



St Mary's
Catholic School
Tauranga

newsletter

ISSUE 8: 11 August 2016

Our Vision

At St Mary's we aim to be Christ-like through prayerful hearts and willing hands. With reflective and creative minds we challenge ourselves to be the difference.

Our Learning Vision

To develop assessment capable students, teachers, school leaders and parents.

Our People Our Place

be. informed

oxforddictionaries.com / informed.

adj: having or showing knowledge of a subject or situation.

Message from the Principal

Kiaora Koutou

It was great to welcome new families and children to our school this week. As Principal it is always a thrill to enrol new students knowing what a great environment we are able to provide to learn in. Our school is based on honouring the individual, be it spiritually, academically or in reference to special abilities and it is this tenet that makes our kids grow. We particularly welcome the following new students to our school; Salesa Aaifou-Olive, Baxter Carlin, David Chen, Ian Cho, Andy Chwi, Jane Hartman, Anna Hartman, Logan Kerr, Harin Kum, Caleb Lim, Caden Lowe, Mia Lowe, Madeline Mear, Lauren Osterman, Sarah Rush, Adam Rush, Caique Santos, Hunter Strahan, Leo Tian, Madelene van Vliet and Brielle Verzosa.

As a senior leadership team we have been focusing on the analysis of student progress over this half year.

The efforts that teachers, parents and students have applied to learning has provided us with some pleasing results. Congratulations to all those students who have made notable academic gains in learning.

On a community note, it has been great to welcome Mr Piceno back to Room 4, albeit on a part time basis. As you are no doubt aware, Randy suffered an unfortunate and serious fall late in term one which resulted in the need for back surgery. It is great to have him back and we look forward to seeing the amount of hours he is able to give to Room 4 grow as the term progresses.

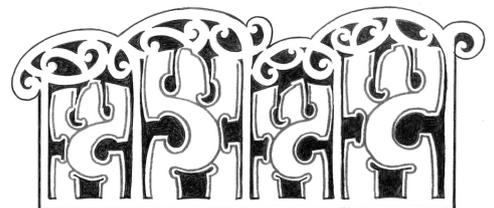
Traffic Safety

This is often a reminder I make further in my section of the newsletter, however, due to a number of recent notifications made to me in regard to student and traffic safety I would like to reiterate the following. It is not acceptable to expect your child to cross any road unaccompanied before or after school. With limited visibility created as a result of condensed car volumes and buses it is very hard for drivers to spot children running out from behind cars.

I am prompted to make this reminder as a result of a number of witnessed close calls. A further complication in regard to safety is the speed cars are currently travelling down 13th Avenue, which I am aware are often not St Mary's parents

but I would ask that St Mary's parents dropping children off are extra vigilant when pulling in and out of parks and turning into and out of driveways.

Tauranga Moana Ra Whakangahau Kapa Haka Festival 2016



As previously announced, this year Hato Maria (St Mary's) will be hosting the 2016 Tauranga Moana Kapa Haka Festival on the 24th and 25th of November. As the first Catholic School to host this event we will be looking to work with our other Catholic Schools and wider Whanau to impart Kaupau o Katorika (aspects Catholic) throughout the festival.

In moving forward we will be looking for volunteers to form a part of the 100 plus work party required to fulfill a number of tasks and responsibilities over the two days of the festival. If being part of Ra Whakangahau excites you please email your name and contact details (phone and email address) to rawhakangahau@stmarysga.school.nz and we will be in further contact regarding specific roles and responsibilities that may interest you.

Absenteeism

There has been a number of recent media commentators making reference to the number of families who are taking time away from school during term time for holidays. There is no argument that this is a cheaper time to travel financially but it can have consequences educationally for children. Our Ministry of Education now sees absence from school for this reason as Unjustified and we are therefore required to record it as such. The ministries view being that, while as parents you are able to explain why your child is absent from school it is not viewed as a justifiable reason for which to remove your child from school.

Of interest in our recent analysis of student achievement was that 87% of students who are currently below National Standard at St Mary's also have an attendance record of less than 90% or are away from school more than 1 day in 10.

