

Our Lady of Kāpiti School



Te Kura o te Whaea o Kāpiti

Newsletter - Tuesday 13 November 2018 Term 4

Message from our Principal

It's halfway through the term and we have a busy few weeks ahead of us.

The teachers are currently completing assessments and busily writing our end of year reports.

Touch rugby is well underway. Thank you to all our volunteer coaches who are giving up their time to take practices at school and organising the children at the games each week.

On Thursday we have our Welcome Assembly at 9.00am in St Patrick's Hall for all the children who have started at our school since last term. It is a lovely event and it would be nice to have some of our families there to join us in welcoming them.

We celebrated All Saints Day in our classrooms by doing a variety of activities around the Saints and the children all joined the Parish for All Souls Day Mass which had some beautiful singing lead by the music group and the school.

Last week we had John Masson come to the school and talk



to our senior students about the significance of Armistice Day and present the school with a wreath of poppies crocheted by the Freemason's Ladies Club. We have displayed the wreath in our trophy cabinet in Admin block.

We are currently preparing a group of our students to receive their Baptismal sacrament at our special Mass on Wednesday 21 November at 9.30am. Last night we held a Parent Information evening led by Mr Mettrick and Fr Michael McCabe who discussed the programme their children are participating in, the Baptism symbols and what they mean as well as what happens in the special Mass.



We have had our Year 6,7 & 8 children participating in a Puberty Unit over the last few weeks. To support this programme we have organised Loving for Life facilitators who will be running two parent/child sessions next week, which will encourage and build confidence to talk together confidently about human sexuality. A letter has been sent home for parents to fill in and return to school as soon as possible.

I would like to thank our school community for your support in our NZEI Rolling Teacher Strikes. Our day is on Friday 16 November so the school will be closed for instruction on this day. The teachers will be attending a meeting locally where we will be voting on the new negotiations before walking down Kāpiti Road as a collective rally. Please have us in your thoughts and prayers that the children are in the heart of the negotiations.

Let us pray for all those who have died in the violence of war, each one remembered by and known to God - Amen

This term our Year 6-8 students have been learning all about 'Positive Puberty'. Here are some of the girls sharing their wisdom and supporting each other to answer questions.



In New Zealand Year 7-8 students are required to have a basic, but accurate understanding of human sexuality topics. In response to this our school has run 'Positive Puberty' Sessions.

To further support this, Our Lady of Kāpiti School has decided to host a seminar for Year 6/7/8 students and their parents called *Toward Loving (A)*, which has been produced by the organization Loving For Life. Loving for Life has been conducting workshops in Catholic schools in Australia for over 25 years. Recently, these programmes have been aligned to the NZ Curriculum and are now available for NZ Catholic Schools. All caregivers of Year 6-8 students should have received a notice about this fabulous workshop. Please ensure that you complete this and return it to the school office asap. Spare forms are also available from the school office.



Next week construction is going to begin on the Church. The fencing will be extended out and visibly marked. Access on and off the building zone will be from Milne Drive to minimize disruption to the school. Please ensure you keep your children well back and use the footpaths.

We will keep you updated and building progresses.



Our Lady of Kāpiti School wishes to welcome all our new students and their families to our school.

Mila Mitchell NE - Rm 1



A message to parents from Feilding Intermediate School principal Diane Crate on Facebook, published with her permission to help inform our community.

It is with some sadness that I read and listened to media reports about the latest offer presented to teachers. Much of the reporting is, in my view, skewed to sound much better than the reality. Comments like “most teachers will receive a \$10,000 salary increase” are very misleading. For example, a teacher who is joining the profession after spending four years at university will receive an increase of around \$19 per week from this offer straight away. A teacher who has been teaching for over 10 years and has a full degree will receive around \$27 a week extra from this offer straight away.

Secondary school teachers currently receive 10 days a term release. This enables them to prepare lessons, work with parents, mark assessments and participate in professional learning. Primary school teachers receive two days a term. In the last offer primary teachers were offered a very small increase of 12 minutes a week extra release. In the new offer this pitiful increase has been removed completely.

The addition of 600 extra “learning support” staff is great, but there is very little information about what this might look like in reality. Education Minister Chris Hipkins himself told me that crucial details like whether these people would be employed by schools or the ministry have yet to be decided. We have no idea if we will be able to use these roles directly in our schools as part of our staff, or if they will work across a number of schools. It seems to have been announced quickly to garner favour, but with no specific details. The Minister says he needs time to find and train these people, but we already have SENCO (special education needs co-ordinator) staff in our schools who are connected to our whānau, tamariki and other staff – and we urgently need funding to support them. Principals and boards of trustees are using their operating grants and teacher staffing budgets to support SENCO roles, while the minister takes another whole year to come up with a plan.

This seems not unlike the announcement of pay rises for support staff which was heralded as a “historic pay rise”. This in fact only related to around 300 “support workers” and totally excluded the literally thousands of teacher aides who earn only a fraction over minimum wage.

Comments like “the police accepted the same offer of 3%” are also very disappointing. I don’t want to compare roles, but police officers are paid while they train; teachers often start their careers with massive student loans from four years of full time university study. The starting wage for a police officer is currently over \$56,000 – plus allowances and overtime. The current starting salary for a teacher is \$47,980 with no overtime rates or standard allowances. While I absolutely value and appreciate our police force – and they earn every penny – it is not fair to suggest that because police accepted 3% so should teachers.

