



POMPALLIER CATHOLIC COLLEGE

*Diligere Verum
Love the Truth*

NEWSLETTER NO. 18 5 DECEMBER 2014

Tēnā Koutou Katoa, Greetings to you

Get the Christ out of Christmas and be happy!

The voice on the radio said it's the Silly Season. It's now time for sending Seasons Greetings and to view Santa Parades with Pirates and lamp posts with Teddy Bears and flowers. There are opportunities for discounted alcohol, specials on consumer goods and gym membership to keep my youthful figure. It must be Christmas again! All the symbols are presented to me on a daily basis in case I miss making the association. The drive towards a secular, politically correct and rational society has us finally reaching the pinnacle of seemingly taking Christ out of Christmas.

Do we need Christ for Christmas? These days it seems that we don't. We can have a good time and possibly an even better time, if we skip the annual Church attendance and just get into the festivities. Or if we fancy a little nostalgia, let's go to midnight Mass after the office party and then we can have a sleep-in in the morning. On reflection, going to Church does not really add that much at all to Christmas Day and cuts into family time. Just forget about it. Better to not be a token Christian. Get over any old-school Catholic guilt feelings, for they are but wasted emotions, and get into the Silly Season and have a good time. After all we don't need religion to be happy. Life is too short for wasting time at Church or other Christian things of little relevance today. Ultimately, religion adds little to our happiness. A nice glass of wine will make us feel better than an hour spent at Church.

There is little of the above reasoning that I would disagree with if life is short and our intention is to be happy. I would not be too interested in Christ, Christianity, Christmas or Church.

In an ironic way, we are frequently motivated to celebrate at Christmas by thoughts that are contrary to the message of Christ. Christ tells us, and shows us, that life is not short but eternal. Our earthly existence is but a small part of our life. Christ also tells us that life is not about the pursuit of happiness but the pursuit of being united with God and that is where we encounter true happiness. Moreover, this unity with God can be encountered in our human state despite its imperfections. This is the ultimate gift of Christmas. For at Christmas God endorses our humanity by becoming human and affirms that we are made in God's image. Now that is worth celebrating!

Happy Christmas.

**Richard Stanton
PRINCIPAL**

BULLETIN BOARD ...

Important Information

The closure of Maunu Road by Police this week definitely presented us with some challenges, especially as it was at the end of the school day!

Our main priority in these situations is to make sure our students are supervised and safe and we are very pleased with the way the situation was handled by students and staff.

However, since the incident, we have been reflecting on our process to see if there were any areas we could improve on.

One issue that was raised was some parents not knowing that the buses were going to be late, because they were unaware of the situation unfolding in Maunu and they thought they should have received a phone call from the school.

Our office staff took a large number of phone calls from parents, enquiring about where their children were, and if they caught buses home, how they were going to get there. So the majority of parents were kept informed this way.

Unfortunately, to ring each parent individually is just not logistically possible. One way we do try and get information out to as many parents as possible in one go, is by updating our Bulletin Board on the College phone system. The Bulletin Board was updated several times during the course of the situation on Tuesday, as soon as any new information came to hand.

If you are not aware of the Bulletin Board and how it works, when you phone the College and hear our automated welcome message, you can press 4 to listen to the bulletin. The Bulletin Board is updated each day with activities happening in the College, and is also used to inform parents during the day of any other important messages.

We encourage you to make use of this valuable information service in any uncertain situations.

**College Bulletin Board
Phone: 438 3950
Option 4**

VISION STATEMENT

Pompallier Catholic College is a Marist community that challenges all students to excel in their endeavours. We promote Christian values, learning excellence and quality relationships to enable students to be outstanding citizens.

UPCOMING EVENTS: Term 4

You can also check the Events page on our website for upcoming events.

DECEMBER

Tue 9	Tabloid Sports	School	
Wed 10	Junior Prize Giving	College Hall	10.00am
Wed 10	Last Day of Term 4		School finishes 12.00pm

2015 TERM DATES

TERM 1	Monday 2 February	Thu 2 April
TERM 2	Mon 20 April	Fri 3 July
TERM 3	Mon 20 July	Fri 25 September
TERM 4	Mon 12 October	Wed 9 December

Please Note: Dean meetings with Year 11 - 13 students to confirm subject choices for 2015, will be held at the College on Wednesday 28 January. No appointment needed, just pop in between 9.00am - 3.00pm.

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Free GP visits for Northland 6-12 year olds

Northland children aged between 6 and 12 years (up to their 13th birthday) now have free access to their GP, including after-hours consultations. The current \$5 prescription charge will also be covered.

