



St Mary's
Catholic School
Tauranga

newsletter

ISSUE 10: 19 October 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

Greetings to our amazing St Mary's community. It is great to see that we are well into spring with summer not too far away. This of course signals a change in sporting codes and it is great to see so many children taking advantage of the amazing opportunities St Mary's has to offer. Please join me in thanking our new Sports Coordinator Steve Finlayson for the remarkable job he is doing.

Uniform

New season also signals a change of uniform. From the beginning of next week all children need to be in the summer variation of our uniform. The main change being foot wear (black roman sandals). It is of course, essential that all children have a sun hat from Tuesday.

Sun Safety

Sun block will be available in classes but I would suggest applying sunblock to your child in the morning before school as an additional precaution. As I am sure you do as parents we encourage children to manage themselves when it comes to sunscreen. Our teachers will always give reminders but are unable to apply sun block to their entire class.

We will be reviewing our sun smart policy this term. Look out for details so that you can contribute.

Year 5 and 6 Camp

I thoroughly enjoyed my opportunity to visit our Year 5 and 6 campers in week one of this term. Totora Springs is an amazing facility filled with many challenges and opportunities for kids to make the most of. Thank you to Aroha teachers for their organisation and leadership of such a successful EOTC activity and to the many parents who gave up time from work and family to support the team.

Traffic Safety

You may have noticed an increased presence from both Tauranga City Council and our local Police before and after school. I have been working with both Angela Joyce of TCC and Emma Buxton of the New Zealand Police to refine traffic management procedures around our school. However, the onus sits with parents to ensure they are taking the utmost care when driving around our school. It has been extremely disturbing to see parents dropping children on the opposite side of 13th Avenue and expecting them to cross the street unsupervised. This is an extremely dangerous practise and one that should be avoided at all times.

Please ensure you have plenty of time to park your vehicle appropriately and accompany your child to our school gate.

St Mary's Pasifika Group

On behalf of our school community I would like to wish the students and parents of our Pasifika group all the best for their upcoming performance at the Bay of Plenty Schools Pasifika Festival being held at Te Aku Ki Papamoa next Wednesday. Congratulations to all involved for the work you have done leading up to this festival.

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.

Tauranga Moana Ra Whakangahau Kapa Haka Festival 2016

Thank you to those who have expressed an interest in being a part of this amazing festival. If being part of Ra Whakangahau excites you please email your name and contact details (phone and email address) to rawhakangahau@stmarystga.school.nz and we will be in further contact regarding specific roles and responsibilities that may interest you.

2017 Enrolments

A reminder to all who 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 enrollment procedures are started as soon as possible.

End of Year change of date

Our last day of school will now be Thursday 15 December, with our End of Year School Prizegiving being held on Wednesday 14 December.

New Families to St Mary's

In closing I would like to personally welcome the following students to St Mary's since my last newsletter;

Alexis Cardey, Leah Cunningham, Evie Dumbleton, Coco Jacobs, Aaniya Jithu, Connor Kenny, Rex Lu, Elliot Olsen, Johann Shijo, Bethany Stowers, Palmy Townsend, Lola Verran, Zara Willers.

I look forward to welcoming you officially at our New Families liturgy next week.

Nga Mihi Nui Kia Koutou

Ben Fuller
Principal

13th Avenue, Tauranga, New Zealand

E office@stmarystga.school.nz

T 07 578 8066

www.stmarystga.school.nz

2016 Dates to Remember

Friday 21 October	St Thomas Aquinas Parish Quiz Night 7pm
Monday 24 October	Labour Day Holiday
Tuesday 25 Oct - Thursday 3 Nov	• Aroha Team Cycle Safety Weeks
Tuesday 25 October	• 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 • e-Learning Open Afternoon
Tuesday 1 November	All Saints Day
Wednesday 2 November	All Souls Day
Thursday 3 November	School Mass Feast of All Saints / Souls (Church 9.30am)
Saturday 5 November	Jump Jam North Island Championships
Tuesday 8 November	• Aroha Team Athletics • PTA Meeting 7pm
Wednesday 9 November	WBoP Cricket
Thursday 10 November	• Room 14 Class Mass • Aroha Team Athletics postponement day
Sunday 13 November	Parish / School Mass 10.30am - Sursum Corda to sing
Monday 14 November	Welcome to our visiting Cluny Sisters

SPECIAL CHARACTER

The month of October is the month of the Rosary. On our first day back to school this term students prayed a decade of the rosary for our intentions in our liturgy. Classes have been learning about the rosary and how to use rosary beads.

This week our liturgy focused on Mission Sunday which is this coming Sunday. Students learnt about life in Cambodia and how missionaries help children receive an education. Students have been encouraged to act with mercy and to pray for those in need and for the missionaries who do such good work around the world.

New children and new families liturgy

On Tuesday 25 October we welcome 17 new students to St Mary's since our Term 3 liturgy. All families are very welcome to attend this very special liturgy to help make our new families feel welcome.

Sacramental Programme 2016-17 (for students Y4 and above)

Enrolments for the Sacramental Programme will take place on Sunday 30 October, after 9am Mass at St Joseph's Te Puna; and after the 10.30am Mass at St Mary Immaculate. You can also enrol your child (or grandchild) on-line, through the Parish website.

<http://taurangamoanacatholic.nz/sacramental-life/sacramental-programme-2016-17/>

You must register by Monday 31 October – no late registrations will be accepted.

