

21 February

Focus for the Week: First Sunday of Lent

In Sunday's gospel reading we hear how, following His baptism, Jesus went out into the wilderness and remained there, fasting and praying, for forty days and nights. The number of days is not random: we read of it time and time again in the Old Testament. From Noah through to Moses, the number forty is used to describe a period of special reflection and preparation for great change.

Jesus prepared for His ministry by fasting and praying, resisting all material temptations thrown His way by Satan, and focussing on more important spiritual matters. May we all take time to reflect upon our own lives during this Lenten season, put aside the pull of possessions, and focus more on the spiritual gifts that God is so willing to give us.

Value Focus: Honesty 4

Any reflection on honesty should start with being truthful to ourselves. Being aware and in turn, honest about what we believe, our strengths and weaknesses allows us to create a true self identity.

Honesty is vital to making effective changes and identifying who we really are and what we really want. When we lie about who you are or what you really believe, we reinforce the idea that we need to pretend to be someone else or that we are not fundamentally "good enough".

To get the most out of life we must identify our authentic self, face our compass "true north" and set our goals for improvement and achievement from there. They are impossible to achieve if we deny or deceive ourselves. Admitting the truth of who we are and what we really want, gives us clarity in life and the focus and direction to achieve our dreams.

"Better to fail with honesty than succeed by fraud" – Sophocles

"Your vision will become clear only when you look into your heart. Who looks outside, dreams. Who looks inside, awakens". – Carl Jung

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Principal's Reflection:

"Be a mother to them always – not a step-mother".
Euphrasie Barbier

*"To bring up children properly we must love them all
and love them equally"*
Marcellin Champagnat

Both these quotes have come from the founders of the two orders who helped to establish our school. Both quotes give you an insight into the love and compassion these two founders had for children.

Marian Catholic School is the amalgamation of St Mary's (started by the Sisters of the Missions) and Marist (started by the Marist Brothers). Each order has a founder and each has a charism.

"Charism is the inspirational purpose that starts communities and keeps them going. It is community mission and spirit. It gives communities distinctive personalities and imbues their daily practice with meaning."

Sister Anne lead our staff through a wonderfully inspirational staff meeting on the two charism that apply to our school. The staff and students are working with the two charisms and will be developing a Marian Catholic School charism that will reflect the essence of both founders for our students today.

COMMUNICATION - Query Question Problem Flowchart

This week we are including our Flowchart for parents to refer to. We encourage parents with a query, question or problem to talk to their child's teacher. Many times these queries, questions or problems can be dealt with effectively with a brief face to face meeting. Teachers welcome these opportunities to build positive relationships with their student's families. To make the most of these opportunities teachers are better to be free from thinking about their teaching duties or the many tasks that need to be ticked off before the bell rings and their class will be waiting for them. To that end if you wish to discuss something with your class teacher that requires more than a quick response PLEASE make a time with the teacher to meet. This allows the teacher to fully focus on you and your child during your conversation and will set the conversation up for success. Teachers will have duties and meetings to work around however you will find our staff most obliging to work with you.

LEARNING DISCUSSIONS

These Learning Discussions are a formal opportunity to enhance the three way partnership: student, teacher and parents, to form learning goals and set priority

areas for development. I encourage you to make these discussions a priority and demonstrate their importance by your attendance.

Tuesday 13th 1.00pm - 7.00pm and Wednesday 14th March 1.00pm - 5.00pm

We will be using our online booking system:

Log onto: www.schoolinterviews.co.nz

Type in password code: **eac7n**

Select your teacher and times.

The Learning Discussions will run from 1.00pm each day. **Parents are encouraged to collect their children at 1.00pm.** An alternative programme will run in the afternoon to supervise children remaining at school until 3.00pm.

Please book your Learning Discussion time now. If you do not have access to a computer either ring Marian at the school office or call into the office and we can help you.

Please mark these dates in your diaries now as **classes will finish at 12.25pm on both Tuesday 13 and Wednesday 14 March** so teachers can meet with parents and children.

Outdoor Playground completed

Our EnviroArts Outdoor Playground has been completed. We are absolutely delighted with the upgraded area. The area is lovely and cool in this hot humid weather and the children are enjoying the range of activities within the playground. A HUGE thank you must go to our PFTA and the Hamilton Diocesan Office for their fundraising and financial assistance that made this project possible.

BOT Update

We have a new Board of Trustees Chair - Mr Wayne Bates. Mr Bates has been a Proprietors Representative on the board since October 2011. Our outgoing Board Chair, Mr Baden Hilton has been the Chair for the past 12 years. Mr Hilton will continue as a Proprietors representative on our Board for 2018. Mr Hilton has been a very strong Board chair and will provide ongoing support for Mr Bates as he takes on this new role.

Welcome: We warmly welcome into our school community the following students and their families; Caleb Giles (Rm4), Jade Hunter (Rm4), Zara Hunter (Rm5), Olivia Jose (Rm4), Payton Powell (Rm5), Caitlin Anna Joseph (Rm5), and Daniel Gaines (Rm2)

Out of School Music Lessons: Classes will start next week (Week 5). Notices will go home today. Please ensure your children are at their lessons on time each week.

Reminder: Easter break is before the end of term. School will be closed Good Friday (30 March), Easter Monday and Easter Tuesday (3 April). However, Wednesday 4th April is a **TEACHER ONLY DAY** and school will be closed for instruction as teachers attend a course

Celebrating Success:

Antonia Cuthers received the Most Valuable Player award for the *Waikato Under 10 Girls Black touch* team at their prize giving.

For Sale:

Half-size guitar in soft case \$50.00

Saxophone in case \$250.00

To suit beginners

Phone Diane – 027 6049 752

Owl Farm Public Open Day – St Peters School / Lincoln University.

Saturday 10 March, 10am–2pm

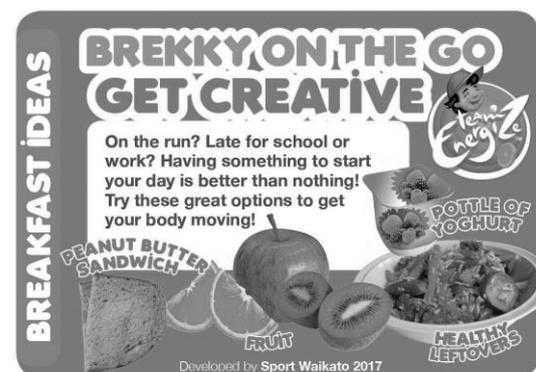
A day on the farm

For more information visit www.owlfarm.nz

Free Admission

Fun for all the family – free sausage sizzles and ice-creams.

The Week's Health Nugget



Theatre Cats Speech and drama group.

Enjoy creative acting lessons in the Whare on Wednesday afternoons from 3.15 - 4pm. Limited number of students. \$65.00 for Term 1

Contact: Sandra Timlin 8590377 or lynn18@xtra.co.nz

Sausage Sizzle: These will be on sale this Friday - \$2.00 each. Children are to order in the classroom at 9am.

God Bless You

Debra White

Principal

Flyers:

- Query/Problem Flow Chart
- Sport