



Count down the days of lent by offering gifts of time, assistance and money to those in need.

Newsletter No 02

Tuesday, 2nd March 2010

Tena Koutou Katoa

Dear Parents,

Over the last 14 months the staff have been involved in professional development based on using assessment to guide a quality teaching and learning programme. At the end of last year I had the privilege and honour of finding out that the gains in the children's learning (in writing) were some of the highest in the country. In discussions with the facilitator I was told that our results (individual names are not shared) were used by a PhD student completing her thesis to show the effectiveness of a high quality professional development programme based on formative assessment.

I am pleased to share that the progress made by our students last year equates to the gains made by an average student in NZ over 3 years.

Parent – Teacher Meetings

As a staff we are pleased with the feedback from parents from the informal meet the teacher meetings that were held last week. This year promises to be just as rewarding and exciting as last year's in terms of student progress.

Up Coming Events

➤ **10th of March PowerPoint presentation**

There will be a meeting for all parents interested in our RE (religious education) programme. Over the last few years many people have asked us to run a meeting explaining what is covered in RE. This is an excellent opportunity to meet Karen O'Reilly who works for the Diocese and supports teachers with the RE programme and development of RE resources. Karen will present a powerpoint presentation and answer any questions. The meeting begins at 3:30. For more information please contact Marion Brits or myself.

➤ **12th of March - Rice Day.**

As part of our annual Lent Tradition we will be holding our rice day on Friday the 12th of March. For lunch children will be provided rice to allow an experience that is repeated by many of the world's poorest each day. This tradition revolves around recognising how fortunate we are to live in a country so blessed with natural resources, food, water and untold opportunities. Many people live in poverty around the world and by experiencing a simple rice meal for lunch our children can appreciate our rich land.

➤ **24th March – RE Meeting**

On the 24th of March we will have the 3rd RE meeting, covering the RE curriculum. This session continues on from the session on the 10th of March.

➤ **31st of March – Easter Production**

We will be preparing for the Easter Production shortly. It is hard to believe that Easter is just around the corner.

➤ **3rd May – Teacher only Day**

School will be closed on the 3rd of May as the staff are involved in professional development. We are fortunate to have a visiting Marist Brother join us from America. Br. Loughlan is a qualified psychiatrist and will be talking about the importance of forgiveness and reconciliation. As a school we are also honoured to host teachers and principals from the Catholic schools from Taupo, Otorohanga and Putaruru.

Board of Trustee Parent Elections 2010

It is that time again where we will be looking for 5 parent representatives to go on the Board of Trustees. School Trustees have a very important role in making sure every child achieves their potential at school. We have sent out a brochure which you might find useful in helping you decide whether you or someone you know would be a suitable candidate. A nomination form will be posted out shortly to every caregiver of this school

Election Timeline dates as follows:

Calling for Nominations	by 15 March 2010
Nominations Close	Noon 23 April 2010
Voting papers distributed	by 28 April 2010
Voting Day	7 May 2010
Count votes	13 May 2010
Board takes office	14 May 2010



Lenten Awareness (40 days prior to Easter)

Lent is a time where we try to pray more and think of others by giving help and money to those in need. We also try to give something up for Lent eg. Sweets, ice-cream, fighting with siblings. Money collected can be sent to school which will be forwarded to Caritas or put into Lenten Appeal envelopes, which have been distributed to most Churches.

A Lenten calendar has been handed out with this newsletter for families to put on their fridge so that you can check it each day for things to do and give. We ask if possible every child participates in the one about shoes and T-Shirts.



Attendance Dues / Fees to Catholic Education Office

If anyone is finding it difficult at any time to meet these payments that you have to pay to the Catholic Education Office, please feel most welcome to come along and chat to me confidentially about this, as my door is always open. Parents are assured that no child will be denied a Catholic Education if there is a financial problem. **It is better to be proactive at the start of the year rather than waiting**

until the end of year. Likewise if anytime meeting school expense is difficult, please come in and let me know so that I can help you.



