

NEWSLETTER

St Francis Catholic Primary School

Mission Statement

“Providing a catholic education
that develops the whole person”

Vision Statement

“To provide challenges for all students
enabling them to develop as well rounded
individuals and socially responsible
catholics”



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Pentecost

The Church celebrates the Feast of Pentecost fifty days after Easter Sunday. Pentecost Sunday ends the season of Easter. This year, the Feast of Pentecost will be celebrated on this Sunday, May 31st.

Before he returned to his Father in Heaven, the risen Jesus visited his disciples and promised to send the Holy Spirit to help them. When the disciples were gathered together with Mary, the mother of Jesus, and some other women, they suddenly heard a noise like a strong wind. Then they saw what looked to be flames of fire over each of them. *“And they were all filled with the holy Spirit.” (Acts of the Apostles, 2:4)*. The Holy Spirit filled the disciples with courage and faith,



empowering them to share the Good News with others. They began to tell others about Jesus, and that he died for us and rose to new life. On this day, the gift of the Spirit allowed the disciples to communicate even with those who spoke different languages. On Pentecost, the Apostle Peter spoke to a gathered crowd. He asked the people to be baptized and receive the Gift of the Holy Spirit. Many people were baptized that day. The Apostles continued to

baptize many people. They laid their hands on them so that they might receive the Holy Spirit, giving them strength and courage.

The Holy Spirit came to the disciples on Pentecost. God the Father and Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to help and guide the Church. The event of Pentecost changed the world and gave rise to today's Church. The Holy Spirit is still with us today.

COVID19 Level 2 update - We are asking parents to remain off school grounds for at least another week.

Morning drop off seems to be going well with almost all children happily coming into school by themselves. After school is a bit more chaotic but children are getting into the routine of looking up and down Montrose Street for mum or dad, or meeting in a particular spot.

One valuable lesson we have learnt under Level 2 is that most of our children are perfectly capable of walking into school in the mornings and out of school in the afternoons by themselves. In fact we have seen an increase in independence and resilience from most children, particularly our older children who shouldn't be relying on Mum and Dad so much now anyway. Please consider drop off and pick up times as an opportunity for your children to prove how independent they can be!!!!

Weekly attendance collection for COVID-19 period - During Level 3 and Level 2 the Ministry of Education has collected daily attendance data to gauge how many children have returned to school. They have been trying to identify any groups of students and schools that have been most affected by the lockdown, so that they can receive extra support. Under Level 3 St Francis Catholic School is averaging a very impressive 90% attendance rate. From this week the Ministry will only collect weekly attendance data, and they have asked us to communicate this to parents:

The purpose of collecting this data is to:

- *report to the National Crisis Monitoring Centre and government on levels of attendance during the COVID-19 period*
- *inform and support Ministry planning for students and schools returning to normal operation, and*
- *evaluate and report on the effectiveness of initiatives implemented by the Ministry to respond and manage its response to COVID-19.*

Message from Pasadena Intermediate School (just down the road from us) - *"On the way home from school on Monday, a student from Pasadena Intermediate was approached by a Caucasian male in a black van on Pt Chevalier Road. Luckily the student did everything right and ran to the nearest adult where the Police were called. Could you please remind your child/ren that if an unknown person approaches them, to either run back to school (if it's closer) or contact a safe adult that is nearby and please report any incidents to a trusted adult or teacher. It is also advisable to walk home with another student if that is possible."*

Please note that this is a different person than the one we were concerned about last term

Teacher Only Day cancelled - Tuesday 2 June. Our children don't need any more time out of school, so we have postponed the teachers Professional Development scheduled for that day. All children expected to be at school.

Friends of St Francis - Our next meeting will be on Monday the 8th of June at 7.30pm in the school Whanau Room. At this meeting we will nominate and vote for a new Chairperson, after the retirement of our fantastic leader Kelly Brown. Please consider coming to this meeting. It would be nice to have as many people as possible there to vote / support.

Class Representatives - The Friends of St Francis are looking for 1 rep from each classroom to:

- Communicate from the FoSF to the class if needed, via email
- Arrange / promote any out of school social events or activities
- As a general point of contact

Please email the school office - office@stfrancis.school.nz with your child's name and room number, if you are interested. Any further questions email Adriana Vuksich adrianavuksich@gmail.com or ring Sue Galmuzina on 021 632 520.

Our gardens - Here are some photos of the winter veges the children are growing at the moment:



Pastoral Care - I am very proud of how our community comes together to help families in need, particularly the ladies on the 'Meal Train' run by Sonja Low. These ladies provide meals and baking to families who have experienced a recent death in the family, a birth or a significant event. Below is a typical message I receive praising these ladies:

"We just want to say thank you for the lovely cakes and cookies you sent home with Thomas. It was a real treat to come home to your gorgeous baking after the first week back and Grandad's funeral. Thank you for all your thoughts and prayers during this sad time. We really appreciate it. Many thanks from the Vernon family."

If you are interested in joining the 'Meal Train' please contact Sonja sonjalow@me.com



This week is Samoan Language Week -

Hello - Talofa

Goodbye - Tofa

Thank you - Fa'afetai

Please - Fa'amolemole

1 = tasi

5 = lima

9 = iva

2 = lua

6 = ono

10 = sefulu

3 = tolu

7 = fitu

20 = lua sefulu

4 = fa

8 = valu

50 = lima sefulu



We had a grand plan that the Samoan Cultural groups from St Mary's College and St Paul's College were going to visit our school this week for activities and performances, but this will have to wait for next year now!



Winter Uniform - Just a reminder that this is a 'Winter Term' so the children should be dressed in Winter Uniform. Please name your child's uniform, as our ever increasing pile of Lost Property is out of control! Anything with names on has been returned to the owner, but we still have many unclaimed jumpers, fleeces, hats, PE shirts etc.

2nd hand Uniform - We are in desperate need for more good quality 2nd hand uniforms. Please send anything you have to donate to school, as the 2nd hand uniform shop (in the Whanau Room) will be open **next Wednesday from 8.00am - 8.15am.** (Thank you Emma) but there isn't much stock!! Emma: 021 525 214 theuhilacollective@gmail.com

Coming up this term: (Please Note: Most events have been cancelled or postponed until later in the year)

Thursday 28 May - Inner City Sports Cluster Cross Country Day **CANCELLED**

Sunday 31 May - Pentecost Sunday (50 days after Easter Sunday)

Monday 1 June - Queen's Birthday Weekend - No school on this day

Tuesday 2 June - Teacher Only Day **CANCELLED**

Tuesday 23 June - Board of Trustees Meeting 6.30pm

Friday 3 July - Last day of Term 2 - School Holidays (as previously scheduled)

Monday 20 July - First day of Term 3 (as previously scheduled)

Lisa Bateman lisab@stfrancis.school.nz or principal@stfrancis.school.nz





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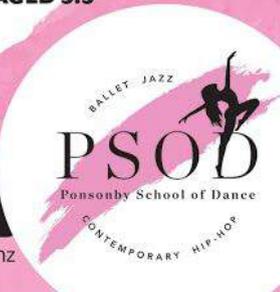
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