

St. Joseph's School

15 Suffolk Street, Patea, 4520

Phone: (06) 273 8644 Email: admin@stjoespatea.school.nz Website: www.stjoespatea.school.nz

School Vision

"May our waka always point to God as we enhance the wairua of our taonga (students)."

Each day we will love the Lord our God with all our heart, mind and soul by:

Taking Responsibility - Achieving Excellence - Having Respect - In it Together

Kia ora koutou,

I have discovered that there is a very special ethos in this school and have really enjoyed getting to know your tamariki. They are welcoming, caring, and kind – qualities that reflect the dedication of the staff who have worked with them before, as well as you, their whānau. This term has a particularly busy Church calendar with Lent, Feast Days, and Holy Week. During this time we continue to ensure that *our waka always points towards God* as we nurture and strengthen the wairua of our taonga – our ākongā. We are grateful to Monsignor David Bell, who makes a wonderful connection with our tamariki. We thank him for his thoughtfulness and care in engaging our young people during the Masses.

There are some whānau I haven't yet met, and I would love to connect with you. Please feel free to pop in and say "Hi" 😊

I am also pleased to let you know that my contract has been rolled over to next term, so I will continue to teach and lead the school until the end of next term.

✚ Catholic Special Character Corner

"Whatever troubles may be before you, accept them bravely, remembering Whom you are trying to follow. Do not be afraid. Love one another, bear with one another, and let charity guide you all your life." – Saint Mary MacKillop
Encourages courage, love, and kindness in our daily lives, following the example of Christ in all we do.

Catholic Principals' Conference

From 10–12 March, I will be attending the Catholic Principals' Conference in Palmerston North for professional development. This learning will support me in continuing to strengthen and lead the special Catholic Character of Saint Joseph's School. I look forward to sharing this learning and seeing you all again when I return. Whaea Ann Lagan will be teaching in the class while I am away.

Whānau Ideas for Lent 🌿

Here are some simple ways whānau can journey together through Lent:

- 🧡 **Acts of Kindness** – Do something thoughtful for someone each day.
- 🙏 **Family Prayers** – Share a short prayer or reflection at mealtimes or before bed.
- 🏠 **Helping at Home** – Small chores or caring gestures for family members.
- 🌳 **Nature Time** – Spend time outdoors noticing and appreciating God's creation.
- 📦 **Giving Back** – Collect and donate food, clothing, or toys to help others.
- 🕯️ **Mindful Reflection** – Take a moment each day to be grateful and positive.

We would love to hear your ideas too! Share how your whānau is living out Lent at home and at school. 💙

Saint Joseph's Feast Day – Thursday 19 March ✨

Ākongā will travel to St Joseph's School, Hāwera to celebrate St Joseph's Feast Day. The day will include mission activities followed by Mass. Students will reflect on the life of St Joseph, our patron saint, and the values of faith, service, and care for others that he represents. As students will be travelling in private transport, a completed permission form is required. The form is on the last page of this newsletter. Please return it to school by Friday 13 March so transport can be arranged.

Celebrating Service and Commitment to Our Kura



On Wednesday night, we held a special dinner to thank those who have faithfully served on the Board of St Joseph's School Patea.

We honoured Mrs Pauline Ranson and Aunty Linda Towers for their many years of dedicated service, and also acknowledge Jan Nicholas and Teresa Edwards, whose contributions are sincerely appreciated.

Special thanks to Jess Patu-Hindes for providing steady leadership as Presiding Member during a challenging time.

At the end of last year, the Board stood down and a

Commissioner was appointed. We are very grateful to Neryda Sullivan for working alongside us during this transition.

We sincerely thank all our former Board members for their service – our kura is stronger because of you. ❤️

Consultation on the Proposed Closure of the School

Thank you to all the families who attended the consultation meeting on 3 March. At this meeting, there was an opportunity to give feedback, which will become part of a report considered by the Ministry of Education.

Feedback will continue to be collected until 5pm, Thursday 2 April 2026. I strongly encourage you to have your say, especially if your whānau connections go back many generations.

A sheet with information on how to give feedback was sent home on 4 March. If you need another copy, please let us know. Please also share the link or other ways of providing feedback with people connected to the school.

Feedback can be submitted via:

- Our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100052455801737>
- School website: www.stjoespatea.school.nz

Attendance

We are committed to your child's learning and progress. Every day and every hour of possible learning is a taonga. Please prioritise attendance to ensure your child gets the most out of school.

Upcoming Activities to mark in your calendar:

Saint Joseph's Feast Day at St Joseph's School Hawera – 19 March

- A notice with details and a permission slip has been attached to this newsletter – please return to school by Friday 13th March so transport can be arranged.

Cluster Athletics Day at Patea Area School – 23 March

- Whānau are welcome to attend – stay tuned for more details!

Goal Setting – 25 March, 3pm–5pm

- Research shows that ākongā learn best when whānau and kura work together to support learning.
- Individual goal-setting meetings will be held for each whānau. We would love to see you all – please complete the form sent home and return to school to book a time that is suitable.

Celebration of Learning / Whānau Day – 1 April, 12.30–1.30pm

- Join us for a shared kai and to hear about ākongā learning.

