



Term 1 Newsletter

Nau Mai, Haere Mai 2018; this year will be an AMAZING year for our school and we are very excited!

I would like to thank the staff, including Jimmy our caretaker, for the effort they have put into making their learning spaces so vibrant and inviting. I'm sure you will agree, the school is looking fantastic!

We warmly welcome the new staff, students and families who have joined our school community; we look forward to getting to know you more over the coming days and more formally at our Term 1 powhiri to be held on February 16.

We are enjoying hearing children's holiday stories of special family times. You will recall that at the end of 2017 I issued a challenge to families to 'capture' a special family time and example of anything done to care for our precious world. We would love to receive copies of these to display in our foyer.

2018 Focus: Each year we identify a focus to support our school's direction and our students' learning. For 2018 our focus will be,

“Let Our Voices Be Heard”

This focus will be applied to all learning areas and programmes including: Think-Talk Create; Garden to Table, William Pike Challenge Award. We look forward to meeting with you at our T1 Consultation Meeting to get your input and ideas in relation to these.

Further information regarding your child's learning is included in the following class letters but remember if you have any questions or concerns at any time contact your child's classroom teacher in the first instance.

Next week further details of dates and events will be included in our newsletter and Term 1 Calendar but remember also to keep an eye on our school website and facebook page.

On behalf of the staff, I wish all of our Holy Cross Community a Happy New Year and may God bless us all,

Celeste Hastings
Principal



Our staff enjoyed three Teacher Only Days together- planning, sharing ideas and preparing for the year ahead. In line with our school-wide focus, and to utilise the talent we have on our staff, we begin each meeting with a song! Pop your head in and give a special welcome to our new staff:

- **Ms Ashleigh Jackson**, Room 5.
- **Ms Michaela Jensen**, Room 6.
- **Matua Tala Moemoui**, Room 1.

The Voice of Identity



The Voice of Cooperation



The Voice of Learning



The Voice of Celebration



Think Talk and Create In Rooms 7,8 and 12



Pirates is a Mapping topic. Students will be learning how to use maps to follow directions and have lots of fun using the directional language to find some treasure!

Bikes is a Technology topic where students will be learning about the different parts of the bike and how to keep themselves safe when riding a bike.



Easter is a Religious Education topic. The students will be learning about Holy Week by ordering the events and understanding what happened each day. This is a special time in our community and we will be preparing for Lent using the Caritas Lenten calendar. Please look out for a TIPs sheet for you participate at home.

Class TTC Teams

R7- Lucy Wooles, Brenda O'Hare and Karin Graham.

R8- Virginia Blewman, Patsy Wooles and Fiona Hill.

R12- Susie Sumner, Eleanor Stefanidis and Kathleen Brown.



The **Rocky Shore** is a Science topic. The Students will be learning to identify the sea creatures that live in the rock pools and how to protect their habitats. We will be visiting Worser Bay at the end of the term to view the rich marine life in our southern coastlines. More information to come.



We have devised a new way of organisation for Think, Talk and Create in 2018. The topics will still last 2 weeks but we will all start on a Monday with each new topic. The Book, Talk, Hands on and Photo Talk and write sessions will be spread over the week.

The first few weeks of school is a wonderful time for us to get to know students and their families. Please take time to come and tell us about your summer.

Anniversary Reporting: The students in years 0-3 will continue to have anniversary reports until they have been at school for the equivalent of 120 weeks. Your class teacher will contact you close to each anniversary to celebrate achievements and plan for the next learning goals. If you have any questions you please contact your class teacher.

Play - Eat - Learn: Later this term we plan to change the times that all our students eat lunch at Holy Cross.

WHY? We are doing this for a number of reasons but primarily because **we believe it will benefit our students.** Research Studies show:

- Children eat more
- Playing enhances appetite
- Children are not rushing eating for reasons to do with play time
- Children's behaviour improves following lunch, if lunch comes after play time
- May reduce somatic problems such as stomach aches and headaches.

Estimated time to see effect based on research: 6-8 weeks

HOW IT WILL WORK: Children will have **two main eating times** - one at morning tea **11:00am** and one at the **end** of the lunch break **1:10pm**.

WHAT WILL YOU NEED TO DO? Help your child decide what to eat in the first break time and what to eat in the second. We will discuss this in class over the next two weeks and we will send home a TIPS sheet to help with your planning.



Garden to Table builds skills for life through highly practical child centric classes - with a primary focus on the teaching of gardening and cooking skills, while also building awareness of responsibility for the environment, healthy eating and community connectedness.

