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Term 1 Week 6 Newsletter 2022

Principal's message

At the moment life is a constant balance between 'keep calm and carry on- this too will pass' vs what's life going to throw my way today? Parents you have a tough job of keeping your whānau together and calm while we work our way through the Omicron pandemic- it is not an easy task. For the past two years our great track record of dealing so well with COVID gave us a sense of satisfaction in keeping the virus out. Now as we are overswept with escalating cases, we have to get used to a new story. That which we have feared is not something to be as fearful of.

It can be hard to change our perspective.

The past week at school has been incredibly calm. Our class numbers have been down with up to half our students at home isolating, ill or being anxious to come to school. This has given us an opportunity as teachers to make sure our online learning is providing a quality experience for our tamariki. It has been great to see people engaging through zoom calls, submitting work or sharing experiences- thanks for supporting your tamariki in making this happen. The teachers involved in face to face teaching here at school have got to know your tamariki in a more indepth way- there has been more time and space to make connections. Teachers have also connected with a wider group of students- Room 1 and 2 have worked together and Room 11 and 12. A big thank you to those teachers and staff who have stepped up to help Holy Cross continue to be a caring supportive place.

It is great to welcome back an increasing number of students who have had COVID and have finished up their isolation period. Our current active case number is 14 with cases across all classrooms. We have three staff who have tested positive. We are getting an average of 2-3 cases being recorded each day.

Changes to the isolation period.

From tonight the isolation period if you test positive for Covid or are a household contact has been reduced to seven days.

If you or someone in your whānau tests positive for Covid 19

- If you or your child receives a positive test result the household must isolate for seven days. The day symptoms first appear or there is a positive test is day 0.
- Household contacts must test on Day 3 and Day 7. If there are no symptoms and both tests are negative, children can return to school on day 8.
- If someone else tests positive during that 7 day period, as long as the above guidelines are followed and your child has no symptoms, they can return to school on day 8 after the first household case has been noted as a positive Covid case.

Returning to school after COVID-19

Students who test positive for COVID-19 are not required to self-isolate past seven days, but they shouldn't return to school if they are still feeling unwell.

Many children will have a long lasting runny nose and cough after viral infections. If it is over 10 days since the onset of the COVID infection and they are no longer feeling unwell, they are unlikely to be transmitting any active COVID infection and can return to school. However, if they are continuing to feel unwell or their symptoms are worsening after 10 days then a GP review is recommended.

As much as we would like this to be over by Easter, we may be living like this for some time. The best place for your child to be if they are well is at school. The best place for your child to be if they are ill or showing signs of illness is at home. Following public health advice will ensure that you and your whanau will get through the next few months- we are here to support you and to ensure that school remains safe and open for all.

Catholic character

This week marks the second week of Lent. We are living in an unsettled world where all that we know and have experienced has been shaken here in New Zealand with our close encounter with Omicron and the changing protocols of how we live our lives. The situation in the Ukraine and Russia also impacts our world and raises thoughts of past times of war. Here at Holy Cross we are having a focus on kindness- remembering to think of the welfare of others. Room 1 and 2 has also had a focus on prayer- praying for peace as they have spent time learning and observing the Ukrainian situation from afar.



Cardinal John's newsletter this week has a focus around making this Lent a time for thinking beyond ourselves and praying for those affected in Ukraine. I share his thoughts and prayers here to inspire you and your whanau to join the wider Catholic and Christian community as we pray together during Lent.

'This Lent may well be defined by the invasion of Ukraine. As I celebrate Mass each day at Connolly Hall I look out the window and see the Ukrainian flag flying outside the British High Commission. The first day I saw it I asked the congregation to look at it as they left and to remember it throughout the day and to pray from time to time that peace will be restored and lives saved. Please make this Lent a time to pray for Ukraine.'

Prayers of intercession for Ukraine

We pray for the Church: that in this time of crisis, she may speak words of truth and justice, act with compassion and be a sign of Christ's love for all those who are suffering. Lord in your mercy...

We pray for world leaders, that guided by integrity and wisdom, they may work together so that peace may flourish.

Lord in your mercy...

We pray for all those caught up in violence, remembering especially the people of Ukraine; that in this time of fear and conflict, they may know God's presence and peace. Lord in your mercy...

We pray for all those suffering from hunger as a result of conflict and injustice, in countries such as Sierra Leone, Afghanistan and Ethiopia.

Lord in your mercy....

We pray for our parish and our local community: that in this time of Lent, we may reach out in solidarity to our brothers and sisters in need.

Lord in your mercy...

Amen



This week marks the second week of Lent. Matthew 17 v1-9 describes the transfiguration of Jesus. Jesus is transfigured before the eyes of Peter, James and John. They saw a glimpse of his eternal glory and radiance as the Son of God. They were in awe at the sight and filled with much joy and happiness. The face of Jesus shone like the sun, his clothing so beautifully white and pure, that it was almost blinding. The sight of Jesus' glory, would have highlighted the Apostles own brokenness- how they were far from this.

The gospel reading reminds us of the way we will live our lives and to see our faults clearly. During the Lenten season we are asked to pause from the stresses of life and reflect on the choices we make, particularly the poor choices. Looking at our sins can be hard. It is hard to admit our imperfections and to own our poor judgements in fear of the consequences that may come. It can be depressing and stressful holding onto these sins.

