

From Teresa

Dear Whanau/Families

Nga Mihi o te wa ki a koutou (Greetings to you all)

Learning @ School Conference

Last week I had the privilege of attending the Learning @ School Conference in Rotorua with our Mantar Cluster principals.

The Learning@School Conference was three days of back-to-back inspiration, education, ideas, strategies and fun with a focus on integrating new technologies to empower learning and transform leadership. Learning@School provided the principals in our Mantar Cluster with a package of professional learning that both overwhelmed and challenged us. We were able to choose from over 300 workshops and listened to international keynote and spotlight speakers including Dr Tom Hoerr (USA) Alan November (USA) Stuart Middleton (NZ) Tony Ryan (AUS), Julia Atkin (AUS), as well as many of New Zealand's best.

I am currently in the process of writing up my notes to report to the Board and will have this available for you to read if you are interested on our school website before the end of the term.

Mantar ICT PD Cluster Progress

The cluster lead teachers and principals had a planning day the week before last at St James', where our facilitator Mary Rivers provided us with the structures we will use to record professional learning, lead teachers met each other and developed their job description based on our proposal and we continued planning for our cluster conference on Friday April 16th. Our keynote will be Jane Gilbert, Chief researcher for the New Zealand Centre for Educational Research. Jane will look at some of the 'big ideas' our current school system is based on - where they came from, and why they developed in this way. She will then explore *why* some of these ideas need to change if our schools are to meet the needs of 21st century, knowledge-based societies. She will argue that, while digital technologies are important in all this, it is very important that they are *not* simply added into the existing system, but rather that they are used to *enable* the paradigm shift in thinking that is needed for major system change.

Meanwhile at Hato Hemi (St James') we are working with our service provider Edtech to establish a stable wireless network and are currently planning how we will continue to increase our learners' access to hardware. Staff professional development begins tonight under the capable leadership of Caroline Paynter and Helena Pedley.

SUPER Gospel Values

As you are aware, our Special Character Gospel values are embodied in **SUPER-Self Control Unity Perseverance Enthusiasm and Respect**. As Catholic Christians we are called to be Jesus' example of LOVE, and this term we have been planning lots of opportunities for our SUPER Achievers to work together in UNITY. At home you could be reinforcing UNITY by modelling and affirming the following behaviour.

UNITY

I am following Jesus' example of LOVE
when I show **UNITY, KINDNESS, COMPASSION** and **SERVICE**
by...

- Learning and playing with others peacefully, cooperatively and inclusively.
- Listening to others and giving a helping hand.
- Respecting other people's needs and feelings.
- Making a difference in the world by helping out.

Later in our newsletter read about how our Young Vinnies are encouraging us to make a difference in the world by helping out.

Year 4 - 6 Swimming Sports

These will be held on 9th March at Freyberg Pool at 1pm. The races begin with freestyle 25m and 50m, then backstroke 25m and 50m and finally breaststroke 25m and 50m.

The heats the children have entered are posted in the senior corridor.

If you are able to help with the swimming sports please see Christine Cosgrove Room 1.

Primary Teachers Paid Union Meeting **Postponed**

We have been informed by the NZEI that union meeting scheduled for Monday 22 March 2010 has been postponed. Meetings will now be held sometime early in the second term. I apologise for any inconvenience and will let you know about the new date as soon as it comes to hand.

Swimming Pool Users

Can all pool key holders please ensure that the gate by the hall is locked when they leave school after their swim. There has been an incident when the gate was left unlocked and damage was done to school property. Thank you for your help in this matter.

Welcome Signs

Last year I was inundated with ideas from our learners about ways in which they thought we could make visitors to our school feel welcome. One suggestion was to have greetings from different cultures on the front of the office doors. What a fantastic idea! Words of welcome are currently on the front page of our website. They are there until Friday for you to email me about any mistakes. I have been made aware that words of welcome from Samoa, Rarotonga and New Zealand Sign are not there. We hope to have the signs on the front doors within the fortnight.

ENGAGING LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES AT OUR SCHOOL

World Maths Day - 3rd March

Have you noticed a renewed enthusiasm for maths in your house this week? Could it be something to do with Mathematics? Check out the World Maths Day website to find out more www.worldmathsday.com

Reporting Timeline

Staff have spent the first few weeks of this term using the data we gathered at the end of last year, along with recent diagnostic testing in numeracy, reading and writing, to plan your child's next learning steps.

Our student achievement / celebrating learning timeline for 2010 will be as follows.



