

St Joseph's Catholic School

“Excellent Education befitting our Catholic Character”



94 Seddon St, Pukekohe 2120

Week 3 Term 2

30th April 2020

Newsletter # 07

Principal's Message

*Tena Koutou Katoa
Everyone*

Talofa Lava

Kamusta

Malo e lelei

Mauri

Hello

This week started with a Teacher Only Day whereby all of our staff came into school to meet in their team bubbles to prepare and organise for reopening the school at COVID-19 Level 3. We were able to connect as a whole staff (Together - Apart) in an organised Zoom meeting. Many of us had not heard of Zoom before lockdown and now we rely on it daily to connect with our colleagues in education. Teachers are also continuing aspects of their professional development through a digital lens.

Yesterday, St Joseph's School reopened with two student bubbles. Many procedures and practices were put in place for this to happen safely, and our staff have had to compromise their home bubbles in order for these to be established. We accept that this needed to happen as we too become essential workers to enable parents to get back to work to rebuild our economy. It is a strange atmosphere with so few students in the school but they seem to be happy to be here and they are well supervised. Just a reminder that parents and visitors are not to come into the school grounds.

No child should be coming to school if they have an adult at home with them. We need to know by midday tomorrow, Friday, if any more children will be sent to school next week. Please contact your child's teacher if this is going to happen. Remember, the best place for your child to be during COVID-19 Level 3 is at home with you. Coming to school is opening our home bubbles wider to include the children and teachers (and their home bubbles) at school. **It is still safest for us all to stay at home.**

Aren't our teachers and support staff doing an amazing job! I am inspired by the communications we are seeing via online meetings between students and teachers. While teachers can see that most of their students are continuing their learning from home, there are a few children that could be engaging better. Please remind your child they are no longer on holiday. Their home learning needs to be encouraged and they should be checking in with their teachers each day. Don't stress if some days are too difficult. We are not expecting them to be on task all day but rather when times suit your families. Keep reading to/with/by your child and please let your child's teacher know if you need any support.

There have been so many acts of kindness in our community over this time, from food parcels to notes left in letterboxes, that we can be reassured our Catholic character is alive and well. There have been several opportunities for advocacy and I thank all of you for the ways you have responded to any requests. In these uncertain times there have been moments of great happiness (the birth of a new child) and such sadness (the isolation of wider families and the trauma of violence and illness). It has been a time of reduced movement and our planet has rested and we can hear the tui singing in the tree at the front of the school. We have been blessed with warm weather and sunshine - and both do much for our wellbeing.

Stay well and God bless

Ursula Hall

**The Feast of
St Joseph
the Worker
1 May**



*O Glorious St. Joseph,
model of all those who
are devoted to labour,
obtain for me the grace
to work conscientiously,
putting the call of duty
above my natural
inclinations,
to work with gratitude
and joy,
considering it an honour
to employ and develop,
by means of labour, the
gifts received from God,
to work with order,
peace, moderation and
patience, without ever
shrinking from
weariness and
difficulties, to work
above all with purity of
intention and
detachment from self,
having always death
before my eyes and the
account that I must
render of time lost,
of talents wasted,
of good omitted, of vain
complacency in success,
so fatal to the work of
God. All for Jesus,
all through Mary,
all after thine example,
O Patriarch, St. Joseph.
Such shall be my motto
in life and in death.
Amen.*

Key Dates **Special Catholic Character**

2020 Teacher Only Days:
Friday 29 May
Friday 14th August
Friday 23 October

Please note these dates are subject to change For further dates see calendars on the Skool Loop app or at: www.stjosephs.co.nz
Adjusted Term Dates
Term 2
Wednesday 15th April - Friday 3 July
Term 3
Monday 20 July - Friday 25 September
Term 4
Monday 12 October - Thursday 17 December

