



JOHN PAUL II HIGH UPDATE

Friday, Feb 26th 2010

Greetings from the Principal



Welcome to our first newsletter for 2010 and what a busy start we've had. A special welcome to all of our new Year 9 students (31 of them)



and to those other students who have enrolled at other year levels including 10, 11 and 12. I hope that your stay at John Paul II High School will be enjoyable and successful as each of you works to achieve your level of personal excellence.

My congratulations go to all of our students who achieved success in their National Certificates of Educational Achievement, last year. The results were not earth-shattering but they were

sound and we compared well with national results. Of special note was the success of Stephanie who gained her Level 1 qualification within three months of beginning her NCEA studies with us and, at the same time, Steph gained 20 Level 2 credits which meant that she had already completed one third of her Level 2 qualification at the beginning of this year. Her goal for 2010 is to complete her NCEA, Level 2, gain her Level 3 qualification and achieve University Entrance. Her age? Steph turns 15 this year; an incredible effort indeed.

I have challenged students and teachers this year to strive to make 2010 one of the most academically successful years we've had. We have a concentration of real talent amongst our students and I have no doubt that our teachers are well capable of achieving this but it is a team effort and parents are part of this


team too. Try to support your children in every way you possibly can in their efforts to succeed so that they can realise their potential and you can share in their success later in the year.



One tangible way you can support your children is to stand for election in May to our Board of Trustees. We will send out lots of reminders about our upcoming elections, so do consider joining our Student Trustee, Sam Oates, and let's work together to make our school even stronger.

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KEY	DATES
Mar 2	 Athletics Day Parents are welcome to come along.
Mar 9	Special Character Evening
Mar 10	Secondary Schools' Athletics
Mar 12	7s Rugby Snr Boys
Mar 17	7s Rugby Jnr Boys and Girls
Mar 19	Bishop Lyons
Mar 22	Early Finish—buses leave at 1.30 p.m.
Mar 26	Jnr Interim Reports

BISHOP LYONS SHIELD CONTEST FUNDRAISER

March 19th is the day that the Bishop Lyon's speechmakers head for Cathedral College in Christchurch.

The team of Sam (debating and scripture), Reuben (debating and impromptu), Stephanie (debating), James (Senior Prepared Speech), Hannah (Junior Prepared Speech), Tamarah, Rory and Jarrod (all Religious Questions) have had the financial burdens of the trip lifted through the hard work of fundraiser, Lisa Oates and the students and parents who assisted in her raffle.

Special thanks go to Diane



Sage, whose fantastic chocolate creations made the raffle so successful and to Trish Heveldt, who volunteered her time because of her close association with the school and the team over the years.

The fundraiser made \$1100 which will go towards the Bishop Lyons trip and other debating and speechmaking trips during the year.

The chocolate chess set and house found very deserving owners when the raffle was drawn.



John Paul II High School thanks Solid Energy for their financial support towards the purchase of:
The school van, Data Logger, Data Projectors (2), and Interactive Whiteboards (2)
The sponsorship is most appreciated

INDUCTION PROGRAMME FOR THOSE NEW TO CATHOLIC SCHOOLING

A number of students investigated the stained glass window during their visit to St Patrick's Church recently with our Director of Religious Studies, Mrs. Webster and the Principal, Mr. Leask. This was part of the induction programme provided each year to students new to Catholic education in New Zealand.



Pictured (L to R) are Mrs Webster, Kayleb, John, Daniel F, James, Daniel B, Arthur, Riley, Gabrielle, Rose, Alexis, Hayley and Cira. Not shown in the photo is Kieran L.

The idea of the programme is to make students feel more comfortable with the Catholic Special Character of our school by developing a degree of understanding of how it is integrated into our everyday schooling. Students involved, this year, range from year 9 to Year 12 and they usually complete four hours of learning before joining normal RE classes.

WELCOME

A special welcome to our school to Whaea Maria Hambrook who will teach Te Reo Maori as an optional subject to students in Years 9 and 10 this year. Maria is highly experienced and made herself available to teach in both our school and Greymouth High School this year relieving Whaea Yvonne Feast who was granted study leave to attend Canterbury University to further her studies.