The early rollout in Northland does not cover co-payments for ACC visits.

The Northland initiative will be in place until the national policy is implemented in July 2015.

In the 2014 Budget, the then Minister of Health, Tony Ryall, announced that free doctors' visits and prescriptions for children aged under six years will be extended to all children aged under 13 from July 2015. This is in addition to the current capitation-based funding for 0 - 5 year olds.

YEAR 9 RETREAT

Monday 2 - Friday 6 March, 2015

Our Year 9 students in 2015 will be attending a retreat in the Far North on the above dates. There is an expectation that **all** students attend this event as it is part of our Special Character curriculum.

The cost of the retreat is \$160.00 per student, however, we are applying for funding to hopefully bring this cost down. We understand this is a large expense at the beginning of the year, hence the early notification.

If you foresee any difficulties with paying for the camp, please contact Jane in the College office to discuss options.



SCHOOL MAGAZINE

We are pleased to advise that we do have some spare copies of our wonderful school magazine available to purchase if you missed out on ordering one.

They are \$20.00 and can be collected from the College office.



OVERDUE LIBRARY & SUBJECT TEXT BOOKS

There are a large number of overdue library books, and subject textbooks outstanding.

Parents - please check with your child and see if they have been asked to return an overdue library book, and if so, please ensure they do so **immediately**.

Students - if you have been issued a subject textbook during the year (or for exam study) and have not yet returned them, please do so **before the end of this term**.

Please note that if any of these books are not returned promptly, you will be charged for the cost of the book.

R.E BOOK AMNESTY

The RE Department is having a book amnesty, so if you have any religious education books that may be lying around your bedroom or house, we are asking for them to be returned to the College - no questions asked!

They are especially low on "On the Threshold" books. As these books cost \$40 each, it would be greatly appreciated that if you have one of these, you bring it back to school.

Please drop in any books to Mrs Williams. Thank you!



Remember, if you have a student success you would like to share, email us at ...

newsletter@pompallier.school.nz

SPORTS DEPARTMENT NEWS : Term 4, Week 8

RESULTS

Whangarei shooters had great results and our own **Tom Turner** and **Odin Vasmer-Diecks** placed 3rd in the teams event. Tom was also 2nd overall individual.

Here are some pictures from their prize-giving:



WPSSA ATHLETICS CHAMPS

We took 23 students to the inter-school event and had a great day!

A big thank you goes to Mrs Prosser for helping out on the day.

RESOURCES REQUEST - NEW EVENT 2015

As part of the Cross Country next year on Tuesday 26th May, we will be holding the 'XOR' (Xtreme Obstacle Run), which will be like the Tough Mudder event. It is a fun cross country run with obstacles throughout the course.

There are some things that we need to set it up, so I hope to either loan or be sponsored items to use. If you are a farmer, have a lifestyle block, or a business that can access free or at-cost items, we would really appreciate your help with the following items:

Hay bales	24 - 36
Bulk dishwashing liquid	5-10 litres
Sponge/s	12 - 24
Black Polythene sheet	30-40 metres long (2 - 4m wide)

If you could help with any of the above, please contact me via email: chantelle.yorke@pompallier.school.nz.

HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

If you are looking for a fun, safe and active place to bring your kids for the upcoming school holidays, please see the below dates for our "All Stars-Kids in Action" School Holiday Programme at the Pulse:

- December 16th - 19th and 22nd - 24th
- Monday 12th - Friday 16th January
- Monday 19th - Friday 23rd January
- Tuesday 27th - Friday 30th January

OSCAR School Holiday Programme (8.00am - 5.30pm), \$35.00 per day, 5 - 14 years.

Activities will include: Movies, Swimming, 10Pin Bowling, Lazer Maze Turbo Touch, Beach fun, arts & crafts & more.

For further information contact Paul Hope on: paul@kidsinaction.co.nz, or 436 3045 or 021 951 925.

Spaces are limited.

Chantelle Yorke
SPORTS CO-ORDINATOR

438 3950 Ext 222

chantelle.yorke@pompallier.school.nz



CAROL SERVICE

Sunday 7 December, 5.45pm
Maungatapere

Join in the fun! Get in the Christmas spirit!

Carol singing, with supper afterwards. Please bring a plate.

Meet at the school car park at 5.45pm.

PAX CHRISTI

Peace and Social Justice Group
St Francis Xavier Catholic Parish

Reminder about the two events this weekend:

Evening presenting the work of Hamdi Aburahma, and Denny Corner.

