

1 December

**Focus for the Week: - In Preparation for the Coming of our Saviour First Sunday of Advent**

Advent is a time of preparation. If you knew that in a month it would be your last day, what would you do to prepare to meet you Maker? We can all make a bucket list and reflect on how many things we feel we have missed out on during our lives and how many things we should have done.

What about spiritually? Are we prepared? We can reflect on how many things we should be doing every day, but don't. To that extent we may not be prepared. Jesus teaches us that we can only be prepared by living each day in the manner we would live if we knew it was to be our last day. One day it will be!

So prepare yourself each day as if it is your last.

**Value Focus: Community Participation – Week 8**

We often hear the phrase "A team of stars, doesn't necessarily make a star team". The meaning of this being that for a team to be truly effective, members must put aside personal interest or gain to focus on the greater good of the team. When teams do this, what can be achieved is far greater than the skills and knowledge of the individual members. For they are, as it were, 'all singing from the same song sheet', and have the same goals to strive for. The focus then more easily turns to how each member can best contribute, while being encouraged and supported by the cohesion of the team.

*"Coming together is a beginning.*

*Keeping together is progress.*

*Working together is success."*

- Henry Ford

Dear Parents and Friends of the School

**Principal's Platform:** With the Trenwith family arriving back in New Zealand in about a week from their Mission in Uganda, it timely to share this message of thanks from the mum, Kim Trenwith ....

Hello and a huge THANK YOU to all those children, parents and teachers who donated things for the orphans we are working with in Uganda. What an absolute blessing it has all been and the most perfect timing with me setting up an after school education programme. The things that were donated has meant that the orphans that live here at the ORA base, have all now got their own pencil case filled with pencils, pens, rubbers, rulers etc. These kids have never had more than one lone pencil to take to school with them. They were all so excited to get their very own pencil case and were beaming with joy, looking at them and opening and closing them.

All of the educational materials, puzzles, books and all the stationary will provide such an incredible blessing to these children, we have used some things for the school we are setting up at the ORA base and some educational materials have gone to other schools where we have sponsored children.

The toys, stickers and accessories and other things will be used as part of a Christmas present that is given to each of the 92 children on sponsorship. They will be so excited to receive these and they will be especially pleased to know that these things have come all the way from NZ!! All the kiwiana items have been a real hit!

So many times I have gone to that box of donated goodies and found something perfect for a moment and have been so grateful to have had it here. Like last week I noticed some older boys playing marbles with a bunch of round shaped stones, as you can imagine the stones were difficult to roll and were not the best marbles but that was all they had. Then i remembered there were bags of marbles in the Marian boxes, so I found

them and gave each of the boys some small and one big marble each. They were so excited they were laughing and jumping up and down and looking at them over and over in their hands. They will treasure these marbles so much and probably won't want to play for "keeps" anymore!

The stickers and balloons have been used many times for our Sunday school for games and prizes and the kids love them, it's hard to imagine but some of these kids have never even seen a sticker or a balloon!

Also last week we had an "orphan day" where all the sponsored orphans came to our base and many things from the Marian donations were used for the arts and crafts sessions. They loved experimenting with paint and glue and glitter.

To all of you who gave up your toys or belongings or bought new ones, you have blessed the lives of boys and girls your own age so much, and in so many ways. Thank you for your generosity and thoughtfulness, and know that on the other side of the world there is a boy or girl just like you in so many ways but yet so different in other ways, whose life you have enriched, blessed, changed and made happy by your kindness.

Most kids in Uganda go to school where there is around 150 to 200 kids in each classroom with ONE teacher! Most of them do not have any toys to play with, they do not have school bags or pencil cases. The classrooms have only one blackboard, some do not even have chairs and desks, kids sit on a hard concrete floor. Life for children in this part of the world is very different to life for kids in NZ.

Thank you for all your support in helping to make a difference in the lives of children on the other side of the world!

Love Kim Trenwith (Zak's Mum)

**Welcome:** We warmly welcome Clarisse Campos (Rm13) and her family into our school community.

**House Picnic** Next Tuesday 7 December from 11.30- 12.40  
All students may bring items of clothing to change into at morning tea time to represent the colours of their House. The students will be playing games in their houses and finish with a shared picnic.