ABSENTEES – SCHOOL CELL PHONE

When your child/ren is absent from school please REMEMBER to phone the school office 3481362 or text the **school cell phone 0278183849** preferably before 9am.

UP DATE CONTACT PHONE NUMBERS / ADDRESSES

It is essential that we have up to date contact numbers and address for you in case of emergency or accident.

Please use the form provided on this newsletter to update our records All families (except new 2010 enrolments) please do this whether you have changed or not.

Sunhats are compulsory this term please

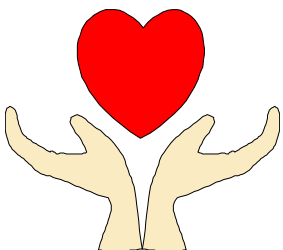
Children will have to sit in the shade during their lunch break if they do not have their sunhat



Caring Community- Volunteers required

For several years now we have had kind parents volunteer to form a “Caring Community Group”, that can be contacted if a family is in need.

It may be due to a bereavement, sickness etc that a kind gesture such as a freshly baked cake, a meal, a plate of scones etc can be made and sent to the home. With several volunteers, you may not be called upon to do this very often, but I know this service is appreciated. To volunteer, please phone Bronwyn 3481362 or text 0278183849 at our office. Many thanks.



Mobile Ear Clinic

Free ear checks for children – dates / venues are as follows:

8 March	Mon	Rotorua Primary	9am – 2pm
9 March	Tues	Sunset Primary	9am - 2pm
10 March	Wed.	Western Heights Primary	9am – 2pm
15 March	Mon	Rotorua Primary	9am – 2pm



Sausage Sizzles – Volunteers to cook

During Lent (up until Easter) sausages sizzles will be held on Thursdays – Sausages are \$1.50 each. Please phone the school office if you are able to help with the cooking of the sausages from 11.45 to 12.30pm. Many thanks

SPORTS

A coach is needed for the Year 5 and 6 miniball team

Taupo Grid Kids Duathlon – 21st March 2010

The duathlon is for children aged 7-15 years who will run and cycle (distances dependant on age) on the race track at Motor Sport Park. Entrants in the event will receive: Event t-shirt, medal & certificate, race number and 2 free adults' tickets to the Sunday V8 motor racing. For further details and to enter online please go to www.gridkids.co.nz

Children's and Family Fun Day at the Redwoods. Free activities for all ages including: Art and crafts, story telling, bike skills, games, face painting, etc. This will be held on **Sunday 7th March** at the Redwood on Long mile Road from 10am – 3pm. At 1pm there will be the Great Go Kart Race, entry fee for this is \$5 and all funds raised go to Rotorua Hospital Children's Unit Trust. For more information contact the Redwoods Information Centre on 07 350 0110.

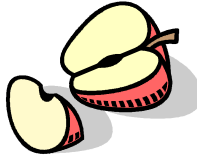
Zumba Classes – St Michael's School Hall

Every Monday, Wednesdays and Fridays from 6 – 7pm, first class free. This is an excellent way to get fit (loose those extra kilos gained over the Christmas break). Casual rate is \$7.50, A punch card of 10 sessions is \$50 but for **Staff and Parents of St Michael's students we have been offered a discount rate – punch card for 10 sessions at \$40.** Bring along water, towel and wear comfortable sweat clothing.

Wheels Day

**This Thursday 4th March – Room Four
Next Thursday 11th March – Room Six**

Yummy Sticker sports gear promotion



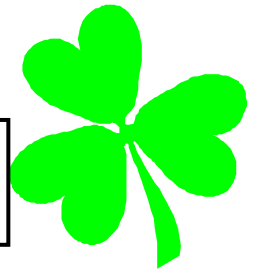
Each year we received free sports gear from the Yummy Sticker promotion. By collecting yummy stickers off apples and Flatto peaches purchased at Pak'save or New World for our school we have managed for several years to receive free sports gear by entering into this promotion. So parents we ask you once again if you could start collecting these stickers for us, the more we collect the better the prizes. Yummy apple collection sheets are available from the school office.

