Kia ora Parents and Caregivers,

Winter really did strike in full force last week and although not as cold now, the rain still persists. We have a number of families who travel to school from Stokes Valley, and now face lengthy delays due to a large slip on the only route in and out of the valley. Hopefully the situation can be remedied soon and this extra stress is removed from your daily commute.

Curriculum Donation

Many thanks for your prompt responses to Teresa's recent reminder of our Curriculum Donation. Within a couple of hours of sending them, the payments started to come through with the result that our Area trips and activities budgets are starting to look much healthier now.

Performing Arts

Last week the whole school enjoyed a wonderful range of Performing Arts at Sacred Heart College. Being part of a live audience, in a real theatre, was exciting for everyone. These talented young artists entertained us with music, dance, drama and song. What was extra special at the end was the message to our students from their music teacher. She gave such a heartfelt thank you to them for being such an attentive and appreciative audience. We all felt very proud!

Teacher Aide Position

We are currently advertising on SEEK for a new teacher aide. This is a part time position, Monday to Friday from 9am - 12.30. Enquiries are most welcome from our community or if this might be of interest to someone in your family or circle of friends, please do encourage them to apply. Tash McKeen has held this position and been a wonderful teacher aide for us over the last two and a half years but has resigned due to health reasons.

UNIFORM

Reminder - the options for girls are plain black tights, white ankle socks or navy school socks (which can be purchased from the uniform shop).

Mass of Dedication

On Sunday afternoon I attended the Mass of Dedication of St Mary of the Angels as the National Shrine of Mary for New Zealand. A number of our families may have been there too, enjoying a beautiful multicultural Mass, celebrated by Cardinal John Dew with all the New Zealand Bishops present too. This weekend St Mary of the Angels also celebrated 100 years of its presence in the very heart of Wellington City. If you are ever in the city and have a moment to spare, then walk a little up Boulcott St and you will find this beautiful church there. The bishops commissioned an artwork of Mary by Christchurch artist Damien Walker and over the last year, it has been on a hikoi around each of the country's six Catholic dioceses. With the dedication now complete, this stunning artwork will be on display in the baptism alcove of St Mary of the Angels Church.

I have spent these last 2 days at St Benedict's School in Khandallah as part of the Catholic Character Review team. After recently having had our own review, I am very pleased to support another school in this useful and rewarding process but look forward to being back at school tomorrow.





OUR WEBSITE



PARISH WEBSITE



SEASONS FOR GROWTH



Contents

From our Principal
Special Character
Kowhai
Nikau
Pohutukawa
Rata
Reminders and Updates
Sport
PTA

Events

Wednesday 17 August

7pm PTA Meeting

Thursday 18 August

Kowhai Walter Nash Trip

Wednesday 24 August

7pm Board Meeting

Thursday 25 August

Book Character Day (non-uniform)

Monday 29 August

Teacher Only Day



Sacramental Preparations

The Sacramental team, Fr. Patrick, Kathryn van Woerkom, Lyn Shanahan and myself would like to invite the young people in our school community to take part in the Sacramental preparations and celebrations.

These sacraments are a way to relate to God throughout life's transitions. They help us to nourish, strengthen, and express our Catholic faith. If you feel that your child is ready to take on this special journey of their faith, please come along to the parent meeting.

Please save these dates:

Confirmation November 2022

Parent Meeting Tuesday 18 October, 7.30pm, in the Chapel

9am Mass/session 1 Sunday 30th October

9am Mass/session 2/practice Sunday 13th November

Confirmation Masses 9am and 5.30pm Sunday 20th November

First Reconciliation March 2023

Parent Meeting Tuesday 14 February, 7.30pm, in the Chapel

9am Mass/session 1 Sunday 26th February

9am Mass/session 2/practice Sunday 12th March

First Reconciliation March 26th, at 2pm in the Church

First Communion June 2023

Parent Meeting Tuesday 2nd May, 7.30pm, in the Chapel

9am Mass/session 1 Sunday 14th May

9am Mass/session 2/practice Sunday 28th May

First Communion Masses 9am and 5.30pm Sunday 11th June 2023

Sacrament of Baptism - Baptism is a time of great joy and celebration for parents, family members and the parish community.

If you have any queries about baptism, please contact Kathryn van Woerkom: 04 566 3088 or send her an email at john.kath@xtra.co.nz





Our parish will be running training sessions for projectionists at school on Thursday 18 August and altar serving training with Father Patrick on Sunday 11 September at 2pm.

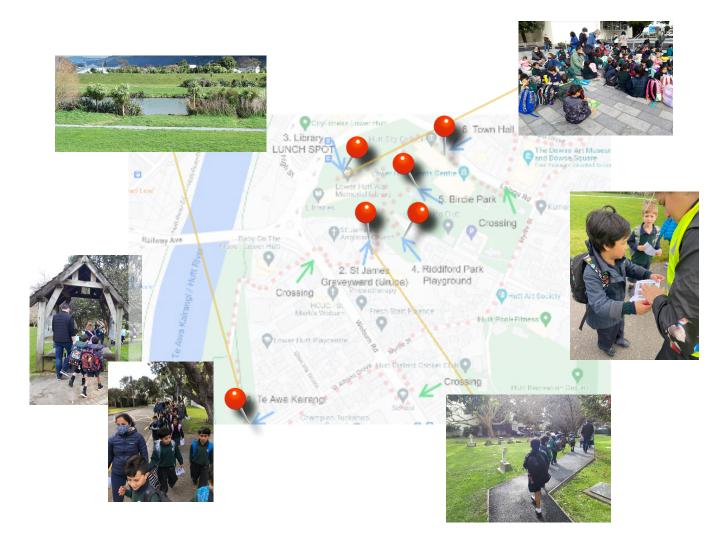
This is a great opportunity for the students in our school community to participate in the celebration of the Mass and help our Te Awakairangi Parish. Not only this, but the roles of altar server and projectionist offer great skills for our young people. It helps cultivate confidence and learn more about their faith through their involvement in the community.

