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**Principal’s Message**

Monday 12 December 2016

I’m sure Saturday’s Graduation Mass went really well. Regrettably I could not attend. We are very proud of our Year 6 group this year and how they have acted as leaders of our school. I’d also like to thank their parents for the support they have given us over the past years.

We have received pamphlets from the Catholic Enquiry Centre outlining publications available to families that explain specifically how Catholic school education operates for children. If you would like a copy of this brochure, they will be available in the school office this week.

It is timely to thank all parents and families in our school community for what they do in various ways in the best interests of our school. I’d like to wish our school families a lovely, warm spiritual Christmas and extend the very best of wishes to all of our families for 2017 and beyond.

Nga mihi

Richard Duffy

"Christmas means giving. The Father gave His Son, and the Son gave His life. Without giving there is no true Christmas, and without sacrifice there is no true worship.”

~Gordon B. Hinckley~

We aspire to become confident, creative, life long learners who follow Christ
**This week ...**

**Monday 12 December**
- BOT meeting at 7:30 pm

**Tuesday 13 December**
- Carol Singing at Leslie Groves at 11am
- Carols & Prizegiving in the Church at 5.30pm. *Children to wear black and meet in the hall at 5.15pm please.*

**Wednesday 7 December**
- Slip 'n' Slide Day and hot chips for lunch. This day is run by the Year 6 Exec and funded by some of the profits from the disco. *Bring your togs and a towel to school.*
- Farewell Liturgy for Mr Duffy and Mrs Bell at 2.30pm in Room 1. *Everyone welcome!*

**Thursday 8 December**
- Clean up day!! *Children are welcome to come to school in mufti.*
- Thank you morning tea @10:30 am for all our parents helpers and community volunteers.

**Kickstart Breakfast Club and After School Club**
- Please remember to email the school office to book in - secretary@st-marys.school.nz. Please remember to pack your homework books and a little something extra in your lunchbox for After School Club - Thank you.
- No After School Club on Thursday.

**Altar Servers for December**
- 17 December - David & Atu Makasini
- 24 December - Emila Makasini & Sam Al-Balushi

**Christmas Holidays Child Care**
- January School Holiday Programme
  16th - 20th January 2017
  9 am - 1 pm primary school up to yr 6
  $10 per day
  registrations and more information admin@kaikoraichurch.co.nz or 476-2967
  Kaikorai Presbyterian Church Hall.

**Term Dates for 2017**
- Term 1: Tuesday 31 Jan - Thursday 13 Apr
- Term 2: Monday 1 May - Friday 7 July
- Term 3: Monday 24 July - Friday 29 Sept
- Term 4: Monday 16 Oct - Friday 15 Dec
The Third Week of Advent - JOY

The pink candle represents the joy of sharing Christ. This reminds us of the joy of the shepherds as they heard the good news of Jesus’ arrival.

Graduation Mass

Congratulations to our Year 6 children on finishing their primary schooling. We were very happy to share in your special Mass on Saturday night. We wish you well for the next stage of your journey and will miss you at St Mary’s.

Carols & School Prizegiving

Tuesday 13th December, 5:30 pm in the Church

All children are to please wear black shorts or leggings and a black tee-shirt. Children will be meeting in the hall first to get their tinsel and into order.

Please be at the hall no later than 5:15 pm please!

Fundraiser Calendars

These will make great Christmas presents!
Your child’s artwork is in the office for you to view.
$5.00 per calendar,
Still taking orders
So let Jacquie know if you would like one.

Payment on delivery

Christmas Hamper Raffle Results

Big congratulations to our Christmas Hamper winners!

1st Prize - Sally Parker (ticket sold by Deanne and Erin)
2nd Prize - Dunedin Night Shelter (ticket sold at Fresh Choice)
3rd Prize - Smyth Family (ticket sold by the Deerness family)

Winner of the Family Hamper was Madison! A fantastic surprise for mum’s birthday

Huge thank you to everyone who sold and bought tickets!

Library Books, Sports Uniforms and Hi Viz Vests are to be all returned by tomorrow morning please
We've had a busy and enjoyable year from group initiatives in Term 1, Electives, Skills 2 Swim and Podcasting in Terms 2 & 3 to camp and our visit from Anna and Rory in Term 4. We can all see lots of areas that our learning has really grown in and have had a great year. Good luck to our Year 6 leavers and Merry Christmas to everyone in our school and community.

Slip ‘n’ Slide Day - Wednesday 14th December
The Year 6 Exec wanted to use some of the profits of the disco on a Funday to end the school year.
They are organising a slip ‘n’ slide and a hot chip lunch. All you need to do is bring your togs and towel to school and say some prayers for a nice hot day!

Today we made some biscuits and chocolates for the residents at Leslie Groves. We are going to sing Christmas Carols there tomorrow and give them the bags of Christmas treats!