



# Sonrise Christian School NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents

Tena koutou katoa

## Thinking about schooling by Dr Richard Edlin

"Maybe you're wondering about why some Christians send their kids to Christian schools, and why other equally committed Christians send their kids to the local state school. Personally, I can think of some state and Christian schools that are quite attractive, and I can think of other state and Christian schools that I wouldn't send my kids to.

Which is the best choice? However, at its heart, making wise schooling choices is not really an issue of adding up the number of positive features for each option, and then choosing the one that has the longer list. Fundamentally, as Christians we want to be sure that, as Paul exhorts us in Ephesians 3, we are enlisting the right help to bring up our children in the nurture and instruction of the Lord.

There are two foundational premises underlying wise educational choices for Christians.

1. **Schooling is never neutral.** By its very nature, schooling is always seeking to nurture and shape children according to someone's understanding of the world. Textbook writers, for example, decide what information to include, and what information to exclude, and even how to present the information, according to their perspective on what will help children develop a certain understanding of the world and their places and tasks in it. Classroom teachers, and school system curriculum designers, also make similar choices. They have a clear belief about what is best for students, and they shape classroom materials and experiences that reflect and foster that belief.
2. **Faithful schooling should always draw our children closer to God.** If education is never neutral, schooling is either looking at God's world God's way and thus is drawing children into a closer relationship with God, or it is exploring the world as if God is not relevant to it, and thus is leading children away from God. There are no other alternatives. As parents, you take seriously the exciting but sobering biblical charge to help your children grow in the wisdom and instruction of the Lord. When you delegate part of your child-rearing responsibilities to a school, it's important that the school's beliefs and practices are in harmony with your intent of shaping your children with a heart of love for Christ, equipping them for lives of responsible service to Him."

**Key questions for guiding Christian parents in making wise and faithful educational choices** to be shared in next week's newsletter.

Ma te Atua e manaaki  
God Bless, Wendy Gabriel

**PLAYER OF THE DAY for Poutama was  
awarded to Manawa Randall.**

## What's On? Term 3

### Connecting to our Vision – Parent Evening

Thursday 3 August, 6:00pm-7:30pm

Fish n Chip dinner at 6pm

Kids will be looked after

### Board of Trustees Meeting

Thursday 17 August, 5:30pm-7:30pm

### School Photo Day

Thursday 31 August

### Cross Country

Friday 15 September, venue TBA

### Sonrise Christian School Open Day

Wednesday 27 September, 9:00am-2:00pm

### End of Term

Friday 29 September, 2:30pm

Muffi-Day

## DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

### Proverbs 22:6

Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.



Ririia Baker and Manawa Randall  
pictured here with former  
Silver Ferns Captain "Casey Kopua"  
during her visit to the Gisborne  
Netball Courts on Saturday.

**Vision**  
To be a Thriving Community  
Committed to Jesus Christ, Excellence in Education and Service to Others  
**Values**  
Love, Integrity, Faithfulness, Excellence

## Celebrations

### Room 1

**Majjik Peneha:** For her creative art work in phonics.

**Lara Pinto:** For following instructions and helping others.

### Room 2

**Jacquelyn Tawera-Morris:** Wonderfully accurate literacy work.

**Te Kauri Tau:** Awesome effort in homework and maths

**Zachariah Norris:** Self managing skills in literacy work.

### Room 4

**Mary Whitley:** Putting a lot of work and effort into PE.

**Sophia Ohuka:** Excellent intelligent answers in class discussions.

### Room 5

**Te Aroha:** For using her gifts of creativity and techie skills to enhance learning in Room 5.

### Principals Award

**Joshua Potgieter:** Well thought out questions in Topic; and his enthusiasm in all his learning.

## House Points

**RED 49**

**BLUE 14**

**GREEN 42**

**GOLD 36**



Sonrise gave us the opportunity to grow and be the individuals God created us to be. The school has a reputation for producing high academic achievers. "MacKenzie, Janai and Honey"

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