



Our Lady Star of the Sea School

P O Box 17571

45 Colenso St

Sumner

Christchurch 8081

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NEWSLETTER – Term 1, Friday 19 February 2021

From the Principal

Nau mai, haere mai,

What a fantastic start to the school year we are having. The word that keeps being raised around the school by both adults and children is the air of calmness, which for me aligns perfectly with our value of Serenity. Something that I have been able to recognise and feel very proud to acknowledge is how quickly everyone has settled into our core purpose and that is getting down to the job of learning. As a staff we were discussing this at a recent staff meeting and concluded that this is most certainly one of the benefits of a small school where teachers have the ability to teach children beyond one year. The teachers and children feel settled and relationships are well formed from day one each year, allowing them to get back to where they left off the previous year. The summer lag and feeling of anxiety that many children experience with a new school and teacher is certainly nullified at our school.

I am also very proud at the way the teachers are working so collaboratively and positively with each other. There is a sense of ownership of all children at the school and a great deal of thought is going into how we all can work together to support teaching and learning, not just in our own silos. Our theme of belonging has started to become embedded in the teaching day and our first few weeks have focussed on:

Ko wai au? Who am I?

Ko wai koe? Who are you?

Ko wai mātou? Who are we?

I would like to introduce a couple of new additions to our teaching team. Jodie Donkers will be in each Wednesday afternoon to support one of our students. Jodie works out of Allenvale Special School and has already spent time with us and feels very much part of the team. I would also like to welcome Lesley Simon on a Monday, who as a retired Junior School and Reading Recovery Teacher, with a wealth of experience, is volunteering in St Francis. She can best be described as a classroom angel who we are more than a little excited to have onboard!

Thank you for the way you as a parent community responded to our change in alert levels earlier in the week. It is nice to be back to Level 1 and have parents back in the classrooms. I am informed we are in for a late summer string of warm days, so I look forward to a warm weekend ahead.

Ngā mihi

Nathan Burford | *Tumuaki - Principal*

Current School Docs Review

Our Lady Star of the Sea utilises a company called 'School Docs' to help support our policies and procedures. This includes a regular review cycle, with policies coming up for review within a three-year cycle. Currently, in Term 1 of this year we have our 'Home Learning' policy up for review. If you would like to have input into this policy please work through the following steps;

Instructions for Reviewers

Website: <https://www.schooldocs.co.nz/>

Choose: Our Lady Star of the Sea

Username: ourladystar

Password: beach (lowercase)

1. Follow the link to each policy
2. Read the policy (Home Learning).
3. Click the red Policy Review icon at the right-hand top corner of the page. A new screen will appear.
4. Select your role (board member, staff member, or parent/caregiver) from the drop-down list.
5. Enter your name (optional).
6. Submit your ratings and comments.

(The review closes on the 16th of April).

Upcoming Events

Monday 22nd Feb – OLSOS Triathlon (at Sumner School) Year 5/6 & 7/8 at 12.30pm

Monday 22nd Feb – 26th Feb – Whole School Swimming Only on **Wed, Thurs & Fri**

Monday 1st March – 4th March - Whole School Swimming Only on **Mon & Wed**

Wednesday 3rd March – CCC Walk or Wheels Day

Friday 5th March – Whole School Swimming Sports Years 0-8 at 1.30pm – 3pm

Monday 8th March - Teacher Only Day - School Closed

Wednesday 10th March – Swimming Sports Postponement Date

Sunday 14th March – Whole School Mass – 9am (uniform to be worn)

Friday 2nd to Tuesday 6th April - Easter Holiday - School Closed

Thursday 8th April to Friday 9th April – Year 5/6 Cycle Safety

Monday 12th April – School Photos

Friday 16th April - Last Day of Term 1

Monday 3rd May - First Day of Term 2

Fundraising –

Lipsync & First PTA Meeting

Thursday 4th March

7.30 - 8.30 - First PTA meeting

8.30 – Lipsync Info Evening - all welcome, this is where we will go over what to expect in June.

