



St Mary's  
Catholic School  
Tauranga

## newsletter

ISSUE 9: 13 September 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.



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Our People Our Place

# be. informed

[oxforddictionaries.com / informed.](http://oxforddictionaries.com/informed)

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

## Message from the Principal

### Kiaora Koutou

Greetings to our wonderful school community. A very special welcome to Emelia Allen, Lucia Allen, Bethany Stowers and Abby Moore, who have joined us since our last newsletter.

Last week I had the opportunity to visit Korea and meet with families of students interested in studying at our school. It was great to both promote our school within another country and also to connect with the culture from which our many Korean families and students come from. I was impressed with the level of hospitality afforded by the Korean people and look forward to welcoming some of those I met with to St Mary's either next, or in following years.

Next term sees our Aroha team start with a camp which I know all are looking forward to. We are also hosting the Tauranga Moana Ra Whakangahau Festival which will be the highlight community event for the term. In week 6 we welcome the Education Review Office to our school and we will of course look forward to summer sporting codes getting underway. A busy and exciting term is on the way.

### PTA Quiz Night

Congratulations to our amazing PTA for the hosting of yet another successful fund raising event. I am reliably informed that once again it was the St Mary's Staff who topped the 'assisted competitive' section of the night (lucky for them) but of course the benefits of the night are in the funds raised for students. Once again the night brought in excess of \$10,000 which will make a substantial contribution to the funding of our strategic direction. My thanks therefore on behalf of our students and wider school community.

### No Fireworks Gala in 2016

As previously communicated we are not holding our Fireworks Gala this year. The reasons, as explained at an earlier date, relate to a variety of factors including work required around meeting new health and safety requirements. It is my understanding that our PTA hope to do more work in regard to this and stage our Fireworks Gala once again in 2017.

### 2017 Enrolments

As this term draws to a close and next year beckons, it is important that we as a school are aware of any intentions to leave the area and / or our school. Presently we have approximately 20 students on our waiting list for next year and it is important that we communicate with their families

accurately in regard to a potential place.

Likewise, as in 2016 it is likely that we will be over subscribed in regard to New Entrant numbers in the coming year. Therefore if you have children turning 5 next year or know of families whose intention it is to attend St Mary's at any time during 2017 please ensure enrolment procedures are started as soon as possible.

### 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 Kaupapa o Katorika (aspects Catholic) throughout the festival.

Thank you to those who have expressed an interest in being a part of this amazing festival. I will be in touch shortly with more details in regard to possible tasks you can involve yourself in. If being part of Ra Whakangahau excites you please email your name and contact details (phone and email address) to [rawhakangahau@stmarystga.school.nz](mailto:rawhakangahau@stmarystga.school.nz) and we will be in further contact regarding specific roles and responsibilities that may interest you.

### 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.

For more information please see our school website, contact [jubilee@stmarystga.school.nz](mailto:jubilee@stmarystga.school.nz) or follow us on our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/stmarystga.school.nz](http://www.facebook.com/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

## 2016 Dates to Remember

Sunday 11 - Saturday 17 September  
**Social Justice Week**

Tuesday 13 September  
**PTA AGM & Meeting 7pm**

Wednesday 14 September

- **Union Meeting school opens at 11am**
- **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 8am CANCELLED**
- **Father Gerard Aynsley 10am**

Tuesday 20 September  
**WBoP Speech Finals**

Wednesday 21 September  
**Hip Hop & Jump Jam Performance**

Thursday 22 September

- **Room 5 Class Mass 9am**
- **Aroha Team Ice Block Fundraiser**

Friday 23 September

- **Aroha Team Muffin Day Fundraiser**
- **Junior Olympics 11am**
- **Middle Olympics 1.30pm**
- **Term 3 ends**

Monday 10 October

- **Term 4 starts**
- **Aroha Team Camp**

Tuesday 11 October  
**PTA Meeting**

Thursday 13 October  
**Room 2 Class Mass**

Tuesday 18 October  
**School Photos**

Thursday 20 October  
**Room 1 Class Mass**

Monday 24 October  
**Labour Day Holiday**

Tuesday 25 Oct - Thursday 3 Nov

- **Aroha Team Cycle Safety Week**
- **Welcome to new children and new families liturgy 10am**
- **Board of Trustee Meeting 6pm**

Wednesday 26 October

- **Pacifika Festival**
- **WBoP Tennis Competition**

Thursday 27 October  
**Room 15 Class Mass**

Tuesday 1 November  
**All Saints Day**

Wednesday 2 November  
**All Souls Day**

Thursday 3 November  
**School Mass Feast of All Saints / Souls**



## SPECIAL CHARACTER



We welcome Father Santy to our parish and school community, we look forward to meeting Father Santy and getting to know him.

