ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL
DANNEVIRKE

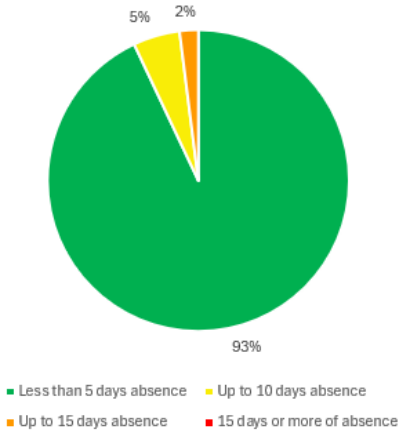
'Nurturing Spirits, Encouraging Excellence.' AMDG
Manaakitia e te Wairua, Whakatenatena i ngā hiranga

5 November 2026 Term 4 Week 4

IMPORTANT DATES

- Assembly - Friday 2.30 pm
  - Room 3 – 6 Nov
  - Room 2 - 20 Nov
  - Room 6 – 4 Dec
- Tech – Rm 5 – Mondays
- Ranui Farm Camp – 9 – 13 Nov
- Junior Team Fun Week – 9 – 13 Nov
- Raffle Tickets Due - Tues 10 Nov
- School Photos – Tues 17 Nov
- Whānau Hui – Tues 17 Nov
- Interschool Athletics – Wed 18 Nov (p/p 25 Nov)
- Junior Tabloids – Fri 27 Nov
- Ki O Rahi Tournament
- Thanksgiving Celebration – Mon 14 Dec. 6.00pm
- End of Term 4 – Tues 15 Dec

ATTENDANCE



Only 5 ½ weeks to go. Let's keep it above our 80% target!







PRINCIPALS NOTE

Kia Ora

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION – THANK YOU!

A big thank you to everyone who took the time to share their thoughts in our recent community consultation. We have now summarised the feedback from our students, whānau, parishioners, Dannevirke High School teachers and staff, and you can find a summary on page 3 of this newsletter.

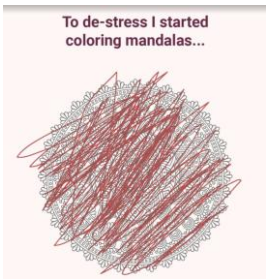
We are very grateful for the positive responses, and the lovely things people have shared about our school. It is wonderful to hear what our community values most about St Joseph's, along with some helpful ideas about how we can continue to grow and improve.

Your feedback has given our Board a clear sense of direction as we plan for the future. It is important to us that our school continues to reflect the hopes and aspirations of our whānau and provides the very best opportunities for our children.

Thank you again for your honesty, encouragement and ongoing support. We are very fortunate to have such a caring and supportive school community, and we look forward to building on the things that make St Joseph's such a special place.

The Board will be sharing the Strategic Plan for 2027-2028 with the community at the end of the year.

Mā te Atua koutou e manaaki i ngā wā katoa
May God always bless you.
Megan



CAMP & JUNIOR FUN WEEK – CHECK SKOOL LOOP FOR ALL THE LATEST INFORMATION!

CATHOLIC CHARACTER

Why Do Catholics Go To Mass on Sundays?

Sunday is a special day for Catholics as we celebrate Christ's resurrection from the dead. In the Bible, God rested on the seventh day after creating the world. Sunday celebrates a 'new creation', the renewal of the world through Jesus' loving sacrifice and resurrection.

Traditionally, Christians have kept Sunday as a day of worship, celebration and rest, taking time away from everyday work to focus on God, family and their faith community. By coming together for Mass, we give thanks to God, listen to His Word, receive Jesus in the Eucharist and strengthen our relationship with God and one another.



Sunday Mass is at the heart of our Catholic faith, bringing us together as a community to celebrate, pray and grow in faith.

MISSION DAY

While the weather wasn't great our students still had a great time. Over $800 was raised for Holy Childhood Association, Save the Children Fund and Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions. Thank you for your support.

Helen Collier
DRS

SAINT WAY FOCUS



As we head towards the end of the year, we know our children are getting tired and distractions are creeping in! However, there is still plenty of important learning to be done, so we are encouraging everyone to stay strong, stay focused and keep giving their best right to the end!

Whānau can help at home by making sure children are rested, organised and ready for learning each day. A few simple things can make a big difference:

- **Early nights**
- **Keep routines consistent**
- **Limit screen time**
- **Get organised the night before**
- **Plenty of fresh air and active play**
- **Arrive at school on time**
- **Encourage perseverance**

We know this is a busy time of year for families too, but these little things help all of us.

SPORT REPORT

Athletics Sports

A huge thank you to all our wonderful helpers who supported our Athletics Day on Tuesday. We were fortunate to have such lovely weather, and it was fantastic to see the talent, enthusiasm and effort of our students. Our interschool athletics team will be announced next week.

Athletics Cups will be given out at assembly tomorrow at 2.30pm

Interschool Athletics Sports

Wednesday 18 November
p/p Wed 25 November

Basketball with Miles

Starts Friday 13 November

We are fortunate to have Miles Pearce visiting our school on Fridays for five weeks to take our students for basketball lessons. This is a great opportunity for students to develop their basketball skills and enjoy some fun, active learning.

