

**We are CALLED ...**



**Haere mai me tou ake ahua**

# TUMUAKI TALK

## MO TE WIKI TUARUA

Kia ora tātou,

Almost ten days into school routines and I already feel like a part of the furniture – not so new anymore. The community feel in our school is so welcoming, thank you to the people who have

stopped to chat and introduce themselves. Please bear with me as I try and match the 'adult people' to the 'little people' to names and family connections! It may take a while for me to memorise ...

Another new person to temporarily join us, is Father Martin Wu, who is taking on his role in our parish and school with aroha and enthusiasm. We are blessed to work with him as a school community and welcome him with open arms.

## WE ARE CALLED Haere mai me tou ake ahua

**WE are CALLED to be a Catholic Community.** In Term 1, the major learning strand will be led by Social Studies and of course a very strong Liturgical flavour as we start with our school MERCY charism learning and setting up classroom Tiriti. After this, heading into Lent and Easter, we will have another strong Liturgical focus. Throughout all learning, whatever the focus may be, we ALWAYS come from our special character foundation. My line is for our staff to continually look at all we do through Christ eyes, and plan from there. We have a duty as a Catholic School to allow for each child to encounter Christ at our place, and all the learning opportunities we create, have this thinking as the foundation. St Joseph's will again be a busy place filled with a variety of opportunities to keep our tamariki safe, happy and learning throughout the 2020 year. We also continue to invite you to attend all our school and church activities. We do however fully understand that working parents cannot get to every event, but really appreciate it when you can.

*God Bless, Mrs Mill - Tumuaki*

## WELCOME to a new term Mass

Beginning this **Friday** (14<sup>th</sup> Feb), we will have a school Mass on the first Friday of each term to welcome our tamariki back to school after each term break. We will also bless our new children, whānau and staff for that term as they become part of the St Joseph's School community.

This first Mass is at 9am. Everyone is welcome to join in if they are able.

## PANCAKE NIGHT on SHROVE Tuesday

On **Tuesday 24 February** we will hold an informal community evening in the form of a picnic and meet and greet opportunity with our staff. This is also a great opportunity to meet your children's classmates' whānau if you have not yet done so. We will begin with prayer and introductions at 5.30pm, followed by half an hour of open classroom time. Your child will take you to their classroom to meet their teacher and look around. We will then gather to enjoy a picnic on the field around 6.15pm to socialise as community. Our evening will end at 7pm to get little ones AND TEACHERS home and ready for bed to rest so they are bright and ready for learning on Wednesday morning.

## WHANAUNGATANGA

*As a staff we want to continue to grow positive learning relationships between home and school, a reciprocal relationship.*

Our teachers are dedicated professionals who have a passion for their mahi and for our children to be happy, successful learners.

The definition of Whanaungatanga is relationship, kinship, sense of family connection - a relationship through shared experiences and working together which provides people with a sense of belonging. It develops as a result of kinship rights and obligations, which also serve to strengthen each member of the kin group.

Strong of Heart  
Strong of Faith  
Strong in our Learning

As teachers, whanaungatanga plays a vital role in achieving success with our learners, we all want the same thing for our St Joseph's ākongā.

**St Joseph's ADULT HOMEWORK:** You will have received a sheet of homework last week which is for you to complete by 25<sup>th</sup> February! This is an important part of building our reciprocal relationship between home and school. We want to learn about your child through your eyes. Have fun doing this activity and ask your child to help you with your homework for a change!

Throughout this year, we will have discussions with all our whānau to gather a collective voice around our common learning aspirations. We are committed to ensuring our ākongā achieve their very best and work well within and above their curriculum levels, striving to be the best they can be in all areas of learning. Please remember; you are always encouraged to share your ideas, celebrations and queries with myself and our teachers. If you are unsure of events around school, please send an email or simply give us "an old fashioned phone call", we are happy to keep everyone in the loop and stay connected as a strong united community.

E tu kotahi tatou. *Michele Mill*

### Please return to school:

- **FAMILY FORMS:** Thank you for the return of most Family Forms, we appreciate your support to keep our records up to date. If yours is still outstanding you will receive a reminder on Monday, so please fill in and return to school as soon as possible.
- **STATIONERY:** Thank you for the payments already received, payment is due by the end of February please
- **ADULT HOMEWORK:** Thank you for doing your homework whānau! My Child in a 100 words or less – due 25 February – ask your child for help if you have not yet completed yours! (Second pages are available if you would like extras!)

## 😊 Other notices 😊

### ABSENCES:

Any absence **must be notified to the School Office by a note or phone call from a parent before 9.30am**. Please do let us know of any absences. It is really appreciated as it is very busy in the Office and it takes time to contact parents. **EVERY DAY AT SCHOOL COUNTS! Please Note: if an older brother or sister brings a message about absence remind them to tell the class teacher AND the Office.**

### LUNCHES:

Learning is hard work and requires energy so a good HEALTHY lunch is very important. Children do need plenty to drink (especially in hot weather) and water is best! HINT: Freezing a bottle of water overnight and putting it in your child's lunch box will keep the lunch fresh and also give your child a nice cool drink. (It will have thawed by lunch time!) Make sure children have enough to eat but not too much. We suggest for:

- **Play lunch:** a healthy snack or piece of fruit or an extra sandwich is enough. If children have a good healthy breakfast then they should only need a **small snack** at playtime. Fruit in Schools is also provided.
- **Lunch:** A couple of sandwiches, piece of fruit and maybe one biscuit and a drink is enough.
- **PLEASE NOTE:** This year we are trying to cut down on the amount of rubbish that needs to be processed at school so we are going to ask children to take their own wrappers, gladwrap, paper etc home in their lunchboxes and dispose of it at home.

### CONSIDERATION for teachers:

Please do remember that BEFORE school in the morning teachers are busy in their classrooms preparing for the teaching day so please do not interrupt them at that time unless absolutely necessary. The classroom is their workspace so please do respect that. Teachers are very happy to meet/chat with parents but a better time is AFTER school. If you do need to see a teacher about a matter, other than something of a day to day matter, then please arrange a time via the office.

### Fridge Sheet:

The loose sheet in this newsletter is for you to stick on your fridge to help remember dates and important information. Our website calendar will also have these dates and we will keep you informed of any changes as best we can.