



The Aubert Oracle



Suzanne Aubert
Catholic School
Engage - Inspire - Empower Through Christ

DECEMBER 2020

Principal's Message

Tēnā koutou katoa. Ko Anthony Mills toku ingoa. Ko te tumuaki hou o te kura Hato Meri Hohepa - te kura katorika o Papamoa.

Welcome to our first school newsletter for the Suzanne Aubert Catholic School community. It is a privilege and a blessing to be leading learning in our kura and I am incredibly excited about connecting with you all as our school grows. This year has been a challenging time for many which is why we feel extra blessed that our school is ready for learning. Suzanne Aubert has definitely been watching over us and our progress!



Anthony Mills

Foundation Principal | Tumuaki



Suzanne Aubert - Meri Hohepa

We are the first school in New Zealand to be given the taonga of Suzanne Aubert's name. This is an honour and a privilege. With Meri Hohepa as our school patron, we aim to be a future-focused Catholic learning community that promotes learner agency, innovative practice and service towards others. We will provide opportunities for our learners to be Christ-like, compassionate, creative, collaborative, connected, curious, courageous and demonstrate the Charism of Suzanne Aubert.

Our school vision

Our school vision is to engage, inspire and empower through Christ.

- **Through Christ:** Our Catholic faith is at the heart of how we live and how we learn. The Gospel values, teachings of Jesus Christ and compassion of Suzanne Aubert guide the learning in our school by bringing faith alive.
- **Engage:** Our learners will engage by making connections with people, place and purpose. Children at Suzanne Aubert will connect with key people, the natural environment and through authentic context.
- **Inspire:** Our learners will be inspired to be creative and innovative. We aim to promote an environment that encourages curiosity and connected thinking.
- **Empower:** Our learners will be empowered to be courageous and adapt to change as well as be agents of change. As they grow to be global citizens for the future, our learners demonstrate compassion towards others through service, leadership and kaitiakitanga.

2020

It has been a special and unique opportunity to have this time in 2020 to develop the kaupapa of our school. There have been many highlights but I wanted to share a few:

- **Our learners and whānau:** It has been really special meeting our tamariki that will be joining the Suzanne Aubert journey in 2021. Over the past few months we have had face to face time with most of our children and their whānau through enrolment meetings and our community consultation hui. This has been a great opportunity to connect with our emerging school community.
- **Our learning:** As leaders of learning, we acknowledge that we too are learners. We have had the time to develop the vision, shared pedagogy, learning philosophies and curriculum for our school in recent months. Engaging in this professional learning has ensured the best possible start for our tamariki next year.
- **Our team:** We have been privileged to appoint an incredible team of leaders, teachers and administrators to lead and facilitate learning in our school. It has been a special opportunity through Term 3-4 to learn together, bond as a staff and build our team culture as we prepare for children starting in 2021.
- **Our people:** In the foundation of our school, we have had the privilege of collaborating with a range of people in sharing the development of our vision and direction. It has been special working alongside the Establishment Board of Trustees, Diocese, Sisters of Compassion, local iwi, Parish, local schools, ECEs and the wider community.

In this newsletter, you will find key information to support your child and whānau as you join the Suzanne Aubert school community. Wishing you all a very blessed Christmas and joyful festive season with whānau and friends. Please be safe and enjoy spending time with the people you love. We look forward to seeing you all again in 2021!



Anthony Mills
Principal - Tumuaki



Meri Kirihimete!

Special Catholic Character

A message from our DRS

As a Catholic School we are a community, which celebrates our Catholic story and traditions and recognise that Christ is at the centre of our lives.

'A voice cries in the wilderness . Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.' Mark 1:3

"The Advent journey: Hope becomes Peace. Peace becomes Joy. Joy becomes Love. Love becomes Christ." B. Schuller

Wow! What a busy and unusual year we have had. The events of 2020 were certainly unanticipated and an adventure for everyone. Now as the calendar year winds down we enter the church season of Advent, a period of preparation before Christmas. During this season we take time to carefully prepare for the coming of Our Lord and are reminded in the Gospel to make a special effort to find ways to grow closer to God. The mission for us during Advent is to 'Prepare the way for the Lord' by walking alongside each other, being a comfort to one another, being witnesses to the Good News and being prophets of peace and hope. It is in being people of action for the good of all that we begin to know what the true presence of God means in our lives.



To keep this firmly in our hearts and minds over this hectic and busy season, here a few ways you and your whānau might like to prepare for a Christ-centred Christmas:

Design an Advent wreath:

This can be as simple as four candles surrounded by greenery brought in from outside. Light the candles at a time that suits your family (meals, before leaving for school /work, end of the day before bed) and use the wreath as a focus for prayer.

