

Good Shepherd School



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

Newsletter No 13, 26 August 2021

From the Principal

Ngā mihi ki a koe me to whānau

What a lot we have learnt over the last 18 months! Teachers and support staff responded very quickly to the sudden announcement of a return to Alert Level 4 last week, and hopefully their hard work is providing you with the support you need as we settle into home learning routines.

Our priority remains the wellbeing of our children and school whānau, so please do what you can in terms of completing online work. It is impossible to meet the needs of every individual child through distance learning, so don't try to complete all allocated work if your child is struggling to do so. It is helpful, however, to set some accountability in place around meeting achievable learning goals during the school day. This may be through focusing on one particular learning area, such as mathematics, at a time. If you feel your child needs extra work, try some of these [family ideas for home learning](#).

I know you will be enjoying the opportunity to spend some time together, despite the challenges of working and learning from home.

Ngā manaakitanga
Jane Hahn

Upcoming Dates

| | |
|---------------|---|
| 31 August | Eden/Albert Netball Zones (Postponed) |
| 2 Sept | Eden/Albert Netball Zones (save day) |
| 2 Sept | Choir rehearsal at Pt Chevalier School |
| 3 Sept | GSS Speech Finals |
| 6-10 Sept | Tongan Language Week |
| 9 Sept | Eden/Albert Speech Finals |
| 10 Sept | Cans for Christmas |
| 10 Sept | Grandparents' Day |
| 13-17 Sept | Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori/Māori Language Week |
| 16 Sept | Gymnastics Champion of Champions (Postponed) |
| 20-24 Sept | Book Week |
| 21 Sept | Catholic Schools Cross Country |
| 23 Sept | Save Day-Catholic Schools Cross Country |
| 26 Sept | Daylight Saving starts |
| 27 Sept-1 Oct | Life Education Caravan in school |
| 29 Sept | Catholic Schools Day |
| 1 October | EPro-8 Interschool Challenge |
| 1 October | Term 3 Ends |
| 18 October | Term 4 Begins |

Many of these events will need to be postponed or cancelled according to changes in Alert Levels

Special Character

Auckland Catholic Programme

Attached (for your information) is a programme of pastoral care/prayer/social initiatives in our Auckland Diocese for the week ahead.

Although we cannot gather physically to celebrate the Eucharist on Sundays at the moment, the Mass can be viewed on Shine TV at 2pm. Channel 25 or Sky 201. It can also be viewed on line through the link on the Catholic Diocese of Auckland website www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz

The latest issue of the diocesan newspaper NZ Catholic is available electronically at <https://indd.adobe.com/view/ac3b7938-55ec-43ec-a0b9-3c02cb565718>

The Blessing Aotearoa

You may remember from last year this beautiful virtual choir made up of voices from churches from throughout Aotearoa/New Zealand, including our very own Good Shepherd parish. It is well worth a re-visit.

<https://youtu.be/eZQPifs2kjo>

In and Around School

Lockdown Learning

So much learning is taking place in homes at the moment and it is wonderful to see the children sharing with us their learning, hobbies and play. We are quite amazed at the skills that children display and are currently setting up a forum to share these with all of you.

Room 5 has been showing us some diverse talents, from table tennis, to drawing, to playing the guzheng! But for today let's admire the drawing skill that Mr Wong brings to Room 5 in his first, rather unusual, but very successful, week with them...

[Mr Wongs hobby.mp4](#)

Happy birthday

Happy birthday to three people who will be celebrating their special day over the next week:

Saron in Room 3/4 on Thursday 26 August
Gemma in Room 3/4 on Saturday 28 August
James in Room 9 on Monday 30 August

Sport

Term Events:

Netball Zones - Tuesday 31 August - week 6
Save Day - Thursday 2 September - **Postponed**

Gymnastics Champion of Champions - Thursday 16 September - week 8

Catholic Schools Cross Country - Tuesday 21 September - week 9

Save Day - Thursday 23 September

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

hmcleod@goodshepherd.school.nz

Information for Whānau

ENGAGE AND HAVE YOUR SAY



This year the Good Shepherd School Board of Trustees is undertaking a comprehensive survey of the school community. The board will use the information from this consultation to inform the development of the school Charter and Strategic Plan 2022 to 2025.

We are hoping that all members of our school community, parents and whānau, students and staff, will play a part in this process of planning together for the future. Please take the time to complete this [survey](#) before the end of August to help us set the direction of the school over the next few years.

Online Safety and Etiquette

During this time of heavy use of virtual connections and learning, Netsafe NZ has some very important and useful information about online safety. This includes research on digital parenting strategies, and advice on a wide range of topics such as COVID-19 scam spotting, a TikTok family toolkit, and an online safety parent toolkit. Visit netsafe.org.nz for more information.

At Good Shepherd we understand that social connection is extra important to our tamariki at this time, however we must balance this with student wellbeing. It is unfortunately impossible for teachers to monitor online socialising, and we have previously found that things can veer off course very quickly without adult supervision (often at the expense of one or two children). Therefore we have decided that children are not allowed to set up their own meetings or chat rooms under the Good Shepherd account unless required for school-related teamwork, etc. for which they will be given special access. They may, of course, set up chats and meetings under personal accounts,

however we strongly suggest that this takes place in the vicinity of an adult.

A note about online etiquette. The tamariki are mostly doing well in online learning but there is room for improvement. We view google meets as similar to the physical classroom setting, where they are not encouraged to leave the room randomly or hide their faces. Attendance at google meets is not a choice, it is a requirement. Please remind them that during online interactions they

- find a comfortable place where they can sit upright and reasonably still for the duration of their google meetings
- join google meetings on or just before the scheduled time and stay on for the duration. Please don't 'duck in and out' of meetings randomly
- keep the camera on if at all possible. It is difficult for teachers to keep tabs on students when they cannot see them.
- choose a background that is not too distracting (if they want to choose one). That is, without too much movement and colour
- show particular respect during prayer times
- always Interact with teachers and peers in a positive and learning-focused manner, whether in the chat, classroom stream, during meetings, through Padlet, etc. Don't be tempted to post pointless or unkind comments
- use our Good Shepherd Google Workspace for learning. That's what it's there for!
- keep our core values close at all times; they guide our behaviour online just as they do when we are at school.

Vacancy – Chief Financial Officer for the Catholic Diocese of Auckland

Fantastic leadership role available. Become a trusted advisor and lead the strategic and operational financial functions of one of NZs oldest and largest religious organisations. If you are looking for a rewarding career opportunity, please go to our website www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz

COVID-19 Vaccination

We have seen the COVID-19 vaccination rollout gathering pace during the lockdown, with children aged 12-15 years now eligible to book vaccines with their parents, along with the 30+ age group. The New Zealand Catholic Bishops are urging you to get vaccinated to protect yourself, your whānau and your community.

In getting the vaccine, you will be protecting those who cannot receive the vaccination, such as those with underlying health conditions and young children.

The Pfizer vaccine is safe and effective, and it has been given to hundreds of millions of people worldwide.

More information is available at <http://www.get-vaccinated-catholic.co.nz/>

**Love your neighbour as yourself
– get vaccinated**