**Bishop Edward Gaines Catholic School**

www.beg.school.nz

**Newsletter**

**Term 4 Week 10**

**2017**

***Kia ora, Kumesta, Kia Orana, Maloilelai, Talofalava, Greetings to you all ☺***

Special character focus:  **A Josephite Blessing for Christmas**

Whenever we gaze into a crib this Christmas season  
 *May new hope and joy flood our spirit*  
Whenever we watch babies and young children playing  
 *May new energy delight our hearts*  
Whenever we are tantalised by the aroma of a bbq  
 *May we unwind, relax and enjoy time off*  
Whenever the crush of family and friends overwhelms us  
 *May the hospitality of our hearts expand*  
Whenever we provide a meal or bed over the holidays  
 *May we experience love and appreciation*

Whenever we spy our reflection in the mirror or pool

*May we find ourselves to be images of God*

Whenever we put our feet up for leisure

*May the humble presence of the Incarnate One companion us*

Whenever we feel our distance from each other around the world

*May the Christ child draw us into unity*

(Sisters of St. Joseph of the Sacred Heart, 2014)

Prayer Intention:

For a blessed, happy and holy Christmas for all our school whanau and the St. Pius X Tokoroa Parish community.

Principal’s MESSAGE

This week is our last full week of school for 2017. You will notice that we are finishing a few days later than some of the other Tokoroa Schools. This is because we started later back in February aligning our dates with the Catholic Schools we are in a Community of Learning with. School finishes officially for us on Wednesday 20th December at 12:00 pm. If you want to keep your child home on this day please feel welcome to as it will be mostly a morning of tidying up and packing things away for the holidays.

On Tuesday night we have our Thanksgiving Liturgy, Nativity tableau and prizegiving in the church followed by a shared supper back at school. This starts at 6:00 pm. However, the musicians, Year 7 & 8 leaders & children needing to get into nativity costumes need to be at the side entrance to the church at 5:30 pm. Please bring a plate of food to share per family to our kitchen in the classroom for our shared supper.



**BEGS Year 8 Graduates 2017**

**Jordyn Neil, Josh Aculana & Ieula Cowley**

**All the best for high school you three – you look so grown up!!!**

I would like to thank everyone who has been involved in our school this year and has supported our staff and students. As the saying goes *‘It takes a village to raise a child’* and you have all had input into the lives of our Bishop Kids. Next week we will formally farewell our Primary School graduates – Josh Aculana, Ieula Cowley and Jordyn Neil who are going on to begin their secondary school education journey. These students have been wonderful student ambassadors for our school and will be sorely missed. I would like to personally thank Bucky and Talie Cowley, Phillip and Mandy Neil for their huge contribution to our school community over the last eight years – especially in their help with coaching sport, coming on school camps and taking a leading role in hospitality and fundraising initiatives. On behalf of us all THANK YOU and may God bless you always. The staff and I would also like to wish our other students who are transferring to other schools all the best for their next steps in education. As you know we would have loved to have kept you and continued to build up our school role but we understand your reasons for leaving. We wish all school leavers and their families every blessing too.

A big thank you to Mr Chris McKeever who will also be leaving our school at the end of this school year. Chris has been a wonderful addition to our teaching team and has taken on a lot extra leadership responsibilities. This has been very much appreciated by our Board of Trustees, staff and me. Our students have also benefited from his passion for the teaching of maths and science. On behalf of our school community we wish Chris and his partner Hannah all the very best for their move back to Palmerston North.

Please be advised that school starts next year on Tuesday 30th January 2018. We will be having a Teacher Only Day on Monday 5th of February 2017 with our Faith Based Community of Learning. Tuesday 6th of February is Waitangi Day, a public holiday, so you can all enjoy an extra long weekend. Apologies for any inconvenience the Teacher Only Day may cause families. We have to fit in with the other eight Catholic Schools in our Community of Learning.

***School Camp 2018 – Ohope Beach 7th – 9th March***

We have secured a booking for our summer school camp at Ohope Beach Top Ten Holiday Park near Whakatane. This camp will be a full school camp and we will be sleeping in tents. Costs and the camp programme still need to be finalised but the venue and potential education outside the classroom activities will be fabulous. If you are interested in coming along as a parent helper please speak to Caroline, Miss Bailey or Miss McGuigan.

Please do make a note of our dates for the diary. We have our Nativity Tableau and Prizegiving on Tuesday 19th December at 6:00 pm in the church followed by a shared supper back at school. This is a full school event and student attendance is expected. If you need help with transportation please speak to one of the school staff and

we will be more than happy to help out.

Here’s the website link if you’d like to have a look at where we will be camping - https://www.ohopebeach.co.nz/accommodation

***School lunches***

Friday’s – Sausage sizzle $1.50, Juicy ice blocks $1.00

***God Bless***

*Helen McGuigan*

**Dates for the Diary**

**Nativity Tableau & Prize giving Tuesday 19th December @ 6pm**

**Last day of Term 4 Wednesday 20th December School finishes at 12:00 pm**

**2018 Dates**

**First day of school 2018 Tuesday 30th January 2018**

**Teacher Only Day Monday 5th February 2018**

**Full School Camp 7th – 9th February Ohope Beach**

**Term 1 finishes Friday 13th April 2018**

***Tumuaki / Principal***

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