WELCOME BACK

Welcome back to Ms Sarah Evans. She started her career here some years ago as a person with a Limited Authority to Teach but has since trained, graduated and gained experience teaching students who visited the Wellington Zoo. She later taught at Wellington Girls' High School before returning to Greymouth. Sarah is a valued addition to our science department where she will teach junior science and senior Biology.

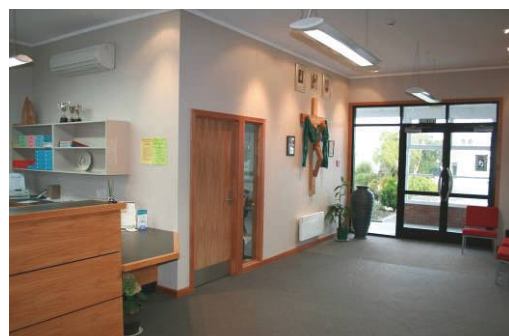


RENOVATED AREAS OF SCHOOL BLESSED

On Tuesday, February 16th, Bishop Barry Jones took a little time out of his busy schedule to bless the newly refurbished administration block and classrooms in St Mary's Block.

On the left, Bishop Barry sprinkles Holy Water throughout the new parts of the school watched by our DRS, Mrs. Janet Webster and the RE Advisor to Catholic secondary schools, Mr. Charles Shaw from the Catholic Education Office in Christchurch.

The pictures below show two views of our main reception area.







Jasmine's trip on Spirit of New Zealand

Between the 7th and 11th of February, Jasmine had the opportunity to travel on the Spirit of New Zealand in the Hauraki Gulf.

Jasmine enjoyed the trip immensely.

"We saw dolphins and a navy ship on the journey and during night watch, I saw fish jumping out of the water and the lights from the Auckland Sky Tower." I asked her if she climbed the rigging. "I finally decided to climb but chickened out half way up to the first platform but some people climbed to the top."

The highlight of the trip was a visit to the Mansion House on Kawau Island, the former home of Governor and Prime Minister of New Zealand, George Grey.



"We went swimming and had a barbeque lunch before rowing back to the ship."

"I also got to steer the ship for a bit. I'm a natural born sailor."

The Watch I was in also did a lot of dishes. On the last



day we sailed under the Auckland Harbour Bridge."

If anyone is interested in going on one of the Spirit Trips this year, Mrs McCarthy is the person to see.



HEAD STUDENTS FOR 2010

Reuben and Adella were confirmed in their roles of Head Boy and Head Girl of the school for 2010, at our Opening Mass on Ash Wednesday.

In a short ceremony, their badges were blessed and presented to them by Fr. John Morrison.



Dance *By Emma B*
 * On January 11th, 2010, Emily, Karyn, Sophie and Emma *
 * went to the Gold Coast, Australia, with the R.E.D *
 * (Rhythm Energy Dance) school for the Showcase Dance *
 * Nationals. The Dance Competition was held at Conrad's *
 * Jupiter Casino. *
 * On the first day of the competition, the trio, which in- *
 * cluded Emily, won their section. A few others of our *
 * team competed in the solos. It was an eye-opener to see *
 * all the amazing dancers from Australia and America. The *
 * next day, there were more solo performances, including *
 * Karyn's lyrical which she won with a score of 94.5. Emily *
 * also competed on this day in a very tough contemporary *
 * class. She danced very well and got a score of 89.2. *
 * Later in the competition, the duos were held and, here, *
 * Emily and Karyn got 4th with a score of 90.5. That eve- *
 * ning, we all performed in the Studio of the Year, Broad- *
 * way Cup. We did a Michael Jackson mix and got third. *
 * On the final day, we danced in our other two team *
 * dances (Contemporary Senior and Lyrical pre-teen). We *
 * did very well, scoring over 90 in each. To qualify for the *
 * World Dance Championships, you had to score over 90. *
 * Overall, our trip was very successful with every dancer *
 * from Greymouth qualifying for the World Dance Champs *
 * in Las Vegas. On behalf of R.E.D. I would like to thank *
 * you all for the help and support. Without you, we would *
 * not have made it to Australia and gotten the chance to *
 * go to the World Championships in Las Vegas. *



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