

Upcoming Events for Term 1

Please remember to watch the weekly newsletter as sometimes we do need to change dates.

Every Tuesday and Wednesday	Sharyn Clark will be in for Piano Lessons Call Sharyn for any possible vacancies 027 4485089
Every Monday, Wednesday & Friday	Swimming for all classes
Every Tuesday	Clive hosting free brass instrument lessons from 2.15—3.45
Every Thursday	Rm 5 will be going to Technology Training at Thames High School
Every Wednesday	School Lunch orders (from Food for Thought)
Thursday 29th	Whole School Mass 9.15am in Church
30th March	Good Friday—School closed
2 & 3 April	Easter Monday and Tuesday—School Closed
	No Teacher Only Day on Wednesday 4th April. School open as usual.
Friday 13 ^h April	Last day of Term 1 (3pm finish)
2nd May	B.O.T. Meeting

ANIMAL RESCUE THAMES

Easter Garage sale

Saturday 31st
March 8.30am until noonish

Grahamstown Hall , Pollen
St, Thames

Allsorts of allsorts - raising
funds to feed and care for
the rescue felines over the
winter months

Purrllease support our paws

enquiries 07 868-2907



Hockey Holiday Programme

For Years 5-8

Saturday 7 April 2018

Monday 16 April 2018

9 – 3.00pm

At: Thames Valley Hockey

Turf, Ngatea

A fantastic way to entertain the kids over the school holidays. Fun and games, Group Challenges, a mini hockey tournament, for both hockey and non hockey players.

Each session is run by Midlands Hockey and supported by Midlands representative players. Cost is \$40 per session and \$70 for two. Players to bring hockey equipment, if they have, mouthguard, a drink and lunch. Parents - why not attend the coaching skills workshop at the same time? Visit the web site for more info.

Register Now! www.valleyhockey.org.nz

Alison 027 862 9546 secretary@valleyhockey.org.nz



26th March 2018 (Vol. 08)



Please remember
Sun Hats and Sun
Screen

No School on
Good Friday
Easter Monday or
Easter Tuesday

Would you like to be
part of the PTA? Then
please let the office
know

Whakataukī

He aroha whakato, he aroha puta mai
If kindness is sown then kindness you shall receive

MISSION STATEMENT

We are a Catholic faith community committed to quality education

Focus for Term 1 is Love

Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: "Love your neighbour as yourself."

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord - Year B Red

The Procession with Palms: Mark 11:1-10

Liturgy of the Word: Isaiah 50:4-7, Psalm 21, Philippians 2:6-11 Mark 15:1-39

The Jews were waiting for a king to lead them against the Romans and make them free again. When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, he was welcomed as this king, but he came as a king of peace and not to bring war.

The Jews had been longing for a great leader, like one of their Kings of old, who would lead them to victory against the Roman invaders. They thought that Jesus might be that leader. At this time of Passover many Jews gathered in Jerusalem to remember how God had saved them from slavery. But by his actions he shows everyone that he is no earthly king or soldier – he comes as the King of peace, love and forgiveness. This is why he chose to enter the city riding on a donkey, commonly used for carrying loads, rather than a battle horse. It is important at this time to focus on the agony and desolation of the passion, but we also remember the fact of the resurrection, as described by the evangelists and witnesses who viewed it from the perspective of the risen Christ ascending into glory.

The Passion: Reflect on your feelings as you listened to the Passion being read. What does the passion of Jesus tell us about where God is in the suffering of the world and in our own personal suffering? What does self-giving love imply for the way we live our lives? What does it ask of us personally?

Principal's Pen

Kia Ora,

Welcome to Holy Week, the children will be attending Mass on Thursday at 9.15am in church for the traditional Washing of the Feet. This is also known as Maundy Thursday. The word *Maundy* is derived from the Latin word for "command." The "Maundy" in "Maundy Thursday" refers to the command Jesus gave to the disciples at the Last Supper, that they should love and serve one another. This is the final day that Jesus set aside to share with his disciple's by washing their feet and the last supper (We celebrate this every time we take the bread and wine in Mass). This is one of the most important days, because it is also the day that Jesus is arrested. Good Friday is the day that Jesus dies on the cross and Easter Sunday is the day that Jesus is raised from the dead. This is why we call this week Holy Week.

Room 1 Update, we did not get any applications for the Deputy Principal position on Friday. Kathy Frantz is struggling with the travel from Auckland and has decided that she needs to work closer to Pukekohe. Therefore, Kathy will be leaving us at the end of the term, we wish her well. Jessica Phillips is very happy to continue to work Thursdays and Fridays for the rest of the year. We have just advertised for a New Entrant Teacher for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. We pray that we get someone fantastic before the end of the term. We will look at re-advertising for a Deputy Principal towards the end of the year for a 2019 start.

Kia te wairua tapu ki runga ki a koutou katoa. ~ May the Holy Spirit be upon you all.

Geraldine Sumner ~ Principal.

Juice Thursday This Week!

As this Friday is Good Friday, juice's will be sold on Thursday this week. All proceeds are going to our PTA. Any questions, please contact Wendy Johnson. Many thanks!

St. Francis School Board of Trustees

From the BoT Chair person

Thank you to all the staff, teachers and families that supported the BoT with organising the Irish Fling, particularly those that supported with prizes, signage, on the day organising of different stalls. Thanks also to Elaine Tukuitonga for the many hours of organising. This was a very successful evening and it was great to see a wide range of people from Thames coming along and supporting our school. Funds from this go towards a variety of projects, including balancing our annual budget and school upgrades.

The BoT has gone with School Docs - a policy framework used by many schools to ensure our school policies are kept up to date with legislation and other changes. We ask that you review any of these links that may appear in our school newsletter as we would like wide input from as many families as possible.

Room 1 Staffing. As you may be aware we are advertising for a Junior Teacher / Deputy Principal. Unfortunately like many schools, we have not yet been able to fill this position for next term. One of our current teachers who travels from Auckland each week finishes at the end of this term as she was on a 1 term contract. For those parents who have children in Room 1, we the BoT will ensure that we have a teacher for this class for next term, and hopefully the rest of the year. Like many schools across Auckland and Waikato, teachers are becoming a scarce resource. Mrs Sumner will keep Room 1 families up to date with any staff amendments.

Kind regards

Eric Hamilton - BoT Chair person

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE DUES FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Financial assistance is available to assist families who may need financial support with the payment of attendance dues for preference students attending Catholic schools in Auckland Diocese, both primary and secondary.

Families facing financial difficulties can contact their school office, their Parish Priest or the Revenue Manager at the Catholic Diocese of Auckland for further information.

Application forms for the Hardship Scheme are available from school and parish offices, or can be down-loaded from the Catholic Diocese of Auckland Website :

www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/catholic-schools/

(go to Catholic Schools in Auckland / Attendance Dues and Special Character Contributions)



THAMES VALLEY HOCKEY

SPORT WAIKATO AND MIDLANDS HOCKEY

Coaching Skills

For parents, coaches and teachers

Saturday 7 April 2018

1.30 – 3.00pm

At: Thames Valley Hockey Turf, Ngatea

This free, informative and informal event is designed to help you and your players get the most out of your hockey, no previous coaching experience required! Presented by Reiner Vellinga our Development Officer and one of the Netherlands and Midlands Hockeys' leading coaches. Get your hockey season off to a flying start!

Register Now! www.valleyhockey.org.nz

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