If this is something that you feel your child would be interested in, please contact Kim Penman. Her email address is kimpenman1@gmail.com

Aurea Casino

Director of Religious Studies





River Walk

Last Friday, Kowhai went on an adventure to Te Awa Kairangi – The Hutt River. We used our discovery time to explore our local area and revisit our learning about significant places last term. This was a great opportunity for our students to connect their learning to the real world and observe the river that we have been talking about so much. Everyone had a great time playing 'Local Places Bingo' and spotting birds, bugs and beautiful flowers along the way.

Thank you to all the parent volunteers, we really appreciate the help you offered for this big adventure. We are so glad we had the chance to share this experience with you all.



Exploring Dance

Our Arts focus is to identify and describe dance in our lives and communities and to explore and describe dances from a variety of cultures. Prabha Ravi, founder & creative director of the Natraj School of Dance has been visiting Nikau students. Prabha has been teaching us about Bharatanatyam. We have learnt some basic facts about Southern India and a range of dance movements involving the coordination of our hands, legs and eyes to a set rhythm, hand gestures and some breathing techniques.

I like doing the Indian dancing because it is a traditional dance and it is fun to do. *John*

My experience of Bharatanatyam dancing is that it is extraordinary. The dance teacher is very kind and I have learnt a lot of new dance moves. It is very different to any other dancing I have learnt. *Indie*







Exploring Forces

We are learning to predict, observe and describe the effects of forces on different moving objects.

I love learning about force and motion because friction slows objects down and makes them stop moving. Leela

We have been learning about forces. I've learnt that buoyancy is a type of force that pushes objects up out of the water. *Noah*

It is really interesting learning about forces. My favourite force is buoyancy because it makes things float in water, by pushing an object up. *Carlie*

I am amazed at how friction slows and stops things. Stefan

We did an experiment with marbles and a book. We put four marbles under a book and rolled it on a smooth surface then carpet. We found out that carpet gives more friction. *Summer*

I found it very interesting that the more bumpy the surface, the more friction there is. *Theo*



Physical Education

Pohutukawa students have been enjoying a focus on invasion games. They have been refining their attacking skills in hockey, rugby, basketball and football. This has allowed them to explore a range of ways to defend while learning to work together as a team.

Drama

In Pohutukawa, we have been planning and rehearsing dramas related to Early Polynesian Voyagers, using Pūrākau (Māori Myths and Legends) as the basis for our drama. We used our thinking like an expert tool and "thought like an actor". We brainstormed what they needed to know to act out a character and perform as that character in the best possible way. In our groups, we read our Pūrākau. We used our skills in negotiation to come up with a fair way to decide who would play what part, to make sure we all had our voices heard. We then thought about our own character's feelings, what lines they should say and what actions or movements they should make. Next we will be linking our dramas to our Big Idea of Relationships and think about what relationships there are in our Pūrākau. We are adapting and changing our drama to incorporate these new ideas as we rehearse. Soon we will perform them in front of our class.

















Kia ora Whānau!

We have had a busy start to term 3 in the Rātā syndicate. Week 2 saw 8 of the girls attend the STEM challenge at the town hall to compete against other Lower Hutt intermediates. The girls participated in a variety of science, technology, maths and engineering quizzes and tasks. The girls showed great enthusiasm and perseverance throughout the challenging activities.







"I liked the variety of questions in the quizzes, I found the science questions the most enjoyable. I also found participating in the practical challenges engaging because it was playing with gravity and seeing how that affected the objects we were trying to balance."

Madeleine

"Some aspects of the challenge were hard but once we worked as a group it was much easier. We enjoyed the quizzes the most as it gave us time to think where as the practical challenge has a time limit which added a lot of pressure"

Peighton & Niamh

"It was fun to answer some of the questions in the quiz rounds. I found some of the questions easy but some were very challenging which was a good feeling. We tried our best as a team even when we didn't know the answers"

Nina



Interzone Swimming Trials

On Tuesday 9th a group of our more able swimmers took part in timed trials to identify the students who would take part in the Interzone event later in the term. We are awaiting final confirmation of the required times and then we can announce our squad.

Special thanks to the Rata girls who did the timing and recording for us and to all those parents, grandparents and other family members who were able to attend.

Fletcher and McGuinness Cups

We took the opportunity of the trials to also hold the races for our 2 cups.

Congratulations to Niamh Woollett who won the 100m Fletcher Cup and Charlie Davidson who was victorious in the McGuiness Cup (50m). Runners up were, 2nd Madeleine Wilson and Francesco Ruocco with 3rd place going to Maya Mclay and William Jordan.





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- Make a payment so you have funds in your account before you order
- 4 Select your lunch and place an order

Volleyball

Year 5, 6, 7 and 8 students were invited to participate in a fun volleyball tournament at Walter Nash Stadium. They had a great time playing other teams from a variety of Hutt Valley primary schools. A big thank you to all the parents who looked after a team on the day, we couldn't have done it without you.



Have you joined the PTA Facebook group yet? Stay up-to-date with school community events by joining our page!