Aotea Utanganui – Museum of South Taranaki Visit

- As part of our "Dive into Aotearoa" project, ākongā will soon have the opportunity to explore Aotea Utanganui – Museum of South Taranaki, where the history, culture, and stories of our region are preserved and shared. The museum celebrates both Māori and European heritage, offering a rich, hands-on learning experience. We will be securing a date for our visit soon—stay tuned for more details!



“Shaping Our World”
 Our ākonga have been learning about landforms – the natural features that shape our earth. Using green playdough to represent whenua (land) and blue card for moana (sea), they created models of islands, lakes, peninsulas, bays and straits. It was wonderful to see the creativity and enthusiasm as ākonga worked together to explore how land and water connect to form the world around us.

Pictured: Ākonga proudly modelling their landforms.



Exploring Saint George’s Community Garden
 Ākonga had a fantastic time exploring the Saint George’s Community Garden! They discovered all the wonderful things that had grown over the holidays! After some hands-on gardening fun, including weeding, planting, and watering, everyone enjoyed a refreshing ice block to cool down in the sunny weather. Ākonga were also excited to take home some of their harvest to share with their whānau. A big thank you to Tessa, and all the volunteers for sharing their expertise and helping make the garden visit so enjoyable!



Outdoor Discoveries
 Ākonga were thrilled to spot dozens of cicada cases clinging to the boughs of two trees in our school grounds. These empty shells marked where the cicadas had climbed before shedding their outer skins and emerging as adults. The discovery sparked curiosity and investigation, as ākonga carefully noticed how they clung to the bark and clustered together under the leaves. It was a hands-on opportunity to learn about insects and life cycles, and a wonderful reminder of the exciting discoveries that can be made right in our own school environment. We will look at extending this knowledge into the class learning.

PRAYER TO ST JOSEPH - FEASTDAY 19 MARCH 2026

St Joseph, Daring Dreamer teach us to listen and trust in our Dreams.

St Joseph, Guardian-Defender help us to be vigilant and responsive to the world in which we live.

St Joseph, Carpenter, you show us how to elevate our work to the sacred.

St Joseph, Humble Servant, you show us how to live with a pure heart. Help us to remain humble and to simplify.

St Joseph, Teacher, may your example strengthen our resolve to help others more.

St Joseph, you gathered strength and peace in God's promises. Stay with us during life's transitions.

St Joseph, one who is deeply engaged in the adventures of life, always ready for the journey,

Joseph consoling Child Jesus – Unknown Artist always caring, always 'Yes'. Joseph who dreams, and lives the dream, who follows his heart into Love and Mystery.



Joseph Consoling Child Jesus – Unknown Artist

Grounded in Love – in his close relationships with God, with his own soul, and with his family, Joseph who is always ready to take the next step, to move into each unknown, each new day, filled with hope.

St Joseph, be with us in the Great Journey we are on in our own time. AMEN. **ACTIVITY:** Think of a Word to describe a quality of St Joseph for you.

Share it as an auditory image 'mosaic' by saying the qualities you think of aloud in a prayerful way.

HYMNS TO JOSEPH:

Song for Joseph - Sister Kathy Sherman

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iCapcgCm9Ko>

Joseph's Song - Michael Card <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f5RLChQZz-M>

Guardian Protector - Chris Skinner <https://www.chrisskinner.org.nz/guardian-protector>

Shove Tuesday 17th February – Preparing for Lent



Senior Swimming Sports



Dates - Term 1 2026	
MARCH	
Mon 9 th	SCHOOL CLOSED – Taranaki Anniversary
Tues 17 th	St Patrick’s Day
Thurs 19 th	St Joseph’s Feast Day – St Joseph’s Hawera
Mon 23 rd	Cluster Athletics – Patea Area School
Wed 25 th	Goal Setting – 3:00pm to 4.30pm
Aotea Utanganui Visit	
APRIL	
Wed 1 st	Celebration of Learning – Whanau Day
Thurs 2 nd	Last Day of Term 1
Mon 20 th	Start of Term 2



PLEASE RETURN THE BELOW SLIPS TO SCHOOL BY FRIDAY 13TH MARCH



St Joseph’s School, Hāwera - St Joseph’s Feast Day Celebration – Thursday 19th March 2026

Child/rens Full Name: _____

I give permission for my child/ren to attend and travel to and from St Joseph’s School Hawera by private transport. YES / NO

Name of parent/caregiver (printed): _____

Emergency contact number: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____



Goal Setting Hui – Whānau Time Sheet

Please write your name next to your preferred 10-minute slot. Just in case your first choice is taken, you may provide up to 2 alternative times (e.g., Gillies 1, 2, 3).

Time Slot	Whānau Name	Time Slot	Whānau Name
3:00 – 3:10 pm		3:50 – 4:00 pm	
3.10 – 3:20 pm		4:00 – 4:10pm	
3:20 – 3:30 pm		4:10 – 4:20pm	
3:30 – 3:40 pm		4:20 – 4.30pm	
3:40 – 3.50pm			

Instructions:

- Each slot is 10 minutes.
- Please select your preferred slot as 1st choice and provide up to 2 alternative choices just in case your first choice is taken. We will confirm times when all forms have been returned.
- **Return this form to the school office or class teacher by Friday 13th March.**