

I am sure you are all keen to do what you can to prevent risk of infection. The best preventative steps are:

- *Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and dry thoroughly*
- *Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands*
- *Avoid sharing anything that has come in contact with saliva, whether in your living or social environment*
- *Stay at home when you are sick and seek medical attention*
- *Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the rubbish*
- *Get adequate sleep and eat well-balanced meals to ensure a healthy immune system*

Congratulations to ex-pupils Riccardo Mareroa, Lochlan White and Baden Mareroa – Junior, Intermediate and Senior Boys Athletic Champions at Opotiki College. Also, congratulations to Letisha White, newly appointed Head Girl and Senior Girls Athletic Champion.
Four out of the six champions were from St Joseph's – that's a great achievement.

Have a good week!

Raewyn Clark
Principal



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9 March 2020

Dear Parents and Whanau

The term is passing very quickly and Easter will be here before we know it.

Two **Camps** have been held and Mrs Dickson and Mr Wilson head out to Opape on Wednesday with their classes.

Thank you to all parents who have assisted in any way at all with the Camps.

Also, a **big thank you** to those who accompanied our Students to Ohope for Surf Lifesaving.

District Swimming Sports:

These will be held this Wednesday, 11 March at the College Pool. Selected students have received a separate Newsletter.

TEACHER ONLY DAY:

As mentioned in the previous Newsletter, St Joseph's will be **CLOSED** next Monday 16th March for Teacher Only Day.

GALA:

Our Gala is set down for Saturday 4th April. Please start sorting out any non-perishable goods – what you consider junk is often regarded as someone else's treasure!

Prior to the Gala we ask that each family sell one Raffle Book. During Gala week each family is also asked to bake a cake and donate a chicken or piece of meat for the Wheel. This year is the Auckland Trip and apart from a Spell-a-thon later in the year this is our major fundraiser.

Tsunami Warning:

In the event of a Tsunami our strategy has been as follows:

- 1] Buses would collect the students in the first instance.
- 2] Evacuate to Riverlock

However, at our recent B.O.T. Meeting a discussion took place on the practicalities of the above i.e. where would the bus drivers come from as they would more likely to be concerned about their own families or the roads may be impassable to vehicular traffic. So there is some thought that we would need to start walking towards the nearest high ground (Clarks Cross Road). It was also agreed that the evacuation plan needs to be published very regularly, both school wide and community wide so that if you cannot get to the school you know where your children are being taken to.

Steven Woods is to liaise with the Opotiki District Council about this.

COMING EVENTS

Wednesday – Friday: Whare Manaaki Camp at Opape

Wednesday 11 March: District Swimming Sports

Sunday 15 March: Junior Classes Mass

Monday 16 March: TEACHER ONLY DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED.

Tuesday 17 March: P.T.A. Meeting 3:00pm

Friday 20 March: District Soccer Tournament

Saturday 28 March: Netball Opening Day

Lock Down:

All classroom locks have been checked by the Hamilton Diocesan Office in regards to the unlikely event of a 'Lock Down'.

This is the latest information from the Ministry of Education regarding Coronavirus –

Many of you will be aware that three of the four cases of COVID-19 confirmed in New Zealand have had links to four school communities. I appreciate this could be unsettling for some of you so wanted to provide you with an update.

It was very reassuring to read the information from the Auckland Regional Public Health Service that the children in these families are not showing any symptoms of COVID-19 and are doing well. Because the children continue to not show any symptoms, they were not infectious when they were at school and the Ministry of Health is confident there is no risk for the students and staff in those schools.

You will also be interested to know that research published by the World Health Organisation notes that children and young people under 19 account for only 2.4% of all reported cases of COVID-19. This means we are unlikely to see widespread cases in schools and early learning services in New Zealand.

The Ministry of Health's current advice is that with continued vigilance, the chance of widespread community outbreak is expected to remain low. So we all have a role here to minimise the spread of COVID-19.

Our school staff and leadership remain well prepared for the possibility there might be a case in our community. If that were to occur we are confident we can put our plans in place and know we will be supported by regional health authorities and the Ministry of Education.