Today I have a teacher working the full day at school putting on a cooking show. I have another teacher spending the whole weekend in Wellington taking students to a sporting challenge. I have teachers replying to messages from their personal cell phones, arranging meetings after hours, and spending their evenings at discos, meetings and cultural events. I have teachers arriving at school at 6am to meet students for events. The list goes on and on. So reports of ‘9am to 3pm with 12 weeks holiday’ are simply ridiculous. My teachers work huge hours and give up time with their own families. From all the emails and documents I receive from my staff well into the evenings and weekends, I know that they continue to work long hours at home.

We cannot expect everything straight away, but please believe me when I say this is not about greed for a bigger pay rise. The conditions around classroom release, class sizes and extra support for students have been ignored completely. In fact we have less release in this offer than in the last. We have students in our classes TODAY that deserve a better deal – they are not arriving in 2020.

I totally understand that the strike is a hassle for our community; we would much rather be at work too. My teachers cannot afford to lose another day’s pay – and know you can’t either! But we are simply at a loss about how else to be heard.

We will spend our strike day out in the community trying to be heard. Please support us.

SCHOOL ASSEMBLY



Congratulations to the following children who received Merit certificates from their classroom teachers at assembly on **31 October**. A great effort!

- Rm 1** Keevah Tiimalu, Maddison Earl, Grace Lotsu
- Rm 3** Kayleigh Graham, Sophie Tombs, Bradley Scheepers
- Rm 5** Madison Pervan, Dominic Mettrick, Brooke Richardson, Adam Jansen van Vuuren
- Rm 6** Eydie Wilkes, Jazzmin Joines
- Rm 7** Lillian Barrett
- Rm 8** Bryce Hayward, Sophia Lemmon, Adam Carberry
- Rm 9** Erin Carberry, Finn Davis, Wilson Berber, Isaak Deed

Principal's Pencils were awarded to the following students for being fabulous! Well done, Madison Pervan, Benjamin Williamson, Joshua Williamson, Regan Toon, Cooper Earl, Jazzmin Joines.

The recipients of Merit Certificates on **November 8** were;

- Rm 1** Joshua Harris, Emerson Quinn
- Rm 3** Jaimee Pervan, Keziah Jacob, George Brian
- Rm 5** Grace Tia, Brooke Richardson, Nathalie Hatulan
- Rm 6** Kristina Bantilan, Joshua Lotsu
- Rm 7** Adelaide Graham, Edward Hatulan
- Rm 8** Brooke Richardson
- Rm 9** Jessika McClure, Aaliyah Te Amo

A Principal's Pencil was awarded to Ryan Martin in acknowledgment of his great participation in singing. Good work!

Don't forget that you can order a lunch for Friday through Kindo. **Ezlunch**, provides a convenient and affordable healthy lunch with loads of yummy choices and, is delivered right here to school.



General school house keeping items:

- If you are a Touch Rugby player please only wear your school provided Touch Rugby tops at games. These are only to be worn when representing our school.
- Please take your rubbish with you. An increasing amount of rubbish has been found in the car park. Please take your rubbish with you when you leave. We want to keep our school looking beautiful!

Important Touch Rugby Update

Through the touch season, all teams will be rostered on BBQ duty (cooking and serving sausages) which requires parent support. This means we need to cover the time our teams are playing (normally this would be two people for the first half and then another two people for the second half).

The team on BBQ duty will be playing on field 3 in front of the BBQ so the game is visible.

Each team should be rostered on only once per season.

Please note that if we do not provide cover, our team on duty will be penalized by playing with only five players.

The individual coaches will send a text out to the team members parents as the teams are rostered on. Can I please strongly encourage you to help out.

Please note that the money raised from the BBQ helps to subsidize the KJT fees.

I ♥ Touch Rugby

COMING EVENTS TERM 4 2018

DATE	EVENT
Wed 14 Nov	Senior Interschool Athletics
Thur 15 Nov	Welcome Assembly, 9am
Fri 16 Nov	STRIKE - school is closed
Mondays	School Liturgy, 9.00am
Wed 21 Nov	Baptismal Mass, 9.30am
Thur 30 Nov	Mission Day
Fri 14 Dec	Last day of Term 4

**IT'S TIME TO
STAND UP
FOR OUR
KIDS.**

We need significant pay increases for our teachers and principals, so we can attract and retain the best people to education!

We need more time to teach!

We need more resources to support children with additional needs!

Join Us!



FRIDAY 16TH NOVEMBER

KAPITI – WHAT'S HAPPENING?

11am

Member Only Meeting –

all Principals and Teachers sign in.

Whitireia Campus, Kapiti Rd

There will be a vote – Have your say!

Approx 11.45am (everyone)

Gather outside Whitireia, march to Kapiti Rd,
take up a position on either side of Kapiti Rd
for chanting and banner waving

**Invite your schools parents, caregivers and
students to join with us to show their support.**

WEAR WELLINGTON COLOURS – Yellow & Black.

**BRING YOUR SCHOOL BANNERS, SIGNS AND NOISE MAKING
DEVICES.**