



Board News

St Joseph's Board of Trustees

December 2017

A word from your Board

In this newsletter you'll find out more about our learning landscape and also how to vote on a proposed uniform change

As the school year draws to a close we wanted to update you on some key activities and say thank you to those involved.

First, a huge thank you to our Principal Alister Bridgman and his team for enriching our children's lives for another year. The time you give to our children and our parent community are greatly appreciated and we hope you have a relaxing and well-deserved break over the holidays.

Secondly, to our PTFA who have once again spent the year putting

the "fun" into fundraising – thank you. A special thank you to Anna McNaught who is standing down after 5 years as president, and to Chloe Davidson who is taking over in her place.

Thank you also to all our parent reps who have helped keep you all informed this year.

Finally, thank you to all of you. Our school community helps make St. Joseph's the wonderful place it is, and your support is greatly appreciated.

Catholic Character Review

Over the last two terms we carried out our annual internal catholic character review as well as our three-yearly external review, conducted by the Catholic Education Office.

The focus of our internal review was around cultural responsiveness. Thank you to all parents who completed our online survey, and especially to those who attended our special community consultation evenings.

As a result of the feedback received, Alister and his team are looking at ways to incorporate further cultural

diversity into school activities. We have looked to reflect Tikanga Maori in our learning landscape design, and the PTFA are looking at how to incorporate more diversity into next year's social events.

We expect the Catholic Education Office's report by the end of the year and initial indications are that it is very positive. Huge credit goes to Annette Woodhead not only for her incredible effort putting together everything for this review, but also for her catholic leadership as Director of Religious Studies, and for the pastoral care she gives to our students and our whole community.

Important Dates



December 2017

Thursday 7th –
Celebration assembly,
1:40pm

Friday 8th – Junior school
Christmas show, 1pm

Thursday 14th – End of
Year Mass, 9:15am.
Followed by morning tea
in the staffroom

Friday 15th – School
finishes at 1pm

January 2018

**Saturday 20th and
Sunday 21st** – Working
bees for the Mary
Thomas outdoor learning
area

February 2018

Thursday 1st – First day
of school

Friday 16th – Whole
school carnival and meet
the teachers picnic

Our learning landscape

Thank you to those of you who came to our learning landscape evening and gave us your thoughts. We have reviewed all the feedback and will use it to inform the design as we implement the plan in stages. We have set up a parent volunteer committee to focus on getting the decking, seating and play-based learning activities built in the Mary Thomas Outdoor Learning Area over the summer. For this, **WE NEED YOUR HELP.**

Any materials that can be donated will keep our costs down. If you have any leftover materials from a building project please let us know. Examples of what we need include plastic plumbing pipes, tyres, rocks and general building materials. Just about anything can be turned into something to play or

build with so please let us know on COLA@sj.school.nz.

We will hold working bees on **Saturday 20 January and Sunday 21 January 2018**. Please mark these dates in your diaries and keep your hammers ready and an eye on your emails over the holidays for more details.

Thanks to the PTFA's efforts over the last 18 months, three new shade sails have been installed over the four-square courts by the junior playground. A special thank you to our sports co-ordinator and PTFA member Paula Vitali who was instrumental in seeing this project through to completion.



The children enjoying our new shade sails on mufti day

School Uniform

This year we have been reviewing our uniform to ensure parents are getting the best value for money. We have negotiated a price reduction on both our summer and winter polo tops, which will take effect immediately. We are also looking at different polar fleece and sports top options to significantly reduce the price without compromising significantly on quality.

We are also looking at the option of changing from culottes to a skort for the girls. The skort would be about \$10 cheaper than the culottes. It is shorter and has less material in the legs. We have placed samples of both the culottes and the skort at reception for you to have a look at. You can vote for your favourite by putting a plastic token in the container of your choice. Our students can vote too. Votes will be counted after school on Friday 8 December so get in quick!

As part of this process we have agreed with our uniform supplier, Janbells, to cease stocking uniform items that are no longer commonly bought. Those items are the girls' tunic, the rain jacket and the polar fleece vest. These items can continue to be worn as

Dates for your diary

Don't forget our end of year Mass on **Thursday 14 December at 9:15 am**. Please join us afterwards for morning tea in the staffroom.

School returns on **Thursday 1 February 2018**. We will not be holding our usual "team picnics" at the beginning of the year. Instead, our PTFA is holding

Uniform options will now be:



- Red Polo shirt with logo (short or long sleeve)
- Navy Shorts (boys) or culottes/skort (girls)
- Navy socks (girls) or with red stripe (boys)
- Navy Polar fleece with logo
- Navy bucket hat (compulsory in summer)
- Black shoes or sandals
- Red sports top with logo and navy sports shorts (compulsory for years 4-6)

official school uniform, they will simply no longer be available for purchase.

All other uniform items will continue to be available for purchase through Janbells: www.janbells.co.nz, 408 Beach Road, Mairangi Bay.

a whole school picnic/carnival on **Friday 16 February 2018**. Put the date in your diaries and keep an eye on your emails in the new year for more details.



Finally...
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May you be blessed

*With the spirit of the season, which is peace,
The gladness of the season, which is hope,
And the heart of the season, which is love.*

A Joyful Christmas and Happy New Year

From your Board of Trustees

Your Board:

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- Anna Casey** (Chair)
- Vanessa Bates** (Deputy Chair)
- Eric Esnouf** (Parent rep)
- Simon Marshall** (Parent rep)
- Cath O'Brien** (Parent rep)
- Mark Street** (Parent rep)
- Anna Romano** (Proprietor's appointee)
- Mons. David Tonks** (Proprietor's appointee)
- Natasha Luxford** (Staff rep)
- Alister Bridgman** (Principal)