**We hope to develop within our students the key values through Garden to Table:
Building children's futures through food education**

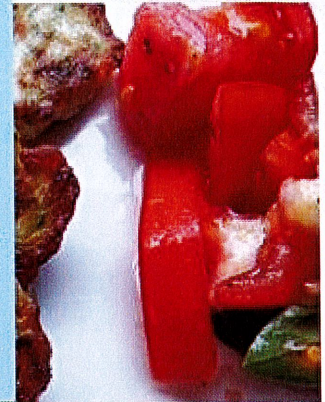
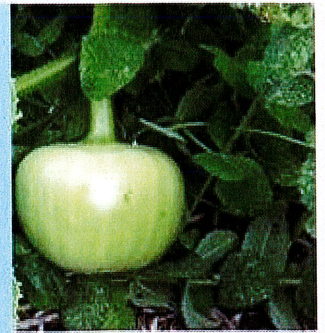
Teaching the life skills of gardening and cooking in a practical, fun, hands-on learning environment.

Making food a positive part of children's lives

Fostering environmental awareness

Garden to Table will be running every Wednesday from 9am-12.30pm with two sessions in this timeframe.

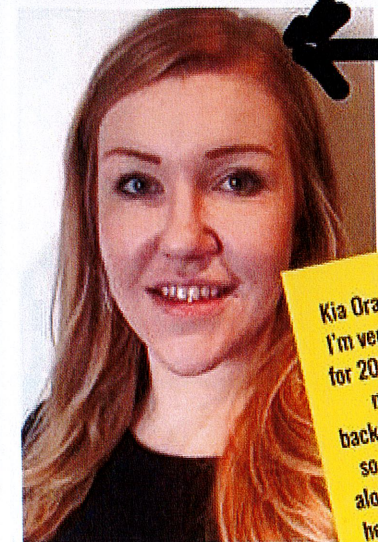
If you would like to find out more about our amazing programme you can visit the Garden to Table website: gardentotable.org.nz. Also follow the Garden to Table journey through our Facebook page to see what Garden to Table schools are doing around New Zealand.



WE ARE VERY LUCKY TO HAVE AN EXPERIENCED TEAM TO LEAD OUR PROGRAMME. WE WELCOME BACK OLIVIA WHO IS OUR HITCHEN EXPERT AND HELLY-ANN WHO TAKES CARE AND TEACHERS OUR TAMARIKI ABOUT OUR GARDEN. FOR OUR GARDEN TO TABLE PROGRAMME TO BE SUCCESSFUL WE ARE SEEKING VOLUNTEERS TO ASSIST IN EITHER THE HITCHEN OR GARDEN. IF YOU ARE AVAILABLE ON A WEDNESDAY PLEASE LET YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER KNOW.



Kia Ora. My name is Michaela Jensen and I'm very excited to be teaching in Room 6 for 2018. I am a born and bred Wellingtonian and am an old student of Holy Cross so am thrilled to be coming back to the Holy Cross Community. I look forward to seeing new and familiar faces so if you are around school feel free to come and say Hi.



Kia Ora. My name is Ashleigh Jackson and I'm very excited to be teaching in Room 5 for 2018. I am originally from Taranaki but moved to Wellington last year. My background is in Nutrition and Exercise and so I am really excited to be able to work alongside Holy Cross to be able to promote healthy living through Garden to Table and the Bikes in Schools programs.



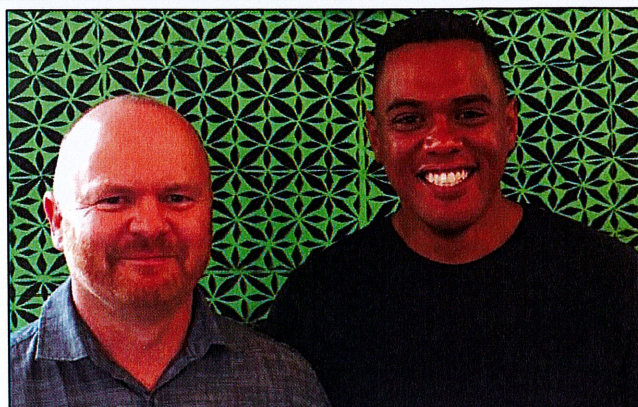
CHALLENGE:
WHAT VEGETABLES ARE WE CURRENTLY GROWING IN OUR GARDEN?
WHEN IS THE SEASON TO GROW PUMPKINS?
NAMES 3 WAYS YOU CAN COOK A POTATO.