Term 1 Week 7 Student Led Celebrations 16-17 March

Term 1 Week Book Look Week 7

Term 2 Week 10 Book Look

Term 3 Week 10 Student Led Celebrations

Term 3 Week 9 Book Look

Term 4 Week 10 End of Year Learning Summary

As always if you have any concerns about your child's progress please do not hesitate to contact their classroom teacher.

Student Led Celebrations

Our learners are really looking forward to celebrating their learning journey with you on 16/17 March.

We will be trialling the use of the Ministry of Education National Standards graph to report your child's current achievement levels. You will still receive information about their writing level, numeracy strategy stage and reading level which we have correlated directly to the standards. Our next learning step will also be recorded on the learning journey update. Children will continue to use the Student Led Celebration sharing sheets to celebrate their Term 1 learning with you. A copy of the new plain language learning journey update is available on the school website under How We Learn. I would suggest you take a look at this before attending your child's celebration so you are familiar with the format. For those of you who are new to our school you will also find information about Student Led Celebrations under the How We Learn area.

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

Our community has been invited to attend the final dress rehearsal for this years PNBHS production on Tuesday 16 March (first night of SLC) at 6.30pm - gold coin donation at the Speirs Centre. This is one of Lloyd Webbers best shows, not to mention a humorous enactment of an Old Testament Bible story. Well worth the effort if you can make it.

Variety Bash

Not since Chitty Chitty Bang Bang have cars provided so much fun for children. Each year the Variety Bash aims to capture the heart and imagination of New Zealanders in true charity style. Visually the Bash is a parade of colourful, funky, wonderful vehicles, carrying people who are passionate about the purpose of Variety and the children they meet. The bash will be at our place next Friday 12 March from 10.10- 10.50am. Children will get changed into their PE gear when they arrive at school. The "bashers" have promised 45 minutes of noise, fun and laughter. You are most welcome to join us.

From the Library Hub

Hi! We're the Green Gang Librarians. We are made up of Hagan, Cameron, Connor and Callum and we are on library duty on Wednesdays. We are the only all boy librarian group and we are hoping that more boys will come to the library on Wednesday lunchtimes and read more! Come and check out our cool Graphic Novels. Did you know we have a book called '1001 Horrible Facts – a Yuckopedia of gross things about everything'? Come and join the boys on Wednesdays.

Your Fortnightly Parenting Tip

Coming Home

Returning home after a busy day at work or having someone return home when you've been caring for children, gives everybody something to look forward to. The reality, however,

can sometimes disappoint, especially if there is an unacknowledged mismatch in how you and your partner prefer to unwind.

If one of you needs quiet time to get changed and 'file away' the day's events, and the other looks forward to lots of physical affection and conversation, what can be done? Be honest about what you need, be aware of each other's preferences, and be willing to sometimes place your partner's needs above your own.

Congratulations SUPER Achievers

Year 5/6 Triathlon

Congratulations to our Year 5/6 SUPER Achievers who participated in this annual event and persevered to complete the course. A huge thank you to Bernadette Brokenshire and her team of brilliant parents who organised the course, supported participants and recorded results. Thanks to Chris Morgan who organised for the wonderful team from the ANZ to help out as part of the ANZ's commitment to serving the community.

Details about the Inter Schools Tri event on 16 March are being sent to me this week. Those SUPER Achievers representing Hato Hemi (St James') will receive a letter.

	1 st Place	2 nd Place	3 rd Place
Year 5 Girls	Jessie	Hadley	Sophie
Year 5 Boys	Flyn		Matt
Year 6 Girls	Courtney	Madi	Sophie
Year 6 Boys	Cameron	Hagen	Joshua



Flyn, Adam and Christian give a big thumbs up after competing in the Year 5/6 Triathlon on Tuesday.

FROM THE DRS TEAM

Classes are focusing on the Jesus Strand for the next four weeks.

The focus for Year 1 is Jesus My Friend and information about this strand is in the Whanau book on page 17. One suggestion to do with your child at this level is to point out to children in the supermarket the food Jesus might have eaten, e.g. pita bread, olives, fish and grapes.

The focus for year 2 is Jesus Showed His Love in Different Ways, and information about this strand is in the Whanau book on page 20. A suggestion for a family activity to support this strand is –take time to invite a family member or friend to share a meal or an outing.

The focus for year 3 and 4 is Jesus Gives Himself in the Eucharist. Information about this strand is found on page 23 of the Whanau book. A suggestion for a family activity to support this strand is to share ideas about how food reminds us of special people and special events.

The focus for year 5 and 6 is The Life of Jesus. Information about this strand is found on page 29 of the Whanau book. A

suggestion for a family activity to support this strand is to invite your child to show you how to find a Scripture reference in the Bible and encourage your child to explain to you what life was like in the times of Jesus.