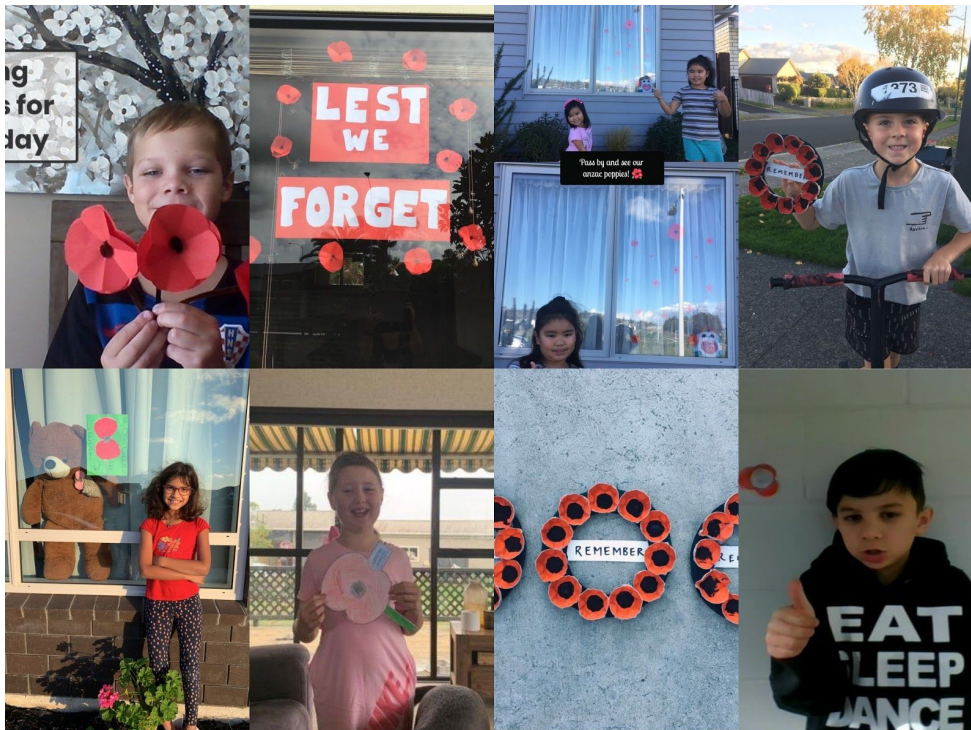
We are an Alleluia people!
As I sit here looking at what to put in our newsletter this week, one child is screaming at me “I am done, mum!” The other one is the room screaming “I can’t find my socks!” and the other is working on her speech.
I find myself thinking about how you are? What is happening in your bubble how can I pray for you and for your circumstances? We had a teacher only day on Tuesday and had a liturgy. Ursula shared with me a slide and the first slide stated ‘We are an Alleluia people’ it made me think what is an Alleluia people and this is what I shared with our staff.
*We are an Alleluia people we have hope for heaven, we have hope for a future we are so blessed to have this. However, it is so important to realise and give ourselves the chance, a moment to reflect. To see the beauty and the pain to see the struggle and the strain. To see that as this has changed our world, our atmosphere, even our language ‘it’ has also changed us. Many of us have looked at the positives and at the good but God doesn’t want us to be fake or unaware that we have been in a type of suffering we have had family members sick where we could not go to them and have had to rely on others to help. We have had our children suffer and have not been able to change their circumstances for them. We have had our friends break down on the phone saying they cannot do another day like this and we have had those close to us lose their job or have it downsized where it no longer gives us the safety net that we are used to. We have had colossal stress, strain and pain and done it all in a little bubble that has to be strong enough not to break. **We have not been allowed to break.** This is hard, this is not normal and this is suffering. It is ok to see to name it and to shed tears for what was. What God wants for us is to be a people of the resurrection to be an Alleluia people but to truly understand what this is we first have to accept what we have been through and what we are going through. So I ask you to pray for us, for our children at school and at home. Pray for our friends and those who are suffering so much that we can’t say anything to take it away from them. As you pray, listen to God speak to you, you are allowed to be **you** in this whatever that looks like because when you do genuinely do this. You will then be able to see the way that you can help those beautiful children that we have the honour to love and you can see how you can help your friends, your neighbours.*
The Alleluia people are a people that have suffered and have struggled and have cried and have yelled but they keep walking knowing that the resurrection will come, that God will overcome, and we will walk in victory.
I am happy to pray for any intentions you have for you or your family. Email me your intentions to annaf@stjosephs.co.nz and know you are all in my prayers.
God bless you all and see you very soon.
Anna Francis DRS

School Notices

**** If you are an essential worker and you require your child to be at school in the following week we MUST be notified by midday of the Friday before. ****
Please note that some of our students have received home learning packs from the Ministry. These were only sent out to the families that did not have access to either a digital device or the internet in their homes.
Please note: the cut-off date has passed for this initiative and no more packs will be sent out.

School Events

Te Rōpū Ako celebrated ANZAC Day by making poppies.



Look what Mrs Marlow's bears have been doing in lockdown.
Mrs Marlow is our financial officer at school. She works in our office.



Community Notices

ONLINE ENROLMENT OPEN FOR YEAR 9's 2021



PUKEKOHE HIGH SCHOOL

PO Box 306 | 14 Harris Street | Pukekohe | New Zealand

+64 9 237 0117

www.pukekohehigh.school.nz

- Open Evening cancelled due to Covid-19
- Follow links from our website to complete contactless enrolment for 2021 – Year 9's only
- Year 8 Orientation will currently still proceed in December

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Kia Ora!!



Welcome to **sKids St Patricks Pukekohe**

Before School Care 7:00am-8:30am / 7:30am-8:30am
After School Care 2:45pm-6:00pm / 2:45pm-4:00pm
Holiday Programme 7:00am-6:00pm
@ St Patrick's Church

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