

# PRINCIPAL'S TERM TWO NEWSLETTER

## 7TH JULY 2017

Dear Whānau

Again we look back with pride and amazement as we consider our achievements this term. We are a wonderfully diverse community and we work to celebrate and acknowledge this. Our newsletter for Term 2 shows some of the exciting learning and events that have featured this term. We hope you enjoy the selection of photographs we have chosen which provide a visual representation of some of these.

### Our Direction:

We are committed to providing meaningful and innovative learning opportunities that will engage and enable our young learners with tools for life long learning. Our journey has been, and continues to be, highly strategic; embedding practices we know work well for our learners whilst also investigating teaching and learning developments that we believe will make a positive difference.

Thank you to our skilled and dedicated staff who are committed to doing the very best for our children;

### Catholic Character:

This year our 2017 theme is: 'Care for Our Common Home, Kaitiakitanga' Through our learning we are encouraging our students, you their whānau and ourselves to reflect upon the following:

**The small actions we take now will make a difference; how am I making the world a better place?**

Each week in our newsletter we provide a reflection and question/challenge to help us in our journey. Please take the time to read and discuss this.

This term we celebrated with "our Marist family" 200 years since Marcellin Champagnat founded the Marist Brothers. Thank you to Brothers Doug, Kevin and Collin for being part of this special event and to Mr Kelly-Smith for his support.



## Learning relating to Care for our Common Home: Think Talk Create

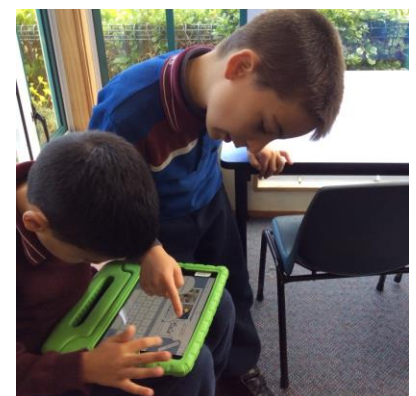
A focus for the whole school this past term has been the development of Pou Māori, with each class developing their own designs to represent a story from our local area. We look forward to its unveiling at the start of Term 3.

This term Rooms 7, 8 and 12 have been learning about Caring for our Common Home through the topics of Flower Power and Past and Present. The students have been growing plants from seeds and wondering about pollination and caring for God's Creations.

By learning about our school and Miramar history the students can appreciate that these places are special to our community and that we have a responsibility as guardian's for their future. Thank you for all the whanau support in making our trips into Miramar a success and sharing your family history. It was a significant part of helping the children appreciate the treasures from the past.



Discovery Time on a Wednesday afternoon has been a source of great excitement for the Junior Syndicate to practice their Key Competency Skills and revisit the language from the term 1 IOL topics. Students have also been able to explore the Term 2 Topics of Patterns and Musical Instruments with music making during the sessions. More Discovery Time fun is planned for term 3.







## Garden to Table

*Powerful learning has continued for the students in Years 4-6 who are part of the Garden to Table programme. Each week our students spend time in the kitchen developing their cooking skills and culinary knowledge or in the garden developing an extensive knowledge of gardening and the world around us. We are most grateful to our garden and kitchen coordinators and the volunteers who so generously give of their time.*

*Key areas of focus: Room 6 have been learning about insects that live in our garden and the part they play in the ecosystem of our environment. Students have ended the term with an exciting visit to Te Papa which has included input sessions relating to Matariki and exploring the invertebrates.*

*Building on their learning from the garden, Rooms 5 and 1 have explored the aspects of endangered species in a wider context of the world. Students in these classes have ended the term with an overnight camp at the zoo. They have all completed research which is*

*We are learning to be Kaitiaki of the Earth and considering how we can take care of our common home.*



## Kaitiaki Leadership:

McAuley Syndicate were very fortunate to be able to attend two special sessions of the Docs for Schools festival at the Roxy Theatre - Naledi: A Baby Elephant's Tale' and 'Slowing Down Fast Fashion' both fitted beautifully into our theme for this year of 'Care for our Common Home'.

A major focus for the Year 7 and 8s this term has been topic 'I am Sacred ... Made in the Image of God' where students have learned how they can take care of themselves and others as they begin their teenage years with students also developing their understanding of their own personal mihi. Our attention now turns to the school camp in week 8 of Term 3 - our sincere thanks to all those who have supported our fundraising efforts so far.





## Many Other Significant Events and Celebrations that have Occurred in Term 2.

*"A picture is worth a thousand words"*

*Ask your child to tell you the story behind these photos....*





## Some Final Comments

### Learning:

Reports for all students in Years 4-8 were sent home this week. This is your child's key report for the year. We hope you find the reports both informative and helpful. Please make the time to complete and return the feedback form as we value your feedback and always look for ways to improve our practices.

### Cultural:

This term we have celebrated Samoan Language week, led the pōwhiri for the opening night of the Doc Edge film festival at the Roxy and had a very moving pōwhiri to welcome new families and groups to Holy Cross School. We congratulate our students and staff who make these events so meaningful for all.

### Sports:

This term we have participated in cross country, basketball, netball and badminton. Students continue to develop their cycling fitness and skills. Recently all students completed a timed 550m run and comparative data shows our students' fitness levels to be very high. Well done kids!

### Communication:

Website: Please make the time to have a good look at our website which has had a major overhaul! We hope you find the information useful and the site easy to navigate.

We remind you, if you ever have questions, ideas, feedback or concerns please speak with us. We welcome open, timely communication.

### Appreciation:

A huge thank you to you all for the ongoing support, and encouragement you give to us. We appreciate too the support of the wider community: our Parish, other local faith communities, and the many organizations that help us in so many ways. Today each student in the school will come home with a box of lego, given to us as part of our involvement in Eat My Lunch. We sincerely thank the Eat My Lunch Team and associated businesses for their generosity.

Throughout the term, work toward the upgrade of our Toilet Block has been ongoing. We are delighted to say this major work is now complete and our students are enjoying a wonderfully upgraded facility. Our thanks to the Archdiocese of Wellington for providing this. Please keep in your prayers those who are suffering in any way, may they feel the love and support of those around them.

Thank you for the support you give to us, we look forward to seeing you back safe and sound, and continuing the learning journey together in Term 3.

*Celeste Hastings*

**Celeste Hastings**  
Principal



## Looking Ahead Term 3 and Beyond:

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> July:

Term 3 starts

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> July:

Year 7 & 8 Major Raffle is drawn

Monday 31<sup>st</sup> July:

Unveiling of the Pou Maori

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> August:

Parent Teacher Meetings

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> August:

School Photo Day

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> August:

Parent Teacher Meetings

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> August:

Open Morning & Info Evening

