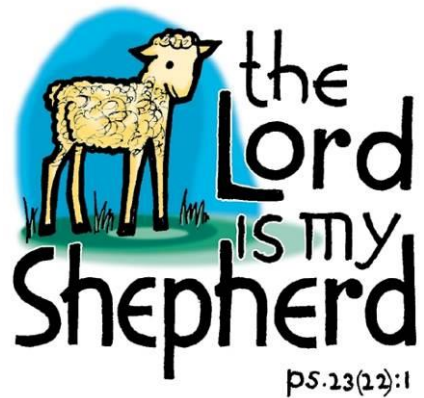


GOOD SHEPHERD SCHOOL

* 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 4, 14 March 2019



From the principal....

Public consultation on the Tomorrow's Schools Review report,

Our Schooling Futures, Stronger Together | Whiria Ngā Kura Tūātinitini

Hopefully you have all been part of some discussion about this report and its recommendations since our last newsletter. The consultation period on the proposed changes to the way schools are run, governed and managed closes on 7 April, just over three weeks away. It is of utmost importance that the government receives feedback from all sections of our community, staff, board of trustees, parents and the wider community, before they make a decision on the recommendations. The staff and board of Good Shepherd School are considering their joint views on the report for submission, and I urge our parents and whānau to give feedback, either through the channels provided or by way of letters to Members of Parliament.

The report identifies a number of challenges facing our education system at the moment, for example, the fact that some groups within our student population are not achieving as well as others, some boards are unable to attract appropriate people from their communities, the general shortage of teachers, and the lack of support for students with learning needs. One of the major recommendations at the heart of the report is the establishment of 'hubs', which will take over many of the governance and management responsibilities of boards of trustees and principals. These include appointment and appraisal of principals, learning support provision, control of enrolment schemes, legal employment of teachers and monitoring of school performance. There is real concern that these hubs, which could be responsible for up to 120 schools, will create more problems than they will solve, undoing all the good work that is currently happening and removing decision-making from the school community to the hub. There is also the possibility of the hubs compromising the Catholic special character of our schools through management of donations, enrolment of students and appointment of staff. If the goal of the changes is to bring about equity across our schooling system, there is little evidence that this wide sweeping change will do this.

Te Atua ki a koe
God bless
Jane Hahn

St Joseph's Day

On Tuesday 19th March, Good Shepherd School will be attending Mass to celebrate St Joseph's Day. Joseph played a significant role in the life and time of Jesus within the Holy Family. We will then celebrate at school with a tabloid sports run by the House Captains on Wednesday 20th March. Thank you to our PTA who will provide a sausage sizzle for our children on Wednesday.

Welcome to the Good Shepherd Community Sunday 24 March at 9.30am

This year we are welcoming our new families to the Good Shepherd community at Sunday Mass. These families will receive a personal invitation to this Mass and we would love as many of our school families as possible to attend as well to show their support.



Good Shepherd Awards

This week we congratulate **Aidan Howard** from Room 6 and **Rosalie Fala** from Room 4 for winning the Good Shepherd Awards. Thank you Aidan and Rosalie for being such great role models for our values of care, respect and honesty.



Eden/Albert cricket zones - Tuesday 19 March (save day 22 March)

We will be entering one boys team in the B grade and one girls team. We require a parent to manage and umpire the girls team.

Eden/Albert touch zones - Tuesday 9 April (save day 11 April)

We will be entering one boys team and one girls team. We require two parents to manage and referee both teams.

With all of these events above we need parent help and support for them to go ahead. If you are able to help out in anyway this term please contact Heather McLeod on hmcLeod@goodshepherd.school.nz

You don't need to be an expert in a certain sport, help is always available. The amount of parent support does influence how many teams we are able to enter in the cricket and touch zones.

Parent Supervision of Children after 3pm

This is just a reminder that children are under the care of their parents or caregivers after 3pm, unless they have been booked into our Out of School Care programme. They are, of course, supervised on the Church steps until approximately 3.15pm, by which time parents will have picked them up. Last week there were a number of children running around the school unsupervised while waiting for a music lesson with our St Peter's Junior Music Programme. Please arrange for your children to be supervised until their lesson.

Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences 27th & 28th March 2019

Online appointment bookings for the Parent/Teacher/Student conferences will open tomorrow at 12 noon.

Website: www.schoolinterviews.co.nz.

Event Code: 3yxxb

Remember: school closes at 2.00 p.m. on Wednesday 27th March to allow the conferences to begin (normal 3.00 p.m. closing on Thursday 28th March).

Good Shepherd School Jackets

This year we are offering our parents and whānau the opportunity to purchase softshell jackets in the school colours for their children to wear in winter. These will be pre-ordered and pre-paid and we are working towards them being delivered by the beginning of term 2. Sample jackets in all sizes should be available for you to try on your child by the end of next week and an order will then be placed with the provider. Price of the jacket to be advised.

Strike4Climate

Awareness of the environment and our place in it is an important aspect of the New Zealand Curriculum and of Catholic Social Teaching. Please advise the school if your child will be absent from school to attend the Strike4Climate and we will follow up the learning from the event in the classroom on their return.

Gardening Club



We would like to put a call out there to anyone who has any gardening supplies that they don't need any more and would like to donate to the GSS Gardening Club. Could all donations please to go Miss Vergis in Room 7. Thank you.

Walking School Bus Award

The winner is – Olivia D'Rose from the Adventurer Muttonbirds for her positive, smiling and friendly attitude on the WSB.



