

GOOD SHEPHERD SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – PTA – 20 MARCH 2024

Once again it is a pleasure to report to the PTA about school happenings and events.

Catholic Special Character

Feast of St Joseph - 19 March 2024

Our special feast day, the Feast of St Joseph, was celebrated at school yesterday with the whole school joining the parish community at 9.30am Mass. Our House Captains and other senior leaders organised and ran a circuit of tabloid sports. We are grateful to the PTA for supplying everyone with a Moosie at lunchtime to complete our celebrations.

Trips and Activities:

We are aiming to have a range of fun activities to engage the children. Recently we had 'Opera in Schools' held in our parish hall which completely captured our children's imagination and inspired them! We are also looking to book some financial literacy through the ASB Getwise programme. We will be in contact with external sports clubs to offer some sports sessions i.e. Rippa, Football etc. Chess is being offered in our Parish Hall and is very popular with those attending. As a part of our efforts to be a more sustainable school we have plans to engage educators from the Tread Lightly Caravan to come and work with our children on best practice waste management.

Mitey Programme:

Mitey is a mental health initiative which is run by the Sir John Kirwan Foundation. Good Shepherd School (along with many other schools across New Zealand) participate in this programme. For the past three years teachers have received professional development on the effective use and delivery of this resource. You will see from this [summary of learning outcomes](#) how much of an asset this is to our school curriculum and in particular to student wellbeing. Teachers are provided with excellent resources and lesson plans so that it is easy to select topics which are most relevant to their class.

School Council and Student Opportunities:

The school student council is up and running, meeting with me once a week to discuss ways it can make a positive impact on our school. An example of this is an initiative we will trial called 'Talk Tuesdays'. There will be a box set up in the library with paper and pens for students to anonymously ask questions which may be troubling them or they want advice on. An example might be 'I quite often don't have anyone to play with at break times, what should I do?' Then once a fortnight on a Tuesday at lunchtime some of our senior students pull questions out of the box and give some suggestions / advice. It is optional for children to attend. This is targeted at our younger children however older children are very welcome to participate also.

Term Overviews:

You will see in our last school Newsletter a link to a Term 1 Overview. This was a request from some parents to see what their children are focussing on for learning so they can support at home if necessary and also just see what topics are being covered in areas such as Inquiry. Moving forward it would be great to discover what experts we have through our Parent / Caregiver community who could speak to the children or provide interesting resources to help engage our children. Thanks to Heather McLeod who put this overview together.

Cyber Safety

Our friend, Community Constable Tino made a special visit to our year five and six ākongā this week, to remind them of the huge importance of keeping themselves and others safe online. He also gave them strategies for when things go wrong. Please remind your tamariki to tell you immediately if something happens online that makes them upset.

Property

Background

- Good Shepherd School is a 'parish school' which means we are part of the Good Shepherd community and our property is treated as part of the entire Good Shepherd site.
- School property is termed 'integrated' and maintenance and development of this property is mostly paid for by the Ministry of Education through the Catholic Diocese of Auckland.
- The school must liaise closely with the Diocese property team when considering any property development project.

Over the past sixteen years the board, supported by the school community, parish and proprietor, has undertaken a programme to modernise the school.

Important developments have included:

- A new playground at the southeastern end of the school, by Room 9.
- A new two-storey administration block, with the assistance of the Catholic Schools Office.
- A new classroom where the old administration block was located (Room 8).
- An upgrade of the library and the creation of a new general purpose room where the old staff room was located.
- Modernisation of the parish hall by the Good Shepherd Parish.
- Wi-fi network installed throughout the school for all of its computer technology.
- An edible garden, developed with the help of parents.
- Tennis courts refurbished.
- All weather turf installed between Rooms 8 and 9 and the administration block.
- Canopy installed over the all weather turf.
- One solar panel was installed.
- Garden shed installed.
- Rooms 3 & 4 remodelled into an innovative learning environment and re-furnished.
- Fitness trail installed behind the Rooms 5-9 block.
- Fencing and gates installed at the Volcanic Street entrance.
- New concrete pathway laid alongside tennis courts.
- Installation of two water tanks.
- PE shed installed to replace the old container.
- Installation of the mural from the 2022 *Creatives in Schools* project.

Many of these developments have been completed with the support of the school community through PTA fundraising, including the biennial school fair.

Update on Shade Sail

The board is very grateful to the Good Shepherd PTA for their support in raising funds to cover projects that greatly enhance the daily lives of our students. We have received a graphic design and quote for presentation.

Ben Fahey
PRINCIPAL