Thank you to the families who attended the Parish/School Mass. As a Catholic school we are fortunate to be able to be

thankful to our previous Board of Trustees and to commission our new Board of Trustees as part of our parish community. Sursum Corda sang beautifully and the students who read did so very well.

### Social Justice Week: 11 – 17 September 2016



We all have a migration story: Fostering a culture of encounter "Welcoming others means welcoming God in person! Do not let yourselves be robbed of the hope and joy of life born of your experience of God's mercy, as manifested in the people you meet on your journey!" – Pope Francis.

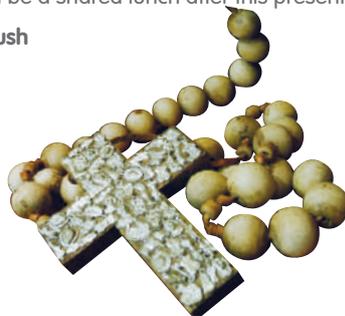
Each year in September, the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference give us Social Justice Week to consider Catholic social teaching on an issue of social justice in New Zealand. This year the theme for parishes is We all have a migration story: Fostering a culture of encounter. Let us take this time to reflect on our own migration journey and consider how we can foster a culture of encounter in our own life and in the life of the parish and the life of the school.

For resources and more information visit [www.caritas.org.nz/social-justice-week](http://www.caritas.org.nz/social-justice-week)

### St Mary Immaculate Church - Saturday 17 September, 10am Father Gerard Aynsley

Father Gerard is a priest of the Diocese of Dunedin, and will be with us here in Tauranga Moana next weekend, and will speak on The Year of Mercy / An Encounter with the Living God. There will be a shared lunch after this presentation.

**Teresa Rush  
DRS**



## SCHOOL NEWS

### Speech Finals

At St Mary's School we recognise that oral language (both listening and speaking) is vital for students to be able to communicate effectively. In the Junior School we use poetry as a basis to recite and read aloud. We talk about voice projection, good expression, modulation and pace. With the students we identify 'what good listeners do' and discuss eye contact and the use of body language.

As the students progress through to the Middle School, they are encouraged to take on more challenging types of public speaking with the main aim of writing a simple speech to present at Year 3 and 4. The Year 4's are also invited to attend the Year 5 and 6 speech finals in the centre which is a great example of how high they should be aiming by Year 5.

All students in Years 5 and 6 are supported to prepare and deliver a 3-5 minute formal speech around a topic of their choice. This process includes defining the purpose of the speech and constructing an effective introduction, body and a sound conclusion. Original and thought-provoking ideas are encouraged. All students deliver their speech to their own class and 4 finalists are selected to go on to the semi-finals. Winners from the semi-finals then go through to the school finals.

This year's judges were Mrs Camilla May (the Principal of Helen O'Grady school of Drama), Miss Millie Burton and Miss Millie Elliott (Year 12 students from Aquinas College). The judges used set criteria that are also used in the South Cluster Finals at the next level. This ensures consistency across the board for all.

We are extremely proud of the standard of speeches this year. Congratulations to all of this year's finalists who are pictured below, (Cleo Sands absent). Our place getters were:

#### Year 1

1st - Matthew Rogers  
2nd - Oliver Bradley  
3rd - Tommy Mason

#### Year 2

1st - Maria Tustin  
2nd - Jack Mear  
3rd - Leo Gray

#### Year 3

1st - Sophia Mason  
2nd - Otis Jones  
3rd equal - Eli Banbury and Georgia Abernethy

#### Year 4

1st - Finn Richards  
2nd - Roman Rejthar  
3rd - Emma Rogers



**Year 5**

1st - Mila Laurie  
2nd - Holly Van den Borst  
3rd - Madison Smith

**Year 6**

1st - Nina Rejthar  
2nd - Conrad Grace  
3rd - Rupert Carter

Good luck to Mila Laurie, Holly Van den Borst, Nina Rejthar and Conrad Grace who are representing St Mary's at the South Cluster finals on Wednesday 14 September.