13th Avenue, Tauranga, New Zealand

E office@stmarysga.school.nz

T 07 578 8066

www.stmarysga.school.nz

2016 Dates to Remember

Friday 12 August

Whole School Mass 9.30am (church)

Monday 15 August

Feast of the Assumption

Tuesday 16 August

Bay of Plenty Rugby

Thursday 18 August

Room 8 Class Mass

Tuesday 23 August

Visiting author Dawn McMillan

Wednesday 24 August

- Parent information workshop - Assessment procedures in the first year of school 3.15pm - 3.45pm

- St Mary's PTA "Bad Moms" Movie Night Out 5.30pm

Thursday 25 August

- Room 7 Class Mass

- Tauranga Moana Catholic Schools Whanau Group Meeting at St Mary's School

Monday 29 August

North Island Primary Ski Championships

Tuesday 30 August

Board of Trustee Meeting 6pm

Thursday 1 September

Room 6 Class Mass

Whakapono Team Science Road Show

Friday 2 September

Sursum Corda trip to Taupo

Saturday 3 September

PTA Quiz Night 6pm

Sunday 4 September

- Father's Day

- AIMS Games starts

- Tongan Language week

Thursday 8 September

Aquinas transition day 9am-3pm

Friday 9 September

St Mary's Speech Finals

Sunday 11 September

Parish School Mass 10.30am

Tuesday 13 September

PTA Meeting 7pm

Wednesday 14 September

South Cluster Speech Competition

Thursday 15 September

- Room 4 Class Mass

- Exposition and Benediction 2pm

- Aroha Camp Meeting 5pm

Friday 16 September

PTA Sausage Sizzle

Saturday 17 September

Caretaker Garage Sale....tables, desks etc

Tuesday 20 September

WBoP Speech Finals

be.
Christ-like

be.
reflective

be.
creative

A further related issue is the number of children who are turning up late to school. Our bell to signal the start of the day goes at 8.50am. All children should therefore be at school in advance of this, ideally at 8.30am so as to ensure they have time to prepare themselves for the day. Children who are late to class often disrupt beginning of day prayer and organisation meaning learning of all is affected.

St Mary's Catholic School 75th Jubilee



St Mary's
Catholic School
Tauranga

75 YEARS
1942-2017
Jubilee

2017 marks the 75th Anniversary of the commencement of St Mary's Catholic School in Tauranga. St Mary's Catholic School began in September 1942 managed and staffed entirely by the Sisters of St Joseph of Cluny, many of whom came to New Zealand from Ireland. To celebrate this significant event in the life of the school a Jubilee weekend is planned to take place on September 22, 23 and 24 September 2017.

Please register your interest by visiting our school website or by following us on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/stmarystga.school.nz or by contacting jubilee@stmarystga.school.nz.

To make the jubilee a success we would be grateful if you would pass on the above information to past pupils, parents, staff and friends of the school.

Ben Fuller
Principal

SPECIAL CHARACTER



Thank you for the very warm welcome to St Mary's Tauranga; myself and my family feel very blessed to be part of the community. I have moved to Tauranga from

Rotorua where I was DRS at St Mary's Rotorua and had taught there for the past 14 years. My husband, Neil and I moved to Rotorua from Auckland when I had finished training as a teacher. We have three children, Samuel (year 7) at Aquinas College, Sarah (year 5) and Adam (year 3) both here at St Mary's. As a family we are looking forward to new challenges and experiences that our move to Tauranga will bring.

Please feel free to contact me at anytime trush@stmarystga.school.nz

Last Tuesday we were able to thank and praise God for the gift of Grandparents. It was fantastic to see so many Grandparents. Students were able to proudly share with them their school life. I am sure it is quite different today to when they went to school.

This week we welcomed 29 new families to the school. Dear Lord, We pray for our new students and families, that they are always welcomed and supported by the community. Help them to settle into our school and feel part of our faith community. May they come closer to you each day.

School Parish Mass

On Friday 12 August 9:30 at Church the school will be celebrating Mass for the Assumption.

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

On this feast of Mary we celebrate a special favour that God gave to Mary, our Mother.

The Assumption means that Mary was taken up into the glory of heaven not only with her soul, but also with her body.

Jesus, the Son of God was born from Mary's pure womb. So when Mary died, God the Father and Jesus, would not let the body of the Mother of God be spoilt. This was her reward for her love of God and her years of faithful prayers and suffering.

Now Mary is in heaven. She is queen of heaven and earth. She is the Mother of Jesus' Church and queen of apostles. Every time Mary asks Jesus to give us graces, he listens to her request.

After the resurrection from the dead, we, too, can go to heaven with our bodies. Our bodies will be perfect. They will not suffer illness anymore. They will not need any more food and drink to keep alive. They will be beautiful and splendid!

