

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 21, 14 December 2017

From the principal....

The end-of-year Mass on Tuesday evening was a very fitting way for our whole community to thank God for all the blessings of 2017, and to farewell our graduates moving on to intermediate school. My speech focused on two points of celebration for our community this year – high student achievement levels and our strong Catholic special character – and on giving thanks to the people who have made these successes possible.

Data analysis indicates that our children do better in reading, writing and mathematics than the national picture and this is the result of a lot of hard work from all members of the learning partnership – the students, their parents and their teachers. Our children are increasingly taking responsibility for, and showing resilience in, their learning and they are well supported by their parents. Parents and the wider community also generously support all children in the school through involvement in the board of trustees and the PTA. Our teachers, and the support staff who enable their work, deserve our thanks for their dedication to ensuring every child at Good Shepherd reaches his or her potential.

Our children experience their learning in an environment that is deeply rooted in Catholic values and Gospel truths that will lead them to both personal and professional success in the future. The school is the arm of the parish, and we rely on the parish team to support our children in developing a deep relationship with Jesus Christ. We have been very blessed with having Fr Bernard and Br Martin in our midst this year and look forward to this closeness between parish and school going from strength to strength in the future.

Thank you all. I hope you have a well-deserved break over the summer. God bless you and keep you safe during the holidays.

Ngā mihi o te Kirihimete ki a koe.

Jane Hahn

*Come, Lord Jesus. Come and visit your people.
We await your coming. Come, O Lord.*

Parking tomorrow

Tomorrow the council will be removing and replacing concrete around a tree outside the Gift Centre. This will restrict access and parking in Telford Avenue so we suggest you use Carmen Avenue or Volcanic Street when dropping off or picking up.



Good Shepherd Christmas Concert

Good Shepherd children and teachers would like to invite all families to a Christmas concert. This will be an interactive event where you can come and sing some carols with the school. All classes will be performing a class Christmas item. Parents will be provided with a carol sheet to join in the singing while classes are in transition from one performance to another.

If your child's room number is odd we ask that they bring a non-perishable item of food for their class Christmas box. If your child's room number is even we ask that they bring a wrapped unisex gift for their class Christmas box. The boxes are being decorated by the classes and will line the stage on the night. All donations will be given to the St Vincent de Paul Society to brighten the lives of those less fortunate than us.

Bring your own food and drinks and sausages will be available at the PTA sausage sizzle. Once the concert is finished all children will be under their parents' supervision. The event will finish at 8.00pm.

Event: Good Shepherd School Christmas Concert

Date: Tonight, Thursday 14 December

Time: 5.45 p.m. children to report to teacher; performances begin 6.30 p.m.

Place: School field and turf.

So come on and book in the event, bring your picnic rugs and join with us to celebrate this special time of year with the children of Good Shepherd.

From the PTA

Wow – hasn't the year flown?

We wish to thank you all for your wonderful support and help this year. It's been amazing!

Thank you!

To Graeme Twose, who has organised the sausage sizzle at tonight's Christmas Carols – we are so happy to be providing free sausages and bread to everyone to say thank you to you all.

Keep in touch with any news via our Facebook page – Good Shepherd School PTA.

Wishing you all the very happiest of holidays – Merry Christmas Good Shepherd School community!

Carla, Leonie, Helen and Sarah

Good Shepherd Awards

This week we congratulate **Eva Doran from** Room 6 and **Sanjay Beeramathy** from Room 8 for winning the Good Shepherd Awards. Thank you Eva and Sanjay for being such great role models for our values of care, respect and honesty.



Last day of term 2017

School finishes tomorrow

Friday 15th December at 2pm

First day of term 1 2018

Tuesday 30th January 2018

Please keep in your prayers....

We ask for God's blessing on all those members of our community who are suffering illness or loss in their families at this time.

Weetbix Tryathlon

Congratulations to all those children who participated in the Weetbix Tryathlon. A record 35 athletes from Good Shepherd took part in the swim, bike, run event on a beautiful day. Thank you to Eddie Sella for co-ordinating this wonderful event for our children.

Lost Property

Please check the lost property. All unclaimed items will be disposed tomorrow.

