

18th February 2010



Newsletter No 3

Quality + Support + Values

Dear Parents
Kia ora koutou. Greetings

Shared Prayer

Room 5 will lead us in Shared Prayer tomorrow, Friday. All parents and caregivers are invited to join us in the Church at 2.40p.m.

Lent

Classes began the season of Lent yesterday with class prayers centred on Ash Wednesday. Throughout Lent classes are taking turns to lead Lenten Prayers for the whole school on Friday mornings.

Donations for Gonzaga, the Uganda boy we sponsor and for the Caritas Lenten Appeal will be collected during these prayers.

FAMILY MASS

to celebrate the new school year

**This Sunday 21st February
9.30a.m.**

*** Then join us after Mass for a BBQ style Brunch.*

*** The Year 6 children will receive their Family Group badge at Mass*

*** Would children please sit with their class at the front of the Church*

We look forward to seeing you all there on Sunday

Mass

- Mass is held every Sunday at 9.30am
- Altar Servers – 21st February – Josh Hook and Brenda Garcia

Fundraising for Jamboree

Josh Hook and Jack Kubala are fundraising for the Scout Jamboree they are going to in January 2011. They are selling chocolate bars and toilet paper (45 rolls for \$20). If you are interested in purchasing any of these items, please contact Jayne Hook on 453-5231 or Jane Kubala on 476-6555. Thank you.

Sports Draws

Please remember that all St Francis Xavier players and parents **MUST** conduct themselves by our Fair Play Policy that they have signed.

- T Ball – Saturday 20th February
 - SFX Giants vs. SPC Strikers 11.00a.m Ground 1
 - SFX Strikers vs Maori Hill Yellow 9.00am Ground 7
 - SFX Youngs vs. Cardinals Eagles 11.00am Ground 8
 - SFX Minis vs St Marys Mini 9.00am Ground 12
 - SFX Midgets vs. St Clair Sprites 10.00am Ground 16

- Flipperball – Sunday 14th
 - 1.55p.m. vs. St Clair Green – Learners Pool.) **NOTE: 2 games this week!!!**
 - 2.20pm vs. St Clair Blue – Learners Pool)

- Touch – Thursday 21st February
 - SFX Hotshots (Year 3 & 4) vs. Maori Hill on Field 2 at 3.30pm
 - SFX (Year 5 & 6) vs. St Clair Warriors on Field No 7 at 3.30pm

Board of Trustees Elections

This year is once again time for the triennial School Trustee elections. The election date has been set for 7th May. Becoming a member of the Board of Trustees is a very interesting and rewarding experience. If anyone would like more information on what is involved, please contact one of our current members – list on the office notice board or log on to the website www.trustee-elections.co.nz Our next Board Meeting is on Tuesday 23rd March at 7.30pm and we would welcome any people who are thinking of putting their name forward to come along and see what being a Trustee is all about.

Lorraine, in the office has been appointed the Returning Office for the elections and will have the electoral roll available for viewing and calling for nominations before the end of Term 1. Please don't hesitate to ask her or any other Board members questions.

Meet The Teacher Night *Change of Date!!!*

Now at 7.00pm next Tuesday 23rd February

- Come along to the Parish Centre and hear about school programmes, literacy, numeracy, Sounds Alive Spelling, homework and other routines and expectations.
 - Visit the classroom too
 - See the new Activboards working

National Standards

A big challenge facing NZ schools, children and parents in 2010 is the government's introduction of compulsory standards in Writing, Reading and Numeracy.

At present there will be no noticeable changes to the way in which we teach and assess your child. The school has well established routines for the diagnostic testing of literacy and numeracy of all children and our teachers are happy to discuss your child's achievement with you at any time.

A nationwide survey of parents is underway and can be completed online at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/M5PNZYC> or by filling in a form at the office.

Family Group Picnic

The Family Group Leaders organised great picnics last Friday. They purchased picnic food with a tight budget on Thursday and helped their group have a wonderful picnic on Friday.



Numeracy Achievement

The results of our pupils Numeracy test scores were entered into the NZ Maths database last December. The results compare our pupils scores with NZ National data. Our pupils are performing well above the National figure especially in Addition and Subtraction, and Multiplication and Division. In recent years we have shown marked improvement in our 'top' for Proportions and Ratios, Place Value and Fractions.

The main reasons for this successful Numeracy teaching and learning are outlined in the full report which is available from the office.

PTA Meeting – Change of Date

Next meeting is now 7.00pm on Tuesday 2nd March in the staffroom. Come along and join this friendly group of school supporters.

Blessings

The Religious Education theme for Otago and Southland Catholic Schools is 'Blessings'. Children will study blessings written by others and produce their own blessings.

PTA LUNCH
Wednesday 24th February

- **Sausage in bread - \$1.50**
- **Jucie - \$1.00**

Orders in named envelope please - to the office by 9.00a.m.

Cross Country

Year 5 and 6 children have the West Dunedin Schools Cross Country at Balmacewen Intermediate on Tuesday 9th March. Full details next week.

Transport Thanks

Thank you for your help with Museum visits this week and Art Gallery visits and with junior swimming next week.

Rooms 1, 2 and 3 Swimming

A reminder that all children in Rooms 1, 2 and 3 will be swimming at Mornington School Pool every day next week. Details of times were sent out earlier in the term. Please let your child's teacher know if you can help with transport.

Caversham Highway Improvements

Plans for the proposed changes at the Lookout Point intersection are available at the office. OPUS welcomes calls on 4715591 (note change of number) regarding the proposed changes.

Can You Help?

First Year student Midwives studying at Otago Polytechnic complete a paper called 'Sharing the Woman's Experience of Childbirth'. This means we require ladies who would be prepared to share their experiences of pregnancy, childbirth and postnatal care with us. If you or anyone you know is pregnant, please consider this or pass on the message. Please phone Anglea Cromb (one of our parents at St Francis Xavier) on 453-1968 or 0211122134.

Prayer for Lent

Our Father who gives us our daily bread, may we always remember the people who have not chosen the hunger they live with. Amen

God Bless
Craig Ward