Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Wednesday 18 February 2015

It is nice to be starting to get into the swing of things now for the year as our learning programmes are up and running. Our main focus for this term is looking at how Early Maori people organised their lives in this local area. The visit to Aroa te marae today is a fantastic way to get this rolling along.

Children are also piecing together learning goals for Term 1 and we hope that all parents will take the opportunity to join us for our goal setting interviews coming up shortly.

Another big focus this term especially with our senior children is upon empowering them with strategies to use in situations where they may feel annoyed about something or with someone. We have spent quite a lot of time modelling ways to talk to someone about an issue and how to address it. Children know that if this approach has been tried and did not improve the matter that the next step is to speak to a staff member. We are very happy with the way our children treat one another in school but are aware that over the course of a week there may be times when minor disagreements can occur and developing the skills to resolve these is a positive learning experience as children get older.

Last year we notified parents of the need for our children to walk around the cauldron after school and not across the road. If you are happy to come across the road and collect them from the driveway that is fine. We do have a Year 6 child at the driveway directly after school reminding children to walk around the cauldron as there are times when a staff member is not able to be there directly. We thank parents for the responsibility they took with this last year and are confident we can continue with the same system in 2015.

Tagalog (Philippines farewell)

Richard Duffy

We aspire to become confident, creative, life long learners who follow Christ
Dates for your Diaries

Assembly
Highlanders Sausage Sizzle
Road Safety
Cricket
Netball Triathlon
Yr3/4 Athletics morning
Road Safety
Goal Interviews
Assembly

Friday 20 February 2:30 pm in Room 1
Saturday 21 February
Tuesday 21 February
Thursday 26 February
Sunday 1 March
Monday 2 March
Tuesday 3 March
Wednesday 4 March
Friday 6 March 2:30 pm in Room 1

Term Dates for 2015
Term 1: Thursday January 29 - Thursday April 2
Term 2: Monday April 20 - Friday July 3
Term 3: Monday July 20 - Friday September 25
Term 4: Monday October 12 - Monday December 14

Altar Servers
21 Feb Kata Moata'tane and Sam Al-Balushi
28 Feb Emila Makasini and Summer Paulin
7 Mar Soni and Semisi Taungapeau
14 Mar David and Atu Makasini
21 Mar Jean Luc and Angelique Peyroux
28 Mar Kata Moata’tane and Sam Al-Balushi

Sports News …
St Mary’s T Ball Tigers

Well you wouldn’t know our team hadn’t played for so long, they were fantastic with their batting and fielding. All our young players have a lot more confidence with their batting, it’s great to see.

Sophie Deemess was our player of the day for great fielding and batting. Well done Sophie

Dylan and Dakoda were both playing for the opposition as that team was short of players and they played a great game so we won’t lend them out too often @ well done guys.

Gabriel Kubala came along to play for the first time. He can certainly hit that ball off the tee, well done Gabriel, hopefully you will like T Ball enough to play every Saturday.

Smiles from Coach Painz

Draw for Saturday 21 Feb: Liberton Mighty Oaks Diamond 6 10 am

Touch
Draw for Thursday 19 Feb: St Mary’s Maroon vs St Francis Xavier Field 14:15 pm

Cricket World Cup
As we mentioned last week, we are lucky enough to be taking a group of children to a Cricket World Cup game at the University Oval on Thursday 26th February to watch Afghanistan v Scotland.

An extra notice is coming home today with more information.
Thank you to our families who joined us for Mass on Saturday night as we celebrated the beginning of the school year as a school and parish. We appreciate your support and value your presence.

**LENT—ASH WEDNESDAY**

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 at Easter.

Ashes are a sign that a fire has gone out. Sometimes we let the fire of goodness in ourselves go out. Lent is a time to turn back towards God and change for the better so that the fire of goodness stays alive in us.

*During Lent, we need to…*
- Try to practise goodness. Do good things for other people.
- Spend more time talking to God through prayer each day.
- Try to do without something we enjoy.

This morning we celebrated Ash Wednesday with a liturgy and introduced the “Wednesday Word” which will become home with the newsletter each week.

**Sacrament of Baptism**

One child in our school family will be preparing to be baptised this year. If there are any other children who also wish to be baptised, or would like to know more about this, please contact the school office or Rachael.

**Electives 2015**

Next Wednesday March 25 we begin our electives programme involving Year 3-6 children. Some are going off site for skating lessons over the next 5 weeks at the Ice Stadium and others are working on a school building project on our grounds with a master builder.

We have 10 children involved in skating and would be most grateful for support in transporting them to and from the venue. We will be leaving school each week at 12:45pm and finishing at the stadium at around 2:30pm. Children’s elective option has been stapled to their newsletter on a piece of coloured paper this week.

If you are able to help with this could you please let Jacque or Richard know.

**Goal Setting Parent Interviews**

As mentioned last week our term 1 our goal setting interviews are held on Wednesday March 4 from 3pm. At these meetings children outline goals they have set for the term in consultation with their teachers and parents can raise any concerns or areas they feel their child/ren need support or further development in.

Please fill in and return this form by this Friday 20 Feb.

Name of Child/ren __________________________

Class __________________________

Please circle most suitable time for you

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Ethan was very excited to show us his new glasses this week. Doesn’t he look handsome!

“They are black with blue mooshie monsters on the side. I have another orange pair at home too. I keep them in a special case. They help me when I am reading and writing.”

Gabriel and Miss Thurlow have special glasses too, they are all going to remind each other to put them on!

Sweatering by Sarah Al-Balushi

Sweatering, sweatering, sweatering
Sweatering, sweatering, sweatering
Sweatering, sweatering, sweatering, sweatering

As I stepped outside the sweatering heat hit my cold pale face

Drip, drip, drip ... the ice cold juice crawled down the face of my popsicle like a tear from a crying child.

Healthy School lunches

As of today there will be no hot lunches at school. The staffroom is out of bounds for children using the microwave as it is a health and safety issue, so sorry no 2 min noodle’s or pies.

There are a lot of great ideas for school lunches on the internet so they don’t have to be the boring sandwiches of yesteryear.

During the winter term we will be doing hot lunches in the pie warmer only!
More information on this will be at the beginning of next term.

Sausage sizzle/Ice Blocks Order Form – Friday Lunchtimes

Name __________________________

Number of Sausage/s $1.50 each ____________ Ice blocks $1.00 ________

Please fill in and WRITE clearly on the envelope what is being ordered.
Eg Jacqui 1 Sausage $1.50 & 1 Ice-block $1. Not Jacqui 1 $1 – that doesn’t make sense
Generally change is carried over as a credit to the following week.
There is also a lot of people not giving the right amount. $2.00 does not cover a sausage and an ice-block.