

Newsletter No 20

6 December 2012

Kia Ora, Malo e Lelei, Talofa
Greetings



Dear Parents,

As the principal of St Michael's Catholic School I would like to thank everyone who has been involved in the school as a volunteer in 2011. We acknowledged our volunteers with a morning tea on Tuesday. It is inspiring to see how many people donate their time and expertise to support the school. Today, we seem to live in a world of 'what's in it for me,' many people only want to gain something or receive something. The fact that we have so many people here donating their time and energy shows how caring the wider community is. Many thanks for your wonderful support throughout 2011.

As a school community we continue to reflect upon and refine our vision and values that are part of the St Michael's Catholic School community.

Vision for St Michael's Catholic School

St Michael's Catholic School nurtures the growth of our learning community by developing confident & competent tamariki / children through:

The Catholic Faith; The Mercy Charism; An emotionally and physically safe environment; Cultural identity; A family atmosphere – whanaungatanga. Providing a quality skills based, inquiry programme. Learning to live life with love.

School Values Our Community identified the following values as being of paramount importance: Respect/ Honesty/ Compassion / Empathy Faith / Belief & Responsibility.

Through promoting and installing the vision and values we believe that our children will leave with the following attributes:

- *Personal Relationship with God and Church*
- *Confident and Respectful*
- *Independent & Organised*
- *Adaptable, Problem Solvers*
- *Think for Oneself*
- *Honest*
- *Passion for Learning*

As a school we would like to develop a motto that incorporates the values above. Please continue to send in your ideas.... It is important that ideas are created and shared.

CHURCH NEWS

FOCUS (Next Sunday's Reading) **'Third Sunday of Advent 'Make Straight the Way of the Lord' (sorry readings in the last newsletter were incorrect)**

John's Gospel has John the Baptist giving testament to who he is, who Jesus is, and who those who believe in Jesus are called to be. John the Baptist makes it very clear that he is not the Christ. He is just " ... the voice of one crying out in the wilderness..."(v23).

When we were baptized we were gifted with the Holy Spirit, and the same divinity that was full parcel of a totally human Jesus is also full parcel in us. With that Spirit in us we can accomplish so much. By allowing the Spirit in the darkest parts of our being, we can be healed of our deepest hurts. We can ask the Spirit within us to change those things (anger, selfishness, etc) about ourselves we want to change but are unable to let go of.

Remind your children that Jesus is not just their friend, but also their brother. Remind them that they carry Jesus' light inside themselves.

You too carry Christ's light inside yourself. How brightly is that light shining right now? How can you help it to shine brighter?

Rite 11 Celebration of Reconciliation

There will be a **Rite II celebration of Reconciliation** for the Rotorua parishes at St Mary's Church on **Thursday 8th December at 7pm**. Hopefully about 8 priests will be present.

Lets put Christ back into Christmas

Why not send a card to someone you know who may be lonely at Christmas and say I've been thinking of you and have prayed a rosary for you or tell someone you love, "I offered Mass for you today as a special Christmas present." Maybe we could light a candle in front of Our Lady and say a prayer for someone special Perhaps we can encourage our children to make a Spiritual Bouquet of prayers as their gift to a friend or family member for Christmas. Try saying to a friend, "Have a Holy and Happy Christmas."

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMETABLE

St Michael's Church Saturday Christmas Vigil

5 pm
10 pm

Christmas Day
8 am

St Mary's Church

7 pm
11.30 pm midnight Mass

10 am





SPORT SUCCESS!

Our children have performed well this year with their sports in the Rotorua Primary Competitions. Special Congratulations goes to

Junior Touch teams – overall winners

Miniball – Midgets A team 2nd / St Michael's B – 2nd

Netball – St Michael's B Team 2nd

Hockey – Maxi's (Y4/5/6) C Grade winners

SPORTS UNIFORMS

All sports uniforms must be handed into Whaea Liz before Thursday 15th December.

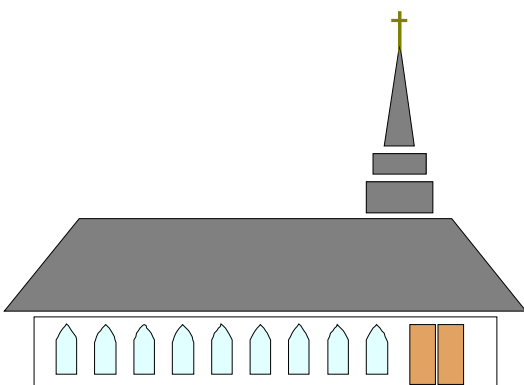
2012 Stationery / fees

Class stationery lists including fees for the year will be handed out during the last week of school. A pack has been assembled for each student, so that everyone will be equipped with the same stationery. **Children are getting quality stationery for a minimal cost.** You will notice Curriculum fees have increased. We have tried to keep the costs down for several years but it's become impossible due to the insufficient funding we get allocated from the Ministry of Education.

CAMP FEES FOR Y6 & 5

\$100 will be included in the stationery/curriculum fees for 2012. This will allow families to pay of their account before children go to camp.

AUTOMATIC PAYMENTS: We acknowledge the beginning of the year is a very expensive time for all families and we suggest for those on a tight budget to set up an automatic payment now. Forms are available from the school office.



SCHOOL MASS THURSDAY 15TH DECEMBER

Last day of school the children need to arrive early (in correct summer uniform) as the buses leave for Church at 9am after roll call. At this Mass we will be having a special Leavers ceremony to farewell our Y6 students. They will be presented with a leavers' certificate and Bible.

SPEECH FINALS

Our school speech finals take place this Friday in the Hall from 9.30am to 12.30pm. Families are welcome to attend. Morning tea break will be from 10.30am to 10.50am. Tea and coffee will be available from the staffroom. Rebecca McMenamin will be the judge in this year Speech Contest. She is a

Grade 8 Speech & Drama student and the winner of the 2011 Regional Lions Foundation Speechmaker Competition. She was also a participant in the 2011 National Performer of Year held in Invercargill. She will be assisted by Michelle Brits, Grade 8 Speech & Drama Student. Many thanks to Michelle & Rebecca.

REMINDERS

- 9/12—**Speech finals in school hall**
- 12/12 -Y6 Retreat
- 13/12 –BOT meeting
- 13/12 - Seniors Trip to Blue Lake – notice going home
- 14/12—Gold Slip Mufti & Evening School Prize Giving 5.30-6.30pm
- 15/12—**End of Term —School Mass / Y6 leavers Ceremony—**
- **School finishes 12.30pm**
- 16/12—Teacher Only Day

school recommences next year on Wed 1st February

F o u n d

We have in the office one coin purse handed in on Gala day with cash. If you did loose your purse on that day please phone the school office.

Library Books

There are a few children (Rooms 1 and 3) who have not returned their library books. These books are very costly to replace so please parents help your children look for these or if they do not turn up an invoice will be sent home shortly

Y6/5 CAMP

All children, teachers and parent helpers had a wonderful experience at Totara Springs Camp last month. It was a fantastic confidence building opportunity for our children – many thanks to our staff and parent helpers.

We wish everyone a safe, happy and holy Christmas and we look forward to seeing the children back at school on the 1st February.

No reira, tena koutou, tena Koutou, tena Koutou Katoa
St Michael's school staff