Kids movie night fundraiser @ school

Friday 19th March

Drop your children off for a movie night supervised by a wonderful bunch of parents, popcorn and drink provided, just for a donation at the door. More info to come.





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10th Anniversary Sumner Earthquake Memorial Event

Please find attached an invitation for the community to gather to remember 10 years since the February Earthquake in Sumner. It will be an opportunity to remember those who passed, what we lost and also to celebrate all we have achieved.

Site - RSA Memorial Gates

Time - 12.30pm

Date - 22nd February 2021

Flags at half mast

Distribution of flowers to attendees

Chess Club

A message from Genevieve (August and Franklin's Mum).

I will be at the school on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at lunch time to run a chess club (depending on interest)

If anyone has any spare boards to donate that would be great!

I will be doing both online games / lessons on the iPad and playing over the board - no experience necessary as this will mainly just be covering how the pieces move etc.

Girls are encouraged to join!

The opportunity to play against other children around the world and do tournaments etc is there for those that wish too.

Dance

Inspire your child's life with dance at Anna Lee School of Dance

Does your child love to dance? Enrol now for classes in a fun and supportive environment with caring, passionate and experienced teachers. Dance classes are tailored for pre-schoolers through to advanced students and all levels of commitment.

ALSD offers classes in ballet, jazz, hip hop and contemporary and prides itself in providing a very high standard of technical teaching and numerous performance opportunities. Classes are available near you in Sumner and Ferrymead with enrolments being taken now! Classes also available in Papanui, Halswell and Selwyn area. Phone 354 6228 or email office@annaleschoolofdance.co.nz. www.annaleschoolofdance.co.nz

Also remember ask Petrina for forms for Nolan's Dance or Music sessions.

Through Faith We Shine – A note from the Parish

Kia ora everyone,

Well – here we are at the end of another week. It certainly is great news that here in Christchurch, we are at Alert Level 1. However, we do ask that everyone is very vigilant about Contact Tracing – please use the COVID Tracer APP or sign in at all Masses & every time you visit the Church. Also remember to hand sanitise as you come into Mass. Some people may still not be comfortable about hand shake at the Sign of Peace – please respect their wishes.

Today – Friday 19th February is Day of Prayer for Victims of Abuse and Violence.

The Pope's prayer intention for February is a powerful message against the various kinds of violence against women, which he describes as the “degradation of all humanity”. View The Pope Video for February – for women who are victims of violence here <https://youtu.be/OIQ9v0WZFc4>

We must not look the other way. Let us pray for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded by all.

Come to me all you who are wearied and burdened and I will give you rest. Matt 11: 28-30

The Hymn – ‘Prayer of St Francis – Make me a channel of your Peace’ seems appropriate at this time. Listen Here: <https://youtu.be/nWi-Plu0WbA>

REMINDER – a couple of things:

- **Parish Lenten Retreat** – Please see the attached Poster about the Parish Lenten Retreat offered by Sisters Kathleen and Clare – ‘Following in the Footsteps of Jesus’. Lent is a wonderful time to think about and reflect on how we might be ‘Walking in the footsteps of Jesus’. If you are interested please contact the Parish Office or sign up on the Sheet at the Church.
- **THIS SUNDAY 21st February – Christchurch East Baptism Preparation Programme** in the St Anne’s Hall at 2:00pm. Please advise anyone that you know if they would like their child baptised – this is the first Programme for 2021. The next Programme will likely be in July, so it is important to attend this one if you would like Baptism for your child.

Let’s finish this note with a simple prayer, based on material from the Pontifical Commission 2016:

Heavenly Father, you love and care for all your children especially the smallest and most vulnerable.

We entrust to you the lives of the many children and vulnerable adults who have been abused, and whose trust and innocence have been destroyed.

Help us to hear their cries of pain and to take responsibility for so many broken lives.

We pray that within their communities and families they may find understanding and support so that with the help of your grace their wounds may be healed and they may again know peace.

Grant this through Our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who shared our weakness in all things but sin, and lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit forever and ever.

Amen

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind Regards, Father Benito, Father Peter and Father Paulo