

# Senior School Newsletter



**Hello/Kia Ora/Talofa/Malo e lelei/  
Kumusta/Bula/Susaday/Namaste!!!**

Happy New Year!! We're all really excited to be back and looking forward to the term ahead!!

The new look senior team in 2018 will consist of Michael Anderson (Deputy Principal) Julie Moor in United and we warmly welcome a new recruit, Davinia Penman who will be located in Room 8.

## Reminders!!!

**1**

### NAME EVERYTHING!

Found property is located in a green box just outside the admin door to the courtyard.

**2**

### SUNHATS!!

Your child is required to wear a sunhat when outside in term one.

**3**

### MEET THE TEACHER EVENING!!!

We look forward to meeting you on Monday 19th February.



### Religious Instruction.

We will study the Jesus Strand as we lead into the Holy Week Liturgies of Easter.



### Inquiry.

Spaced Out is our topic. More details to follow.

### Contact details:

Please feel free to contact us at school. We are usually in our classes before school unless we have meetings or duties and are available Monday and Friday afternoons.

### Emails:

[anderson@olol.school.nz](mailto:anderson@olol.school.nz)

[moor@olol.school.nz](mailto:moor@olol.school.nz)

[penman@olol.school.nz](mailto:penman@olol.school.nz)

## Home/School Partnership Activities.

Our children work very hard at school. Many are also involved in numerous after school activities that broaden their horizons. We also recognise that families lead extremely busy lives these days. We do not want to place unnecessary stress on children or parents by setting homework that research (Hattie 2008) shows for this age group is not beneficial.

As part of our Home/School Partnership here are some activities that you could do with your child at home that would help their learning:

Reading to and with your child. Ask them questions about what they have read, why a character may have completed an action, how the setting is described and what may happen next.

Learn the basic facts and try to move up the basic facts ladder. As our Mathematics Advisor Dinah Harvey explained at a previously held parents evening, if your child doesn't know their basic facts they will struggle with the maths at Level 3 of the curriculum, which is roughly Year 5 and 6.

Play board games which help children learn how to cooperate, take turns, lose and win gracefully etc

Write a paragraph about an event or character. Edit it with them. Explain what you like about their writing. Have they used adjectives, adverbs, similes and metaphors? Ask if they could use a better word (a WOW word) in place of the one they have used. e.g. Instead of said, try whispered, muttered etc. Check for punctuation.

Get your child to help prepare the meals -

counting, weighing etc are all good numeracy skills

Go for a walk or do an outdoor/sporting activity.

Reinforce the Gospel Virtue of the Week.

Ask them about what happened at school, what they have learned today.

Ask your child what they think about current events or issues and if they have any questions they would like to explore.



### Year 6 Camp

The year six camp will take place at El Rancho, Waikanae from Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> to Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March. **The cost of the camp is \$175 less the money raised from the optional Cadbury chocolate fundraiser.** Thanks to the PFTA for subsidising the cost of the trip. We would like every child to have the opportunity to attend. Please contact the office if you have any difficulties with the payment. You are able to pay in instalments. Further Information and permission/medical forms will be handed out shortly.

## Future Focused/ Personalised Learning



### Future focused learning

Literature suggests we need to be future-oriented and adaptable, adopting a more complex view of knowledge, that incorporates knowing, doing, and being.

**Future focused learning is personalised.**

**Ministry of Education.**

Personalised learning involves student voice and choice. It recognises students learn in different ways. At Our Lady of Lourdes we aim for the children to be self directed learners who: Understand their next step for learning and challenge themselves to improve, are innovative thinkers, take risks with their learning, can communicate, collaborate and share knowledge, are role models who use their virtues and are leaders.

- Personalising learning means students:
  - understand how they learn
  - own and drive their learning
  - are co-designers of tasks and their learning environment
- Student learning needs, interests, and capability determine the pace of learning.
- In this environment, the advantage of technology is that students can use the content and be the experts with their teacher. They can become experts on specific content areas and technology, and create content.
- All the resources available for learning, including teachers, parents/whānau, peers, technology, time, and learning spaces, must be used flexibly.

**Ministry of Education.**

## Learning Assessment Books

The LAB Books highlight what your child has achieved so the children can identify and communicate with you their next steps. This is part of the personalised learning approach.

## Literacy

Literacy will be integrated with the inquiry. Writing will focus on the needs of the children using a variety of purposeful motivating experiences involving a degree of choice. We will look to improve the use of language features such as adjectives, adverbs, similes, metaphors and personification to make writing more interesting and alive. The importance of planning, editing and revising will be stressed. Developing spelling, punctuation and grammar will also be a priority. Reading will concentrate on improving comprehension levels using a variety of strategies and thinking tools. All classes will operate an oral language programme recognising its importance as the foundation for literacy growth. Improving vocabulary is a major area for development.



## Mathematics

We will initially aim to boost place value and number knowledge along with addition and multiplication strategies. From there we will move to developing strategies that will enable the children to experience success solving subtraction and division problems. We always practice our basic facts using a variety of methods. Measurement will round out the term. The students will each receive free access to the Mathletics site to help support their learning.

## Swimming

We will be swimming everyday!! To be sun smart in our now solar heated super outdoor school pool it's preferable to have a swimming outfit that covers the entire body. For example, girls wear a one piece with a rash top. The boys wear togs and a rash top. Goggles are also recommended. Don't forget your sunscreen either. We will have a swimming carnival at a date yet to be confirmed.

We are all looking forward to working alongside you and your child in the term ahead. **The best thing you can do to help us as teachers is to ensure your child gets a good sleep and has a healthy breakfast, so they are ready for a full day of learning.** Please check the school newsletter, website and app to keep up to date with all dates, times and events, which are subject to change. If you have any questions or comments please contact us at the school.

**Michael Anderson, Julie Moor and Davinia Penman.**  
**Website: [www.olol.school.nz](http://www.olol.school.nz)**