Perform acts of generosity:

This can be a simple act of kindness. Caring for neighbours, making donations or volunteering for a local charity.

Devote time to daily prayer:

Traditional prayers, scripture readings, prayers from the heart, meditation, prayer art, worship music or simply quiet time set aside each day help create a closer relationship to Jesus.

Make memories for the New Year:

Reflect on the previous year and capture children's memories that can become part of your family story. Capture these on camera, draw pictures, write songs or journal.

Decorate a Jesse Tree:

Connect the decorating of the Christmas tree to Jesus' birth through the story of the Jesse Tree. For ideas click the following link: [Jesse Tree.](#)

Enjoy this special preparation time of our Advent season.

A handwritten signature in grey ink, appearing to read 'Erin Clayton'.

Erin Clayton: Director of Religious Studies



Staff Profiles

Hikurangi Team: Our Kaiako



Kia ora, my name is Erin Clayton. It is so exciting to be on this journey together. I moved to Papamoa in the middle of 2020 with my scaredy cat and adventure dog. The dog and I love exploring the beach on walks together and having mini adventures learning all about our new home.

Favourite Things:

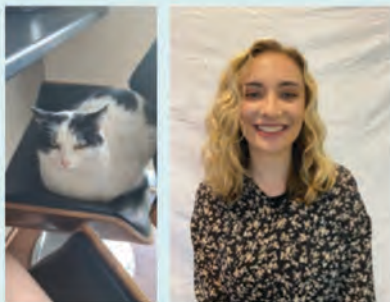
- COLOUR: midnight blue. All the greens.
- FOOD: anything with ginger in it.
- BOOK: Albie and the Space Rocket
- LEARNING ABOUT: New discoveries and ideas in Science



Kia ora, I'm Maria. Born and raised in South Africa, our family recently moved to Tauranga, after living in Auckland for 20 years. I live in Welcome Bay with my husband, two daughters and our two furry kids. I am passionate about sparking learning for 5 year olds and transitioning them into formal learning. When I am not working I enjoy spending time in my garden, reading an exciting book or exploring our beautiful country.

Favourite Things:

- COLOUR: periwinkle blue
- FOOD: Turkish, Mexican & Baklava
- BOOK: Mrs Wishy Washy's Adventures
- LEARNING ABOUT: how children learn through play



Kia ora! My name is Ashlee McPherson. I was born in Wainuiomata before moving to Matamata where I grew up. After College I studied at Waikato University for four years. I moved to Mount Maunganui this year and am so excited to be working and living in the sunny Bay of Plenty!

Favourite Things:

- COLOUR: sky blue or bright green
- FOOD: Mexican food or homemade pizza!
- BOOK: Harry Potter series
- LEARNING ABOUT: big cats and dinosaurs



Hi!, Cześć, Aroha nui! My name is Magdalena James. I was born in Poland and came to New Zealand 13 years ago. I live in Mount Maunganui with my husband and four children (two boys, two girls) I love singing, dancing, playing piano and guitar, reading and hiking.

Favourite Things:

- COLOUR: red, teal blue and navy
- FOOD: lamb, beef and chocolate! (not all at once)
- BOOK: Winnie the Pooh
- LEARNING ABOUT: rocks, gems and herbs.



Staff Profiles

Mangatawa and Kopukairoa Team: Our Kaiako



Kia ora! My name is Jess Rood. I am a previous student of both St Mary's School and Aquinas College. I then went back to St Mary's School Tauranga as a Kaiako for the most of 2020. Outside of the classroom I love running, hiking the beautiful New Zealand forests and travelling with my loved ones.

Favourite Things:

- COLOUR: bright orange
- FOOD: gluten free chocolate Brownie
- BOOK: Wonder
- LEARNING ABOUT: unique architecture



Kia ora! My name is Paul Newlands. I have been a kaiako for 3 years. I am a former student of St Mary's School Tauranga and Aquinas College. I am married to Emma who is a secondary kaiako. When I am not teaching I enjoy surfing, fishing and being with friends and family.

