



40/2024

11/12/2024

St Patrick's School

Faith, Good Works and Striving for Excellence
Learn, Create, Share

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Kia ora whanau!

I can't believe that this will be the last newsletter for the year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your unwavering support this year. 2024 has certainly been a year of challenges but it has been a pleasure watching all of our students learn and grow throughout the year.

I look forward to seeing you all on Thursday night for our Mass and Prize Giving. This is a wonderful celebration of all of the hard mahi that the tamariki have put into their learning this year.

A reminder that school closes at 12pm on Tuesday 17th December.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year and I look forward to seeing you all again in 2025. Enjoy your summer!

God Bless,

Kim



Bus for Tuesday 17 December - midday. All buses except the Kumara, Camerons, Paroa bus will be running at the earlier time of midday collection from school. If your child is on this bus, please ensure you collect them from school at midday on Tuesday 17 December. Thank you



PRAYER TO END SCHOOL YEAR

God of Wisdom, we thank you for all the gifts you have given us throughout this school year. We praise you for giving us life, for saving us in Christ, and for choosing us to be your people.

As we come to the end of this school year, we voice our gratitude for the good things you have done in us, and we praise you for all who have shared in the work of this school.

We ask you to bless them in your love and give them refreshment and peace.

We praise you, God, through Jesus Christ, Our Lord, who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.



Christmas Prayer

by Pope John XXIII

O SWEET CHILD OF BETHLEHEM,
GRANT THAT WE MAY SHARE WITH ALL OUR
HEARTS IN THIS PROFOUND
MYSTERY OF CHRISTMAS.
PUT INTO THE HEARTS OF MEN AND WOMEN
THIS PEACE FOR WHICH THEY
SOMETIMES SEEK SO DESPERATELY
AND WHICH YOU ALONE CAN GIVE TO THEM.
HELP THEM TO KNOW ONE ANOTHER BETTER,
AND TO LIVE AS BROTHERS AND SISTERS,
CHILDREN OF THE SAME FATHER.
REVEAL TO THEM ALSO YOUR BEAUTY,
HOLINESS AND PURITY.
AWAKEN IN THEIR HEARTS LOVE
AND GRATITUDE FOR
YOUR INFINITE GOODNESS.
JOIN THEM ALL
TOGETHER IN YOUR LOVE.
AND GIVE US YOUR HEAVENLY PEACE.
AMEN.



St Patrick's Parish st_patricksgreymouth@hotmail.com 037685263

Mass times: Greymouth: Saturday 6.00pm & Sunday 9.30am

Cobden: 1st, 2nd & 3rd Sundays at 8.00am, Kumara: 5th Sunday 11.00am,
Ngahere: 4th Sunday 11.00am. Weekday Masses 5.30pm Tuesday, 9.00am
Wednesday and Thursday, 12.10pm Friday.

Our Māori word for the week:

Meri Kirihimete

Every child who comes and sees Ms Hines and
uses this word in a conversation will get a
caught being good card!

Either way it's 20k



Lost Property

We have a lot of lost property not named at school

Advent Prayer

God of power and mercy, open our hearts in
welcome. Remove the things that hinder us
from receiving Christ with joy, so that we
may share his wisdom and become one with
him when he comes in glory, for he lives
and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



currently. Please ensure you name your child / childrens clothes. Any items not named will be taken to St Vincent de Paul at the end of this school year



Reminder to our parents/caregivers of students heading into a digital classroom for the first time next year, please advise the office of your payment plans.

Collecting Students During the School Day

We kindly ask, when possible, you avoid picking students up early, as this can impact their attendance and may interrupt classroom learning. If you do need to collect your child/children before the end of the school day, please come to the school office to sign them out. A staff member will then arrange for your child to meet you at the office. To minimise disruptions, please consider planning early pickups around break times: morning tea is from 10:40 am to 11:00 am, and lunch is from 12:50 pm to 1:30 pm. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Sunhats - Term 1 - Sunhats are to be worn this term during all breaks.. No child will be allowed to play in the sun without a sunhat on. \$15.00 for a new sunhat which can be purchased from the school office.

