



ST MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL
"Be it known to all who enter here that CHRIST
is the reason for this school"

10 August 2017

Dear St Michael's School Community,

We have a busy few weeks ahead of us: **New Parents meeting on Friday 11 August in the Library at 9am; SPCA Cupcakes will be judged on Monday 14 August** (refer page 4 for more details); **Grandparents Day Friday 18 August** (details below); **Financial Literacy Wednesday 23 August** (BNZ Closed for Good); **Cross Country Friday 25 August** and **Developing Our Charter Sunday 27 August 4pm (more info to come)**

Grandparents Day Friday 18 August – Each Family brings their own shared lunch, if it is fine it will be held on the bleached (by Junior playground) or in the youngest child's classroom. Children who do not have Grandparents coming go with their best friend. 12pm Mass starts, 1pm shared lunch Tea and coffee in Parish Centre. 1.40pm All students go to class to get ready; adults to get seated in the Hall. 2pm Concert starts.

Health and Safety – For the safety of our students the driveway (at the side of the Church) will be chained at 8am.

Election Statement from The New Zealand Catholic Bishop Conference (NZCBC) - Bishop Patrick Dunn has asked all schools to share with families the Bishops' Election Statement, which focuses on what they see as key considerations in shaping New Zealand's future. In this statement, they are not giving preference to or offering opinions on political parties. They are, however candid on what we see as non-negotiables in a vision for our country, such as affordable housing, pro-life policies, care of our planet and embracing cultural diversity. Please click on the following link [Electoral Statement](#)



KiVa Antibullying Programme - To help parents understand what is being taught at school please go into the following link [Parents Guide](#)

Gardening Proposal – We have had 10 responses now so please if you have time to help in this project complete the following survey [SMCS Vegetable and Beyond Proposal](#)

National Standards Update: We have tracked students who were below the standard at the end of 2016. In **Reading** of the 34 students who were below the standard, 24 students have met or are on track to meet their next standard hence 71% of students have made accelerated progress.

- In **Writing** of the 31 students who were below the standard, 18 students have met or are track to their next standard. Only 58% have made accelerated progress. This area is our focus, in the Juniors we have implemented the Yolanda Soryl programme and in the Seniors we are trialling.
- In **Mathematics**, of the 35 students who were below the standard, 27 students have met or are on track to meet their next standard. 77% of students have made accelerated progress. Teachers have been implementing strategies introduced by Lucie Cheeseman our Mathematics facilitator.

Mary MacKillop's Feast Day 8 August – Some of her Quotes to reflect on:



"Never see a need without trying to do something about it"

Mary MacKillop

- ❖ "Do not be afraid. Love one another, bear with one another, and let charity guide you in all your life."
- ❖ "I can only beg of you to be faithful and to help all under your care to the best of your power."
- ❖ "God give me strength for what is necessary."
- ❖ "Charity of heart thinks no ill of anyone, is ever on the alert to prevent unkind thoughts, loves to make others happy, and will not be stayed from uttering a kind word, or performing a kind act."

God bless you,

Ann McKeown
Principal

BOARD OF TRUSTEES UPDATE

I hope Term 3 has started well for all your children and they are refreshed after a well-earned holiday break. There are three important things I'd like to share with you: Academic Achievement; Catholic Special Character Review; and Developing our School Charter

1. Academic Achievement

This week we had our first BOT meeting for the Term and we continued our focus on academic progress to date this year, for all of our students. Ann and her management team are working hard to continuously improve how we receive and review data, making it easier to track and monitor progress. It is pleasing to see evidence of good progress to date across reading, writing and maths. We also further discussed the programmes in place which are really helping our children learn and progress more quickly, and Ann will provide an overview of these to all of our community as I believe it's useful for you to get a broader understanding of the programmes in place at school.

2. Catholic Special Character Review

We also received confirmation this week of our extremely positive Catholic Special Character External Review Report. I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate Ann and all the staff on an outstanding review. The full report will be added to our website, however, I'd like to share the summary comments here.

