The 2018 school year has got off to a great start. We started the school year with a special school blessing and liturgy where Fr Paul blessed each student and class.

St. Patrick’s Primary has a long and proud history and was started by the Mercy sisters in 1909 when Sister Rose and Sister Pascal set up a small school in St Patrick’s Church. Soon there were so many children that the Parish decided to build a proper school, and the new St Patrick’s School was opened in 1925. Our staff and students are proud to serve and live the works of Mercy tradition.

Are you new to our school and want to know more about the Sisters of Mercy? Catherine McAuley founded the sisters of Mercy in 1831. She was a woman who dedicated her life to the Christian education of the young, especially those most in need. Her life’s work in Ireland in the early 19th century continues to inspire us today. You can read more about the Sisters of Mercy on our website http://www.spps.school.nz/our-history/

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to our new students and families. We hope that you have already been made very welcome and have experienced the warm and caring community that is St Patrick’s Primary School.

Staff have been hard at work planning many great learning programmes and personal development opportunities for our children. Term 1 is going to be a very busy term so please check our online calendar and events page at www.spps.school.nz and click on subscribe to events to be sent our most up to date information. Add important dates for you and your family to your diary.

At St Patrick’s our aim is to ensure that your child is set up for personal success. We do our best to support children to thrive, grow and develop spiritually and academically. We know that children learn best when school and home work as close partners. Your class teacher will outline the class timetable, learning programme and homework expectations for the year.

On the 15th February we will have a meet the teacher evening from 5.30 onwards, this will be a great opportunity for you to talk to your child’s teacher about what learning they will be doing and how you can assist. Please bring a picnic dinner for your own family.

Back to School Prayer

We thank you for the fragrance of a new box of crayons, Lord,
The rainbow in each perfect row;
Thank you for each bundle of snowy white notebook paper, 
Awaiting fresh possibilities.
May they remind us that you make all things new and bless us with abundance.
Thank you for this ruler; for every eraser that tops every pencil.
May they help us remember to measure our blessings,
But never your boundless love for us;
To allow for the making of mistakes as a normal part of human learning.
As we lay out our new clothes for these first days of school,
Help us remember to put on Christ each day, too,
And to “clothe the naked” as He asked us.
But mostly, God, help us remember
that Jesus is always our best and most devoted teacher—
That we never outgrow all his lessons on how you want us to live and to love.
A big warm St Patrick’s welcome to our new students and families:

Room 2: Maellani Opetaia-Tiatia  
Room 5: Natalia Xalxo  

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Please check our online school calendar and events information at [www.spps.school.nz](http://www.spps.school.nz) you can click to subscribe and all updated information will be emailed directly to you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weekly</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursdays</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.40pm-3.15pm (weekly)</td>
<td>Senior School Swimming</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fridays</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.40pm-3.15pm (weekly)</td>
<td>Junior School Swimming</td>
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Important information for the next fortnight.

Wednesday 14 February  
11.00 am  
Ash Wednesday Mass  
St Patrick’s Church  
ALL WELCOME

Important dates for your diary.

Thursday 5th & Friday 6th April  
Marae trip and overnight stay at Orongomai Marae

Friday 13th April  
End of Term 1

Our Mercy Values

Encourage your child to think about our Mercy values and write a prayer for our prayer wall.

St Patrick's Primary Staff 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Room 1</th>
<th>Helen Barber</th>
<th>Deputy Principal</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Room 2</td>
<td>Fiona D’Souza</td>
<td>Director of Religious Studies</td>
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<td>Room 4</td>
<td>Linda Chinna</td>
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<td>Learning Hub</td>
<td>Rob Ngan Woo</td>
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<td>Room 5</td>
<td>Jules May</td>
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<tr>
<td>Room 6</td>
<td>Sophie Youngs</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

All classes  
Martin Herring & Katherine Wilson  
Class release teachers

Support Staff

| Office Manager      | Leanne Saunders |
| Reading Recovery    | Annette Barnes  |
| Learning Support    | Lynley Ellen    |
| Learning Support    | Jan Colosimo    |
| Learning Support    | Janet Francis   |
| Learning Support    | Lucas Cornejo   |

St Patrick’s Church Group

[Image of group of people]
Reminder
Stationery and School Costs

This year we are providing you with the opportunity to spread your payments for stationery, uniform and school trip costs over the year. We hope this will help families with budgeting, and limit common difficulties associated with sending money to school.

If you would like to take advantage of this offer, please set up an automatic payment with your bank using our bank account number ASB-123174 029886700. Please include your full name in the details section. If you need assistance to set payments up please contact the school office on 387 3370.

Breakfast Club - All Welcome.
Join us in Room 3 for breakfast from 8.30am - the best way to start your day!!

Monday (Weekly)  Tuesday (Weekly)  Thursday (Weekly)
Room 2
General
Week 1: Welcome – Maellani Opetaia-Tiatia
Leadership – Ryan Plummer Hessian – you have begun the year by really stepping up and using your initiative to be a leader.
Leadership – Aaron Abu - You chose not to encourage someone making a bad choice.
Leadership – Daniel Robinson – you completed your group’s preparation for school prayers during morning tea.
Blake Eaton - Awesome integration into class

Gospel Value
Week 2: Aroha – Lesieli Foliaki – you encouraged a teacher to go to the staffroom to get treat food so she wouldn’t miss out.
Respect - Esipito Pau & Ella Hansen – you girls are so awesome with helping the little kids on the new whisper glide.
Resilience – Beatrice Ryan-Noriega & Angelei – you stepped up at the last minute to read at the School Blessing liturgy and did a really good job of doing so.
Unity – Christiaan Yalda – You were awesome helping a student who was stuck on the tunnel up in the playground.

Sunday’s Gospel Reading Champions:
Week 2: Vansh Kumar

Playground upgrade

The long awaited playground upgrade has arrived, thank you to all our parents for the amazing fundraising that has taken place over the last few years. The children are loving the new whisper glide and new safety matting/grass.
See below pictures of the install.