

Dear Parents/ Caregivers

Malo e lelei, Talofa Lava, Kia Orana, Greetings, Tena Koutou, Bula Vinaka, Chao, Namaste and Welcome to the final week of Term 4 . We are now into the third week of Advent as we continue to prepare for the coming of Christ into our lives.

PLEASE NOTE: Assembly and Prize giving has been changed to THURSDAY AFTERNOON 16 DECEMBER at 1.00 – 2.45pm. We have only just found out that the church is booked for a wedding on Friday – hence the change. School will be open on Friday as usual and finish at 12.30 as previously notified. All children are to be collected from school at 12.30(lunchtime) Friday.

Please note: Certificates for 100% attendance will be given out on Friday

ADVENT /CHRISTMAS MASS:

It was lovely to see so many parents join us for our special Advent/ Christmas end of year Mass last Friday. The children are to be congratulated for their excellent participation in the Mass, especially those who had special parts. It is really important that children at a Catholic School (and their families) value the part that the Mass plays in the life of our Catholic Community.



A special THANK YOU to all those families who have sent along some item of non perishable food to our collection for the St Vincent de Paul Society to give to families in need this Christmas. The gift boxes are in the School Foyer and there is still time to donate something.

I would also like to commend the children for their generosity to the Missions over the 2010 year. We collected a total of \$5 130 and it has been distributed as follows:

Columban Fathers \$600,	Sisters of Charity Vincent de Paul House \$200
Monte Cecilia \$200	MISSIONZ \$500 ANZAC Day Poppies RSA. \$110.
Muftimania NZCPPA \$1100,	APPA Christchurch Earthquake appeal. \$500
Cancer Society (Daffodil Day) \$120	CARITAS Pakistan appeal \$1 100
Pike River Miners Appeal \$400	CARITAS Christmas Appeal. \$300

INTERSCHOOL SPORTS:

Congratulations to the wonderful effort by everyone at the Interschool Sports last Wednesday. St. Joseph's children did very well and we were OVERALL WINNERS by a convincing margin. Well done. This success is largely due to the way in which the children are prepared and trained. Very special thanks to Miss Franich and Mr Morgan not only are responsible for running the whole athletics day, but they also spend their lunch times training the children so they do well. Special thanks to all our helpers on the Athletics Day

REMINDERS: PLEASE MAKE SURE ATTENDANCE DUES AND SPECIAL CHARACTER LEVY ARE PAID BEFORE SCHOOL CLOSURES FOR THE YEAR. Letters for hardship grants were posted out last week so we are hoping that families will make a genuine effort to pay what is still owing or make sure an REGULAR automatic payment is set up. For the most part hardship grants are given to families with a large number of children at Catholic Schools AND who are making REGULAR attempts to pay what they can.

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. Christmas will be a very sad time for these families. We also pray for the Policeman who was brutally attacked by two young thugs on the weekend. Such behaviour is the end result of children who have grown up with no discipline and no respect for anyone or anything!! It is really quite frightening that we seem to have an increasing number of such young people in our society. That is why we as a school place a very high priority on respect for others and obedience and respect for rules, the law and the well being of others. However, schools cannot do it alone. They must have the full support of families so that children get a clear and consistent message about what is right and acceptable behaviour right from the time they are very young.

END OF YEAR REPORTS: These will be sent home on Wednesday. Please take careful note of any advice from your child's teacher. Please also take careful note of the last page of the report which lists the personal qualities and attitudes of your child. These are very important and are really the things that decide whether your child will be 'successful' in life. You will also get a letter which tells you about your child's reading levels from the recent test we gave every child. The letter also has ideas for you to help your child with reading during the holidays. Remember children will improve if they have ongoing encouragement and regular help and support from BOTH school and home. Don't forget all Auckland Public Libraries have a great Summer Holidays reading programme.

FAREWELLS and THANKS : This week we sadly farewell Mr Maurice Morgan from St Joseph's Staff. Mr Morgan is retiring from teaching after over 50 years of service. This is a wonderful, wonderful contribution to NZ children and education and we are very honoured to have had Mr Morgan teach the final years of his career at St Joseph's. He is a fine and good man and has been a great example to our boys as well as giving them a very good foundation for their studies at secondary school. We wish Mr and Mrs Morgan all the best in a much deserved retirement. We will keep in contact with Mr Morgan and he with us. We also thank Miss Voyce for her service of our children in Room 5 for the past two years. The children under Miss Voyce's care have received very thorough teaching that sets them up for success in their subsequent years at primary. Miss Voyce is going to complete a Post Graduate Diploma in Education and we wish her all the very best. We also thank Mrs Gwyneth Mace who has been the teacher in Room 9 while Sister Caroline has been in Ireland. Mrs Mace has been a lovely presence on the staff and looked after our little ones beautifully and got them off to a very good start to their primary school years.

LOST PROPERTY: There are quite a few unclaimed items of clothing in our lost property box. Please check if your child has lost anything. It is really helpful to everyone if clothing, especially jumpers are CLEARLY NAMED.

Please also continue to remember in your prayers those in our school community who are sick especially Simote Tuitupou, the father of Elayna in Room 9 and Mary Gordon, Mrs Dwight's sister and aunt of Miss Franich.

Thank you all for your support of your children and teachers over the 2011 year. I wish all families a peace filled and blessed Christmas

God Bless

Miss Horgan
Principal

**SCHOOL STARTS IN 2011 on THURSDAY 3rd of FEBRUARY:
School Uniform shop will be open FRIDAY 28th JANUARY 1 -3 pm
I hope to see ALL children at school on the FIRST DAY of School**

