



From the Principal's Desk....

Welcome back to all the students and parents from the staff at St Patrick's Bryndwr. We hope that you all enjoyed the holiday break and are as excited about the year ahead as we are.

Welcome back to Robyn Moore in Room 4, and to all our new students and families. In 2019 we welcome 17 new families and 23 new students to our St Patrick's School Community. We hope that the students and their families have enjoyed their first week at St Patrick's and have been made to feel welcome.



We also welcome back Father Alister Castillo to the Holy Trinity Parish and the St Patrick's School Community. Father Alister will be our School Parish Priest while working collaboratively with Father Rick and Father Kevin across the Holy Trinity Parish and Christ the King.

Mihi Whakatau and Blessing - Welcome for new families

Next Friday 8th February we will officially welcome and acknowledge our new students into our school community with a Mihi Whakatau. We would also like to welcome our new parent community at this time and we warmly invite any parents who would like to join us at our Mihi Whakatau at 9:00am next Friday 8th February.



A Mihi Whakatau is the Māori term used to describe a formal speech of welcome. Mihi Whakatau is traditionally used for welcoming, introductions, openings and general purpose is which often take place off a Marae.

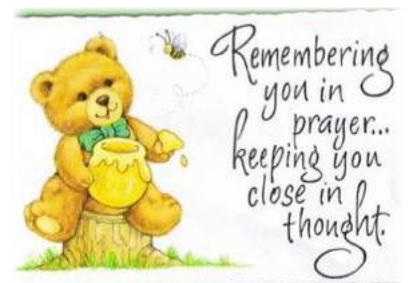
At the conclusion of the Mihi Whakatau we will have a short Blessing over our students and new school building. There will be a more formal opening and blessing of the new school building towards the end of the Term.

After the Mihi Whakatau and Blessing we warmly invite our new parent community and any parents to join us for morning tea in the Parish Hall.

Keeping you in Our Thoughts and Prayers - Isobel Ring

Thank you everyone for your kind messages and support for Isobel and her family over the last couple of weeks. At this time Isobel is recovering well from her surgery, but there is still a long journey ahead.

Room 3 and Room 8 parents have been doing a fantastic job supporting the Ring family and if any other support is required from the school community we will let you know. At this time all we ask is that you keep Isobel and the Ring family in your thoughts and prayers.





Weet-Bix Tryathlon - Sunday 24th February

The Weet-Bix Tryathlon is on Sunday 24th February at Jellie Park. This is for children 7 years - 15 Years. You can enter and find more information at <https://tryathlon.co.nz/locations/christchurch/>

The morning event is sold out but the afternoon event is still open. We know that quite a few children have registered already for the morning event and you can go back into that entry and add St Patrick's school to the Registration.

If you have any queries please email kirsty.mahoney@gmail.com

We will have a meeting of all children who want to be part of the St Patrick's Team on Thursday 21st February @12.30pm.



Shamrock Ball - Saturday 16th March 2019

More details to follow next week. In the interim if you could start spreading the word about attending the ball and inviting your friends to join us it would be much appreciated.

At our inaugural 2017 Ball we had a large number of attendees who didn't have children at St Patricks and we'd love to welcome them back again. To all our new parents the Ball is a great way to meet the school community whilst enjoying a fantastic night out at an iconic venue, The Great Hall.



Swimming Sports - Thursday 14th February

On Thursday 14th February we have the Year 4 - 8 Swimming Sports at Jellie Park Pool 12:00pm to 2.45pm. We desperately need 8 x parent helpers. Please email hamishmcintyre@stpatricks.school.nz if you are able to help. Parents are welcome to come and watch.

Parish Carpark - Students 'Wheels Area'

As you are aware, in 2019 after careful consideration the Parish has decided that for Health and Safety reasons the Parish car park will be closed for drop offs and pickups in the mornings and afternoons.

Parents and students are able to park and enter the school grounds via Jeffrey, Orkney or Plynlimon Road entrances.

In light of this the students will gain another court space to utilise during the week. We have decided to trial the use of this court space as a designated 'Wheels Area'.

From Monday 4th February, your child is able to bring their scooter, skateboard or roller skates to school if they would like to use them at Brain Breaks and Lunchtimes. Helmets are to be worn at parents discretion.



Important Dates: Term 1, 2019

6th Feb	Waitangi Day (No School)
8th Feb	Mihi Whakatau - Official Welcome and Blessing
13th Feb	Community Picnic and Meet the Teacher Evening
14th Feb	Swimming Sports
15th Feb	Fantastic Friday begins
15th Feb	11:30am School Assembly Room 5
24th Feb	Weetbix Tryathlon
1st Mar	11:30am School Assembly Room 6
6th Mar	Ash Wednesday
13 Mar	Westzone Swimming Sports
15th Mar	St Patrick's Day Celebrations (Wear Green)
16th Mar	Shamrock Ball
20th Mar	HPV Vaccinations
22nd Mar	11:30am School Assembly Room 7
25th Mar	Primary Duathlon
1st Apr	3-Way Interviews 1:30pm - 6:00pm
3rd Apr	3-Way Interviews 1:30pm - 4:00pm
12th Apr	11:30am School Assembly Room 8
12th Apr	Last Day of Term 1
29th Apr	First Day of Term 2