Young Vinnie's 2010!!! " We Serve"

Tomorrow 5th March 2010, the Young Vinnie's will be holding a Live simply day. Orders for lunch will be taken on Friday morning. \$2 for a bowl of rice and a piece of bread.

Children who have ordered will be able to pick up their lunch from the hall at 12:45pm.

Young Vinnie's will be donating all of the money raised to Caritas for families in need.



St Patricks Day

Hot on the heels of the Live Simply Day, Our Young Vinnies will be co-ordinating another event to raise \$\$ for our brothers and sisters affected by the earthquake in Haiti. They have decided to make St Patricks Day 17 March a Mufti/Green Hair Day. They will also be selling iceblocks at lunchtime. Mufti will be a gold coin donation. Iceblocks will cost \$1

Family Mass

Room 1 and 2 Family/Whanau Mass will be on 21 March at 10:30am at the Cathedral. All families are encouraged to attend. This will be followed by our annual Parish picnic. Pack a hamper and join us for lunch. See you all there.

FROM THE PTFA

Easter Raffle

Tickets were sent home with your eldest child on Monday. Thank you to those families who have already returned them sold. Well done! There are a few books left to be issued if you are keen to sell more. Please see the friendly staff in the School Office. A reminder all tickets must be returned by Monday 22nd March, though sooner is better. There is a Raffle return box in the School Office for you to pop your sold tickets and money in. Remember the PTFA will be rewarding the class who has the greatest percentage of sales.

Proceeds from this raffle and PTFA fundraising from Term One will go towards improving the audio and visual equipment in the School Hall. Better sound, internet access, and visual aids will be a great benefit to us all.

Research Taste Panel

This is an easy way for the School to raise funds. A group of ladies have already taken part and it was easy. Plant and Food Research have asked us for more taste testers. They are currently testing Muesli Bars. Brendan Lodge has booked a time on Tuesday 9 March at 6.30pm for another panel to take part.

He needs a minimum of 8 volunteers. If you could spare half an hour next Tuesday please give Brendan a call on 3552222 (day) or 3555431 (evening). Thank you.

PTFA AGM

A reminder that our Annual General Meeting will precede our regular monthly meeting on Monday 8 March at 6.30pm in the Staffroom. If you ticked the box about being a PTFA member or helper, on the parent information sheet earlier this year, then you might like to come along and see what goes on. We extend a warm welcome to you all. If you have any suggestions,

comments or questions relating to PTFA activities, socials or fundraisers please leave a note in the PTFA suggestion box in the Office or feel free to contact Tracey-Lee Crowe on 3555431, or 0272314148.

PTFA Lunch

Our last fundraising lunch for the term will be next Friday 12 March. We will be offering Nachos. This was a hit last year and thanks to the Alvarado family we are able to put it back on the menu. A bowl of Nachos will be \$3.00, and orders can be taken next Wednesday and Thursday before school. A bowl of crunchy corn chips, and your choice of grated cheese, salsa, sour cream and parsley. Yummy! A great choice for vegetarians.

Book Fair

The PTFA are looking for volunteers to help run the annual Book Fair. This event will open on Wednesday 17 March at 2.30pm and run Thursday 18 March through to Tuesday 23 March. The Book Fair will be held in the School Hall 8.30-9.00am, and 2.30-3.10pm each day. If you can assist on any of these days please put your name on the roster in the School Office. Thank you for your help.

Clothing Orders

A reminder that clothing orders for Term 1 close on Friday 26th March. Lay-by welcome. Please collect an order form from the School Office. Orders will be returned to school beginning Term 2.

Junior Discovery Area Progress Report.

Last year the PTFA announced that some funds from the 2009 School Gala would go towards the outdoor Junior Discovery Area. So where are we with this? Well, a sub committee was formed and a landscape designer with experience in children's playgrounds was employed to come up with a concept plan. After several months of consultation a set of detailed sketches and plans have been produced. We have prioritised areas we would like to complete before the winter months, and at the moment are working with Daryll Edwards and Shane Lewer on the logistics and costings to do this. Once we have this next step completed we will have the information available for the community to view. In the near future we will be looking to see what you, our community, can do to help complete this project. We see this as a multi phase project, and we are keen to have each phase completed so it can be used by the staff and students. Like all good things they do not happen overnight. Patience is a virtue and we see this project as a long term progressive investment in our schools facilities and resources. We will endeavour to keep you informed on progress, updates and working bees

"Serving our SUPER achievers with faith and enthusiasm"

FROM THE BOT

2010 School Board of Trustees Elections Time Frame

Nominations will be called for on	15 March
Nominations Close	23 April
Voting will take place	7 May
New Board takes Office	14 May

Our Returning Officer is Michael O'Connor.