Favourite Things:

- COLOUR: lime green
- FOOD: butter chicken
- BOOK: The Very Hungry Caterpillar
- LEARNING ABOUT: Natural world



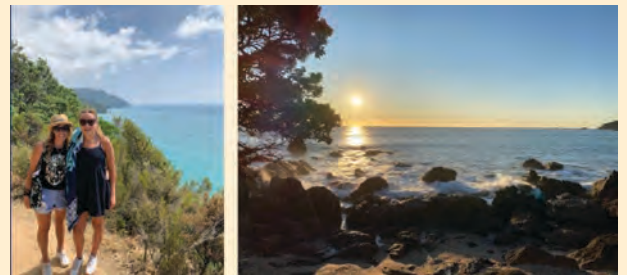
Kia ora! My name is Jenny Waddel. I have lived in the Sunny bay for the past 17 years. I am married to Vince and we have 2 boys. I have taught in a variety of schools with all age groups from year 1 - 6. When I'm not teaching I enjoy discovering new recipes, going for walks down on the beach or going to the gym.

Favourite Things:

- COLOUR: turquoise
- FOOD: salmon and curries
- BOOK: Where the wild things are.
- LEARNING ABOUT: different ways that people learn.



Office Administrator



Kia ora, my name is Maria Mooney and I am the Office Administrator at Suzanne Aubert Catholic School. I have lived in the Mount for 16 years and I am married to Tristan with 3 awesome children, Alex, Sarah & Ben who are all at Aquinas. I love to read, travel & take photos and I am really looking forward to the new school opening in 2021.

Favourite Things:

- COLOUR: Definitely Green
- FOOD: Liquorice
- BOOK: The Bronze Horseman, but I love to read anything
- LEARNING ABOUT: Countries I want to travel to..



Staff Profiles

Tumuaki and Tumuaki Tuarua



Kia ora koutou. My name is Anthony Mills and I am Foundation Principal at Suzanne Aubert Catholic School. I am very excited to be leading a new Catholic School in beautiful Papamoa. I am married to Amie-Lee and we have five children - four girls and one boy! I love to spend time with my whanau at the beach. I am passionate about surfing, creating art and playing the guitar and drums. I enjoy building projects and gardening.

Favourite Things:

- COLOUR: Turquoise and gold
- FOOD: Pork Belly and duck
- BOOK: The Lord of the Rings
- LEARNING ABOUT: Leading innovative learning in a future focused environment.



Tena koe, my name is Shelley McKay and I am Foundation Deputy Principal for Suzanne Aubert Catholic School. I can't wait to meet you all. I live in Pyes Pa with my husband Steve, and our two children Zac and Paige. We love to spend time together as a family. My passions other than learning and education are long distance running and reading.

Favourite Things:

- COLOUR: Hot pink
- FOOD: Fresh fruit and yoghurt
- BOOK: Anything - I love to read!
- LEARNING ABOUT: How people - of all ages think and learn.



Key Dates- 2021

- **Whanaungatanga Day**
Thursday 28th January (8am-5pm)
- **Official Opening Day**
Wednesday 3rd February (9:30am)
- **First School Day**
Thursday 4th February (8:30am)
- **Waitangi Day Observance**
Monday 8th January
- **First School and Parish Mass**
Friday 12th February (5pm)

Our Emerging Learning Principles

Our Seven Emerging Learning Principles are underpinned by research and were developed through a consultation process with our community, Board of Trustees and staff. They set the direction for how we can achieve our vision and provide the platform for our signature practices in learning. Our Suzanne Aubert learners are:

Christ-like

We are a Catholic School. We promote the Gospel values, follow the example of Jesus Christ and are guided by the teachings of the Catholic Church. We follow the Charism of Suzanne Aubert.



Compassionate

We promote a sense of service and empathy towards others.

We value kindness, manaakitanga and putting the needs of others before our own. We align with the mission of the Sisters of Compassion.



Collaborative

We value the social nature of learning. We promote opportunities to co-construct learning with students, kaiako, whanau, experts and the wider community.



Creative

We value creativity, innovation and opportunities to solve problems from a range of perspectives. We promote learning that challenges the way we see the world and to imagine the impossible.



Curious

We value curiosity, inquiry thinking and learner agency. We facilitate learning that promotes questioning, stretching and critical thinking. We promote ongoing growth for all learners by encouraging our tamariki to lead their own learning.



Connected

We value authenticity in connection. We facilitate learning that connects with people (whanau, experts, community), place (significant environments) and purpose (authentic contexts). Our learners are connected citizens in a local and global community.



Courageous

We value courage and resilience. We facilitate learning that promotes risk taking, determination and a desire to achieve. We encourage our learners to grow by responding to change and challenges.



Whānau Teacher

Every child at Suzanne Aubert belongs to a whānau class and has a whānau teacher. This teacher is the first contact for parents and caregivers and is responsible for the pastoral care of your child. The first and last 15-20 minutes of every day is spent with the whānau teacher taking attendance, sharing prayer and celebrating whanaungatanga. Research indicates that we make the most gains with students when we develop strong learning focused relationships. To support the transition process for our learners, we believe it is important for siblings to be with each other in these whānau groups.



