

Good Shepherd School



...Care...Respect...Honesty...

Newsletter No 3, 27 February 2020

From the Principal

Ngā mihi ki a koe me to whānau

Together We Learn and Care
(Good Shepherd School Motto)

When talking to parents at every stage of their involvement with Good Shepherd, whether it be on a first meeting when they are considering our school for their child, when their youngest child is leaving for intermediate school, or anywhere in between, they often talk about the importance of our strong community to their children's, and their own, wellbeing. We believe that a strong sense of community contributes to high academic achievement for our children, and also supports them in becoming kind, compassionate and tolerant of others, following in the footsteps of Jesus, the Good Shepherd.

Parents and whānau are a key ingredient in creating a caring, inclusive learning environment that nurtures students and celebrates a growth mindset. In this newsletter you will read about many examples of how we can continue to build close supportive relationships where we all feel a sense of connectedness and belonging. These include:

- Joining our parish in the journey through Lent to Easter
- Participating in our 'Blessing Box' by both giving and taking
- Joining us to farewell Ms Vergis on Friday
- Coming along to the PTA AGM and meeting on Wednesday 4 March
- Joining a Walking School Bus
- 'Liking' our new Facebook page

These 'little things' are what make up a strong, vibrant community.

Te Atua ki a koe
God bless
Jane Hahn

Upcoming Dates

- Tuesday 3 March**-BOT Meeting
- Wednesday 4 March**-PTA AGM
- Thursday 5 March**-St Mary's College Open Day
- Friday 6 March**-Sports Assembly
- Friday 6 March**-Sheridan Swimming Display
- Saturday 7 March**- Ordination of Bishop-elect
- Tuesday 10 March**- Eden/Albert Cricket Zones
- Wednesday 11 March**- Teacher Only Day
- Tuesday 17 March**- St Patrick's Day
- Thursday 19 March**- St Joseph's Day
- Thursday 19 March**- First Reconciliation
- Friday 20 March**-Room 6 Assembly
- Saturday 21 March**- Parish/School Mass
- Wednesday 25 March**- Three Way Conferences
- Thursday 26 March**- Three Way Conferences
- Friday 27 March**- Earth Hour
- Monday 30 March**- Cultural Week this week
- Tuesday 31 March**-BOT Meeting
- Tuesday 31 March**-Marist College Open Day
- Wednesday 1 April**- Opera in Schools
- Friday 3 April**-Room 1/2 Assembly
- Sunday 5 April**- Holy Week begins
- Tuesday 7 April**- Eden/Albert Touch Zones
- Thursday 9 April**- Holy Thursday
- Thursday 9 April**- Term 1 Ends

Please note that some of these dates may change.

Special Character Good Shepherd Awards



Alfred Kautoke - *You are noticing and acting when you see others in need*

Maia Doran - *You show initiative in being helpful and responsible every day*

Good Shepherd Parish Mass times

We encourage all families to attend Mass together, particularly those children who have made their Sacraments. Saturday Mass is at 9.00am followed by Reconciliation at 9.30am, and Vigil Mass at 6.00pm in the evening. Sunday Mass is at 9.30am and Phillipino Mass at 11.00am.

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.*



In and Around School

Welcome

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

Jonty McGivern

Thank you!

Thank you for your support in raising money to help those affected by the bushfires in Australia. Our mufti day raised approximately \$350 which we will send on to the 'Sending our Aroha to Australian Schools' initiative run by the Auckland Primary Principals' Association.

Another Thank you!

***Take what you need, bring what you can;
above all, be blessed***

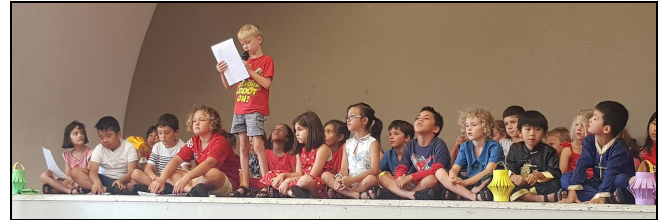
A small group of our Holy Fathers got together last Saturday to build our very own Good Shepherd 'Blessing Box'. You may have seen these around Auckland - they are a way of sharing food items that are surplus to our needs, e.g. extra produce from your garden, making the most of nature's gifts while supporting others and building community. The building of our very own 'Blessing Box' is a collaborative project involving the school and parish as part of our environmental sustainability plan. The Good Shepherd PTA was instrumental in accessing funding for the project.



Not shown in this picture is Mark Kastelan who used his professional builder skills to make sure we had a very impressive product. Members of the school Enviro team have since painted and decorated the box. The Blessing Box was blessed by Monsignor Bernard at the 9am Ash Wednesday Mass and will be situated outside the Church, ready for use. Thank you to everyone involved in the project so far and let's all make sure it gets plenty of use!

