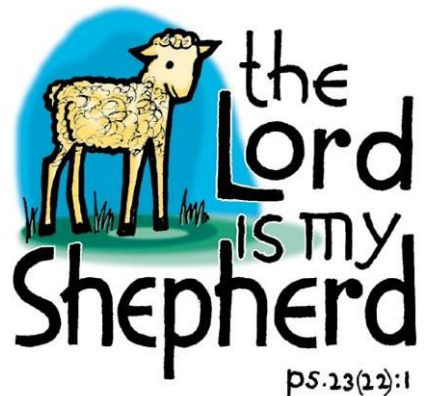


GOOD SHEPHERD SCHOOL

* Hello * Kia Ora * Malo e Lelei * Namaste * Cead Mile Failte * Talofa Lava *
* Kia Orana * Zdravo * Dzień Dobry * Apa Kabar * Guten Tag * An Nyung Ha Se Yo *
* Privet * Kwaziwai * Mabuhay Kayo * Kon Nichi Wa * Hola * Ola * Salaam * Fakalofa Atu

Newsletter No 2, 15 February 2018



From the principal....

In preparation for the year ahead, staff in our school spend time at the beginning of the term discussing our shared vision for the school and how we are going to work together to achieve this vision. We talk about how we can further strengthen the different teams that make up our school – our whole school team, teaching team, support staff team, leadership team – in order to continue to build a ‘strong school’ (some of you will have seen this work displayed in our staff room). We look closely at the five dimensions that make up a ‘strong school’ – clarity of purpose, accountability, effective organisational structures, trust, and opportunities for learning – and monitor our progress towards sustaining the key characteristics of effective teams. Because we are a Catholic school, we also look at these dimensions from a Catholic perspective and keeping our Good Shepherd values in mind. It would be an interesting but difficult exercise to include our ‘parent and whānau’ team in this work, and yet this team is an integral part of our whole school team and is crucial in ensuring our students are successful learners. We could ask ourselves questions like,

Do we give one another the benefit of the doubt before arriving at a negative conclusion (criteria for a trusting team)?

or

Do we identify potential problems quickly through open discussion (criteria for an accountable team)?

This week I attended the PTA Annual General Meeting, followed by their first meeting of the year. We are lucky to have this particularly strong team at Good Shepherd, one that makes a huge contribution to the wellbeing and learning of all our children. My sincere thanks to the outgoing executive and congratulations to the incoming position holders. Thank you to all those parents who came along to the meeting, and please consider coming along another time if you were unable to make it. Contained in this newsletter are some suggestions for how we can continue to work together to build a strong school where everybody lives and experiences the values of Jesus, the Good Shepherd.

God bless

Jane Hahn

Remembering Lent

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Season of Lent. It is a season of penance, reflection, and fasting which prepares us for Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday. Lent is a special time when you can share the concepts of prayer and giving with your children. Take family time each day to offer devotional prayers. Consider as a family how you might help others in need by giving of your time or resources. Even very young children can understand and will enjoy participating in the process.



Almighty and Everlasting God,
You have given the human race
Jesus Christ our Saviour as a model of humility.
He fulfilled Your Will by becoming Man
And giving His life on the Cross.
Help us to bear witness to You
By following His example of suffering
And make us worthy to share in His Resurrection.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son.



Welcome

We extend a very warm welcome to the following new students who have started with us recently:

Wils Pahulu Angelique Custodio Wilson

Swimming Carnival Monday 12 February

Congratulations to all swimmers from the senior school who took part in the Swimming Carnival on Monday. A special congratulation goes to those who were placed in their events. A team has been selected to represent Good Shepherd at the interschool swimming competition on 27 February and we wish them well as they compete at this level. These special events could not take place without the wonderful support we get from parents helping out, or without the extra work put into organizing them by Mrs McLeod. Thank you all!

Sacramental Meeting

The first Sacramental meeting will be on Wednesday 21st February at 7.00pm in the Good Shepherd School staffroom. Monsignor Bernard Kiely will be conducting the meeting. Enrolment forms must be handed into the school or parish office by this date.

Parish/School Mass Saturday 10 February

We have had a great start to the year with our inaugural Parish/School Mass last Saturday. These occasions are very important in further building our faith community, and the full church was witness to the commitment of our families to our Catholic special character. We did have some communications from families who had booked prior important occasions and we hope to minimise these clashes by keeping our calendar up to date on the website. The school app will be very useful to parents in keeping important school events in mind when making plans.

Board of Trustees Meeting

The next BOT meeting will be held on Wednesday 21 February at 7.00pm in the meeting room. Agenda will be displayed on the noticeboard from Friday 16 February. All welcome.

Room 7 Assembly, Friday 16 February

You are warmly invited to attend this assembly tomorrow at 2.15 p.m.

