



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

25th May 2017

Dear St Michael's School Community,

Parish/School Mass on Saturday 27 May at 5pm – We expect all students to attend this Eucharistic Celebration. There will be a sausage sizzle and refreshments to purchase after Mass in the Hall.



New Reports – Due to the time it took teachers to complete the old reports (4 weeks) we decided to change the report to one that was more easily completed (1 week). I met with a number of other Remuera Primary Principals to discuss reports and this was the draft that our teachers accepted. Constructive feedback is welcome.



On Friday 26 May 2017 - Pink Shirt Day aims to create schools and communities where all people feel safe, valued and respected. Students may wish to bring a gold coin as a donation to the Mental Health Foundation.

Fidget Spinners – We consider these as toys and would prefer that they stay at home.



Expressions of interest in a Chess Club

Thanks to those who viewed the post on School Story and expressed interest in a Chess Club at SMCS. At this stage, no club has been established however if you are able to help, please email Susanna Pinto (susannapinto@gmail.com) with the days/dates you would be available so she can see if there is sufficient support to establish a club and put together a roster. Thank you

Catholic Special Character Review 14th and 15 June – I have had a number of surveys completed it would be great to have a few more. Hard copies are available from the office.

Prayer for Manchester – this is close to my heart as I am from Manchester

"God of compassion, you hear the cries of all who are in trouble or distress; accept our prayers for those whose lives are affected by the bombing in Manchester; We pray especially for those suddenly facing a future without a child, parent or loved one, young ones who are in deep distress, those who are injured, traumatised or awaiting news, strengthen them in their hour of need, grant them perseverance and courage to face the future and be to them the firm foundation on which to build their lives; This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord".

<https://www.manchester.anglican.org/news/2017/05/23/special-prayer/>

God bless you,

Ann McKeown
Principal

TERM 2 BOARD OF TRUSTEES NEWS

At the end of last term we welcomed staff from the Education Review Office (ERO) into our school to conduct a review of where we are going well as a school and where we can continue to improve. The ERO team met with staff, students, the Board of Trustees and parents from the community across their week of immersion in our school community. Thank you to those of you who attended meetings and helped the ERO team gain a strong understanding of our school. They have finalised their report, and I'm pleased to share summary findings with you in the attached letter. The full report will be released on the Education Review Office website next week.

This term the Board of Trustees will conduct an in-depth review of academic progress to date for 2017, and we are looking forward to assessing this across all children from Year 0 to Year 6. This began with a focus at our meeting this month on Term 1 progress data for our target students, that being those children whom we have prioritised as needing to lift their level of achievement. When we reviewed this data we were pleased to see an improvement in reading, but less progress in writing. This is an area we are exploring in more detail and will continue monitor closely.

In Week 2, the Junior Team attended the Yolanda Soryl Phonics training day. Yolanda's phonics programme aims to equip both teachers and parents the tools they need to support their children's early literacy learning. The training emphasised the importance of phonemic awareness, and the programme is structured around the seven stages of phonics. The programme is easy to incorporate into daily learning, as it broken down into two quick sessions - one 15 minute session, and one 5 minute review. It has been great to see our junior teachers already beginning to incorporate these lessons into their teaching, and we are excited to track their progress over the next two terms.

This week you've had the opportunity to meet the teachers and discuss the progress your child has been making this year. I encourage you to take these opportunities and understand what role you can play in the learning journey. The learning progress of every child is a partnership between the student, the teacher and the parents, and as parents we play an important role in helping with positive momentum in the progress of our children. We are building a stronger emphasis on the students being able to articulate their learning goals and the milestones they are striving for at each stage of learning. Please take the time to discuss these with your child/ren and support them in working to achieve their goals.

We also discussed the implementation of an anti-bullying programme at school, and I'm pleased to say that we have approved the implementation of the KIVA anti-bullying programme for this Term. As a Board we're committed to ensuring each and every child is safe at school and we as a school have a zero tolerance approach. We must also remember all our interactions should be in keeping with our vision and values, and as parents we role model that for our children.