Friday 5th December, 5.00pm at The Old Whangarei Library.

Day seminar led by Ms Mary Betz.

Saturday 6th December, 10.00am at the SFX Parish Hall.

Enquiries to:

Jane Gunson - phone 437 0130 or 021 163 4058, or email: gunsontribe@xtra.co.nz.

“TEACH THE CHILDREN” ... A Christmas story

I had just finished the household chores for the night and was preparing to go to bed, when I heard a noise in the front of the house.

I opened the door to the front room and to my surprise, Santa himself stepped out from behind the Christmas tree. He placed his finger over his mouth so I would not cry out.

"What are you doing?" I started to ask. The words choked up in my throat as I saw he had tears in his eyes. His usual jolly manner was gone. He then answered me with a simple statement: **"TEACH THE CHILDREN!"**

I was puzzled; what did he mean? He guessed my question, and with one quick movement pulled a miniature toy bag from behind the tree. As I stood puzzled, Santa said. "Teach the children! Teach them the **old meaning of Christmas**. The meaning that now-a-days Christmas has forgotten."

Santa then reached into his bag and pulled out a **FIR TREE** and placed it in front of the fireplace.



"Teach the children that the pure green colour of the stately fir tree remains green all year round, representing the everlasting hope of all human-kind. All the needles point heavenward, making it a symbol of our thoughts turning toward heaven."

He again reached into his bag and this time pulled out a brilliant **STAR**.



"Teach the children that the star was the heavenly sign of promises long ago. God promised a Savior for the world, and the star was the sign of fulfillment of that promise."

He then reached into his bag and pulled out a **CANDLE**.



"Teach the children that the candle symbolises that Christ is the light of the world, and when we see this great light we are reminded of Jesus who fills our lives with light."

Once again he reached into his bag and removed a **WREATH** and placed it on the tree.



"Teach the children that the wreath symbolises the real nature of love. Real love never ceases, like God's love which has no beginning and no end."

He then pulled from his bag an ornament of **HIMSELF**.



"Teach the children that I, Santa Clause, symbolise the generosity and kindness we feel during the month of December."

He then brought out a **HOLLY LEAF**.



"Teach the children that the holly plant represents immortality. It represents the crown of thorns worn by our Savior. The red berry

represents the blood shed by Him."

Next he pulled from his bag a **GIFT**.



Santa said: "Teach the children that God so loved the world that He gave us His only Son... we thank God for this very special gift. Teach the children that the wise men bowed down before the Holy Baby and gave Him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. We should always give gifts in the same spirit as the wise men."

Again Santa reached into his bag and pulled out a **CANDY CANE**.



"Teach the children that the cane represents the shepherds crook. The crook on the staff helps to bring back lost sheep to the flock."

He reached in again and pulled out an **ANGEL**.



"Teach the children that it was the angels that announced the glorious news of the Saviors birth. They sang *Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace and goodwill to all.*"

Suddenly I heard a soft tinkling sound, and from his bag he pulled out a **BELL**.



"Teach the children that just as lost sheep are found by the sound of the bell, it should ring to guide us to God. The bell symbolizes guidance and return. It reminds us that we are all precious in the eyes of God."

Before Santa left he said: "Remember, teach the children the **true meaning of Christmas** and do not put me at the centre, for I am just a humble servant of God."



HEALTH TIPS ...

- Sleep well - keep regular wake up and bedtime routines
- Use common sense - around beaches, boats and cars
- Mind your skin - wear sunscreen with no PABA, OMC, 4-MBC
- Mind your eyes - block 99% UVA and UVB. Good sunglasses help prevent cataracts..... and wrinkles!
- Exercise outside - hiking, games, swimming. 'A family who plays together, bonds.'
- Relax - it lowers blood pressure, heart rate and stress hormones... but watch for over-consumption of rich foods and alcohol, which raises them!

Happy Healthy Holidays from the Health Department.

MĀORI DEPARTMENT NEWS ...

Māori Language Week

Meri Kirihimete and I hope Hana Koko brings you all a present. Here are the last set of words for the school year.

Week 17	Ōtautahi	(aw-toe-tah-hee)	Christchurch
Week 18	āporo	(aah-paw-ddaw)	apple
Week 19	pāremata	(paah-ddeh-mah-tah)	parliament
Week 20	rā whānau	(raah-faah-know)	birthday

Mātihetihe School Whanaungatanga Visit

Last Thursday several of our Year 7/8's enjoyed a morning with Mātihetihe School who are from Mitimiti, North Hokianga. After a small pōwhiri the students played capture the flag and cooled off in the pool together. Thank you to all of the students who were involved in the pōwhiri and farewell haka, you brought pride to our College.



