

St. Joseph's School

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Kia ora koutou katoa,

It's been wonderful to see so much enthusiasm and energy around the school as we embark on this exciting new school year together. The first month has flown by, and I couldn't be prouder of the efforts our ākonga have shown in their learning, particularly in the classroom. Their dedication and progress are truly inspiring!

As we continue through the term, we are committed to fostering an environment where every child can thrive, not only academically but also socially, emotionally, and spiritually. We believe in the importance of nurturing well-rounded individuals who feel confident, valued, and supported. The growth we witness in our students is a true reflection of the strong partnership between school and whānau, and we are so grateful for your ongoing support.

This week, we mark the special occasion of Shrove Tuesday, a day where we traditionally enjoy pancakes before the start of Lent. This gives us an opportunity to reflect on the importance of preparation and the spirit of sacrifice as we move into the season of Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday. It is a time for our tamariki to consider their spiritual growth, and we encourage families to participate in these meaningful traditions with us.

This term, we are also focusing on encouraging our ākonga to develop key skills such as resilience, creativity, and collaboration. These skills are integral to success both inside and outside the classroom. I encourage you to continue to engage with your child's learning at home, and we welcome any feedback or suggestions you may have to further enrich the learning experience for all.

We look forward to ending the term filled with growth, challenges, and many more memorable moments. Thank you again to all our whānau for being part of the Hato Hohepa community. Together, we will continue to make this a positive, inspiring place for our students to learn and grow.

Te Atua hei manaaki i a koutou,

Angela Muncaster
Principal

Special Character:

ASH WEDNESDAY 5TH MARCH

As we enter the season of Lent, we turn to God and to one another, journeying together towards Easter. We are reminded that following the Cross unites us as one, makes us family, and draws us into life with God.

We live this out each day through our school vision – learning, growing and loving in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Pope Francis invites us to use this Lenten season to deepen our prayer life, extend our generosity through almsgiving, and embrace fasting as a way to grow in faith. May we open our hearts and minds to being the Body of Christ for others during this sacred time.

Here is a beautiful Lenten prayer to share as a family:

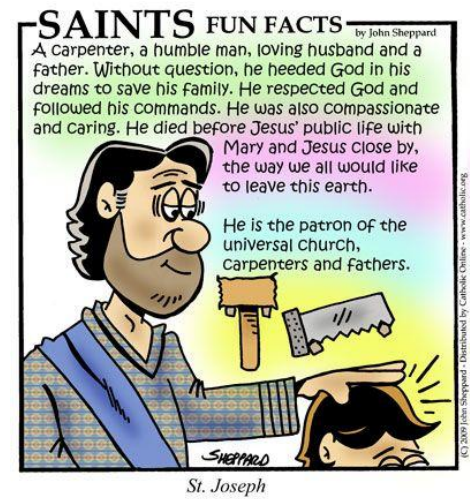
*Open our hearts to Your word, O Lord, that we may be renewed.
Open our hands to receive and to give, that we may be replenished.
Open our minds to the silence of Your presence, that we may be refreshed.
Amen.*

The Feast of St Joseph – 19th March

St Joseph was a remarkable man known for his deep faith and his dedication to caring for Jesus and Mary. As the earthly father of Jesus, he is considered a model of humility, love, and strength. St Joseph is regarded as the patron saint of the Universal Church, families, fathers, expectant mothers, travellers, immigrants, house sellers and buyers, craftsmen, engineers, and working people, among others.

His feast day is celebrated on 19th March each year. It holds special significance for us at St Joseph's School, as our school was founded in 1886 by the Sisters of St Joseph, a Catholic religious order devoted to education and the care of children. This day allows us to reflect on St Joseph's role as a protector and guide for families and communities, values that continue to shape our school community today.

We celebrate the Feast of St Joseph as a day of gratitude and connection to our faith, remembering the founding mission of our school and its enduring legacy.



Welcome to Hato Hohepa:

Naumai Haeremai! We warmly welcome our new ākonga to the Hato Hohepa (St Joseph's School Pātea) whānau. We pray that this journey of learning brings you closer to Christ and fills you with His peace and wisdom.

A special welcome back to Whaea Justine Clark, who will be teaching in the classroom on Thursday's and Friday's while Whaea Shania is on maternity leave. We take this opportunity to offer our prayers and best wishes to Whaea Shania during this precious time with her whānau, and we look forward to meeting the new blessing that God has brought into her life.



Whaea
Justine



Punawai
Prime-Davis



Eiress
Perston



Kitana
Weston

Taranaki Anniversary – SCHOOL CLOSED

Just a reminder that school will be closed this coming Monday 10th March for Taranaki Anniversary, we hope that you all have a fun filled weekend with whānau and friends. Homework for the week will be sent home on the Tuesday.

Teacher Only Day – SCHOOL CLOSED

Monday 24th March, school will be closed as all teachers will be attending PDL for the new structured mathematics curriculum.

Uniform Supply

Our stock of Size 4 to Size 10 uniform items is currently very limited due to the closure of our existing supplier. We are actively working to source a new supplier and will restock these sizes as soon as possible. We will keep whānau informed and notify you once additional stock is available.

Headlice Reminder

We would like to remind all whānau to check their children's hair regularly for headlice. If your child is affected, please treat and ensure they are clear before returning to school. Early detection and treatment help prevent the spread of headlice within our school community. We appreciate your support in keeping our learning environment healthy for all ākonga. Thank you!

Shrove Tuesday Facts

Shrove Tuesday is sometimes called Pancake Day after the fried batter recipe traditionally eaten on this day

Shrove Tuesday is the day before Lent starts and the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday.

Pancakes became associated with Shrove Tuesday as they were a dish that could use up all the eggs, fats and milk in the house with just the addition of flour.

So that no food was wasted, whanau would have a feast on the Shrove Tuesday and eat up all the food that wouldn't last the forty days of Lent without going off.

It's a day to say a sorry prayer to God before Lent.

It is also a day of celebration as the last chance to feast before Lent begins.



Dates to Remember

March 2025

Monday 10 th	TARANAKI ANNIVERSARY – SCHOOL CLOSED
Monday 17 th	St Patrick's Day
Wednesday 19 th	St Joseph's Day School Board Hui – 3.30pm
Monday 24 th	Teacher Only Day – School Closed
Monday 31 st	Cluster Athletics – Patea Area School

APRIL 2025

Friday 1 st	Rippa Rugby with Finn Crawford (TRFU)
Thursday 3 rd	Fire Wise
Friday 11 th	Last Day of Term 1
Monday 28 th	Start of Term 2