Class	Sports uniform
Eden and Bethlehem	Monday
Samaria, Nazareth, Cana & Galilee	Thursday
Galilee & Cana	Thursday
Capernaum & Jerusalem	Friday



Children are expected to take their lunch box rubbish home with them each day please. We have three red rubbish bins supplied by the council which are collected fortnightly.



John & Annaliese were the winners of our Catch Me Being Good. Keep up the good work.



Marist

Mercy

McAuley

Champagnat

	Monday, Tuesday & Friday Various bakery items We ask you to please send the correct money to school for lunch orders. Thank you. Note price increase as at 2 September
	Thursday \$6.50 We ask you to please send the correct monies to school for lunch orders. Thank you
	Wednesday Price increase We ask you to please send the correct money to school for lunch orders. Thank you

Don't forget to turn on notifications on your phone to receive **instant alerts** from us via the **Skool Loop App**.

 Simple free download: In Google Play or App Store search "Skool Loop" & choose our school once installed



Keeping our students safe outside our school

We appreciate the effort everyone is taking to ensure our students are safe before and after school when being collected or dropped off to school by parents / caregivers.

This is a gentle reminder, the staff car park is not to be used for parking. We would also ask you not to park over any driveways and or on broken yellow lines. These lines have been placed in areas where parking would cause an obstruction or danger to other road users, for example found on an approach to a pedestrian crossing.



St Patrick's School is closed on the following dates:

Waitangi Day - Thursday 6 February 2025
Day after Waitangi Day - Friday 7 February 2025

School events

Mufti day for whole school (this is to keep your uniform nice and clean for the end of year Mass and Prizegiving)	12/12
End of year swim for Year 4 - Year 8 - students to bring their swimming togs and towel to school	12/12
End of year Mass and Prizegiving @ St Patrick's Church for the whole school Year 0 to Year 8. Students are to wear their school uniform to Mass and Prizegiving. We encourage all our families to attend this evening to celebrate the wonderful achievements of our whole school for 2024	12/12 6.00pm
End of year fun day Year 0 - 3 students, students are to wear their school uniform. Year 0 - 3 students on this day will also be visiting Dixon House and Granger House to sing Christmas carols	16/12
Last day of term four 2024 - midday finish	17/12
2025 dates	
School office open 8.30am to 1.30pm	29/1
First day for Term 1 2025- Monday	3/2
Waitangi Day - School closed	6/2
Day after Waitangi Day - School closed	7/2
Year 7 & 8 camp to Teapot Valley	11/2-14/2
Year 5 & 6 camp to Arthur's Pass	12/2-14/2
Please note some dates may change which are out of our control, As dates are made available to us we will include these on the calendar. TBC - to be confirmed.	

The Greymouth Catholic Schools' Board of Trustees would like to thank our school and parish community for the feedback

	Starting date	Ending date
Term 1	03/02/2025	11/04/2025
Term 2	28/04/2025	27/06/2025
Term 3	14/7/2025	19/9/2025
Term 4	06/10/2025	17/12/2025 (TBC)

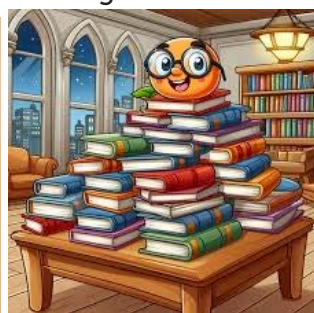


Gifts for Christmas Children helping Children

This Christmas we are encouraging children to bring a gift for another child less fortunate than themselves. These gifts will be given to the St Vincent de Paul Society and Sisters of Mercy to distribute to local children in need. Please label the gift boy/girl and the age the gift is suitable for and leave at the school office. Thank you



End of year message from our wonderful librarian. The library has been a wonderful, vibrant place to work this term, with lots of laughter, chatter, games, and even a bit of reading! Along with individual class and whole school prayer sessions, and Kapa Haka practices we have had some lovely shared sessions with St Patrick's and John Paul II students sharing reading together that have been a joy to witness. I have one 'shout out request' for the library for next year. I am looking at introducing some audiobook small group listening sets for classes to use, and am hoping for donations of old cell phones to use for these - preferably with headphone jack accessibility if possible - but later models considered. So if you're upgrading your phones at christmas I would love any donations of older phones! All the best for a lovely relaxing Summer Break - and don't forget the local library if you need to top up on some reading material.



provided through the consultation on the proposal for dedicated boards for each school.

