

Good Shepherd School



Update Notice 19 March 2020

Upcoming Dates

Thursday 19 March- First Reconciliation
Friday 20 March-Room 6 Assembly - **postponed**
Saturday 21 March- Parish/School Mass - **postponed**
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 - **postponed**
Friday 3 April-Room 1/2 Assembly - **postponed**
Sunday 5 April- Holy Week begins
Tuesday 7 April - Eden/Albert Touch Zones - **postponed**
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



Eva Carlin-Shadbolt - You show the Good Shepherd Way. You are kind and respectful to your classmates.

Angelique Custodio-Wilson - You look after others and you are helpful toward others in the classroom and on the playground.

Parish/School Mass for Term 1

Saturday 21 March 6.00 p.m. - Postponed

In light of the current pandemic emergency and in consultation with Monsignor Bernard we have made the decision to postpone this first Parish/School Mass for the year. At this stage mass will still take place as always on Saturday evening (see Mass times in the notice below), but we are not asking our school community to be there. As always, you are welcome to attend. The Diocese of Auckland recently announced the following changes in Mass proceedings:

- There will be no Holy Water available for the Sign of the Cross on entering Church
- There will be no shaking of hands at the Sign of Peace
- Communion will be bread only and delivered to hands only.

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.

St Patrick's Day Prayer and Celebration

Thank you to Mrs Stevenson, our Special Character leaders, Room 5 and of course our Irish dancers, Emma Forbes and Rosa Lewthwaite.



It may be a little while before we gather as a whole school community again (offline at least) so we were lucky to squeeze in this happy celebration. Check out the youtube link below.

[St Patrick's Day Video](#)

St Joseph's Day

Thanks also to all those who helped to organise our successful celebration of St Joseph's Day this morning.



In and Around School

Welcome

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

Promise Thomsen

Gabriela Custodio-Wilson

Benicio San Martin

Cecelia Niuula

Sport

Upcoming Events

Week 11 - Tuesday 7 April - Eden/Albert Touch Zones
(This event has been postponed until later in the year)

Information for Whānau

COVID-19 Update

At this stage, we are not expecting widespread school closures in New Zealand. Any decisions about school closures will be made on a case by case basis by the Ministries of Education and Health.

In the meantime, unless students are unwell themselves, then parents should keep sending them to schools and early learning centres as these environments continue to be safe and the best place for them to continue their learning.

It is also important to continue to focus on encouraging good hygiene practices as a preventative to the spread of illness. These include:

- Washing hands with soap and water before and after eating as well as after using the toilet - please see this useful link to [Nanogirl](#) using science to show children why handwashing is so important.
- Covering coughs and sneezes with clean tissues or with an elbow (see below for our standard request for each child to bring a box of tissues to school).
- Putting used tissues in the bin.
- Encouraging staff and students to stay home if they are unwell.

Talking to Children and Young People About COVID-19

Given the rise in the number of reported cases, there may be children or young people in your life who experience distress. As a trusted adult, you can help reassure and educate them about COVID-19 – it can be good to talk to them now, so they can understand the illness and be reassured.

A useful resource for parents, caregivers, whānau and teachers talking about the virus with children and young people can be found here

[Link](#)

Tissues Please

At this time of year we routinely ask each student to bring a box of tissues to be stored in their classroom. Could you please ensure this happens over the next week or so, as we don't want to run out. Thank you.



Planning for Closure and Communications

Although we have no immediate plans for school closure (and we know children function best when their routines are secure) things are changing rapidly and we intend to be prepared if we are required to close at short notice. With this in mind we have prepared a short survey to gain up-to-date information about our students' access to devices and internet, and how our whānau may be able to help each other, for example gathering books for children to take home at short notice, or helping each other with IT issues. ***It is very important that you fill out an individual survey for each of your children as soon as possible using this:***

[Planning for Closure Survey Link](#)



The survey link is also available to you via our [Facebook Page](#) and our School App. If you haven't downloaded our School App yet we recommend it, as it is the quickest way to receive important information directly to your phone, including in times of emergency. Search for our Good Shepherd School App or use the QR code shown, with your phone camera. (Thank you to the large number of parents who have taken the time to complete the survey via the FB link - your feedback is already proving very useful).

Walking School Bus Month SuperHero Day Tomorrow

You are invited to walk to school (or part way to school) dressed as your won special SuperHero tomorrow morning. However, don't forget to bring your school uniform to change into.

Calling For Room Reps

Every year one representative from each class volunteers to liaise with the PTA to keep families informed and up to date. The key tasks are collecting contact details and organising the cake raffle and ticket sales when your class is on assembly. The time commitment is minimal and you are not required to attend meetings. If this sounds like you please contact Mairead Woods at nzgoodshepherdpta@gmail.com or 0293551020.

Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences 25 & 26 March

Online appointment bookings for the Parent/Teacher/ Student conferences will close on Monday 23rd March at 12.00pm.

Website: www.schoolinterviews.co.nz.

Event Code: **bnmkg**

Remember: school closes at 2.00 p.m. on Wednesday 25th March to allow the conferences to begin (normal 3.00 p.m. closing on Thursday 26th March).

St Peter's Music Lessons Cancelled for Thursday 26 March

Due to our Teacher/Parent/Student conferences, St Peter's Music lessons are cancelled on this day.

St Peter's College Enrolment

The closing date for applications for 2021 entry into St Peter's College is Friday April 3, 2020 at 4pm

[Link](#)

Marist College Open Day 31 March

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

[Link](#)

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.

Parent Supervision of Children before 8.30am

This is just a reminder that children are under the care of their parents or caregivers until 8.30am unless they have been booked into our Out of School Care programme (available in the mornings between 7.30am and 8.30am). We have noticed an increase in the number of children who are being dropped off earlier than 8.30am. Thank you for your cooperation in this.

School Disco

In light of COVID-19, the School Disco scheduled for the 3rd of April has sadly been postponed.

Good Shepherd Cultural Week 30 March - 3 April

We are blessed with the diversity of ethnicities that make up our school and parish community and this week is an opportunity to celebrate this diversity. However, we need YOU! Please see your classroom teacher if you are available and willing to share your culture with the children - this could be in the form of recipes, song/dance, dress or other traditions/customs.

Please Visit the School Office First.

A reminder to parents and caregivers, when dropping forgotten items into children during school hours, to visit the office **before** entering the school grounds.

Sushi and Pie Days

Sushi lunch is available for you to order for your child's lunch on most Fridays. When we are not having sushi lunch, we usually have a Pie Day with pies supplied by Jester's Pies. Ordering is done online only by setting up an account on Kindo. To set up an account, please go to the Kindo website <https://shop.tgcl.co.nz/shop/index.html>

In order to provide this service, we need parent volunteers. Helping with sushi and pies is pretty straightforward but we can always buddy you up with an experienced volunteer for your first time if you like. Please let me know if you can help with any of the following dates:

Friday 13 March - Sushi

Friday 20 March - Sushi

Friday 27 March Sushi

Friday 3 April - Sushi

Thursday 9 April - Pies

Please email Emma Chan: chanemmanz@gmail.com or speak to me in person.