we urgently need your support. If your child would like to play hockey would you please contact Jenny McCracken on 838 8740

An extract from 'A reading from the prophet Daniel,'
(3:14-20.24-25.28)

'Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego: he has sent his angel to rescue his servants who, putting their trust in him, defied the order of the king and preferred to forfeit their bodies, rather than serve or worship any god but their own.'

These are the words of Nebuchadnezzar who sentenced Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego to death by a fiery furnace, however turned to witness the miracle of a fourth heavenly being in the furnace, where the men were unharmed. This reading speaks to me of the resolve of the three men. It speaks to me of the resolve that we must have when living our own lives. Time and time again we may be asked to believe in something, follow something that, pursue something that goes against our own core beliefs. Knowing when we have to draw the line in the sand is something that we all must have as we navigate our own lives. When I think about the students at our school and how they develop in their own lines, I am reminded of how valuable our school values are and the importance of our religious education programme. During school time they have that line strengthened everyday, that resolve determined with them as they listen and witness the learnings that are afforded them in our religious education program. As with all learning programs if the learning is reinforced at home this line becomes even stronger. As determined by you the parent community our values of faith, love, service and hope are all inclusive as we work towards the common good. I hope everyone has a great rest over the upcoming holidays and ask that we take time to strengthen that line of resolve and re-energise that faith.

Due to the damage caused to the Wairoa water system over the last two days please continue to CONSERVE WATER

Due to 'turbid' water at our water source (the Wairoa River) we are still unable to make water today - however, we have contingencies in place.

We have enough water in our reservoirs and we will be bringing our brand new reservoir online today to add additional capacity. Great foresight by our Councillors to approve the construction of a new reservoir to increase our resilience.

We need to control the demand from our community, so we will be posting a list of the top 5 things you can do to conserve water later today. There is no need to panic by filling up bath tubs - we just need to conserve.

Thank you to everyone who is being active in conserving water. It is times like this that remind us how resilient our community is.

Please take note - we need to band together to conserve water. Please help us by:

* ENCOURAGING your family to take brief showers (under four minutes)

* REFRAINING from washing your car

* USING the 'half flush' on your toilet if you have it

* TURNING the tap off while brushing your teeth

* TURNING your washing machine and dishwasher settings to 'eco'

OR - if you don't have to do laundry or wash your car, then maybe save for another day

Please keep and be safe this weekend. Leonie McEwan