

After so many sticky nights and days with grumpy people and tired children the weather has lifted and we have a beautiful sunny day today to be thankful for. The Pipi children are looking forward to their sprinkles time (when they get into their togs and the sprinklers go on).

This week we entered the season of Lent, marked by the crosses on our foreheads yesterday after our Ash Wednesday liturgies. Thank you parents for your overwhelming support of both the Kina/Paua Mass and the little Pipi liturgy. We are very fortunate that our priests work alongside us to ensure that all our children have a strong relationship with Jesus through prayer. Thank you Father Darren for Mass (and the way you include our children by speaking to them at homily time) and Father Stuart for bringing fun into our junior prayer liturgies. It's great to see you in our school.

A new tradition we have started is our prayer baskets, nga kete karakia. Each week a family in each team will have the opportunity to pray together with the help of their kete karakia.

In the kete is a candle, rosary beads, prayer books and a special family prayer especially for our school family. Your children will really enjoy sharing prayer time with you all as a family- they are very sincere in our morning prayer at school. Prayer is having a conversation with Jesus.....and handing over to him our worries and our celebrations, our gratefulness and our joys.

Each Friday morning Mass we will be taking the prayer kete with us at the offertory time so that your prayers will be blessed by Father Darren and Father Stuart. Then in the afternoon the kete will be given to another family to take home.

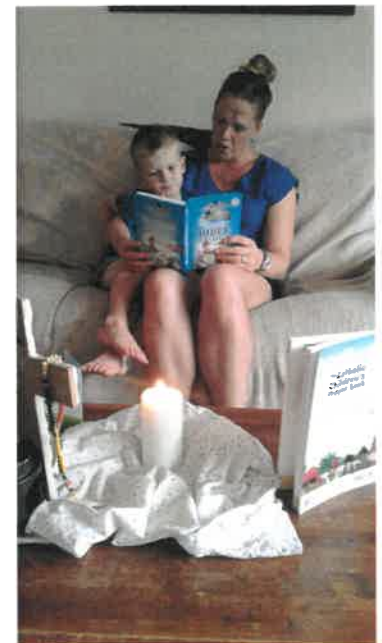
This week the Smyth family, the Adsett family and the Heeney family have had the ketes at home with them.

We will ensure that every family will have the opportunity to add their prayers to our school family books.

Prayer is very powerful in making changes in our lives.

Whaea Te Rau.

We ask everyone to pray hard for the recovery of Whaea Te Rau who is undergoing treatment and isn't able to return to school this term. We ask that the healing hand of Jesus is holding on tight to Te Rau's hand so she knows that He is with her every step of the way.



Great excitement! The scooter track was opened this week. Here's the roster so you don't forget to bring in your scooter and helmet.

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Morning Tea	Pipi	Pipi	Kina	Kina	Catch up day
Lunch	Paua 1	Paua 2	Paua 3	Kina	Catch up day

PTFA / Class Representatives

Are you able to help? We are asking for a parent or two from Pipi or Kina Syndicates to help co-ordinate cups of tea after mass and duties at the disco (selling lollies, tidying up and decorating the room etc.) To do this, all you will need to do is email parents in your syndicate to ask for help, you're not expected to do it alone!

If you can help, please email Jane – secretary@stm.school.nz and she can give list of the emails for your syndicate 😊 Thank you.

Tomorrow - Friday morning 16th February: make friends and enjoy a cuppa with other parents of new entrant children.

We already have two Mums coming along from the Pipi team. It would be great to see more - if you can make it.

You may have seen pamphlets or even been invited to Alpha, which will be held in the evening in the Parish centre.

We are able to offer you a chance during the day to **come and meet others** who want to find out more about Jesus. The meetings will be held each Friday, in the Parish centre, with breaks for Easter and the school holidays, beginning at 9.30 a.m. after Mass on Friday, 16th February.

This is a chance to **have morning tea and meet other families in our school and parish community in a relaxing place.** Together you can discuss and come to a better understanding of your Christian faith, through a series of films, which are engaging and feature inspiring stories and interviews from around the world. It will also help you understand what the children are learning / discussing in their sessions at school.



Powhiri- welcoming our new families to our school family.

It was wonderful to see our new families being welcomed by our students and teachers on Monday. This was a great opportunity for our student leadership to have experience with public speaking and for our school to practise our school haka and waiata. Thank you Mrs Pirini for your expertise in helping us become more confident with following our kaupapa.



Akuhata and Aidan, two of our house captains were part of the welcoming committee. Kealen and Nathan were with our manuhiri to take on responsibility of the speaking roles. Mr Webster represented our teachers and Mrs Pirini was our kaikaranga. If you search through our school facebook pages you will be able to watch a video of Mrs Pirini calling on our manuhiri.

