



The Aubert Oracle



Suzanne Aubert
Catholic School
Engage - Inspire - Empower Through Christ

FRIDAY 19TH FEBRUARY 2021

Message from our Principal - Tumuaki

Kia ora koutou whānau.

It has been an action packed week here at Suzanne Aubert Catholic School. We had a shift to Covid Alert level 2 at the beginning of the week, a start to our Lenten journey midweek and completed our first week of learning after 5 full days! Friendships are being nurtured, learning is being celebrated and our school is growing with new enrolment inquiries on a daily basis. Welcome to [Saige \(Y5\)](#), [Sophie \(Y3\)](#) and [Sarah \(Y1\) Silbery](#) who joined our learning community this week. Thank you to the ongoing support of our parents and whānau as we establish our learning community. Please enjoy this snapshot of the special moments and updates about our Suzanne Aubert school family.



Welcome Mass and BBQ Picnic

Last Friday evening we celebrated our first School and Parish Mass on the school site. This was a special way to join together as a community in faith and learning. It was a beautiful evening and we all really enjoyed sharing in manaakitanga afterwards in our BBQ picnic dinner. Thank you to all who came and shared in this historic milestone. Thank you also to Father Stuart and the parish for arranging the food, Miss Clayton and the staff for organising and serving food and finally Mr Newlands and Vince Heuberger (Mrs Waddel's husband) for their BBQ skills!

Covid19 Alert Level 2 Response

Thank you to all our learners, whānau and community for following our procedures in response to the Covid Alert Level 2 changes this week. The health and safety of our learners, staff and school community is our highest priority and we appreciate you all adapting to the changes with school drop off and pick up. The learners demonstrated incredible flexibility and resilience as they adjusted to the changes this week. We will continue to keep you updated as we receive information from the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health.

School Playscapes

You would have noticed that we have two spaces allocated in our school grounds for playscapes. A playscape is a playful landscape that encourages interactive play and includes elements that connect to the natural environment e.g. timber, plants, water features etc. Playscapes offer a wide range of open-ended play options that allow people to be creative and use their imagination. At Suzanne Aubert Catholic School, there will eventually be two playscapes: Junior (Year 0-2) located beside the office on the Boulevard side and Middle/Senior (Year 3-6) located beside the admin on the Kohekohe side. The areas for these were provisioned for as part of our school build.

Our plan is for the learners to have an opportunity to design these play spaces. As our tamariki, they will be the ones using the space and we want them to have agency and ownership of this. It is a great way for them to leave a legacy for our future Suzanne Aubert learners. The students are busy planning their designs over the coming weeks and will have an opportunity to work alongside playground suppliers to fine tune their plans. They are working to ensure their playscape plans meet the criteria and include:

- The story of our patron Suzanne Aubert
- The cultural narrative of the Legend of Mangatawa
- Equipment that provides open ended options for play
- Equipment that challenges and extends children's physical capability
- Equipment that encourages social interaction
- Designs that meet the expected health and safety requirements

We look forward to seeing the progress on their designs and will continue to share these in the coming weeks!



Commissioning Mass

Last night our Board of Trustees and staff attended the Hamilton Diocese Bay of Plenty cluster annual Commissioning Mass which was held at St Mary's Church in Tauranga. This was an opportunity for our Diocese Schools to celebrate together in faith and share in manaakitanga with each other. Our school even had a special mention and acknowledgement from Bishop Steve!



Learning Hub Handover

We are very excited to see that the Harakeke learning environment is almost ready for handover. The interior is complete, has been commercially cleaned and our furniture has arrived! We are now just waiting on the Council to issue the Certificate of Public Use (CPU) and then we will be good to go. Next week we will be able to provide a confirmed date for handover. This will be the learning environment for our Mangatawa learners (Year 3-4) and Kopukairoa learners (Year 5-6). Our whanau classes within these learning teams will remain the same.

Foundation Photo Book

We are honoured to have been donated a beautiful photo book to capture the opening of our kura. Thank you to Bruce and Phillippa Norman (Felipe's Grandparents) who took the photos and created this stunning keepsake of a special milestone in our school history. Please feel free to pop in and have a browse when you are next in the school office.

Sports Turf

Our shade area has been provisioned for an all purpose sports turf. This will provide an exciting space for our learners to be active and play sport on a marked court. There were initial delays in the installation of this due to hold ups with materials. We have been informed that it should be laid before March. We will keep you updated when we receive further confirmation.