Congratulations to the following children who are celebrating their birthdays in February 2018:

Peter Balana Arcilla	Nigel Pena
Anna Butcher	Lennox Prentice
Angelique Custodio Wilson	Trisha Raman
Addison Davenport	Kharsha Selvathas
Dana Fa'apopo	Isabella Toatelegese
Sanuka Hewamanage	Florence Twose
Tupou Liku	Otis Twose
Mia Merrick	



GOOD SHEPHERD SCHOOL BULLYING PREVENTION AND RESPONSE PROCEDURES

The prevention of bullying in schools and how schools respond to reported cases of bullying are areas that are of interest and concern to everybody in our country. We are fortunate to have 'The Good Shepherd Way' with the emphasis on the school values of *respect*, *care* and *honesty* to help us make our school a respectful and inclusive environment, but it is important that we continue to work together to ensure that our school is a model of best practice in bullying prevention and response. This is a shared responsibility where students, staff, parents, whānau and other members of the community all work towards the same goal. The first step is to ensure we have a shared understanding of what 'bullying' is, and the definition we have shared with our community in the past is:

Bullying behaviour is not an individual action. Our school community agrees that:

- ***Bullying is deliberate***
- ***Bullying involves a power imbalance***
- ***Bullying has an element of repetition***
- ***Bullying is harmful.***

Bullying behaviours can be physical, verbal, or social, and can take place in the physical world or digitally.

Bullying is not an individual action. It involves up to three parties: initiators (those doing the bullying), targets (those being bullied) and often bystanders (those who witness the bullying).

Our response procedures are very clear and are available on our school website. As always, we are open to feedback on this definition, or any other part of the procedures, from anyone in our community.

Good Shepherd School Aquatic Programme

Next week all the children at Good Shepherd School will be beginning aquatic education sessions in our school pool. They are being provided by WaterSafe Auckland, an organisation that focuses on preventing drowning through education. Our sessions will be facilitated by Lynley Stewart, with assistance from classroom teachers. The sessions will run for the whole of Term 1. Each class will receive instruction in the pool and separate classroom sessions, relating to the following skills of water competence:

Safe entry, breath control, stationery surface (front float, tread water), water orientation (turn and roll), swimming competencies (on front and back), underwater competencies (surface dive, swim underwater), safe exit, use of life jackets, open water competencies, knowledge of local hazards, attitudes and behaviours. These extra sessions will enhance what we are already doing in aquatic safety and water education at Good Shepherd School.

For these sessions, the use of goggles will not be permitted. The reason for this is, if a child gets into an unsafe situation in open water, e.g. ocean, lake, river, they are unlikely to be wearing goggles. Statistics tell us that most preventable drownings occur in open water.

“In a drowning prevention context, water competence is the sum of all personal aquatic movements that help prevent drowning, as well as the associated water safety knowledge, attitudes and behaviours that facilitate safety in, on and around water.” Moran (2012). A quote from Keith Moran, a leading researcher into drowning prevention at Auckland University.

If you have any questions please email Heather McLeod hmcLeod@goodshepherd.school.nz

If you are able to assist in these sessions, e.g. by taking a group or getting into the pool, please let your classroom teacher know and they will give you the times of their specific sessions.

The aquatic education sessions will run alongside regular swimming sessions with classroom teachers in the school pool. In addition, we will again be sending our Year 3 and 4 students to a swimming school for an eight lesson intensive. They will be travelling to Mt Eden Swimming Pool and will be instructed by qualified swim coaches. A separate notice will be sent out next week to the relevant families giving more information about this programme.

Attendance dues

School account statements have been sent home this week via the children and via email. If you have any questions regarding your account, please contact Kathryn in the school office or email accounts@goodshepherd.school.nz.

The school dues bank account is
12-3067-0208272-02



OPEN DAY

St Paul's College, 183 Richmond Road, Ponsonby

Thurs 8th March 2018. Sessions - 9.30am & 1.45pm

Assembly in the College Chapel, followed by tour

Enrolments for Years 7, 8 and 9
Building Men of Courage since 1955

St Peter's College

Catholic School for Boys Years 7 – 13

OPEN DAY

For Year 7 Enrolments in 2019

Tuesday 27th February 2018

9.30am or 1.00pm

In the College Hall

(main entrance Mountain Road)

BARADENE COLLEGE - OPEN EVENING

Held on Thursday 8 March, 2018 at 6.30 p.m. We welcome all prospective parents and students to visit the College. Entry at Gate 2 to the Auditorium.

Enrolments for Year 7, 2019 are presently being accepted and will close on Thursday 22 March, 2018.

Year 6 Camp

On Monday 29th January, 30 excited year sixes arrived at M.E.R.C. in Long Bay. There was a lot of anticipation in the air, but there was no time to think about it too much as we were straight into activities. There was a range of activities including archery, surfing, abseiling, surf kayaking, slingshot, mountain biking and the giants ladder. Over the week that we were at M.E.R.C. we developed lots of leadership skills and got to know each other better.

Lots of the activities involved teamwork. For instance in the giant ladder, the rungs get further apart as you get higher. Two people climbed at once and everyone was very supportive of each other. Also lots of people conquered their fears on the abseiling wall, giants ladder, surf kayaking and mountain biking. Everyone showed lots of resilience and strength when they completed their activities.

On Tuesday night we had camp mass. The year sixes were excited to see their families. We had a barbecue and lots of yummy food. The very next night we had our student council elections and chose our leadership roles for the year. On Thursday night we had the talent contest and the winner was Noah, who had a befuddling card trick.

On Thursday during the day there was a lot of excitement because it was very stormy. We all stood on the sea wall and got splashed by massive waves as the tide came in. By the end of it everyone was saturated and had to go get changed. We started our activities for the day and it was particularly difficult to climb on the rock walls because they were slippery and the wind was blowing but we got to the top anyway.

We want to say thank you so much to the parent helpers and the teachers without whom this whole experience wouldn't have been possible. Everyone really appreciates all the work they did and we are really grateful.

By Gina Smoldon (Student Journalist)