That is why if you have more than one child in the same learning community, you will notice that they are in the same whānau class. A letter has recently been sent to you informing who your child's whānau teacher is for 2021.

People - Learning Communities

Our learning communities are the teams of people that your child will be learning alongside. Our tamariki are placed into these teams based on Year levels. These learning communities will often collaborate together in their daily learning and for school events and experiences. Our three learning communities are named after the local cultural narrative of the Papamoa Hills. This narrative tells the story of the Three Whales and how they came to rest as guardians over the Papamoa coast ([link here](#)). Our learning communities are:



**Hikurangi
Baby Whale:
Year 0-2**

**Mangatawa
Mother Whale:
Year 3-4**

**Kopukairoa
Father Whale:
Year 5-6**

Place - Learning Environment

Our learning environments are the places where your child will be learning. This learning place is both the physical classroom buildings as well as the natural physical environment. Our learning places are flexible and innovative and students will have opportunities to work across these spaces. Our learning environments are named after the native plants that Suzanne Aubert used in her rongoa (herbal remedies) as part of her healing ministry. The two learning environments being used in 2021 are:



Kawakawa
Year 0-2



Harakeke:
Year 3-6

Stationery



Our stationery provider is OfficeMax. To order your child's stationery, please click the following link and follow the instructions: [My School Stationery](#)

In the online ordering, Junior students are classed as Year 0-2 and Seniors are classed as Year 3-6.

Uniform

Our school uniform provider is Kukri. The uniform has been developed in consultation with the community, Board of Trustees and staff. It has been designed for durability, comfort and to meet the needs of active learning all year round. You can order your child's uniform online from mid January [here](#). We will have sample sizes at the school site from Monday 18th January for your child to try on. Your order will arrive on your doorstep in 2-3 working days after purchase.



School Fees

As a Catholic state-integrated School we are funded by both the State and Diocese. This determines our fee structure. Our school fees are as follows:

Attendance Dues:

\$444 per child annually. These dues are payable to the Catholic Diocese of Hamilton and go towards funding land and property.

Special Character Donation:

\$50 per child annually. This donation is payable to the Catholic Diocese of Hamilton and goes towards funding Religious Education, resources and professional development.

Donation Scheme:

Suzanne Aubert Catholic School has opted into the government's donation scheme which means we will not be requesting any other fees in 2021. There are some caveats to this:

- Our eligibility for this scheme is only at this point in time while we are decile 7. If our future decile rating was to change, then the Board would need to review this and the community be consulted.
- Some elements of school learning such as camps, experiences and technology may still require financial contributions from families. We will provide more detail and notice of this as the need arises.

Music Tuition



We are very excited to be able to offer music tuition to our Suzanne Aubert learners in 2021. This is offered through MusiqHub. The music teachers will be facilitating lessons on Thursdays at our school site in the following instruments:

Steven: Guitar and ukulele

Sarah: Keyboard and vocals

If you would like more detail and are interested in booking lessons for your child in 2021, please click the link below: [MusiqHub](#)

School Times

School opens:

8:00am

Learning begins:

8:30am

Morning tea:

**10:30am
- 11am**

Lunchtime:

**12:30am
- 1:15pm**

School finishes:

2:30pm

2021 Term 1 Events

Whanaungatanga Day

Whanaungatanga Day will be held on the school site on Thursday 28th of January from 8am- 5pm. This is an opportunity to meet your child's whānau teacher and share goals, aspirations and interests. We will have 30 minute slots available for you to come and bring your child/ren to walk through the learning environment and share time together. Time slots will be booked online through 'School Interviews' closer to the time. Please keep an eye on the website and Facebook page for more information.

Opening Day

All foundation students and their whānau are warmly welcomed to the official opening of Suzanne Aubert Catholic School on Wednesday 3rd of February starting at 9.30am on the school site. This will include a Mihi Whakatau, blessing of the buildings and shared manaakitanga. This will be an historical and special occasion to celebrate the beginning of our school alongside Bishop Steve, the Sisters of Compassion, local iwi, Ministry of Education, Parish and the wider community. Please email office@suzanneaubert.school.nz by 11th January with your numbers attending for the purposes of catering.

First Day

The first instructional day for our learners is Thursday 4th February 2021. We warmly welcome you and your whānau to come and support your child from 8-8:30am to ensure a smooth transition. We are really excited to welcome your children into the learning environments and begin our journey as the Suzanne Aubert learning community.