Wishing you all a blessed and safe weekend with whānau and friends and a prayerful beginning to your Lenten journey. We look forward to connecting with you all again next week!

Ngā mihi nui



Anthony Mills
Principal - Tumuaki



Special Catholic Character

A Message from our Director of Religious Studies



Our Lenten Journey

With Ash Wednesday this week we have officially entered the Lenten Season. A time to focus on preparing our hearts for Easter and how Easter makes our salvation possible. There are three main pillars for our personal Lenten journey: Prayer, fasting and giving. These aim to engage us in body, mind and spirit to strengthen our connection with Christ.



The small sacrifices we make during Lent make room in our hearts to welcome the risen Jesus at Easter. Please take some time to talk with your children about the meaning of Lent and discuss together what could be a meaningful response for you and your family for this time.

PRAYER: "Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus."

(1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

What can I do? Try starting some different forms of prayer as a family. Talk about how you might make room in your lives to talk with God daily. It could be just before bed, before a meal or on the way to school. Strengthen that personal connection in a daily conversation with God.

FASTING: "When you fast, don't look gloomy like the hypocrites. They neglect their appearance, so that they may appear to others to be fasting.

Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward." (Matthew 6:16)

What can I do? Fasting is a spiritual practice and discipline. Its aim is to help us focus on God. By limiting our intake of food, we exercise self-control. Experiencing physical hunger also puts us in solidarity with those for whom hunger is not a choice, but rather a fact of life. Fasting doesn't have to be only about food. It can spill over to habits, practices and things that distract us from our relationship with God and others such as too much time spent at work or too much time on social media. As a family talk about what you might take a fast from, perhaps no mobile phones in the weekends or limited screen time. Use this time to reflect and connect with God and those around you.

GIVING: "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me." (Matthew 25:35-36)

What can I do? Giving is just that, a service from one to another. Where we see a need we respond as we are able. We are challenged to do this in a more deliberate way during Lent. This could be giving to the Caritas Lenten appeal, volunteering your time to help an elderly neighbour or charity, or gifting to the Suzanne Aubert School Food bank appeal.

Our Sacramental Candidates 2021

We are very excited to see that Lokki Perrott, Charlotte Grace, Matai McNicholl and Corin Jackson have all started their Sacramental preparation for this year. We hold them in our prayers as they journey toward the Sacraments and a closer relationship with God. Over the next few weeks they will be learning about the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation and will celebrate their Confirmation and Communion at the Parish Mass on Sunday 23rd May.

Suzanne Aubert

Lenten Food Bank Appeal

To reflect the Lenten Season and the spirit of service and giving, Suzanne Aubert Catholic School has set itself the challenge to help the local foodbank. We know that in this unusual Covid time many families are needing extra support and help and are turning to local foodbanks to make ends meet. We can help! Over this Lenten Season, we would love to receive any non-perishable grocery items that you can contribute. The staples of canned goods, rice and pasta are amazing as they will provide the basis for meals. Please help us with what you can. Thank you to those families that have already given so generously. It is much appreciated. The collection baskets are located in the Kawakawa learning hub.



We Have a School BBQ!

We are very blessed to have been donated a brand new BBQ for our school! Thank you to Eddie and Anne Mills in Hamilton (Mr Mills' parents and Sienna and Geneva's grandparents) for the very generous donation. We christened it at our school Mass and picnic last Friday and it passed the test!



Calling All Guitarists!

We are very excited to be able to offer music tuition to our Suzanne Aubert learners in 2021. This is offered through **MusiqHub**. There are still places available for guitar and ukulele tuition. If you would like more detail and are interested in booking lessons for your child, please click the link: [MusiqHub](#)

Transition for Early Learners

Suzanne Aubert learners enter school at two entry points each term: Monday week 1 and Monday week 6. This depends on where in the term their birthday falls. This is called Cohort Entry. We believe this is the optimal approach for the learners to transition into our school community. Suzanne Aubert learners transition together and are able to adapt to school life with a group of peers. Their whānau teacher who is the key kaiako responsible for pastoral care will come to their pre-school/kindergarten setting for an initial introduction and visit. This is followed by two morning school visits at Suzanne Aubert. Please email our Deputy Principal Shelley McKay if you would like any further information on our cohort transition: smckay@suzanneaubert.school.nz