Netsafe Tips for Parents:

Set a good example

- How often do you use your laptop or smartphone at the dinner table?
- How many angry posts have you published?
- Take a look at the way you use technology while young people are around.
- If you see something that troubles you – change it.
- How good is your knowledge around online safety, privacy settings and even online shopping?

Be better equipped to help by expanding your own knowledge – [read the Staying Safe Online Guide.](#)

From the PTA

AGM

The AGM happened on the 5th of March. The current executive committee will be continuing in their positions this year. Thank you to Kelly, Kirsty-Anne and Mairead for sticking with it!

Reminder – as a parent you are automatically a member of the PTA. If you want to contribute to the proceedings – just come along!

Sushi

Remember to get your orders in for sushi tomorrow. A reminder that if your child likes Teriyaki Chicken on Rice, we ask that you send a fork with your child to school as we are no longer getting plastic forks in the interests of environmental sustainability.

Fair

We determined the target for the fair fundraising this year at the PTA Meeting following the AGM. We are going to target Environment and Sustainability Initiatives which is one of the strategic goals of the Board. This will include the installation of things such as Hand Dryers in the bathrooms to reduce our landfill impact, and additional solar panels to reduce our electricity usage.

We are still on the hunt for a few key things:

- 1) A volunteer to run the raffle
- 2) Silent Auction, and raffle prizes – we are looking for major prizes in particular at this stage.
- 3) Volunteers in general – if you have an idea for a stall or just want to help please get in touch.

As always, feel free to get in contact any time, digitalbugsy@gmail.com

Or join us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/GSSPTA/>

Thanks!

Kirsty-Anne, Kelly, Mairead and Buggy

Shine Week-Light it Orange

Thank you to all the families who donated to New Zealand Light It Orange week! We managed to raise **\$369.50** for all those affected by domestic violence. Money raised will go towards families and children's education surrounding safe relationships within homes and schools.

Lei'ataua and Amirah (R9) have been blogging about it. 'On Friday we wore orange clothes because we were giving a gold coin donation for domestic violence. The first thing we did was 'Boogie Beats'. After that we went on the field and took a whole school photo. It was great fun'.



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.

Children's Art Classes



Two weeks ago children were learning about the Prehistoric art of Stone Age. We learnt about earth colours that had been used in this period, why the prehistoric people chose the composition of Hunting. By using mediums like charcoal and sanguine, children imagined themselves as artists of that period. On 20th of March, for a gold coin donation I would like to offer, for group of 10 children, a craft sewing class. We will learn basic knowledge of sewing and create a small project. The class will be held from 3.15 till 5 pm. Please contact Olesya Merrick on 021 145 3254.



Good Shepherd Parish

Over the last few years organised youth activity at Good Shepherd Balmoral has been somewhat sporadic.

A number of people have in recent months have expressed a desire to get a youth group off the ground. Last year Pope Francis held the Synod for Young People in Rome and there were a number of gatherings held prior to the synod to engage young people and reflect on their hopes for youth ministry within our diocese. As a response the Auckland Diocese is implementing a trial of a youth ministry programme called Life Teen. It has been very successful overseas. Life Teen was established in 1985 and now runs in 31 countries with over 100,000 teens participating.

Six parishes across the Auckland Diocese are going to trial setting up the programme and Good Shepherd has been approached to be a participating parish.

Life Teen ...

is a Eucharist-centered movement within the Roman Catholic Church.

Life Teen leads teenagers and their families into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church.

Life Teen is a parish based programme with the most amazing resources available to use.

Resources provided are interactive and relevant to the lives of teens. Life Teen offers a creative atmosphere of love and acceptance where teens are encouraged to ask questions about their faith and about why we believe what we believe. They are encouraged to put into practice what they learn. It includes engaging the sacramental life of the church at a meaningful level that allows them to grow stronger every week in their local faith community. Rather than just having one or two leaders, Life Teen offers a core team model that involves the whole parish and requires a variety of people to be involved in leading ministry - ideally at least one born in each decade (so no "I'm too old" excuses!).

Some people minister 'up front', some are working in pairs accompanying a small group of five or six teens and others are 'behind the scenes' setting things up, providing music ministry, providing prayer support or hospitality etc

Think about the teenagers you know or see or don't see around . Today's teens do not know a time without mobile phones or Netflix. They have the world in many ways at their fingertips. This provides them with both opportunities and challenges. Young people need people who can accompany them, especially in the teen years, to grow in a faith that is relevant to them.

To get this off the ground at Good Shepherd we need people with an enthusiasm and care for the well-being of our young people, along with a desire for leading teens closer to God. We are called to accompany our young people, bringing Christ to lives right where they are - be it on the sports field, at youth group or at home.

My hope is that Life Teen will be embraced by Good Shepherd Parish Balmoral.

Next Sunday March 17 after the 9.30am Mass at 11.00am I'm inviting you to attend an information session. Members of the Diocesan Youth Ministry Team will be present to present the Life Teen Programme and lead the discussion. Further formation for Core team members will be offered later at a national training convention at St Peter's College with three amazing speakers from the United States on the weekend of 12-14 April.

Please consider supporting this initiative as we 'grow' this wonderful and vibrant parish

Blessings, Bernard

Room 7 and 8's Swimming Lessons at Dean Greenwood

The year 3 and 4s have been attending swimming lessons every day in weeks 6 and 7.

We have been learning about how to swim on our backs, how to properly breathe, proper stroke techniques and how to dive into the pool!

We've also been enjoying our bus rides to and from Dean Greenwood!

We are going to be extra good swimmers by the end of these 2 weeks!

