

St Joseph's Catholic School

Te Kura Katorika o Hato Hohepa

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20 November 2020

Dear Parents & Caregivers,

It's hard to believe there are only four weeks until the end of this school year. How this term has flown! 2020 has been a year of change and that's no different here at St Joseph's School. We really are excited about the move into our new building to begin our new 2021 school year.

After 39 years service to St Joseph's School, and having been a student here before that, Mrs Tricia Kenny retires from her role as Team Leader of Year 5&6/Piripono so that she can spend more time with her grandchildren. Tricia will be back in 2021 in a part-time capacity and continue in her role as SENCO. Mrs Karen Nunes has been on long service leave which has enabled her to try new things and she has decided to move on. Karen was with us 11 years and we have appreciated her valuable contribution to our school. Mrs Jody McCort has decided to take another teaching position at our local intermediate school. Jody has been with us 6 years and has been very active in the promotion of sport in our school. We wish her all the best as she moves on in her teaching career.

Mrs Anna Francis and Mrs Sarah Hughes have shared a fixed-term position for the last couple of years in our intermediate team. Anna has taken our kapa haka group as well as being acting DRS this year in Mairead's absence. Anna and her family are moving to Tauranga where she has a position at St Aquinas College. Sarah, supported by Jody, has trained our school Jump Jam teams who have competed nationally over the last two years. Next year Sarah has decided to take a position working with children with special needs; something she is passionate about.

This year we welcomed Mr Samuel Kim onto our staff as a beginning teacher while Mrs Mairéad Gallagher-Pile was on maternity leave. Mairéad returns to her position in a part-time capacity for 2021. Mrs Shirley Kavanagh also joined us for the year as our Reading Recovery teacher. After lockdown, Shirley decided she wanted to be closer to her family and moved to Gordonton. We have appreciated her travelling that distance to work with our children for the rest of the year but totally understand that this could not be sustained into a new one.

We also farewell Mrs Ashley Clarke as she leaves for motherhood. Ashley came to us as a beginning teacher and has supported our kapa haka group this year. Mrs Kerri Eglemeer, our Arahi Team Leader, also goes on maternity leave returning to us in 2022. We wish them both many blessings as they enjoy being mums for the first time.

So with so many changes in staff obviously we will be welcoming new teachers in our school next year. We have filled all of our vacancies and are very excited about the skills and talents our new people will bring. You will understand that until contracts are signed, and other communities informed, I cannot make those announcements just yet. I look forward to sharing them with you soon.

We wish our leaving staff the very best as they further their horizons and we look forward to a new year in our new school setting.

Kind regards

Ursula Hall
Principal