Room 3 & 4 Assembly

On Friday 21 February Room 3 & 4 hosted the school assembly. Our theme was Chinese New Year. We had researched facts about Chinese New Year and what people did to celebrate. Some children made lanterns to share. Ms Li taught us a song to sing in Mandarin about wishing people happy new year. Our Chinese children shared some interesting facts about their culture and dressed up for the occasion. We also had two amazing dance performances from Cicely and Maisie. [Check out our youtube clip here](#) as well as our photos below.



Farewell and Thank You, Ms Vergis

This week we farewell Kezia Vergis, who is moving to Australia with her husband. Kezia began her teaching career at Good Shepherd almost seven years ago and has been an important member of our team since. We thank Kezia for her commitment to the children of Good Shepherd, and for the contribution she has made to the school as a whole, particularly in the area of environmental sustainability. She will be missed. There will be a farewell gathering for Miss Vergis at 9am on Friday.

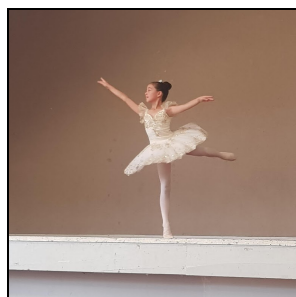
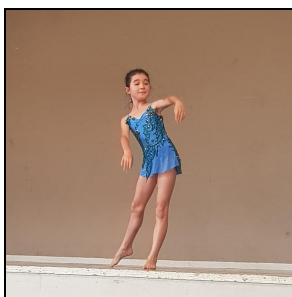
Learning Well

Assessment at Good Shepherd

Teachers are hard at work checking where students are currently at in their learning. We use a range of assessments to find out how to move individuals forward.



This process is known as formative assessment and is ongoing.



Year 3-6 students undertake some assessments online and generally find the experience enjoyable. Most take 'static' tests according to their age group. However, some students benefit from 'adaptive' maths assessment (NZCER). These evolve throughout, making questions easier or harder according to the previous answer. Students can achieve their potential regardless of what level of test they are given. These work well for students who are particularly able (it can be hard to find their 'ceiling' otherwise) and those who are challenged by maths (their confidence will not be dented by a test which is too difficult). Static and adaptive online assessments provide different but valuable formative information about learning.

Sport

Upcoming Events

Week 7 - Tuesday 10 March - Eden/Albert Cricket Zones (save day Thursday 12 March)

Week 11 - Tuesday 7 April - Eden/Albert Touch Zones

If you are able to help out at any of these events please email Heather McLeod:

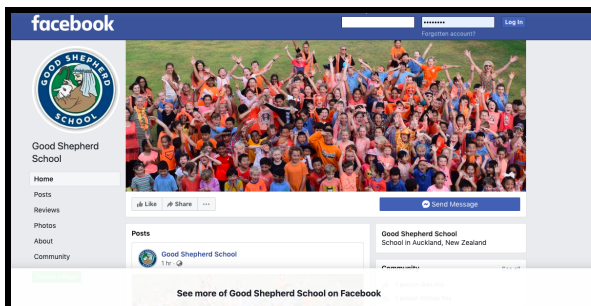
hmcleod@goodshepherd.school.nz

Certificates from the GSS Y3-6 Swimming Carnival will be presented at our sports assembly on Friday 6 March.

Information for Whānau

New Facebook Page

Our brand new Facebook page is ready to go. We intend to share photos and stories of school adventures, examples of learning, and handy reminders. This is a new venture for us so email Megan Dyer (mdyer@goodshepherd.school.nz) if you have suggestions or questions. In the meantime, please follow the link with the image and like our page...



Board of Trustees Meeting

The next BOT meeting will be held on Tuesday 3 March at 7.00pm in the meeting room. Agenda will be displayed on the noticeboard from Friday 28 February. All welcome.

Teacher Only Day Wednesday 11 March

The school will be closed for students on this day to allow teachers to attend a conference as part of the Auckland Central Catholic Kāhui Ako/Community of Learning.

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

We continue to monitor the situation surrounding the Novel coronavirus (COVID-19) very carefully and follow the communications coming from the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health. We would like to reinforce the following messages:

The coronavirus is not yet present in New Zealand. We are reinforcing the hygiene practices in our community and continuing to ensure cleaning and care of our learning environment. You can ring Healthline (for free) on the new dedicated 0800 number specifically for health-related calls about coronavirus 0800 358 5453 at any time. In line with our Good Shepherd School values of care, respect and honesty, we send our aroha and support to the Chinese community in particular who have been adversely affected by this virus.

Please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Hahn if you would like to discuss anything to do with Novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

Marcellin College Open Evening 27 February

Thursday 27 February at 4.00pm - 7.00pm - see attached flyer.

