

Dear Parents/ Caregivers

Malo e lelei, Talofa Lava, Kia Orana, Greetings, Tena Koutou, Bula Vinaka, Chao, Namaste and Welcome to Week 8 of Term 4 .

ADVENT: This week we begin the season of ADVENT. It is a time when we prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of Jesus at Christmas

THE ADVENT WREATH

The ADVENT WREATH is a sign that Jesus comes to us like a light in the darkness bringing God's love and life

The CIRCLE is to remind us that God's love is ETERNAL with no beginning and no end

The GREEN leaves are a sign of EVERLASTING LIFE which gives HOPE to all Christians. GREEN is the colour of HOPE

The PURPLE ribbons are to remind us to REPENT and COME BACK to GOD if we have drifted away. PURPLE is the colour of REPENTANCE

The FOUR CANDLES – one for each week of ADVENT remind us of the coming of JESUS CHRIST, THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD. As each additional candle is lit the light gets brighter.

The PINK or ROSE candle that is lit in the third week is a sign of JOY that Jesus is coming very soon.

May our God who is a God of promise be near us in these Advent days of waiting.

May we share the light and warmth of Jesus with everyone we meet.

May the Holy Spirit of God bless us and help us to prepare to receive Jesus into our lives more deeply this Christmas

PRAYERS: We continue to pray for all the families of the miners from the West Coast of NZ. Our prayers and our hearts go out to those who are grieving the loss of loved ones in this terrible tragedy.

Please also continue to remember in your prayers Simote Tuitupou, the father of Elayna in Room 9 and for Mary Gordon, Mrs Dwight's sister and aunt of Miss Franich.

REMINDERS: PLEASE MAKE SURE ATTENDANCE DUES AND SPECIAL CHARACTER LEVY ARE PAID BEFORE SCHOOL CLOSSES FOR THE YEAR. We would appreciate payment being made as soon as possible rather than left until the last week. Hardship grants are currently being processed and will be notified as soon as possible to families. Hardship grants are usually only granted to families who have more than two children at St Joseph's and have already shown commitment and responsibility by paying a regular payment – either by **regular automatic payment** from a bank account or **regular payments** at the Office.

SUNHATS are now COMPULSORY and have to be worn by children at playtime, lunchtime and sports time. Please make sure your child has a school sunhat.



ATHLETICS:

The children are busy preparing for the Otahuhu / Mangere Interschool Athletics to be held at Mt Smart Stadium on Wednesday 8 December. Further information will be sent home with your child today if he/she is selected.

CHILDREN'S BEHAVIOUR: At this time of the year we notice that some children's behaviour is not as it should be. Please see that:

- (a) Your child is getting to bed at the right time
- (b) You **REQUIRE and EXPECT** from your child(ren) – good manners, obedience and respect. These need constant monitoring, encouragement and reinforcement.
- (c) Your routines at home are firm and consistent
- (d) You are paying attention to your children and making sure they know they are loved and cared for. This means spending time with them, helping and supporting them with their school work and doing interesting and fun things with children. Secure, well cared for, well disciplined and happy children whose parents work in partnership with the school do not usually present with behaviour problems at school.

This is a busy time of the year and teachers do not need to be dealing with badly behaved children. If any individual child is disturbing the learning of others we have no other choice than to remove him/her from their classroom. We expect that parents will assist us with this and make sure their children come to school with good manners, able to do as they are told, consider others and show respect. Most families do this, however sadly we have a few who do not seem to have instilled these behaviours and attitudes in their children.

COMING EVENTS over next 3 weeks:

- Year 7 and 8 CAMP this week. Thank you to Mrs Massari and Mrs Morris for all their work in preparing for this. I hope both the girls and their families appreciate this
- Year 6 Boys enrolled for De la Salle and Year 5 boys will attend a RETREAT DAY this Wednesday 1 December
- ORIENTATION DAY for Year 6 Boys enrolled at De la Salle this THURSDAY 9am – 11.am. Parents need to provide transport and ALL boys are expected to come back to school for the remainder of the day.
- Wednesday 8 December Interschool Athletics
- Friday 10 December 9.00am FULL SCHOOL MASS. As this is our final Mass for 2010 we do hope as many parents as possible can join us. We always have a special Advent/ Christmas theme
- Wednesday 15 December School Reports are sent home
- Friday 17 December – Final Assembly and prize giving 11.00 – 12.30. Children may be collected from school at 12.30 on Friday 17 December.

God bless

Miss Horgan
Principal

Reminder: If you have a child starting school at the beginning of 2011 please make sure you get their uniform organised BEFORE school closes for the year. There are only two more Fridays that the Uniform shop will be open.

FREE FAMILY EVENT: TEDDY BEARS PICNIC at Western Springs Park (next to MOTAT and ZOO) Sunday 5 December 11.00am – 4.00pm
Free Parking available on Sports Field off Stadium Rd (until full)
See www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz for more information