The Transfiguration is an event given to the three Apostles to give them hope as they prepare for the suffering and death of Jesus. Let us all remember this light of Jesus, that although we may find times challenging to reflect on our sins, God will provide you strength and comfort as you ponder how Jesus died for our brokenness.



Movin March



This week we finally got the Movin March Programme started in the school. This was to start on Tuesday 1 March last week but we deferred it until this week due to the high absenteeism and disruption caused by the Omicron outbreak.

All students at school should have received a Movin March Passport Challenge Card. Students will get a stamp everyday they walk, scooter or cycle to school. When a student gets ten stamps (that is, they walk/scooter/cycle ten times to school) they will submit their completed passport to Ben in Room 3 to redeem a cool prize. Students can complete and submit two cards. Moreover, every time a child submits a card they will go into a prize draw to win a further prize.

Students from Rooms 7, 11 and 12 will get their passports stamped by Simone in Room 7, while students Rooms 3, 5 and 6 will get their passports stamped by Ben in Room 3. Room 1 and 2 students will also get their passports stamped by Ben but through a 'stamp and collect' method to observe social distancing.

Movin March aims to promote and increase exercise amongst children and their whanau.

Bike track update

The bike track is nearly finished! We are just waiting for the asphalt to be laid. See the update from Mike (TrackBuild) below and the photo of the nearly finished track.

Track Update:

We plan to asphalt all of the area we have layed top course on and compacted. This will minimise maintenance of the area and also allow clean drainage onto the playground or into the storm water system (south end of track). At the southern end is an area that we are thinking of laying bark mulch on. This will save money on asphalt and be minimal maintenance. The small channel along the back fence and wall has a drainage pipe and drainage metal covering it. We will finish the top of this channel with a pea metal or fine drainage chip which will look tidy and provide great drainage from the steep bank behind on the neighbours property.



GARDEN TO TABLE

GROW, HARVEST, PREPARE, SHARE

Gardener of the Day - Kruz

Today in the garden we pulled out the Maori potatoes (Taewa). We placed them inside a bucket for Rory to take to the kitchen. The potatoes look brownish on the outside with a purple inside.

I remember seeing a pumpkin last week. I wonder if it has grown any bigger?



Chef of the Day - Marlon

In today's session in the kitchen we made quick pizza dough and potato and rosemary pizza with no cheese or tomato. Serena and Amalia made the dough while Rory, Leya, Dhruvil and I cut the garlic, Maori potatoes (Taewa) and greens.

Aleksandra boiled the potatoes and then put oil on all the vegetables and salt on the potatoes as well.

I wonder what the pizza will taste like with no cheese or tomatoes?



EASTER RAFFLE COMING OUT SOON

NEXT WEEK WE WILL START COLLECTING TREATS FOR THE RAFFLE

IDEAS FOR A DONATION - chocolate, coffee, mixed nuts, hand cream, Easter sweets

TICKETS OUT NEXT WEEK



School Docs



You can view our Policies and Procedures, please click on the following link.

<https://www.schooldocs.co.nz/Home/SchoolLogin.aspx>

Our username is :hcm and password : schooldocs

This term parents can make comments or suggestions on the following policies: contact in an emergency, visitor, school closure, earthquake, tsunami, COVID -19 information and procedures, COVID 19 vaccinations and COVID 19 RED, ORANGE and GREEN settings. If you have any comments/ suggestions please contact Lyn.

PSG update

Thanks to the parents who joined us at the Parent Support Group meeting on Monday. It was great to see some new faces!

We are currently still fundraising towards the new bike pump track, which you will see is progressing well at the back courts. Our next fundraiser will be an Easter raffle and we would love your support to make this as successful as possible. Every dollar counts. More details coming soon.

The parent support group would also like to offer help to any of our families currently isolating or dealing with covid cases. We can provide grocery shopping services, meals, baking, etc. If any parents are able to provide nut-free baking to the office, then we can also make sure this is distributed to families who need it. Any questions please let us know on psg@hcm.school.nz

Next PSG meeting will be Monday 4th April 7.30pm.

Anneke, Joseph, Mia and Jonathan.
Wishing you all a very happy birthday!

SKIDS



SKids Holy Cross Miramar is open for the April School Holidays! Visit our website to book now!

https://www.skids.co.nz/locations/holy_cross_miramar/

The Tree of Light - a poem by Max and Mikey

The tree of light lives on a mountain with the glowing sun.

The wind floats around the tree where the flowers are blooming.

Sometimes I like to go there to calm down

It's a place of peace

Hope and freedom

*You can feel the winds light breeze upon your skin
and the sun brightening on you, getting warmer*

It's like a forcefield of sleepiness that gets me tired

*The reason why it's special is because it's the place I can
relax*

and call home

Community Notices

After School Care St Benedict's School

We are looking for two enthusiastic and caring assistants to help supervise our children during indoor and outdoor activities at After School Care.

Position 1: 2:30-5:30pm Monday to Friday term time only.

Position 2: 2:30-4:30pm Monday to Friday term time only.

The successful candidates will enjoy working with children, and as part of a collaborative, happy and supportive team.

We have a Supervisor and Deputy Supervisor in place to work with, and a reliable team that are great fun to work with. This is a great opportunity for someone who enjoys working with children and making a real difference.

Please send CV and cover letter to Tania Savage principal@st-benedicts.school.nz

Happy Birthday



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO: Rory,
Ashleigh, Michael, Hunter, Ruby,