

# ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL

We learn with faith for tomorrow.  
Me ako tātou. Ma te pono. Mo apopo.  
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23rd August, Week 5. Greetings to everyone. As we have a busy week I thought I would get this out early for you all. Have a great week.

There is a **Stopwork meeting for Teachers and Support Staff** on the **13th September**. All teachers and support staff will be required to attend this stopwork meeting with their Unions. On this day we will be having a half day. **School will finish at 12.15**. Most of our staff are union members so we will not be able to accomodate students who cannot go home after lunch. **Therefore we will close school for half a day**. Please, arrange to retrieve your children after 12.15 on this day.

**Important Dates**  
**Week 6 1 September maths game evening NEXT WEEK.**  
**Week 5 27<sup>th</sup> August Senior Kapahaka**  
**Wananga Week 6 3<sup>rd</sup> September Jnr Kapahaka Wananga**  
**September 13<sup>th</sup> School Open for Half a Day**  
**Week 8 Wearable Arts/Drama Festival**  
**Week 9 Last day of school 25 September**

## Kapahaka Wānanga

This year the school would like to enter two groups to the Kapahaka Festival in Mahia, Term 4, Week 6. I believe that we have the necessary skills in the Junior School (Rm 4 & 5) and in the Senior School (Rm 1 & 2). The students will learn disciplines to the arts in dance, drama and music. As well as learn how to develop to a performance level. There is so much potential in both of these groups and I am pleased with the enthusiasm and energy that these students are giving. We have made our songs part of our in class learning as students are able to practise once during school time each week. The two teachers for these groups are Melissa Paul and myself.

The Senior Group Rm 1 & Rm 2 will be having their **Saturday practice on the 27<sup>th</sup>, this weekend**. Please drop your child off on Saturday for Whaea Leonie to practise kapahaka with at 9.30. We will finish about 2.30. Please send lunch with them. This will be a fun day as well as a time to practise as a whole group our bracket for the Fourth term kapahaka festival at Mahia. The Juniors will be having their Saturday practise on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September. Thankyou in advance parents for getting your child to and from the school on the day.

## Uniforms for Kapahaka

We are revamping the kapahaka costumes so that every boy and girl on the day will have a kapahaka costume that is St Joseph's. Myself and a team of ladies have reused alot of the old uniform to transform them into a cohesive uniform that is relevant to the seniors and juniors. Now we need them sewn up. If you are a sewer, please contact the office and let me know if you can help. Unfortunately there are not many places where you can buy kapahaka uniforms from, especially ones that carry the history and mana of our school. Peace and blessings to everyone this week. Whaea Leonie

DIOCESE OF  
PALMERSTON NORTH

## SPECIAL CHARACTER COMMUNITY REPORT

St Joseph's School is a unique faith community where staff, ākonga (learners) and whānau experience "a synthesis of culture and faith, and a synthesis of faith and life" (*The Catholic Education of School Age Children*, New Zealand Catholic Bishops' Conference (NZCBC), 2014) through the interweaving of the three communities of St Joseph's School, the parish of St Peter and the Eucharistic community of St Theresa's at Tawhiti-a-Maru Marae. The synthesis between faith and culture is the interweaving ethos of the school. Its strong bi-cultural nature is a strength of the school.

The individual and communal spirituality of the school community is promoted and nurtured through a constant awareness of the presence of God. Ākonga are able to share many instances when they felt an important encounter with God during their school day. The full welcoming into the Church of a staff member at Easter is evidence of Te Wairua Tapu (The Holy Spirit) active within the school.

The spirituality of tamariki is also encouraged and nurtured through classroom prayer and the tamariki are particularly respectful and reverent when they gather. They are familiar with prayer rituals and student leadership is being developed as they often take an active role within both class and school prayer experiences and liturgies.

"The school is reflecting its ecclesial nature in which faith, culture and life are brought into harmony" (*The Catholic Education of School Age Children*). An example of this is the gathering of tamariki and their whānau, by both school and parish, to journeying together, through sacramental programmes at Tawhiti-a-Maru Marae. This is best practice.

The Board of Trustees is strongly committed to safeguarding and strengthening the Catholic character of the school, which they see it as a taonga passed down from generation to generation. The board chair at governance level understands, contributes to, and leads the Catholic character of the school. She works closely with the Proprietor's Appointees, who assist the board to carry out its obligations in regards to Catholic character. They provide an important channel of communication between the school and Proprietor through regular board reports and communication with the Proprietor's agent the Manager, Catholic Education, Palmerston North Catholic Education Office.

Catholic schools "Strive for Educational Excellence" (*The Declaration of the Proprietors of Catholic Schools in New Zealand*). This review concurs with the Education Review Office report of 2015 that the school must continue to focus on increasing student achievement using assessment data to identify the next steps in learning.

The school parish partnership is dynamic. Fr Tuohill is on the Board of Trustees, the parish office is located on the school grounds, the local Sisters of Compassion have a strong presence in the school, and staff members are active in the life of the parish.

There is a joyful atmosphere in the classrooms and ākonga are vibrant, diverse and inquisitive. They enjoy being challenged, engaged and part of the learning process. Lessons observed that had a range of elements, including: input, discussion, activity and reflection were the most productive.

Teachers are becoming more confident and explicit in sharing the learning intentions and in turn ākonga are starting to articulate their learning with more depth. Teachers are bringing their own gifts and talents to the classroom and lessons with musical instruments, art and information technology skills.

Catholic Character Review Report for St Joseph's School Wairoa  
Review Date 27/14 April 2016