'St Michael's Catholic School provides a happy, cohesive Catholic learning environment. The school has committed staff, an excellent connection with the Parish, supportive families and children who love coming to school. The senior children interviewed by the reviewers are living testament of the graduate profile and the school is achieving what the community aspires to in their school Vision Statement. The school provides an environment and many opportunities for each child to have a genuine and ongoing encounter with Christ, to grow in knowledge and understanding of Christ's teaching and to live a life of Christian witness within the Catholic Church.'

3. Developing Our School Charter

Finally, as I've mentioned previously, we are soon to review our school Charter and develop our Charter for the next 3 years. This document becomes our guiding strategy document for priority focus areas in the school. Given this, it's important that everyone in our community (parish, parents/caregivers, staff and children) has the opportunity to get involved so that as a Board we get a good understanding of what's important to you in terms of the education your children receive. We do realise though that it's not always easy to attend meetings at school because of childcare and juggling busy routines so we'd like to make it easier for you to attend a community Charter planning event. On Sunday 27th August at 4pm the Board of Trustees will host a Community Charter evening at school. We will have a movie and pizza available for children in the hall, supervised of course, and this will enable you to attend the meeting without worrying about your children. Ann will advise on the process for advising attendance so we can plan catering accordingly but please pop the date in your diary.

Thank you for your on-going support and we hope to see as many of you as possible on August 27th.

Kind Regards,

Sarah Langley
Board Chair

CONGRATULATIONS

Over the 1st weekend in August, **Julia Wolski** travelled to Tauranga and competed in regional Women's Artistic Gymnastic, as part of the Eastern Suburbs Gymnastics Club. She competed in four separate disciplines: beam, vault, bar and floor. Her best performance was the floor routine where she was **placed 3rd in Step 1 level**. Together with three other girls from ESGC they **won 1st place in the team event**. **Well done Julia!**



SPORTS NEWS

Our Y6 Saints entered a tournament hosted by Auckland Netball at St Johns on Sunday 30 July. The girls played five games incorporating 1 loss, 3 wins and 1 draw over the morning, with the final winning match placing them third in their section. WELL DONE to all on a fun and exhausting netball extranagana!

Front facing photo - Players with **Coach Helen Totua** (from left to right)

Georgia Fisher, Caitlin Weir, Mia Seselj, Bailee Courtney, Somer Tong, India Twomey, Kerryn Gray



Two of our regular players (**Juliene & Violeta**) were away but we were fortunate to have **Caitlin** from the Stars fill in (thank you)!

Fiona Twomey (Saints Manager)

Cupcake Day 2017!

Monday 14 August

Support the SPCA and their mission to help animals by baking and selling cupcakes! All donations raised go straight to the SPCA.

SPCA is a place where you bring neglected animals and people can adopt animals. They train wild animals to become a loving family member. Each year, over 46,000 neglected animals need love, care and shelter.

SPCA needs your help, so make a donation today!!!

Cupcakes prices are from \$1 up to \$3 for very impressive cupcakes.

The winner for each class will get a certificate and a prize.

There will be a teacher's competition as well. So teachers, better get your game on!

Room 1: Cats

Room 2: Dogs

Room 3: Pigs

Room 4: Lions

Room 5: Birds

Room 6: Tigers

Room 7: Monkeys

Room 8: Pandas

Room 9: Sheep

Room 10: Fish

Please bring your cupcakes to the hall foyer when you get to school.

Cupcakes will be sold at morning tea and lunch in the hall foyer.

Mrs McKeown will be judging your cupcakes so get your chef hat on!

PTA NEWS

We have exciting events coming up in Term 3 and we need your help!

This week we need donations to make hampers to raffle at Grandparents Day, if each family can please send one item it would be appreciated (if you have multiple children than just pick one item to send to one class).