[Link](#)

St Mary's College Open Day 5 March

Thursday 5 March at 2.30pm & 6.30pm - see attached flyer.

[Link](#)

Baradene College Open Evening 5 March

Will be held on Thursday 5 March, 2020 at 6.30pm. We welcome all prospective parents and students to visit the College. Entry at Gate 2 to the Auditorium. Enrolments for Year 7, 2021 are presently being accepted and will close on Friday 13 March 2020 at 3.00pm. A limited number of places in Year 9 will

be available and applications will close on Friday 13 March 2020 at 3.00 pm.

St Paul's College Open Day 5 March

St Paul's College, 183 Richmond Road, Ponsonby
Thursday 5 March 2020. Sessions - 9.30am & 1.45pm

Assembly in the College Chapel, followed by tour.
Enrolments for Years 7, 8 and 9.

[Link](#)

Marist College Open Day 31 March

Tuesday 31 March 2020, 3.00pm - 6.00pm
31 Alberton Avenue, Mt Albert - See attached flyer.

[Link](#)

Your Walking School Bus Needs You!

Some of our students already know the Walking School Bus is a safe, social and healthy way to get to school every day but we need more walkers!

Now is the perfect time for you and your children to trial a WSB, either one of our existing WSB routes running from Haverstock Road and from Landscape Road, or if these routes are not right for you, you could look at starting a new route. Running a WSB is a great way to make better friends with your school community who live close to you, and share the job of getting our precious children to school in one piece and ready for a day of learning.

Ask your child about the fun to be had during walking school bus month next month - they heard all about it on Monday morning (see photo below).



Enrolments at Good Shepherd School

Thank you to all those families who have filled out enrolment forms for siblings of current students. We also appreciate the support of our school families in recommending Good Shepherd School to their friends and whānau.

BYO Tissue Box

The winter season will soon be upon us and we are preparing early. We request that you please send a box of tissues with your child/children to use in the classroom.

Candy Ban

Please don't send children with 'sweet treats' to share on their birthdays or other times. While sharing is nice, all those birthdays add up to a lot of sugar which is not ideal for our teeth and our health.



School Accounts

School account statements have been emailed out. Please commence payments as soon as possible. Payments can be spread out over the year but must be paid by 1 December 2020. If you are paying in term instalments, the first instalment is due by week 6. If you have any questions regarding your account, please contact Rita in the school office or email accounts@goodshepherd.school.nz.

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

A reminder that every family has a responsibility to do their very best to pay their school fees. Thank you to those families who have paid their account in full or who are making regular payments.

School Attendance Dues Financial Assistance

Financial assistance is available to assist families who may need financial support with the payment of attendance dues for preference students attending Catholic schools in Auckland Diocese, both primary and secondary.

Families facing financial difficulties can contact their school office, their Parish Priest or the Revenue Manager at the Catholic Diocese of Auckland for further information.

Application forms for the Hardship Scheme are available from school and parish offices, or can be down-loaded from the Catholic Diocese of Auckland Website:

www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/catholic-schools/ (go

to Catholic Schools in Auckland / Attendance Dues and Special Character Contributions).

GSS PTA Meeting and AGM

The PTA AGM is coming up on the 4th of March. Not all current Office Holders will stay in their roles this year. If you wish to nominate yourself for a position please come along to the meeting where there will be a vote for any position with more than one nomination.

Otherwise just come along if you're interested in what's happening and enjoy some refreshments and nibbles.

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

Sheridan Swimming Display Friday 6 March

Rooms 3 and 4 - 11:30am TO 12:15pm

Rooms 1 and 2 - 12:15pm to 1pm

Come along to see the activities your child participates in, during class swimming sessions
We look forward to seeing you.

Junior Committee at Eden Rugby Club

Registration for junior rugby at Eden Rugby Club is coming up. The club has a fantastic, well organised junior programme with a great community feel. Rugby is a great way for kids to learn new skills and the importance of team work. Contact Daniel on 021 333 844 or djerickson75@gmail.com with any questions.



The poster features a central shield-shaped logo with the text "PLAY JUNIOR RUGBY AT EDEN RUGBY CLUB" in yellow and white. Below the logo is a photograph of several young rugby players in yellow and black striped jerseys running on a field. The background shows a building and trees under a bright sky. The bottom section of the poster is yellow and contains registration information.

GIRLS GRADES
U9/U11/U13 Ripa - U13 Tackle
REGISTER ONLINE www.eden.rugby

REGO & WEIGH IN DAYS
Sat 7th & Sat 14th March 1-4pm
Eden Rugby Clubrooms - Gribblehirst Park

EDEN RUGBY JUNIORS
Auckland, New Zealand
www.eden.rugby