All of the feedback has been heard and considered by the board. While there are differing views amongst our communities on the best board structure to govern our two schools, what we are united on is that everyone wants the best outcomes for our schools and our students.

There was a lot of feedback in support of the proposal and there were also some valid concerns raised. While the proposal continues to be worked through, the board agreed to form a working group to take a closer look at the concerns of the parents/caregivers and parish community following the consultation. The working group has grouped the feedback into themes. For each of the themes the working group has summarised the suggested actions that could be taken to address the feedback.

Special Character - St Patrick's Primary School and John Paul II High School and their Board of Trustees authentically embrace, embed and live our Catholic Special Character. Having dedicated Boards of Trustees will not affect in any way how board members see the Special Character of both schools and it will remain paramount.

The purpose of having dedicated boards concerns operational activities and the different funding models, reporting and accountabilities for each school. By ensuring we have a robust Memorandum Of Understanding, and practices and policies in place that put our faith firmly in the centre of all we do, we aim to enhance and grow the special character.

Governance is how the board is controlled and run. The board develops a policy framework and processes for decision making, ensures compliance with legal requirements, and puts in place structures for the principal to effectively manage day to day operations. The strategic plan is built around the Special Character foundation and the reason the schools were established.

Sacramental Programs are a key link to our faith and the parish. The board recognises we need to maintain links with the parish and need to find new ways to increase the engagement between the parish and both schools. As a board we have begun discussion options to help grow this relationship and would intend that this would be a goal maintained.

Action: Communicate the above messages with our school and parish community.

Working together and connection between schools - It is important to reinforce that establishing separate boards is not about separating the two schools. St Patrick's Primary School and John Paul II High School currently operate as two separate entities. They are governed by a combined board, share some common property facilities and are intrinsically linked through



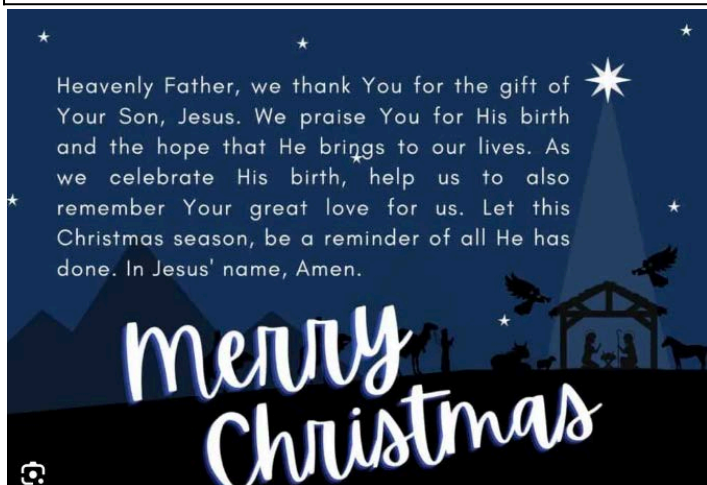
Christmas Mass Times
CATHOLIC PARISH OF GREYMOUTH
St Patrick's Church 40 High Street Greymouth
Christmas Eve Family Mass 7.30pm
Midnight Mass Midnight
(Preceded with Carols with the Choir from 11.30pm)
Christmas Day 9.00am
"Lord, be born in my heart.
Come alive in me this Christmas"



St Vincent de Paul are in need of good clean clothing, linen, bedding, blankets, as well as crockery in good condition, and food items. Please drop off items to their shop on Mackay Street, Greymouth



For the safety of our tamariki after school, please ensure you shut the school gate once you have collected your tamariki. Our tamariki are to stay inside the school playground until they are collected by an adult. We ask that our tamariki do not wait outside the gate. Thank you.



the Catholic faith as state integrated schools. The majority of students transition from St Patrick's School to John Paul II High School.