OSCA for 2018

We are currently preparing OSCA for Term 1 2018. Families who currently have permanent bookings are required to complete a form with their requirements for Term 1 2018. The completed forms need to be returned to the school office as soon as possible.

School Pool

The pool will be closed on Sunday 17th December from 3pm for a private function.

2018 Classes

As you can imagine, placement of children in classes is a complex process that brings together a number of considerations before any decision is made. These include ensuring siblings and where possible cousins are in different classes, working for a balance of girls and boys, looking at friendship groups and deciding which particular teacher may suit your child at any given year level. Where possible, we give children the opportunity to experience being at the younger end of the age range as well as the older end of the age range through their time at Good Shepherd. Throughout this process you can be assured that we have the best interests of every child in our school at the forefront of our minds and we are determined that every child will have the best year possible, whatever their year level. We appreciate your trust in us and we are very confident that through working closely together throughout the year we will achieve this goal.

On the last day of school your children will have the opportunity to visit their classrooms for 2018 and to spend some time with their teacher next year. Organization of classrooms for the beginning of 2018 will be as follows:

Room	Teacher	Year Groups
1	Sandra Cultrera	Years 0/1
2		
3	Heather McLeod	Years 1/2
4	Peyton Evans	Years 1/2
7	Kezia Vergis	Years 3/4
8	Jade O'Neill	Years 3/4
9	Fengmei Li	Years 4/5
5	Louise Drummond	Years 5/6
6	Melissa Down	Years 5/6

You will notice that we are not starting two Years 0/1 classes at the beginning of the year but will begin with one class and start the second one later in the year. Please note that some children will stay in the same class with the same teacher. This is not a disadvantage for your child as they will be working with someone who knows them well, nor is it an indication that they have not done well in 2017. As always, our goal is that every child has a great year of learning in 2018. A letter will come home to you on Friday 15 December advising you of your child's placement next year, and will also give you some information on stationery requirements for 2018.

Ride to school in a Ferrari!

Congratulations to Sanjay Beeramathy, whose family placed the winning silent auction bid on the 'Ride to School in a Ferrari' prize at the fair. Sanjay will be arriving at Good Shepherd School on Friday morning in his Ferrari so come and have a look! We haven't got a picture of Sanjay in his Ferrari but here is Mrs Hodge checking it out when it made a pre-visit run this week.



Successful ex-students

We love to see and hear about ex-Good Shepherd students at this time of year. We would like to congratulate Curtis Tibbles and Erylle San Gabriel who won excellent academic awards at their recent Marcellin and Marist prize giving ceremonies. Please let us know about any of your child's or children's achievements or celebrations.

Congratulations to Rohan Sharma

for passing his ABRSM Grade 1 guitar examination.



Eight year 6 boys have been playing summer football in the Western Springs Junior 11th Grade Competition, they have 1 game left to play on Monday 18 Dec and are currently in 2nd place. Well done boys.



Ben Howard, Alex van Straaten, Aston Growden, Lachie McHardy, Anton Van Aken, Luke McKinnel, Joshua Wadams, Elliott Humphrey.

Room 9's Henna Hands!

For Diwali, Room 9 looked at the art of henna designs on skin, and created our own beautiful pieces of art to show the designs we created.



Walking School Bus Award

Congratulations to Annika Delacey, Rocket Snails. Rounding off a great year of walking!



Congratulations to Phoebe and the Carlson family on the arrival of their new baby Sam Carlson.



Christmas Mass Times

24th December 2017

Christmas Eve - **5pm** Family Vigil Mass
with Nativity presentation and picnic after mass,

Christmas Eve - **Midnight** Mass
with Carol Service from **11pm**.

25th December 2017

Christmas Day - **9:30am** Mass.

Good Shepherd Catholic Parish, Balmoral.

GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH

youth CHRISTMAS PARTY!!!



SAUSAGE SIZZLE

MINI GOLF



ZORB

JUNIOR

PAINTBALL

DANCE PARTY

VR GAMING



FRIDAY

15TH DEC 17

6 - 9 PM

CHURCH HALL

GOLD COIN DONATION

AGE 9 +

MUST RSVP BY **13TH DECEMBER 17**
youth@balmoralcatholic.org