Finally, I'd like to inform you that Nico Buyck, one of our Proprietor's Representatives on the Board is standing down. Nico has been a Trustee for many years and has been a key contributor at our Board table. I'd to personally thank Nico for his immense contribution and support; he has readily given many hours each month to support our school particularly in the areas of Finance and Property. We are presently working on a replacement for Nico, and I will let you know when we have this finalised.

Kind Regards
Sarah Langley
Board Chair

SMCS CATHOLIC SPECIAL CHARACTER COMMITTEE NEWS

(Alex Houghton, Cassie Wooler, Justin Browne, Georgina van Schaijik, Ann McKeown)

The Goals of the Catholic School:

1. The primary goal of the Catholic school was clearly stated by Blessed Pope John Paul II in an address to Catholic educators in the United States in 1979: "In order that the Catholic school and the Catholic teachers may truly make their irreplaceable contribution to the Church and to the world, the goal of Catholic education itself must be crystal clear. Beloved sons and daughters of the Catholic Church, brothers and sisters in the faith: Catholic education is above all a question of communicating Christ, of helping to form Christ in the lives of others."
2. The significance of this goal for all Catholic educational institutions was re-affirmed by Pope Benedict XVI in 2008: "First and foremost every Catholic educational institution is a place to encounter the living God who in Jesus Christ reveals his transforming love and truth."

"The Catholic Education of School-Aged Children - NZ Catholic Bishops Conference 2014 from The Goals of the Catholic School"

UPCOMING EVENTS

<u>WEEK FOUR</u>	
Thurs 25.5	Parent Teacher Interviews
Fri 26.5	Y6 Puberty Sessions
Sat 27.5	Whole School Mass - 5.00pm (Church)
Sun 28.5	Becoming Church - Confirmation

<u>WEEK FIVE</u>	
Mon 29.5	
Tues 30.5	ICAS - Science (Y4-Y6)
Wed 31.5	Mass 9.15am - Room 7; Sacrament of Confirmation - 6pm

<u>WEEK SIX</u>	
Mon 5.6	QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY – STAT HOL
Tues 6.6	Dental Van
Wed 7.6	BOT Meeting 7pm; Mass 9.15am - Room 3; Dental Van; Assembly 2.20pm - Room 2 hosting
Thurs 8.6	Dental Van
Fri 9.6	Dental Van
Sun 11.6	Eucharist

PTA NEWS

- The PTA hopes you and your family will come to the Hall after Mass on Saturday evening. There will be delicious baking to buy from the cake stall and a sausage sizzle too! ***Refreshments will be available for parents to enjoy. (Please bring coins & cash)**
- Please drop off a plate of baking at the Hall before Mass or in the staff room on Friday afternoon. We appreciate your support and if you don't have time to contribute to the baking, feel free to make a donation! Thank you

- St Michael's parents have been asking for an affordable track pant that the students can wear during the winter that coordinates with their sports gear and warm winter beanies. Elizabeth Michaels uniform shop will soon have available to St Michaels students, track pants and winter beanies, both OPTIONAL for purchase. The track pants will be for students to wear when playing winter sports or representing St Michaels at zone/regional sports events. They are NOT to take the place of jump jam shorts. The retail price for the pants will be \$31 and the beanies will be \$12.
- Samples of both will be available to look at in the Hall after Mass on Saturday.

NOTICES

Choral Vigil Mass

The Ascension of the Lord

at the Cathedral of St Patrick & St Joseph

Saturday, 27 May at 7.30 pm Featuring the Cathedral Vocal Ensemble directed by James Tibbles, this is also an opportunity to enjoy the beauty of the musical tradition of the Catholic Church, music that is now often only heard in concert performances.

Validated parking is available at the Wilsons's Car Parks on Hobson St (\$4) or Durham Lane (\$2).

Baradene orienteering team and Samosa fundraiser

Thank you to all those that purchased Samosa in support of the Baradene junior orienteering team. The team went to the World Schools champs in Sicily during the holidays and had a very successful trip. They made a lot of new friends and placed third overall which is an outstanding result.