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Newsletter – Term 2 Week 1, 5 May 2022

Principal's Message

Tena Koutou e te Whānau,

Welcome back to Term 2. I hope you all had a wonderful relaxing holiday and a lovely Easter with your whānau. We have been blessed with such mild warm weather over the last few weeks to get out and about and enjoy doing lots of outdoor activities. It is nice to be starting the winter term with such settled weather - long may it continue!

We currently still have positive cases of Covid in the school and a number of families self-isolating. Our priority continues to be that we keep our staff and tamariki as safe as possible from Covid and our new plan reflects this. We will review the situation regularly during the term and advise you accordingly of any changes. Next week we move to Orange Level and I have attached to this newsletter our new plan for operating at this Level. This plan is based on advice for Schools from the Ministries of Education and Health.

Key things to note are:

- We will revert back to a 3pm finish time. With all children to be picked up no later than 3:15pm.
- Students will still be lined up in class groups at the end of the day on the courtyard just as we are currently doing.
- Parents are encouraged to drop off and pick up at the gate and masks strongly encouraged during drop off and pick up times.
- Masks are strongly encouraged to be worn indoors.
- We will continue to limit large gatherings on site so at this stage we will not be able to have parents at school events. We will regularly review this and advise of any changes.
- If you want a meeting with a teacher please make contact to arrange a suitable time. Please continue to email them if you have any questions.
- If you need to come to the office then we ask that no more than one person/family is in the office at any given time and that you wait outside until the person before has finished in the office.

Thank you for your continued support. We greatly appreciate your understanding as we work together to continue to keep everyone safe.

Finally, on behalf of all our staff we would like to wish all our Mothers and Grandmothers a very blessed Mother Day this Sunday.

Kia manaaki te Atua ia koutou
Collette Sandilands



School Information & Notices

A very special welcome is extended to our new students and their families this term. We hope you will all enjoy your time at Our Lady of Victories.

Natanya, Hannah and Elijah from Room 4



Daniel, Denilyse and Shivangi from Room 4



Dhiya from Room 6 and David from Room 8



nurturing faith, growing community, achieving excellence

Important Calendar Dates Term 2

Date	Event
8 May	Sunday - Mothers Day
12 May (Thurs)	School Cross Country - please note new date and postponement date: Friday 13 May
25 May	Board of Trustees Meeting
26 May	School Photos
3 Jun	Teacher Only Day - School closed
6 Jun	Queen's Birthday - NZ Stat Holiday
24 Jun	Matariki - NZ Stat Holiday
3 Jul	Whole School Mass at 9:00am
6 Jul	Board of Trustees Meeting
8 Jul	Last Day Term 2 - Mid Year Reports
10 Jul	Confirmation Mass

Competitive Year 4 to 8 Cross Country

This event will run on Thursday 12 May on our school field and St Thomas'. Children that place in this event are able to qualify for West Zones Cross Country. Children wear **PE Uniform**

Fun competitive School Cross Country

This event will run on the same day and is for the whole school. Children will run a course with different obstacles and the aim is to complete the course as many times possible within a time frame. Children wear **House Colours.**

Sorry but we are unable to have spectators at this event. We will take plenty of photos to share in the newsletter.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Tia who won a colouring competition in the holidays and as part of her prize she chose enough donuts to share with her whole class and staff. Awesome Sharing Tia!



Catholic Special Character



A big thank you to everyone who contributed very generously to the St Vincent de Paul group who were collecting non-perishable food for those in need in the community prior to Easter.

A wonderful response which was greatly appreciated!

This term I will be sharing some quotes on current topics and will also have a focus on the Liturgical Year.



On Monday 25th April Pope Francis spoke with a group of students from Northern Ireland. He said, "If we truly believe in Jesus, we must do what Jesus does: *encounter others, encounter our neighbours, in order to share with them the saving truth of the Gospel!*". He went on to say that:

"Building a culture of encounter is not simply about seeing, but looking; it is not about hearing, but listening; it is not about just meeting or passing people by, but stopping to engage with them about the things that really matter."

We need to ask ourselves how we can become promoters of this culture of encounter in our communities.

Tuesday 3 May is the feast of St Philip and James, the apostles. Philip and James were both apostles, and both served Christ faithfully during the very early days of the Church.

Philip seems to have been an enthusiastic person. He was the one who brought his friend Nathanael to Jesus, insisting to Nathanael that he had found the person about whom Moses had written. Some years later it was Philip who made arrangements, with the help of Andrew, to have a group of Greek Gentiles brought to Jesus. Philip also had a practical, down-to-earth mind. He was the apostle who commented that it would take a considerable amount of money to feed a crowd of more than 5,000 hungry men, women, and children!