There will be a box outside the office and a box in Room 2 for junior school. **Please bring donations by Wed 16 August.**

Rooms 1,2,3 - a gardening item such as gloves, seeds, a small herb or plant, small garden tools.

Rooms 4,5,6 - a pamper item such as soap, lotion, bubble bath, room fragrance etc.

Rooms 7,8,9,10 - a food item such as nice chocolates, wine, olive oil, gourmet crackers, pasta.

Friday 18 August

Grandparents Day

Coffee/tea will be served from the parish centre after Mass and we need volunteers to help serve.

Also need a few people to sell raffle tickets during lunch, if you can help with either of these please email Laura Thomson at laurajanethomson@gmail.com or Lane at lane.pta2016@gmail.com

There will be **NO PIZZA** sales on Grandparents Day.

Each class will have a shared lunch in classrooms if rainy or outside if sunny.

The PTA has 12 of the new beanies to be sold at school. To purchase make deposit to PTA acct # [12 3075 0199134 00](#); \$12 each; **Refer:** last name/room # **Code:** Beanie
After payment please email lane.pta2016@gmail.com

Or Lane will be at the office on Friday 11 Aug from 2:30-3:00 for any cash sales.

Tickets on sale now for special **Breakfast Sept 1st** celebrating Fathers' Day!

Students bringing home order forms this week which must be returned & paid by **24 August.**

Last day to place Scholastic Book orders online is **Wednesday 16 August.**

NOTICES

Catholic playgroup for Mums and pre-schoolers held in the **Parish Centre on Thursday mornings** during term time. Please join the **Facebook** group 'St Michaels Playgroup Remuera' for more information and updates. Feel free to contact Becky at rebecca.stevens@gmail.com for more info.

“Current of Grace” Conference

“Celebrating the diverse fruits and family of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in New Zealand”

When: Friday 22 – Sunday 24 September 2017-06-23

Where: Distinction Hotel and the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, Palmerston North

Guest presenters include Bishop Denis Browne, Fr John Rea, Diana Ingle CCRNZ Chairperson.

Ann Brereton from ICCRS will share on 2017 Vatican report Pope Francis’s exciting new plans for us all!

For further information and to register on-line visit www.ccrnz.org/register2017

For further information, please contact **Val Morrison Tel: 07 542 5537**

Pukekohe Raceway Kids Obstacle Duathlon

It’s Term 3 and time for the fourth edition of the **Pukekohe Raceway Kids Obstacle Duathlon**, being held in the last week of the term on **Tuesday 26th September**.

This is a unique event designed for Year 3 – 8 students to represent their school in a test of their endurance. This is a professionally managed event with over 50 volunteer marshals, loads of spot prizes, prizes for the winners and loads of fun racing on a motor-racing track! Last year we had 430 competitors competing individually or in 2 –Person Teams.

This year on our quest to keep improving, we will be introducing extra obstacles on the obstacle course run, and a **new event “Bike Time Trial”**. Also we are allowing Year 3 students to participate in the Year 4 category, as we have had a number of Year 3 students compete in previous events.

2 of our sponsors are generously offering you support with critical elements of the event:

- FREE Bike and Helmet Safety Checks – visit Liam and his team at **Evo Cycles** in Manukau Rd, Pukekohe (opposite Countdown)
- FREE Gait Analysis and footwear check to ensure that your child is wearing the correct shoe – visit Trent and his team at **Shoe Science** in Pukekohe (opposite Police Station in Manukau Rd)

2 training sessions will be held at the Raceway Track on:

Tuesday 12th September 5pm - 6:30pm Tuesday 19th September 5pm - 6:30pm

Entries close on 19th September or as soon as we reach our limit of 600 competitors. Enter online at:

<http://www.sporty.co.nz/bsgevents/Pukekohe-Raceway-Kids-Obstacle-Duathlon/Online-Registration>

For more information or go to www.bsgevents.co.nz