

ST JOSEPH'S
CATHOLIC SCHOOL
ONEHUNGA



Friday 17 May, 2019

Dear whānau,

School closed on Wednesday 29 May due to strike action

The majority of members of the teachers union, the NZEI, voted to **strike for a full day** in response to the Ministry of Education's collective employment offer.

In support of our teachers' stance, and because without them there is no one to run the school safely, the Board of Trustees have made the decision to close the school for that day. Therefore, **the school will be closed on Wednesday 29 November.**

We do not make this decision lightly and we appreciate that it will put you under pressure to find childcare and make other arrangements. However, we believe that the benefits of supporting teachers in their fight for proper resourcing of your child's education is worth it.

Our teachers work long, hard days. Ask your child's teacher how many hours they have put in on any given day: 10 - 12 hour days are common. It is unsustainable for our staff, and it impacts on your child.

Pay is not the biggest issue for teachers at our school, and we note that the offer from the Ministry will actually put some of our teachers in a worse financial position: the nominal rise will mean a corresponding cut in the Working for Families credit that will see less in some pay packets at the end of the fortnight.

What our teachers want from the Ministry are:

- more resources and specialists to help them support the most vulnerable students and
- more time per student and more non-contact time so that they don't have to work at the weekend in order to get their jobs done.

We support them fully in this.

Yours sincerely,

Joe Fuiava

Chair of the Board of Trustees