There is no intention that the schools will operate any differently under dedicated boards. The intention to establish separate boards is to provide more focused governance which better serves the needs of each school and leads to better outcomes for our students.

Action: Communicate the above messages with our school and parish community

Attracting Suitable Trustees and Succession Planning - It is acknowledged that with two smaller dedicated boards more trustees will be required. Good succession planning will be important to ensure there are suitable trustees to fill both Parent Representative and Proprietors Representative roles. NZSBA has some good resources to assist with succession planning.

Promoting the role of the board through regular communication with the school and parish community would give more visibility of the important work the board does. If people see and understand the board's contribution to the school, they are more likely to stand at board elections or agree to be appointed to the board.

Appointing Proprietors Representatives from St Mary's Parish Hokitika is an option to be considered for John Paul II High School and would expand the pool of potential Proprietors Representatives. As the only Catholic high school on the West Coast, this would also provide an opportunity to strengthen the relationship between John Paul II High School and St Mary's Parish and St Mary's Primary School.

Action: Board(s) to develop a succession plan for trustees.

Concern was also raised about the viability of our Parish Priest sitting on two boards with an increased workload now he is the sole priest in the parish. It will be important to work closely with our Parish Priest to manage this.

Action: Board(s) to work closely with Fr Mathew to ensure he (and any future Parish Priest) can be involved with the board in a way that is manageable.

The role of a school board - Some feedback suggested there is an opportunity to give more visibility to the role and the work that our school board(s) do.

All of Aotearoa's state and state-integrated schools have a school board which is the Crown entity responsible for the governance of the school. The board's core role is to govern its school. Schools help students achieve and succeed to the best of their ability and boards have specific responsibilities under the Education and Training Act 2020, as well as other Acts and legislation, to help them do this.

Governance of a school/kura includes things such as:



Please make contact with the school office for a consent form if medication is to be given during school hours. All medication is to be handed into the school office, this includes panadol.



An initiative
by Mawhera
Kahui Ako

YEARS 1-8
ATTENDING
SCHOOL IN THE
GREY DISTRICT



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

We want you to create a poster with a
catchy slogan telling us why it is
important to attend school regularly
PARENTS & CAREGIVERS ARE WELCOME TO HELP



**First Prize gets to work with a digital
creator to bring their poster to life to be
featured on the billboard in town and
also wins a Chromebook!**
+ Spot prizes for other great creators!

Posters to be dropped into the Grey District Library
or if a digital creation, emailed to Kayla Hibbs by:

Friday 10th January 2025
Kayla@productivepeople.co.nz

- setting the strategic direction and targets for the school/kura
- planning towards and reporting on achieving those targets
- curriculum management
- financial and property management
- policies and procedures
- health and safety
- employment of staff at the school or kura
- The board employs the school's principal to oversee the day-to-day management of the school, and the principal follows the direction of the board to ensure the school's goals are met
- ensuring every student can reach their highest possible standard in student achievement

Board members should be objective in their governance of their school, protect the interests of all students, and work together for the benefit of all students.

The decisions of a board are made according to the Education and Training Act 2020 and within a framework of policies and procedures that the board is responsible for developing and implementing.

Boards have specific responsibilities under the Education and Training Act 2020, as well as other Acts and legislation.

Action: Board(s) to develop a plan for regular communication regarding the work of the board to our school and parish communities.



St Patrick's School Policies can be viewed on the [SchoolDocs](http://stpatricksgm.schooldocs.co.nz) website, using the below login details:

<http://stpatricksgm.schooldocs.co.nz>

Username: stpatricksgm

Password: patrick