Any enquiries please contact the School Office.

The Board met for the first time for 2010. It was good to see a member of the community, who has expressed an interest in join the Board, come along and see first hand what is involved. We have an open invitation to any interested persons to come to our next Board meeting which will be on 23rd March at 6:30pm in the Staffroom.

GET A MOVE ON-SPORTS

TBall Draw for Saturday 6 March

Team	Playing	Pitch	Time
St James	Riverdale Rockets	T4	9:00am

Cricket Draw for Saturday 6 March

All games start at 8:45 – please ensure you are there by 8:30

Team	V's	Field
St James A	Riverdale	Ongley Park J13
St James B	Winchester	Ongley Park J16
St James C	Russell St	Papaioea Park J3

IMOVE

Our IMove days are March 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st.

Remember there are spot prizes. You have to be in to win!

Weet-Bix Tryathlon

This year this stunning event is on Wednesday 24 March 12pm. Please organise your child's entry. Just to let you know that once 25 students are registered from St James', our school receives a \$2.00 rebate for every child entered. This year the event is open to 7 year olds too! Enter online at weetbix.co.nz. or see Miss Warrington Room 7.

Orienteering

Give it a Go - March Thursday Nights Orienteering Series (4 March at St Mary's School, for all ages and abilities. 6:00pm Registration, 7:15 Finish. \$3 student, \$5 adult. Bring a pen or pencil! For more info <http://rk.orienteeing.org.nz/>

FROM THE COMMUNITY

Institute of Registered Music Teachers of NZ

Research has shown that learning a musical instrument can assist learning in other subjects. The Manawatu Branch of the **Institute of Registered Music Teachers** has qualified and experienced teachers who offer tuition in piano, keyboard, singing, violin, guitar and most other instruments. If you require information, contact the secretary 359 4589.

Lost Property

3 School jerseys have been reported lost. They are all named. Can you please check your child's clothing and return any mistaken clothing to the School Office. – Thank you.

Wanted to Borrow

Teresa Gillbanks would like to borrow a **wooden cot** over the Easter break If you are able to help please contact Teresa in the School Library. Thank You

Bike Wanted

Refugee family requires an adult size push bike. Contact Bernie on 3248844 if you can help. – Thank you.

LOL Gala Day – coming soon

Sunday 21 March after 10am

Drivers for Meals on Wheels - Urgently needed

Can you help once every five weeks? For more information please phone Elly she would be grateful to hear from you 354 6644..

Transport Wanted

Sarah Zlatev – Rebecca's mum would like to know if there is anyone able to drive Rebecca to the Plaza after school?

If you are able to help please contact Sarah on Ph: 06 354 1039

Wee Rascals Playgroup

The Playgroup has started again. Tuesdays from 10am in the parish lounge. Any enquiries please call Jenny Moleta at the Parish Office 3576 2891.

Tall Poppies Drama School Holiday Programme

Is now open for enrolments. "Acting for Film" with acclaimed Auckland Screen Acting Coach Vicki Yiannoutsos. 12-16th April 2010 from 8.30-4pm daily at Ross Intermediate School. 8 years and older students welcome. For full brochure visit www.tallpoppiesdrama.co.nz, email office@tallpoppiesdrama.co.nz or phone 3542733.

Camera Found

A Sony camera has been handed into the School Office after the Yr 1-3 swimming sports yesterday.

Free Firewood

There are several wooden pallets behind the School Hall looking for a good home. Please contact the School Office.

Dates to Remember

Date	
Week 5	
5 March	Live Simple Day Lunch \$2
Week 6	
8 March	PTFA AGM 6:30 - Staffroom
9 March	Yr 4 -6 Swimming Sports – Freyberg School
10 March	IMOVE day
12 March	PTFA – Nacho's lunch
12 March	Variety Bash visit school. 10:10 – 10:50am
Week 7	Book Look Week
15 March	BoT Nominations called for
16 March	SLC School Closes 12:45pm
16 March	Joseph and the Amazing Techicolour Dreamcoat
17 March	SLC 3:30 – 6pm
17-23 March	Book Fair
17 March	IMOVE Day
17 March	St Patricks Day Mufit/Green Hair day
21 March	Rm 1 and 2 Family Mass – Parish Picnic
Week 8	
22 March	Raffle Tickets due back
23 March	BoT Nominations Close
23 March	BoT Meeting 6:30 Staffroom
24 March	IMOVE Day
26 March	Clothing Order Closes

Ma te tangata ano te tangata puta noa I te ao e manaaki.

May God protect and care for you all.

JM Edwards

Teresa