



REIGNIER CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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Tena Koutou Katoa Greetings everyone

Welcome back to all our whanau and friends. We hope you all had a great holiday and a joyful Christmas. It's a pleasure to start the year looking forward to exciting activities building and strengthening our school community for the good of our children.

We welcome all our new families to the school. We have a new International family. Welcome to Remi Aoyama and her family from Japan. Remi started in Room One yesterday. We have a large number of new entrants beginning this week. A special welcome to Ali Qureshi, Milla Koenigsberger, Ava Gleeson, Lucy Homan, Maddie Wardle, Braith Carew, Luca Humphrey, Connor Stevenson, Jayla Zajonskowski, Willow Zajonskowski, Benjamin Jackson and Bella Coombe. We also have Natalie Crabtree, Maddox and Reef Parrish-Storey, Lucas Palmer who have come to us from other schools. We also welcome back the Thompson family in particular Victoria and Campbell.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Friday 6th	Waitangi Day—Public Holiday—NO SCHOOL
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IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

This term is a very short term, with lots to fit in. The term calendar is on the website for your referral, as is each week's newsletter. The website contains a lot of information about current activities, so make it a habit to keep checking it regularly.

Coming up this term for special mention are:

FEBRUARY	
Wednesday 11 th	Weetbix Tryathlon
Monday 16 th	Parent Information evening NOTE: Change of date from teachers newsletters!
Wednesday 18 th	Ash Wednesday
Monday 23 rd – Friday 27 th	Year 6 Optimist Yachting
MARCH	
Sunday 1 st	Whole School Mass followed by school/Parish picnic
Thursday 19 th	St Joseph's Day Mass, Powhiri and tabloids
Tuesday 24 th	Sharing of Learning evening
APRIL	
Thursday 2 nd	Holy Thursday and end of Term One

We have our combined school and parish picnic on Sunday 1st March following the first compulsory Sunday school Mass. The picnic this year is out at the Eskdale Park which is a fantastic family venue. We encourage all our families to come along to this and join in the fun. There will be traditional games, lolly scrambles and sports for the children to participate in.

CLASS SIZES

This year our class sizes are somewhat bigger than last year. This is mainly because over the last few years the Board and Management have either put additional funds into staffing, or the school has

received additional staffing due to inconsistent roll development. In fact what we have had in the past has been very unusual, and we as a school have been very spoilt with our class sizes. This year is, in fact, a bit of a reality check. We have a large number of new entrants coming into the school this year, so as the year progresses this may mean that extra staffing will be available. We have planned to keep our Years 0-2 classes with numbers lower than 20, so if additional pupils enroll then we can integrate them comfortably. Our classes 3-6 have around 28 or 29 which may seem large, but is completely the norm for primary schools currently. There are schools around the area starting classes with 32. Although smaller numbers make it easy for teachers to support student learning, there is absolutely no reason why your child should be disadvantaged. Every teacher at Reignier is committed to ensuring that they know the children in their class, know what motivates and inspires them, and plans to provide instruction so that every individual's needs are met. If you have any concerns or questions about your child's learning, please ask your classroom teacher for some time to talk.

PARENT HOMEWORK

You should have received a letter of introduction from your child's teacher yesterday so you know a little about them. There is also an invitation for you to write back to them telling them about your child. This is a great way for the teachers to get an insight into your child's interests, ambitions, likes, dislikes so they can make some connections and find some ways of setting them up for success. This is your bit of homework for the term. Help us to help the kids by sharing your parental knowledge. We would also encourage you to make yourself known personally to your child's teacher as early as possible so that good communication and relationships are set early in the year.

INFORMATION FORMS

As you see, the newsletter this week is only in hard copy. With this newsletter is a new information form for 2015. This is the pink piece of paper that asks all your emergency details, doctor, email etc. **We need you to fill this out every year** so we know we have up to date records in case of an emergency. Please complete the form and return it to school as soon as possible so we can update the group email for next week's newsletter. Thanks

UNIFORM

All the children look lovely and smart in their school uniform to start off the term. There is an expectation that all children will be dressed in the correct uniform according to the school policy. In particular check that your daughter's hair ties, scrunchies and hair bands fit the school requirements. We have a parent who is happy to make hair apparel out of old school uniforms, so if you are interested in this, please contact the office. Please keep the boys hair tidy, out of eyes, and off collars, and the required brands of sandals unless you have a medical reason for something different. Thank you for your support with this. Our children always look so smart when they are in uniform.