- **If you collect 3 barcodes from Flatto packs you can send them in and get a Flatto Yoyo** (More details on winning a yoyo www.flatto.co.nz)
- Flatto's have a sweeter flavour because they are low in acid
- Unique flat shape – perfect for a school lunchbox

ST PATRICKS DAY CELEBRATIONS— WEDNESDAY 17TH MARCH

- **Green Mufti day**
- **Green cake Stall**
- **Athletics**

COME JOIN US ON
OUR FUN DAY



Keeping up with a St Michael's School tradition (The Mercy Sisters who set up this school were from Ireland) we will be celebrating St Patrick's Day so children might like to start looking for those green clothes to wear. We also have a green cake stall at morning tea so children might like to start doing some chores around home to give them pocket money.

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

School Gala – term 4 (13th or 20th of November)

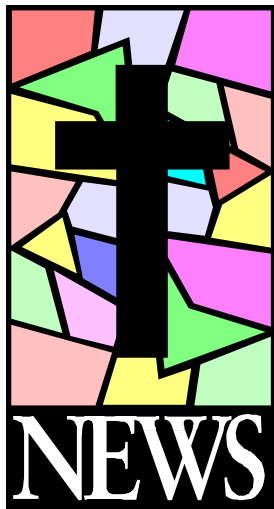
This year a group of parents is organising a school gala for either the 13th or 20th of November. If you would like to be involved in any way please contact the school office. This is a great way to meet people involved in the school in a social setting. Money raised this year will go towards purchasing a new sound system for the hall / computers / computer equipment.



Disco

The school will hold a disco on **Friday 26th of March** in the school hall. Children are allowed to bring two friends each. More details will follow closer to the date.

St Michael's Parish News



Sunday Mass in Te Reo Maori

Saturday evening, 6 pm at St Michael's Church, Lake Road on the following dates:

- **March 27**
- April 24
- **May 22**
- June 26
- **July 24**
- August 21
- **September 25**
- October 23
- **November 27**

Haere mai Koutou Katoa!

Contacts:

Sandra Wineti – 3488968;

Louise Kirk – 3461958 ;

Parish office 3480289

- **Reconciliation Evening** 7pm at St Mary's Parish on 25th March
- **Stations of the Cross** every Friday at St Michael's Church 6pm (in Tokelauan) 7pm in English

No Sweat Parenting Event

- **Friday 5 March** at Mt Maunganui College , Mt Maunganui
- **Saturday 7th March** at Ngai Te Rangi Iwi, Taiaho Place Whareroa, Mt Maunganui

Join Pio for a good dose of parenting insight. Practical information and ideas to strengthen families and equip parents and caregivers for the awesome role they play in their Whanau. Parents and caregivers of Maori and Pasifika children from toddlers to teenagers will love these two events. To register phone 0800 53 56 59 (www.parentsinc.org.nz)

House for Rent

161 Clayton Road (opposite school hall), 3 bedrooms, double garage / carport, renovated with fire place. \$270 per week phone Claire on 0272063121 - (fully fenced and gated)

JPC Support

I would like to thank the JPC Science Dept. for their kind donation of some microscopes. It is exciting to know that we are now able to further enhance the learning opportunities for your children.

No Smoking on School Grounds.

Please remember that the school car park is a non smoking area. Please do not smoke in the car parks.



No reira, tena koutou, tena koutou, tena
St Michael's School Staff

**Everyone to
Complete** (Except 2010 enrolments)

**ST MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL
PHONE AND ADDRESS UPDATE AS AT
FEBRUARY 2010**

Child / Children Names:

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Caregiver's full name:

.....

Address:

.....

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Home Phone:.....

Work Phone (Mother):.....

Work Phone (Father):

Cell Phone:(We strongly

recommend that we have land line phone numbers on file - cell
phones are not reliable especially if we have to leave messages)

Alternative name and contact number for emergency e.g.

relative, nearby friend or neighbour etc.

..... NamePhone No