Please ensure students bring their sports uniform and sneakers each Friday.

Special Achievements

An amazing effort at the Carterton Horse Sports! Fern won all five show jumping events, even coming second to herself on a different horse! She was also named overall champion for the day. Congratulations Fern!



Jo Brown
Sports Co-ordinator

HOME & SCHOOL RAFFLE



Due back 10 Nov. More books available from the office.

Fundraising for Murals.

SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

St Joseph's
Faith | Learn | Grow | Belong

Strategic Planning Consultation
What our community told us

A summary of key findings to inform our next strategic plan

Our people. Our place. Their future.

Who took part?

- **118** students
- **58** community members (parents/whānau)
- **6** secondary school teachers
- **7** parish respondents

Overall message

The consultation provides a strong foundation for the next strategic plan.

Faith, values, relationships and community are recognised strengths. The main opportunities are to make these strengths consistent for every learner, strengthen academic preparation and broaden engaging learning experiences.

Three key messages for the Board

1. **Protect our strengths**
   Faith, values, caring relationships and community connections are central to what people appreciate about St Joseph's.
2. **Make the experience consistent**
   Every learner should feel respected, included, supported and challenged, with whānau kept informed.
3. **Build capability and connection**
   Strengthen academic foundations, engaging learning, independence and partnerships so students are well prepared for their future.

Our strengths
What our community values and wants to keep building on

Students enjoy school and value their relationships
89.8% of students positively rated school enjoyment and its quality as a place to learn.

Catholic Character and the SAINT Way are strong foundations
96.6% of community respondents positively rated Catholic Character, Gospel Values, te ao Māori and cultural respect in everyday school life.

Students' positive qualities are recognised beyond the school
100% of parish respondents positively rated students' values, respect and care for others.

Confidence in the school's direction
91.4% of community respondents positively rated the school's future direction.

Learning and preparation for the future are valued
93.1% of community respondents rated the development of students' skills, values and qualities for the future.

Leadership and connections between older and younger students
Whānau value buddy relationships, mentoring and the example set by senior students.

Learning support and staff commitment
Families value dedicated teacher aides, access to learning support and teachers' care, helpfulness and commitment.

School events and varied experiences
Students and whānau value sport, kapa haka, camps, trips, cultural activities, Wheels Week, the colour run and Home and School events.

A supportive physical environment
Students appreciate the new playground, outdoor spaces, play equipment, and improved classrooms and facilities.

Community participation and cultural learning
Whānau value shared celebrations, assemblies and opportunities to contribute. Kapa haka, te reo Māori and cultural experiences are highly valued.

Opportunities to build on our strengths
Key areas for our next strategic plan

Build on our positive culture of belonging and care
82.2% of students positively rated safety, happiness and belonging.
Strengthen kindness, inclusion and respectful relationships so every learner feels a consistent sense of care and belonging.

Continue developing strong academic foundations
Four of six secondary teachers positively rated each statement about students' preparation for secondary school.
Focus on reading, handwriting, writing conventions and targeted support and extension for every learner.

Expand engaging, active and creative learning opportunities
Build on enthusiasm for PE, outdoor learning, science, art, cooking, technology, music, projects, camps and trips.
Connect these with strong literacy and mathematics teaching to deepen engagement and learning.

Strengthen connections through clear communication
Regular progress updates, practical home-learning guidance and timely event notices.
Coordinated teaching arrangements and consistent expectations give students and whānau clarity and confidence.

Grow confident, independent learners
Further develop resilience, organisation, time management and independent learning.
Provide inclusive leadership and transition opportunities that recognise individual strengths and needs.

Deepen a welcoming school–parish partnership
Build on valued weekday Mass participation and parishioners' positive recognition of students' respect and care.
Strengthen welcome, communication, whānau engagement and shared participation in parish and school life.

What people said
A few of the many positive comments from our surveys (anonymous)

Students
- "The great staff who teach us."
- "Learning new things and learning from my mistakes."
- "The teachers that help me when i don't know what to do."

Parents and whānau
- "Great team of teachers and a welcoming environment."
- "The values! The mauri that you feel in the students, teachers and school is so kind, loving and compassionate!"
- "Most importantly, that my child is seen, known and liked, while being challenged and having fun."

Secondary school teachers
- "Written work is better than other schools, students are also confident speakers."
- "Students generally have good classroom routines and settle into secondary school expectations with ease."
- "Strength – Work ethic and having a go. Great at group or independent work."

Parish community
- "When I see the students at church, they show politeness, consideration and focus."
- "Children are polite, and proud of their school and you can see it in their mana."
- "The children singing when they come to Mass."

Possible strategic priorities

1. Every learner belongs and thrives
2. Strong learning and progress for all
3. Engaging learning for the future
4. Faith, values and identity in action
5. Connected school, whānau and parish

Progress will be monitored through achievement and progress information, repeated belonging surveys, whānau feedback, student participation and secondary transition feedback.