If we use our bodies now to do good, those bodies will share in our heavenly reward.

As we celebrate the feast day of Mary, we can ask our Blessed Mother Mary to guide, protect and care for us.

Prayer for the Assumption of Mary

Father in heaven, all creation rightly gives you praise, for all life and all holiness come from you. In the plan of your wisdom she who bore the Christ in her womb was raised body and soul in glory to be with him in heaven. May we follow her example in reflecting your holiness and join in her hymn of endless love and praise.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Teresa Rush
DRS



CLASSROOM NEWS

Student Led Conferences

This week we had our annual Student Led Conferences. What a wonderful opportunity for students to share their learning with their parents and whanau. Students were able to share their latest work and talk about their strengths and next learning steps.

At St Mary's we want to develop students who understand what they are learning, why they are learning this and what they need to do next to get better.

Here's what some of our students thought about our Student Led Conferences:

It was great! I finally got to share my learning with my parents. Most of all, I had fun doing it. Mitchell R8

Mum and Dad felt a little bit nervous because they didn't know what to do. I helped them because we had a schedule. Louie R16

We were in charge of our learning. R16

I thought that it was really nice that we could share our work with our parents, because they don't get to come in every day. It was good for mum and dad to know where I am at. Georgia R9

PTA NEWS

It's time for Quiz Night 2016!

Get ready for yet another fun, exciting night out, testing your brain power, dressing up, having a wine, and bidding on some fabulous auction items.

Set aside Saturday 3rd September, get a table of friends together, pick a dress up theme if you want, and a fab name, and get ready for 'game on'.

There'll be prizes for Best Dressed Team, Best Table decoration, Winning Team, Spot prizes, Mystery Bottle Auctions, and other Auction prizes too.

We're raising funds this year for new resources and equipment for the planned new classrooms, so every little bit helps.

If you have any products or services you can donate for this event, please bring them into the school office, or contact pta@stmarystga.school.nz. We're always very grateful for any support we receive.

Any spare bottles you'd like to donate for the Mystery Bottle Auction too would be great. Dig out that bottle of Baileys you've never got around to drinking, or that fancy Olive Oil. We'd love it all.

Tickets will be on sale from Monday 22 August, and we'll be using an online purchase process this time with payments straight into the PTA bank account. Easy peasy! But, there's only a limited number of tables (\$25 per person, 10 people/table), so we'll need the tables paid in full once booked. Full instructions will be included in the e-mail that comes out soon, so watch this space. Don't worry though, if you don't have a full table, there's tickets for individuals too: we'd love you to come along and make some new friends on the night.

And any corporate's out there who'd like to sponsor a Corporate Table, and have some extra fancy food, please contact d_angus@hotmail.com or 027 2306336.

SPORTS NEWS

Miniball

The last week of term saw our year 3/4 miniball teams compete at the Miniball World Cup. With the emphasis on having fun our teams arrived decked out in some very authentic looking USA and Norway team uniforms. Both teams faced some good opposition and played hard for an impressive win in the first

round, a tight second round saw both teams come away with a 14 all draw and the third round was a mixed bag result wise. In to the play off rounds and the competition got even harder but our St Mary's children never gave up. Playing with grit and determination throughout.

Not to be out done by the year 5/6 teams, team USA also came away with a prize for best dressed.

Team USA - Coach Wayne Fausett

Holly Fausett, Yeva Parshikova, Roman Rejthar, Luka Mahy, Emma Rogers, Finn Curragh, Jas O'Connor, Pateriki Paaka, Jayden Hyland.

Team Norway - Coach Di Kahura

Kiwa Kahura, Ben Haydock, Eli Banbury, Elma Lee, Ciaran Manning, Eva Jeffries, Oliver Robinson, Henry Fulton.

Netball

On the first weekend of the school holidays the Year 6 Magic Netball team coached by Erin Verhoeven took part in the Harbourside Junior Netball Tournament.

St Mary's Magic Netball Team have had a fantastic season so far and went into the Harbourside netball tournament undefeated on Sunday 10 July.

The draw was tough but the girls showed determination, skill and team work and came out winners for Year 6 Section 1 for the day.

We wish them all the best as they head to a second tournament on Sunday 21 August.

Cathy Pini - Sports Coordinator





St Mary's School encourages you to support our Gold Group Sponsors



Our People Our Place

be. thankful

oxforddictionaries.com / thankful.
adj: 1. pleased and relieved. 2. expressing gratitude.



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