

St. Joseph's School

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Kia ora e te whānau,

We are now halfway through Term 2, and what a special journey it continues to be here at St Joseph's, Pātea.

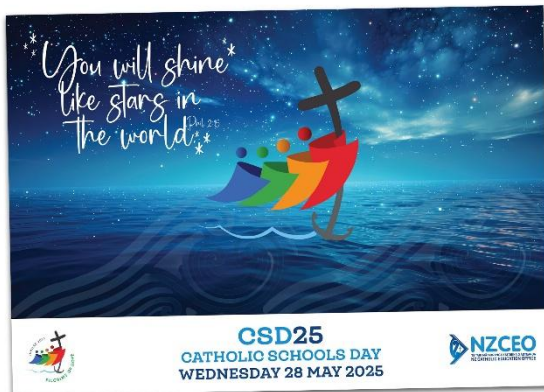
Recently, Jess our Presiding member, and I had the privilege of attending the Josephite Colloquium, a deeply moving experience that allowed us to further explore our whakapapa — our strong spiritual and historical connection to Saint Mary MacKillop and the Sisters of St Joseph, who founded our kura back in 1904.

The colloquium was not only a time of learning but also a time of reflection. We were reminded of the courage, compassion, and unwavering faith that underpin the Josephite tradition, and how those same values continue to guide and inspire us today. It affirmed the importance of honouring our past while weaving those enduring Josephite values into the fabric of our school's current vision and day-to-day life.

We look forward to sharing more of our Josephite story with you in the weeks to come as we continue to grow together as a school whānau, grounded in faith, resilience, and aroha.

Ngā mihi mahana

Angela Muncaster
Principal



Catholic Schools Day 2025

On Wednesday, 28 May 2025, Catholic schools throughout Aotearoa came together to celebrate Catholic Schools Day — a special occasion to reflect on and honour the unique identity, mission, and contribution of Catholic education in our communities.

We were blessed to join with fellow schools from the Whanganui District for a beautiful celebratory Mass, giving thanks for the gift of Catholic education and the shared values that unite us in faith and service.

2025 Theme: Shine Like Stars in the World

The 2025 theme, **“Shine like stars in the world – E tīaho ana koe hei rama i te ao”**, reflects the call for Catholic schools to be beacons of hope, compassion, and light in their communities. This aligns with the Church's Jubilee Year 2025 focus on Christian hope, global solidarity, and care for creation.

School Uniform Update

Thank you for your continued patience as we work to finalise a new uniform supplier. We apologise for the delay — we are still in the process of sourcing a **reputable and affordable** provider that meets our school's needs.

We understand how important this is for our whānau and appreciate your understanding as we work to get this sorted as soon as possible.

Physical Restraint – Supporting Student Wellbeing

We are committed to creating a safe, nurturing, and supportive learning environment for all our tamariki. In line with the Education and Training Act 2020, and the guidance of Aramai He Tētēkura, we focus on recognising and responding to student distress in respectful and compassionate ways.

As a school, we work hard to minimise the use of physical restraint and prioritise wellbeing through de-escalation strategies, proactive support, and strong relationships. We are also committed to upholding Te Tiriti o Waitangi and ensuring equitable outcomes for all our students.

We're pleased to share that all teaching and authorised support staff at St Joseph's have completed the mandatory online module on understanding and applying the physical restraint guidelines required Ministry of Education training.

We want to assure you that we follow all legal and ethical guidelines around physical restraint, and our approach is always one of care, respect, and support. Seclusion and unsafe restraint practices are not used at our school under any circumstances.

If you have any questions or would like to learn more about this area, please feel free to contact the school office or speak with the principal directly.

Kings Birthday

A reminder that we will be closed on Monday 3rd June in observance of King's Birthday, a public holiday in Aotearoa New Zealand. School will reopen as usual on Tuesday 4th June. We hope you enjoy a safe and restful long weekend with your whānau.

Cross Country & Colour Run – Tuesday 10th June

We're excited to be invited to join Patea Area School for their annual Cross Country and Colour Run on Tuesday 10th June! It's a fun and active day that celebrates fitness, participation, and school spirit.

Students will not be able to take part in the Colour Run while wearing their school uniforms. They will need to bring a white or light-coloured T-shirt to change into, along with comfortable running clothes.

To help keep everyone safe and comfortable, masks will be provided, and we encourage students to bring sunglasses or other protective eyewear for the Colour Run.

More information and a detailed notice will be sent home closer to the day.

Let's get ready for a day full of fun, colour, and community!

Health & Physical Education Survey – We Value Your Voice

At St Joseph's School, Pātea, we believe every child is *wonderfully made in the image and likeness of God*. This belief is at the heart of our Health and Physical Education curriculum, which nurtures the whole person — spiritually, emotionally, physically, and socially — in a way that reflects our Catholic faith and honours the unique dignity of every learner.

As part of our regular review cycle, we are inviting input from parents, caregivers, and whānau to help shape the future of our Health and PE programme. Your thoughts and perspectives are important to us, and they help ensure that what we teach remains relevant, inclusive, and aligned with the needs of our tamariki and wider community.

Please take a moment to have a look at our Health & Physical Education Curriculum and complete our Health and Physical Education Survey (both are attached to this newsletter)

You can return the survey to the school office by Wednesday 4th June, or complete it online (link will be on our facebook page or if we have your current email address, the survey link will be emailed directly to you. Please add your name to the survey to go into the draw to win a \$50 Pack'nSave voucher 😊)

Ngā mihi nui for your ongoing support as we guide our tamariki to grow into confident, compassionate, and Christ-like individuals.