**Anna MacKinnon,  
Deputy Principal**

**Sursum Corda**

On Friday 2 September Sursum Corda visited St Patrick's School and Church in Taupo (see pictures) and sang at the midday Mass. We were warmly welcomed by the school and also by Monsignor Trevor Murray, St Patrick's Parish Priest. The Mass was attended by four classes from the school and parishioners. Sursum Corda did us proud - they sang like angels and their behaviour for the entire day was exemplary! Monsignor commented not only on their singing but how he thought Sursum Corda in their robes were even better dressed than he was in his vestments! At the end of Mass Monsignor asked the students what Sursum Corda meant. (Lift up your heart) The students were able to tell him and he reminded them that we must always lift our hearts and voices to praise God!

Following Mass we visited the Huka Park Prawn Farm which Sursum Corda really enjoyed. Most students were able to take home a freshly caught prawn! It was a very beneficial and worthwhile day! A special thank you to our wonderful parents who joined us for the day. Thanks also to our PTA for their generous contribution and all families for supporting our fundraising bake stall and ice block day. We are very grateful.

With kind regards and God bless

**Sally Washer**

**BOARD NEWS**

It's been a busy term for all, and I'm sure everyone's looking forward to some holiday time enjoying the spring weather.

As promised, I'd like to share a few things from the Board table to keep you all up to date, as follows:

- We welcome Tony Lenton as our new proprietor representative on the Board, who's taking Father Mark's place. He comes to us with a host of

past Board, accounting and Catholic Character expertise. We're delighted to have him join us.

- Our proprietor has also informed us the planned new classrooms for our school have now gone out for tender which is wonderful news for our growing roll. Plans for these new classrooms are on the noticeboard outside the staffroom. Have a look and see what's planned.
- We are also expecting our next ERO (Education Review Office) Review next term during the week of 14 - 17 November. This will be a great opportunity for the school to celebrate student and teaching achievements and highlight any areas we may be able to do better.
- We also hope to plan a walk around to a few classes next term to get a real picture of how our students and teachers are working together to get the most from their learning experiences.
- A few Board members were also fortunate to attend a workshop where Bishop Steve reinforced that the work of the Board, with the School, needs to support the Special Catholic Character of the school: ensuring that each child has an 'encounter with Christ and a growing knowledge and understanding of his teachings'. It was a very timely message, with the ERO review and the review of the School Charter and Annual Plan fast approaching, and hopefully something you feel your children are experiencing daily in their school journey.

Enjoy your upcoming holiday break and God Bless.

**Claire Stott, Board Chair**

**PTA NEWS**

**St Mary's Quiz Night**

The Infamous St Marys PTA Quiz Night has once again come and gone, and what a fantastic night it was.

Led this year by our Ab Fab MC's, Patsy and Eddie, (alias Gabby and Michelle), the costumes and accessories once again were superb. Ranging from a wedding party and their dodgy guests, to Top Gun flight crew, Dominos, and German fraulien. The best dressed teams though were the very clever Play Dough team and the Pharoahs. Great work The questions this year really worked the brain cells and made sure we made a fair bit of dosh from buying answers! Thank you especially to the 'Alchys and Ho's' who made a significant financial contribution to the Fundraising for the new classrooms in this way.

But the trophy winners on the night with very little help at all were the 'Wise Quakers' followed

very closely by 'The Saints' (our lovely staff team). Excellent effort. When bought answers were added in 'The Saints' were top of the pops. Wonderful way to represent the school!

The PTA would like to thank everyone for getting behind this event to make it a success (approx \$10,000 raised thank you), whether from donating your time, skills, or prizes, or helping set up and pack down, or coming along and making it a fun night. If you have any feedback at all to pass on, good or bad, please let us know so we can make it even better next year. Email [pta@smarystga.school.nz](mailto:pta@smarystga.school.nz) Thanks again, and we'll see you next year.





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

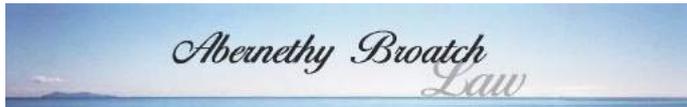


Our People Our Place

# be. thankful

oxforddictionaries.com / thankful.

adj: 1. pleased and relieved. 2. expressing gratitude.



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