ROUTINES

Just a reminder for all about gate routines. Children must enter and leave the grounds in uniform, including school shoes or sandals, unless they are heading straight to a sport after school. Please use the marked path when using the Guppy Road entrance. Avoid walking with children through the teachers' carpark. It is very dangerous. Please be considerate when parking in Moeller Street. Carparks are marked. Parking in or across gateways or on the curved parts of the curbing at the entrance to the street inconveniences and upsets neighbours who can't access their properties at drop off and pick up times. Remember it's important for our whole school community to be seen in a good light out there in the wider district. Please don't forget our lovely path down to the back gate which opens onto Chester St. There is a teacher on duty and it is a nice quiet street to meet your children. Consider using this entrance rather than the Moeller Street one.

POOL USE OVER SUMMER

Thank you for the way the pool was used and respected over the summer. We have had no reported incidents throughout the break and we are sure it is because so many of you were around, using the pool and watching what was happening. We are so lucky to have this facility still available, as many schools don't, and we hope that you continue to enjoy it throughout February. The pool cover has been reinstalled, so please look after it and replace it after you have used the pool.

Ma te Atua koutou e tiaki

God bless you all

Julia Johnson

THIS WEEK'S PARISH NEWS...

ALTAR SERVERS

Sunday 8th February 9am Mass:

Harry & Jonty Unwin, Thomas Jones

Sunday 8th February 5pm Mass:

Se-Hun Kim, Jack Graney, Matthew Eagles

We are looking for new altar servers, if your child is interested and you would like more information please email mpateson@reignier.school.nz.

GENERAL NEWS...

To the Reignier School Community

I would like to thank you for the fantastic support you have shown to me over the last 22 months. Your prayers, kind words and actions helped me immensely (and Peter – who thought only of how his journey would affect me and was overwhelmed by your support).

A big thank you for the many cards, flowers, messages and visits as well as those able to attend Peter's farewell.

You truly are a wonderful, caring community.

With much love and gratitude

Raelene Cronin

GUITAR 2015

Enrolments are open for guitar lessons at Reignier Catholic School. Lessons will be half an hour on Mondays and held during the school day. Children will be arranged into small groups and your child will go through a structured program covering all styles of music. Music theory is incorporated with hands on playing. Lessons are \$78 per term.

To sign up contact the school office or Ross Turner
Ph: 021 244 0559 or email:turnerross1@gmail.com

MUSIC - ENROLMENTS INVITED FOR 2015 KEYBOARD YEAR

Would you like to hear your child play a musical instrument? Beginner keyboard lessons are offered at Reignier School on Thursdays for students in Year 4 and above. Half hour lessons take place during the school day, children learn in small groups of 3–5 depending on age and ability. Further information and enrolment forms are available from the school office.

Enquiries: Theresa Bevin 027 472 9957. Please enrol early so that a timetable can be organised. First lesson: Thursday 12 February. Cost: \$80.00 per school term. A limited number of keyboards are available for hire. Please enquire.

THIS WEEK'S SPORTING NEWS...

BASKETBALL

Games will be commencing next Thursday 19th February at the Pettigrew Green Arena.

Notes were given out on Monday to children who were interested in playing. Please see Mr J if your child didn't get a note but wishes to play. All basketball notes need to be returned to Mr J by Wednesday 4th February.

CRICKET

Cricket for our Year 3/4 children starts next Friday 13th February.

Cricket for our Year 5/6 children start next Saturday 14th February.

Notes were given out on Monday to children who were interested in playing. Please see Mr J if your child didn't get a note but wishes to play. All cricket notes need to be returned to Mr J by Thursday 5th February.

OPTIMIST YACHTING

Our Year 6 children will be involved in Optimist Yachting each afternoon during Week 4 (**a note should have already come home with your child with information**). We would be really keen to have any support during this week from parents, grandparents or family members who have some sailing experience to help teach the children the skills of sailing. If this sounds like you, or you know of someone that would like to help, please contact Mr J at school.

WEETBIX 'TRYATHLON'

This is taking place on Wednesday 11th February. Good luck to any students who have entered this event. Please let your child's teacher know they are participating.