

We are CALLED ...



Haere mai me tou ake ahua

TUMUAKI TALK

MO TE WIKI TUAWHĀ

Tēnā koutou katoa,

Greetings to you all again from a warm and happy St Joseph's School. Week 4 of our school calendar, has led us into our Lenten journey as a school, parish and faith community. This

week, as a school community we have celebrated together and will now carry on praying, fasting and alms giving together until the great celebration of Easter.

WE ARE CALLED Haere mai me tou ake ahua

WE are CALLED to be a Catholic Community

E tu kotahi tatou

As Catholic 'Christ People', we are called for 40 days to pray, to fast and to give alms. As Father Martin taught our tamariki through his homily on Ash Wednesday, we are called to empty ourselves and be filled up again through Christ Jesus.

We celebrated Shrove Tuesday as a school with a Burning of the Palms Liturgy. During this Liturgy we were challenged with a Special Lenten Fast; something to give up and something to start. I share this with all of you to use during your Lenten journey as part of your prayer and spiritual fasting.

A Special Lenten Fast

Give up harsh words: *use generous ones.*

Give up unhappiness: *take up gratitude.*

Give up anger: *take up gentleness and patience.*

Give up pessimism: *take up hope and optimism.*

Give up worrying: *take up trust in God.*

Give up complaining: *value what you have.*

Give up stress: *take up prayer.*

Give up judging others: *discover Jesus within them.*

Give up sorrow and bitterness: *fill your heart with joy.*

Give up selfishness: *take up compassion for others.*

Give up being unforgiving: *learn reconciliation.*

Give up words: *fill yourself with silence, and listen to others.*

**God Bless, Mrs Mill
Tumuaki**

Week 7 and Week 9 Special Events

Please note these dates in your calendars. Detailed information will still follow.

- We will celebrate St Patrick's Day at school with a Prayer assembly at 8.30am at school
- We will celebrate St Joseph's Day with Mass at 9am, all invited to attend Mass. Significant men will be personally invited by the children for a special visit after Mass.
- We will have a re-enactment of the Passion of Christ on the last day of term (Holy Thursday) at school at 9.30am, all invited.

**Strong of Heart
Strong of Faith
Strong in our Learning**

Shrove Tuesday Community Picnic and Meet and Greet Evening

On behalf of the staff and myself, I would like to say a huge thank you to all of you who were able to come along for karakia, kōrero and kai at our Shrove Tuesday Evening.

We were blessed with another beautiful summer's evening and so were able to spend the whole evening outside enjoying coming together and meeting and greeting. The tamariki were so proud and loved the opportunity of sharing their mahi with their adults, so thank you for taking the time to come and have a look.

Key Competencies as a part of our NZ Curriculum

We value our connections with our whānau, our home school partnerships, and we will continue to grow and strengthen these every day with you.

As each new school year starts and we all re establish our routines, I would like to bring what our New Zealand Curriculum Document says about Key Competencies, to the fore.

The 5 Key Competencies in our curriculum are:

- Thinking
- Relating to Others
- Understanding Language, symbols & texts
- Managing Self
- Participating & Contributing

Each of these Key Competencies have a range of aspects and indicators to learn about, and at St Joseph's, we try to integrate as many of them into the students daily learning, as we can.

From the day that they start school to their last day in Y6 or Y8, our teachers integrate these Key Competencies into the learning. As parents and caregivers, you probably do the same without realising it. However, there are specifics that can be focused on.

One of the key competencies which I would like to discuss in this newsletter is, **Managing Self**.

It is often a lot easier as an adult, to do things *for* your children than it is to let them "have a go". Doing things yourself, speeds up the process in our busy lives, instead of waiting for a child to do a task. However this does not necessarily grow or develop learning of self-management.

There are quite a few aspects to this competency...

Patience; being one of the Fruits of the Holy Spirit, is one of the aspects of teaching children to MANAGE themselves. Our teachers are blessed with patience !!

Looking at the NZC, this is what it says about Managing Self...

"This competency is associated with self-motivation, a "can do" attitude, and with students seeing themselves as capable learners. It is integral to self-assessment.

*Students who manage themselves are *enterprising, *resourceful, *reliable, *and resilient.*

*They also *establish personal goals, *make plans, *manage projects, *and set high standards.*

They have strategies for meeting challenges.

They know when to lead, when to follow, and when and how to act independently."

In our home school partnership, let us work together in this Key Competency. There are so many ways you can help at home to build the partnership with us at school in your child's learning in Managing themselves. I hope you find this information valuable in guiding your child at home.

It would great if at home you focused on the first paragraph with your children seeing themselves as capable learners, having a "can do" attitude and being self-motivated.

How to do this?

Encourage your child

- to pack/unpack their own school/sports bag
- to make their lunch or morning tea, or at least help
- to bring their homework/communication books to you to sign or look at—not you chase after them
- to bring their bags and equipment to school themselves
- to look after their belongings, and put them away on their own
- to have a positive, "can do" attitude
- by providing a checklist for them to follow at home
- helping them to reflect on / think about their actions and consequences of these actions