



BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS

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WELCOME TO ST. JOSEPH'S



Thomas Fairweather

ELECTIONS

If you haven't heard we have an election on Saturday 23 September. Help create a future of active, engaged citizens by ensuring you talk to your children about what elections are all about and how important it is to vote. Also make sure you are informed about what each party's stance is on education. Here are some useful guidelines as you are making a decision. Visit voteEducation.org.nz to find out how each party's policies stack up.

WHAT DOES VOTING FOR EDUCATION MEAN?

Our children deserve the best education in the world. They need better funding for better learning.

Early Childhood Education

The best ECE can set children up for life - but at the moment only some kids get the benefit of 100% qualified teachers.

Look for:

1. The immediate restoration of funding cut in 2010 to employ teachers, and the un-freezing of the ECE subsidy which hasn't increased since 2008.

2. Reduction in the ratio of children per teacher, and smaller group sizes. Every Child is Worth It.

School

School Funding needs to keep up with the real cost of education. Lately it hasn't - which is why parent donations are increasing and kids are missing out on much needed support from teacher aides.

Look for:

1. An immediate catch-up boost to core school operations funding, following by regular increases that keep up with rising costs.

2. An end to National Standards and charter schools which narrow learning, and siphon money from public education.

3. A plan for recruiting and training more teachers to address the shortage.

Education for all, not just some

Children with additional learning needs have the same right to go to school and learn as other kids do. But, if they are not given support to learn, then they are denied that right.

Look for:

1. A tripling of the Ongoing Resourcing Scheme to end the rationing of funding for children with high needs.

2. A special needs co-ordinator in every school.

3. Central funding of teacher aides and support staff, so children don't lose support when funding is tight.

Maori & Pasifika Students

Children who can access their own culture and language do better at school.

Look for: 1. Funding for recruitment, training and retention of teachers of te reo Maori.

2. Funding bilingual education for pasifika students.

3. More kura kaupapa Maori which are proven to work for tamariki.

Thank you for thinking about this information. You do make the difference for our children.

LAST WORD

Lord, I trust You to open my eyes and
my heart to the needs of those around me

And more than anything else,

I pray they see You in me

Nenah Kelemete

Principal



ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL DANNEVIRKE

2017 TERM 3 WEEK 5



GOSPEL CONNECTIONS



Falling Rocks at Times, but Still Rocks

Some rock, that Peter. A couple of weeks ago, we read how he almost drowned in a storm because he lacked faith. In Holy Week we read about how he denied knowing Jesus – his close friend – to three people to save his skin. And this week Jesus tells us that this guy will be the rock upon which he builds his Church.

Great news for us.

I don't know about you, but I've got Peter beaten. There have been plenty of times when I've reached out for the wrong things to help me through life's storms. I've also betrayed friends through selfishness or cruel remarks. I've even betrayed myself by going against my values to fit in. In addition, I've let fear keep me from doing the right thing.

It's good to know Jesus can use me as a rock for the Church, despite all that. Yeah, so we're falling rocks at times. But we have a God who looks beyond our mistakes and focuses on our potential.

Look, too many people give up on themselves because they see their sinfulness. God sees those sins. But Matthew, through this story, tells us that God still chooses us to build a Reign of peace and justice in this world. Peter led the early Church. He was the first pope – despite his flaws. And God has the same faith in you that Jesus had in Peter.

This week be a rock for the people of God's Church around you. Do your best to forgive and reach out. Try living as honestly as possible. Make an effort to put others first. When you mess up, which you probably will, don't get down on yourself. Pray for forgiveness, wisdom, and strength. Remember Peter. Have faith in yourself. And just try again.

What causes you to doubt your ability to be a Christian leader?

COMING UP EVENTS

TERM 3

AUG	Sunday 27	Maori Mass Whanau Retreat Day
	Thursday 31	Inter-school Speech Competition
SEP	Mon 11- Fri 15	Social Justice week
	Friday 15	Tamaki nui a Rua Kapa Haka Festival
	Sunday 17	First Holy Communion
	Tues 19 - Wed 20	E.R.O visit
	Saturday 23	K.C Mud Run
	Friday 29	Term 3 Ends

FAITH FACTS

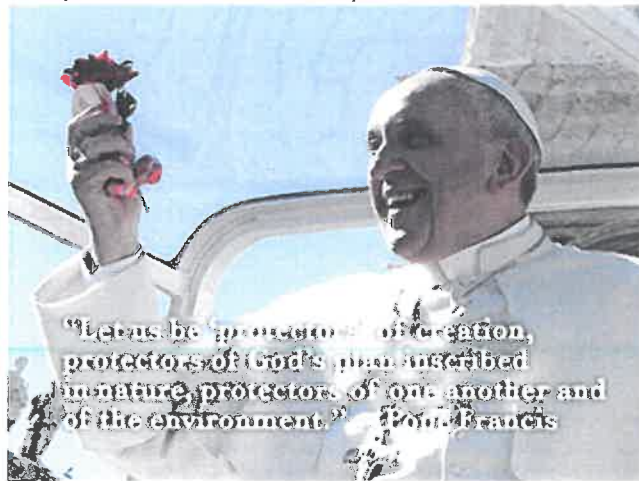
21st August - 25th August

21st St Pius X Pope

22nd The Queenship of Mary

24th Bartholomew apostle

Pope Francis' monthly prayer intentions. This month pope Francis urges us all to pray for Artists. That artists of our time, through their ingenuity, may help everyone discover the beauty of creation.



'Nurturing Spirits, Encouraging Excellence'

A.M.D.G