PIC•COLLAGE

Year 7 & 8 - *'Who I am makes a difference'*

We are very pleased to introduce ourselves to you as your child's Year 7 & 8 teachers for 2018 - and Tim Carson & Tala Moemai. We will be working closely together this year; working from Rooms 1 and 2. Our programmes this year will work towards students learning across the two classrooms and we look forward to our students sharing their learning plans with you over the coming weeks.

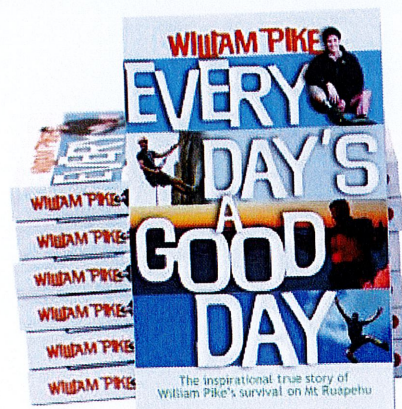


INTEGRATED LEARNING

Our theme for this term is *'Who I am makes a difference'* and we invite you to discuss with your child, their new learning and developing understanding of this focus. This theme is explored in the classroom programmes where students will be asked to develop and further refine their mihi. We will also be exploring how peace and hope has been brought to the people of Timor-Leste and explore other inspirational people who have fought for social justice.

WILLIAM PIKE LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

We are very excited about the William Pike programme which will underpin much of the learning this year. This will be launched on **February 22**, where Year 7 and 8 students will be taking part in a special training and reflection day with inspirational speakers, to help prepare them as young leaders at Holy Cross School. You are invited to a shared meal and presentation by **William Pike** on this evening at the **Home of Compassion in Island Bay** - further details about this will be coming in the following weeks.



We look forward to meeting you all at the Parent/Teacher/Child interviews later on in the term, however please do not hesitate to contact us should you wish to discuss anything in the meantime.

Reminders for ALL our Holy Cross Whanau

- School starts at 8:45am, please call the office on 388-7189 **if your child is going to be late or absent.**
- Care must be taken at all times when dropping off and collecting children.
- Please ensure your child has a **named hat, wears sunscreen and brings a water bottle to school every day.** Hats are available from our office and cost \$10.
- We expect all students to take pride in wearing their school uniform. Please support us by ensuring your child wears the **correct school uniform** to and from school, including their school shoes.
- Year 4- 8 children are required to have their **P.E. uniform to school every day.**
- Please return the **permission / acknowledge slips** for Swimming Lessons (Years 5-8) and Technology Lessons (Year 7-8) as soon as possible to ensure the smooth running of these activities.
- **School newsletters** are available on the school website www.hcm.school.nz.

Happy 2018 from the Parents' Support Group

Kia ora!

The Parents' Support Group (PSG) is a friendly group of parents who support our community events and led the school's fundraising efforts.

We would love to see some new faces on the PSG for the new year and encourage you to come along. We generally meet on the first Monday of each month at 7.00pm in the school staff room. Do not let being new at the school or having English as a second language put you off – everyone has something to contribute and is welcome. If you are unable to attend meetings, but have a skill to contribute, please let us know.

I would like to thank all of the PSG members and staff representatives who give willingly of their time. Thank you to Liz Carter (Luke's mum) who stepped down at the end of last year – we appreciate your contribution.

Our major activity for 2018 will be the end of year International Food Festival (held every two years), which showcases the diversity and vibrancy of our special school. We look forward to many of you being involved in this. We'll also have a few other activities throughout the year – keep an eye out for information in newsletters and on the school Facebook page.

The PSG runs the school **Subway** lunch programme, which provides a healthy lunch option for children on Fridays and is also a fundraiser for the school.

A huge thank you to Aleece Hunter (Nadia and Lydia's mum) for running Subway for the past few years. We appreciate all you have done Aleece and for the efficient manner Subway has run.

We are looking for a person or two take over from Aleece. This is an easy way to contribute to your school community. You are required for around 45 minutes on a Friday morning to organise the envelopes (finished by 9am). There is no money handling and it's a great way to get to know more children and parents. If you are interested or want to know more, please pop into the office and speak with Kathee or contact marija.vidovich@hcm.school.nz or call Marija on 0274 734 222.

Next meetings – 7.00pm – School staff room

Monday 12 February

Monday 5 March

Monday 2 April

We look forward to seeing you there - come along for a cuppa and to meet the team.

Marija Vidovich (Matai's mum)
Chair