

Dear Parents/ Caregivers

Malo e lelei, Talofa Lava, Kia Orana, Greetings, Tena Koutou, Bula Vinaka, Chao, Namaste and Welcome to Week 9 of Term 4 .

This Friday at 9.00am we have our final school Mass for 2010. All are welcome to join us for this special Advent/Christmas Mass as we prepare for Christmas and thank God for all the blessings of the year.

YEAR 7 and 8 Camp: The girls had a marvellous time and we received very positive feedback from all who were involved with them. A VERY BIG thank you to Mrs Massari for her overall organisation and to Mrs Morris, Mrs Burns, Mrs Evans and Mrs Alcock. Camp is a huge undertaking and responsibility for the staff involved and I am sure the girls and their families are very appreciative.

INTERSCHOOL ATHLETICS:

This Wednesday 8 December, the children selected to take part in the Interschool Athletics will travel by bus to Mt Smart Stadium. All children selected were given a letter last week with all details.

Children must bring a safety pin for their name tag and wear Sports gear i.e. A T shirt (preferably our St Joseph's sports T shirt) and shorts. Children will also need a sun hat and sun screen. Children are to bring a good HEALTHY lunch and plenty of drink. (Water or Juice is fine).

NO fizzy drinks. The same rules apply about lunches on a sports day as on any other school day. Children do NOT need to bring any money on the day and I would ask parents not to buy their children hot chips /hot dogs/ MacDonalds etc. If everyone follows the rules then it is fairer! It is a long day and the children use up a lot of energy so I would suggest an extra sandwich or two might be a good idea.

YOUR CHILD'S READING PROGRESS: We have just finished testing all our children in reading. You will get a letter next week telling you what your child's reading level is. Please take careful note of this letter as I cannot stress enough how important reading is for a child to succeed at school. Children do not all learn at the same

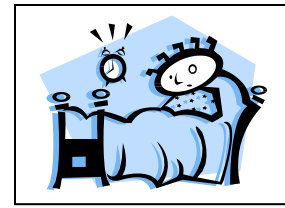
rate. Some need extra support and help with reading and that is an area that parents can help with. I urge you to make sure your children continue to **read books everyday in the holidays**. This is especially important

if your child is 'only just' at their age level and even more important if they are below their age level! The only way anyone gets to be a good reader is by reading as often and as much as they can. Your public libraries

are full of lovely children's books for you to read to your children and for your children to read in their own time, so there is no excuse for not being able to read over the summer holiday break!! There are also some very good public library holiday reading programmes for you to take advantage of.

REMINDERS: PLEASE MAKE SURE ATTENDANCE DUES AND SPECIAL CHARACTER LEVY ARE PAID BEFORE SCHOOL CLOSURES FOR THE YEAR. Reminder notices for those families who have not yet paid the Special Character contribution will be sent home this week. Although the Special Character contribution is not compulsory in the same way as Attendance Dues are we would ask parents to pay it if they possibly can (either on whole or in part). Payment of the Special Character levy shows a commitment to Catholic education.

TIRED CHILDREN: Please make sure your children are not staying up late at night. It makes it very hard for them and their teacher the next day.



COMING EVENTS over next 2 weeks:

- 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.

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.

God bless

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. This Friday 10th December is the last day that the Uniform shop will be open for this year.

Miss Horgan
Principal

SPECIAL REQUEST: We are collecting Christmas boxes of non perishable food items to give to the St Vincent de Paul Society to distribute to needy families at Christmas. These will be presented at our Christmas Mass on Friday. If you feel you could contribute one or two items then please place them in the boxes in the School foyer. Thank you for your generosity.



We have been very kindly given a colour TV, video and remote to pass on to a family..
Donation of \$40 for our Hall fund.
First in first served.
Please see Mrs Fitzgerald