Parent get togethers this week...

A group of twenty parents attended the Kina teachers' presentation on Maths, The Daily Five Café (reading and writing) and the use of Technology. Afterwards we all agreed that the session felt very rushed and that more questions were created than solutions. This was mainly because the timetable just didn't work. Kina were under time pressure because Paua's presentation was half an hour after the start of theirs and quite a few parents wanted to attend both.

In response to this conclusion (that there wasn't enough time) the teachers in Kina are keen to invite parents back to show how things actually work in the Kina space...and Mrs Lees will be arranging parent tours later on in the term for parents who would like to see the Kina space in action.

The Paua presentation was very informative and with the extra time they had (45 minutes) parents and teachers felt that everything that needed to be covered was.

The slideshow from Paua is on our facebook page and we hope to load it on our website as well. The short movie bites from Kina are also on our facebook page.

The facebook page is very busy, especially with lots of the set up for sports being added into the mix. It is our intension to add photos and movies to our website for parents who want to go back and watch school activities and classroom based learning more than once.

There will be further information next week on this change as it happens.

Property report.

Progress on the entrance to the school has sped up with the fine weather. Yesterday concrete was poured to set up the seating and the shade sails. The cobblers have made a wonderful job of our yellow brick road and we are very conscious that having vehicle traffic on this area will affect the drainage and the levels of the cobbles. We have asked the Diocese to open up the fence where the teachers park...so that the traffic from church can park there as well as giving access to the heavy waste trucks that come in to collect our rubbish. At the moment the grassed area behind the church is being opened up for parish parking on Sundays to compensate not being able to access the school's courts.

Request: I want to put surfboards in the gardens around our school so that we can turn them into signposts and to develop the beach theme to our landscaping. If you have a broken surf board or an old surfboard you no longer want (yes, everyone has told me that surfboards never die!) we would be keen to have them.

Also I was hoping that out there in our big school network there might be someone who could make resin blocks to go on our entrance wall. The idea is that we want to preserve our mosaics for many years to come and if they were suspended in resin blocks then we could bolt them to the wall and they would stay protected from the elements.

I don't know if this is possible but I need some help from someone who can think outside the square on this.

We have ten mosaics. They were created in 2014 by senior students. They measure 60 cm by 60 cm and are on boards. If a thin layer of resin was poured over them in a mould which had extra around the mosaics so that bolts could be screwed through holes then I think the entrance wall would be a great art installation for everyone to enjoy.



The wall is going to be plastered and then painted blue (the same colour as the entrance steps) so that the mosaics will stand out.

Are you the person who can see this idea becoming reality? Or do you know someone who could do this for us? Please let me know asap and we can work through the logistics of this with the contractors/architect.

I just have visions of bugs caught in gum...and lasting years and years...is there a way to do this with mosaics?

These are the backs of the mosaics. It would be great to keep these too as a record of past pupils..like a time capsule of sorts.

Dates for your diary

February 19 th	PTFA Meeting @ 7pm @ Imbibe – all welcome especially new families to the school. The PTFA are a group of Mums and Dads who want to make social events happen which the kids enjoy e.g. discos and to do one or two things each year which raise money for the extras that our schools needs e.g. science gear, paying for camp parents, junior reading books, ipads and chromebooks.
February 26 th	Paua Rocky Shore Trip
March 1 st	STM Swimming Carnival (optional students year 4-6) 12-2.30 pm
March 8 th	Matamata Swimming Competition (students who have qualified through STM Swimming Carnival)
March 11 th	School Mass
March 22 nd	Mount Cluster Swimming Competition (students who have qualified)
March 29 th	Holy Thursday- we will be at school but away Friday, Monday and Tuesday the following week.
March 30th – April 3rd School closed – Easter	
April 11 th	WBOP Swimming Competition
April 13 th	End of term 1
June 6 th	School photos
June 13th, June 14th & June 15th – School closed – teachers attending Catholic Convention in Wellington	

Drop and go

Everyone is using this system very effectively before school....it saves parents time and also means that you don't need to get your pre-schoolers out of the car to bring children into school in the mornings.

Pick up and go

There are still some little tricks to iron out...to make things flow smoothly. If you are in the carpark and turning to go out while people are coming in to pick up...please turn left and go around the island (not blocking the pickup and go traffic).

If you are picking up your children they need to be able to get in to your car quickly and put their seatbelts on...the longer the front car takes, the longer the line behind gets. Thanks.

With pick up and go operating all our students have left the property by 2.45 each day....it's a very efficient system even when you feel like the queue is a bit long. ☺

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