

# St. Joseph's School

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## Kia ora koutou katoa,

As we are nearing the end of term, it is heartening to see the continued enthusiasm and dedication of our ākonga in their learning. The classrooms are buzzing with curiosity and creativity, and it is a joy to witness the growth and confidence our tamariki are developing each day.

Lent is now well underway, and this season invites us to reflect, show kindness, and grow spiritually. It is a time for us all—students, staff, and whānau—to consider how we can support one another and live out our school values in meaningful ways. We encourage our tamariki to think about small acts of kindness and gratitude that can make a big difference in their own lives and in the lives of others.

As always, we appreciate the strong partnership between school and home. Your involvement and encouragement play a vital role in your child's success. Whether it's reading together, discussing their learning, or simply sharing in their achievements, your support makes all the difference.

We have some exciting events coming up, so please keep an eye on our school calendar and communications. Let's continue to make this term a memorable and fulfilling one for all!

Te Atua hei manaaki i a koutou,

**Angela Muncaster**  
Principal

## The Annunciation

On Tuesday 25th March, we remember the special moment when the Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary, announcing that she would be the mother of Jesus. Through her faith and trust in God, Mary said 'yes' to His plan, and through her openness, the world received our Saviour.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke (1:26-32, 38):

*"The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus.' Mary said, 'I am the Lord's servant. May your word to me be fulfilled.'"*

We Reflect:

Imagine how Mary must have felt when the angel appeared—perhaps surprised, afraid, or even confused. Yet, despite not fully understanding, she trusted in God and said 'yes.' Her faith and courage inspire us to listen for God's call in our own lives and to be open to His plans for us.

As we reflect on this Gospel story, let us pray that, like Mary, we may have the faith and willingness to follow God's path in our lives.

Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

## Family Reflection:

We encourage families to take a moment to discuss this story together. How do we listen for God's call in our own lives? What are some ways we can trust in God, even when things feel uncertain?

You may also like to watch a short video on **The Annunciation** as a family and reflect on its message.



### Cluster Athletics

On Monday, 31st March, our students will be participating in the Cluster Athletics event at Patea Area School. We will be leaving at 9:15 am, so please ensure your child arrives on time to get ready. School sports tops will be provided and given to students before we depart. Please send your child with a named drink bottle, as we will be at Patea Area School for most of the day. Whānau are welcome to join us—we'd love to see you there! We're looking forward to an exciting day of sports and teamwork!

### Lunches in Schools

Due to the limited variety in the school lunches that we've been receiving, we've had some amazing support from our school whānau to provide additional kai for our tamariki. Last week, Matua Gareth cooked a delicious sausage sizzle, which the students absolutely loved. This week, he prepared curried sausages and rice, and next week, Whaea Jess has kindly offered to make spaghetti Bolognese and to finish off the term, Whaea Philly will be making pizza for our tamariki. A huge thank you to Matua Gareth, Whaea Jess, and Whaea Philly for their generosity and effort in ensuring our students enjoy a variety of nourishing meals. We truly appreciate your support! If any other whānau would like to contribute, you are more than welcome! Please pop into the school office, and we can add you to the roster. We also understand that not everyone is able to help, and that is absolutely okay—there is no obligation at all. Ngā mihi nui for your ongoing support!

### Potluck Lunch & Whānau Voice

We warmly invite all our whānau to join us for a potluck lunch at school on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April at 11.30am! This is a wonderful opportunity to come together as a community, share delicious food, and celebrate the learning journey of our tamariki. More details will be shared soon—we hope to see you there! As part of our commitment to providing the best learning experience for our students, we would love to hear from you! We will be sending out a short questionnaire to gather your thoughts on what you would like your child to learn here at St Joseph's School. Your input is incredibly valuable in shaping a learning environment that reflects the hopes and aspirations of our whānau. Keep an eye out for the questionnaire—we appreciate your time and feedback! 😊

### Math Professional Development

On Monday, Whaea Justine and I attended Professional Learning & Development (PLD) alongside other schools in our Kāhui Ako. We explored the new structured mathematics and statistics curriculum, gaining valuable insights to support our teaching. At St Joseph's School, we use the PR1ME Maths program, which is aligned with the New Zealand Curriculum. This structured approach will continue to be implemented in your child's learning to strengthen their mathematical understanding and skills. We look forward to seeing our tamariki grow in confidence with maths and appreciate your support in their learning journey! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to pop into the school and see me.

Dates to Remember	
March 2025	
Monday 31 <sup>st</sup>	Cluster Athletics – Patea Area School
APRIL 2025	
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Fire Wise
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Potluck Lunch & Whānau Voice
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Last Day of Term 1
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup>	Start of Term 2

## Introducing HERO – Our New Communication & Reporting System

In Term 2, we are excited to launch Hero, our new online communication and reporting platform, complete with a parent app.

Hero allows schools to create a customised online space where teachers, students, and parents can connect anytime, anywhere, on any device. It is a secure, user-friendly system that brings all school-related information into one place.

With Hero, you can:

- ☒ Read and comment on posts about your child's learning
- ☒ View your child's progress and goals
- ☒ Receive and respond to school notices, including surveys and trip permissions
- ☒ Access school term dates and the calendar of events
- ☒ Notify the school of absences or lateness
- ☒ Book school interviews
- ☒ Navigate to other school-related web pages
- ☒ Customise your profile and notification settings

Learning posts, curriculum information, and goal-setting will form an ongoing digital report, building year after year. Over time, you will have access to written posts, images, videos, work samples, and helpful resources—all in one place.

We are looking forward to sharing Hero with you and strengthening our partnership in your child's learning journey.

**More details will be shared in Term 2—stay tuned! 😊**