A little Church with a great story ...

The wee brick Church at Maungatapere is a community Church. The families of the area got together, pooled their money, skills and labour, and built the Church in honour of their teens and young men who went off to fight in WW1 and WW2. Some returned. Many didn't.

Over time, services have been held by several Christian religions - it will always be a community Church. People from Maungatapere and surrounds hold wonderful memories of times spent here, and many return to get married and baptise their children in this historic holy place.

Why don't you join us? Mass at 11.00am, 2nd Sunday of each month.

Liturgy at 11.00am, 4th Sunday of each month.

You are WELCOME!



2015 BUS INFORMATION

Pompallier Catholic College buses will begin running **from Monday 2 February 2015** on all of our school routes. **However**, the students who use other schools' buses to connect to ours should check with their bus company to confirm start date.

Due to movement with families around the area, some eligibility will change. We will monitor this in the first few weeks of Term 1.

Please check the route timetables on the transport page of our College website:

<http://www.pompalliercollege.school.nz/indexs.php?record=transport>

A reminder: eligibility is dependent on where a student lives, available public services in the area and loading limits.

STUDENT SUCCESS

Congratulations to **Sean O'Sullivan** who recently passed his Trinity College Grade 3 Piano exam with Distinction.



Back to School 2015

HOW DO I ORDER MY STATIONERY?

To make life easier for Back to School, we team up with Office Max Direct to Parent so that you can buy all your stationery requirements either over the internet or by mail order.

We DO NOT issue stationery lists to students, as the list of stationery requirements has been pre-entered into the ordering software - you simply click on the subjects your child is taking and a stationery list will be created.

All orders placed earn points for our College, which will be channeled directly back to better resources. Last year the College earned over \$1,500 through this programme.

Stationery is delivered to your home (or a designated address) by courier. This means that ordering is quick and easy, stationery lists are not lost and the correct products are obtained. Payment is by credit card or internet banking (online) or by cheque or credit card (mail order).

Delivery is free for orders over \$57.50 (incl. GST).

The website will "go live" for ordering stationery on Monday 1 December.

It is recommended that you **order stationery before 19 January 2015** to ensure delivery before school starts and to allow you time to cover books etc. if necessary.

All students are expected to have their stationery requirements on the first day of Term 1 (Monday 2 February) as teaching will begin on that day.

Unless otherwise stated, **the College will not stock the stationery items listed with Office Max Direct to Parent**. We will, however, continue to hold a small stock of basic items such as pens, pencils etc.

TO ORDER ONLINE

- Go to www.myschool.co.nz and enter Pompallier into the School Search field
- Select Pompallier Catholic College
- Enter Student First and Last Name
- Click on Subject / Year Levels required
- Click the "Save and Continue" button
*(it is advisable not to remove items unless you are sure you have the **exact** item specified, eg. Casio calculator)*
- When finished, click "Add Items to Cart"
At this point you can also order additional items by clicking on the Product Search button

- You now have the option to add another student, otherwise select "Order Online" and follow the instructions.

If items are unavailable at the time you order, these will be placed on backorder and delivered to you as soon as they arrive. This will be indicated on your delivery docket.

- Print a copy of the order and retain it for your records. Note your Order Number, as this will be required if you need to return items.

TO USE MAIL-ORDER

- Follow steps 1 through 7 above.
- Select "Mail Order form" instead of "Order Online". This will open a separate window with the completed order enclosed.
- Print the order form and complete the required details.
- Post the completed form and your cheque to:-

OfficeMax, My School
Freepost 17019
PO Box 16670
Christchurch

TO ORDER IN STORE

- Follow steps 1 through 3 as for mail order.
- Take the list to your nearest Office Max store (our retail outlet for School Supplies):-
Office Max, 21 Okara Drive, Whangarei
If the store does not have all the required items in stock, they will be able to order them for you.
- If you are asked for your participating school number, please quote: 4083170.

CONDITIONS

- Please allow up to ten working days for delivery. **Orders placed after 19 January 2015 may result in delays** and Office Max cannot guarantee delivery before school starts on late orders.
- If you have any problems, please call School Supplies on 0800 724 440, NOT the College.**
- Incorrect items can only be returned by first contacting Customer Services on the 0800 number. You will need to quote your Order No.