**To all our families from around the world,**  
Let's celebrate the Christmas season of goodwill together. We are having a special Christmas Blessing and Liturgy, incorporating traditions and customs from around the world for all our families who have made Marian School and New Zealand their home. Come and join us.

To be held Sat 11<sup>th</sup> December at 2:00pm in the Cathedral followed by refreshments.

First we need your input - if you are interested, a meeting will be held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December at 9:00am in the staffroom.

Your input on how best to celebrate your traditions and customs would be much appreciated  
Regards - Martha



**Hams:** Order forms were sent out last week. Please return with payment to the school office. Orders close 8 December and will be delivered 10 December. \$46.00

**Team 1 & 2 Toys:** Children must not bring toys/gadgets to school as it is causing problems with swapping etc. Ensure you check your child's bags before they come to school. Thank you.

**Dates to watch out for:**

- Junior Nativity Play: Fri 1 Dec at 2:00pm in the Boarders Hall
- Full School Assembly: Wed 9 Dec 1:30
- Final Full School Mass: Wed 15 Dec 9:15am (change)
- Carol Service: Thurs 16 5:30pm
- Final Day: Fri 17 December

**Celebrating Success:** Congratulations to the following for their achievements this week;

- Ryan Campbell for making the Waikato Under 11 Boys Touch Team.
- Hone Tito who received the Most Improved Intermediate St John's Cadet.
- Marian 7B, who entered the Spring Netball league at Hamilton City Netball came 1<sup>st</sup> in their division on Tuesday night.  
Congratulations to: Indianna Nuku-Todd, Lucy Archard, Sinead Sanders, Jennifer Harvey, Dee Fahy, Cailey Smagge, Grace Jones, Maddy Harris O'Keefe, Katie Pigou and Kelly Kernighan and Shayla King.

**Wanted:** Items needed for a Christmas baby who needs our help. Anything please. See Martha

**Mini-mini Op Shop Sale:** Everything \$2.00 Your last chance to grab a bargain. Snooze – You loose! TOMORROW from 2:00pm – 3:00pm under the trees if fine.

**Lost:**

- A pair of sandals left by the tree on Wednesday afternoon during cricket practise. Please return to Kyle Doms Rm8
- A pale green pedestal plate left behind in the School Hall on Grandparent's Day. Please return to school office or phone Therese 853 5069 or 021 208 3462
- A school jersey named Sarah Pennell – please return to Rm21.

**This Week's Health Nugget:**

An advertisement for a "FOOD &amp; DRINK SURVEY". The text says: "Soon your child will be bringing home the Energize Children's Food and Drink survey. Results will be compared to the 2009 survey to see if school children's eating habits have improved. This is part of Energize's Waikato District Health Board evaluation requirements and children of all ages in Energize schools are invited to participate. It's a simple one page survey to complete and return to school and it's anonymous. Schools who return 60% of their surveys will go in the draw to win sports gear. So please get behind it and support Energize and your school!" There is a "SPORTS GEAR PRIZE DRAW!" banner at the bottom right with an Energize logo. A survey form is shown on the left.

**Holiday Programmes:**

- **Summit Holiday Programmes** are high quality experience based programmes running from 17th January to 28th January 2011, open from 7:30am to 5:30pm. We have three programmes to choose from; the Young Adventurers Outdoor Programme (8-13 yrs), the Young Creatives Arts & Crafts Programme (8-13 yrs) and the Young Sparks Junior Programme (5-7 yrs). For more information please visit our website at [www.summitholidayprogrammes.co.nz](http://www.summitholidayprogrammes.co.nz) or you can contact Kelly on 856 5935 or 027 355 9252 or [admin@summitholidayprogrammes.co.nz](mailto:admin@summitholidayprogrammes.co.nz)

**Jemma's Homebased Childcare** are seeking motivated, quality educarers based in the Hamilton East/Hillcrest area to join our fantastic team in 2011. For more information about becoming a homebased educarer please phone Maureen on 0800 536627.

**TO RENT:** Family looking for 3-4 bedroom home in good condition to rent.

Close to Marian School preferably.  
Phone Sharon 8535359 or 021 749966

**Sausage Sizzle:** This Friday \$1.00 each

God Bless You

John Coulam  
Principal