There will be some changes to the organisation of the programme and celebration of the Sacraments this year:

There will be one programme for the whole parish. Those students attending St Mary's School will complete much of the learning in school time (you will still need to register through the Parish), students from other kura and schools will gather at St Mary Immaculate Church on Monday afternoons after



school.

Volunteers will be needed for this programme. The first lesson will be Monday 14 November 3.30pm - 5.00pm.

Sacrament of Reconciliation - Friday 2 December 4pm - 6pm

There will be a separate Liturgy of Confirmation on Sunday 21 May at 2pm, possibly at Holy Trinity Church. Following this, there will be a social time with Bishop Steve.

The Celebration of First Communion will be more flexible, and can take place at a number of Masses in St Joseph's, St Therese Chapel and at St Mary Immaculate during July and August.

An information booklet with all the information and details can be collected at the time of enrolment or found on the parish website.

Any inquiries please contact the Parish Office: (07) 578 6209 or alternatively email: office@taurangamoanacatholic.nz

Praise to the God of All Comfort 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God"

Prayers

Prayers for Fr Mark

Please keep Father Mark in your prayers as he prepares for his surgery for prostate cancer and his recovery. Father Stuart Young will be acting parish priest until Father Mark returns.

Prayer Intentions

If you have an intention that you would like prayers for please let me know. The staff pray together weekly and would be honoured to pray for your intentions. It could be for a sick family member, it could be for someone to find God, it could be for strength in trying times; etc. Please email me and we will happily pray for your intention. trush@stmarystga.school.nz

We pray that all students and their families of St Mary's Tauranga have a very blessed and wonderful Term 4.

God bless,
Teresa Rush, DRS



2017 Term Dates

Wednesday 1 February	Term 1 starts
Thursday 13 April	Term 2 Ends
Monday 1 May	Term 2 starts
Friday 7 July	Term 2 ends
Monday 24 July	Term 3 starts
Friday 29 September	Term 3 ends
Monday 16 October	Term 4 starts
Friday 15 December	Term 4 ends

At St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Blessed Anne-Marie Javouhey Centre. Cost \$5 per ticket (proceeds to Homeless Shelter), tickets available from Parish Office. BYO and plate for a shared supper, thank you.



Tauranga Moana Ra Whakangahau Kapa Haka Festival 2016
24-25 November

SCHOOL NEWS

Attendance Matters

At St Mary's we take attendance seriously and monitor it frequently. Research states that student attendance, along with effective teaching, has the greatest influence on student engagement and achievement. All students must be present at school so they can participate and engage in learning.

If a student misses five school days each term, or one day a fortnight (10%), they will miss the equivalent of one year of school over 10 years.

Currently this year, 16% of our students have absences of 10% or more. This is concerning for us and we will be monitoring attendance closely this term to check for improvements.

We are lucky at St Mary's that we don't have a high percentage of students who are late to school. Being on time means that all instructions for the day are heard, the child is more settled and no learning is missed.

We look forward to a full term of learning ahead with all students at school regularly and on time.

Anna MacKinnon, Deputy Principal

e-Learning Open Afternoon

On Thursday 27 October, you are all warmly invited to an e-Learning open afternoon here at St Mary's. During this time you are welcome to visit your child's classroom to see how they are using digital technologies to enhance and support learning. Following this, there will be a presentation in the BAMJC lead by Mary Jamieson, an e-learning expert from Waikato University. After this presentation, you will have the opportunity to ask any questions about any observations you have made during your visits in the classrooms, and any other wonderings you have around how we are using technology in our school.

Date: Thursday 27 October

Time : 1.30pm- 3.00pm all classrooms will be open for you to wander through.

: 3.15pm- Mary Jamieson presentation in the BAMJC. Team Leaders will also be present.

We look forward to seeing you on this date and having the opportunity to share how we are utilising digital tools in our school.



Aroha Team Camp

Aroha Team have had an exciting start to Term 4, by spending three days at Totara Springs Camp, near Matamata. Blessed with fine weather, the students were able to enjoy the challenges of Education Outside the Classroom (EOTC) through rock climbing, crate-climbing, abseiling and raft-building to name just a few! Our students were suitably challenged with the activities on offer to develop their leadership skills, as well as build perseverance when faced with completing the many outdoor challenges.

We had an enthusiastic and capable group of parents that joined us, and with the impressive facilities on offer at Totara Springs and the beautiful weather meant the experience was positive for all. We are already looking forward to returning next year with our current Year 4 and 5 students.

Thank you to all our supportive parents for the various ways you contributed to our camp being so successful through fundraising and those who were able to join us. Your time and effort is much appreciated by all the students and teachers in the Aroha team.

Jacq Price, Senior Team Leader

Here is piece of writing from Amy Trott who just came back from camp. It is 'Moment in Time' during her experience at rafting.

The cold water envelops me, grabbing me with its icy fingers and pulling me down. My life jacket gently lifts me to the surface its straps bobbing around my head. I latch onto the float like a leech, pulling myself over. I fall back under the cold, cold water.

As I reach the surface something snags against my foot. The creeping feeling of excitement bubbling through my veins. I start kicking, just as determined as my team members to get the raft started. The twirling water dances around me as I begin to slide down the slippery plastic of the float.

The squeals and giggles of my team members fill my ears and completely drown out the sound of the rushing river. There is a chorus of screams as our raft glides underneath a branch. I duck my head underwater and my mouth is instantly overcome with the musty, dirty taste of the murky fast-moving water. As my head breaks out of the water the stench of cow manure hits me, yuck!

The sinister rhythm of the water changes as a large, bulky, grey rock forms a small waterfall. We all scream as our raft bumps over the drop. We fall instantly into a whirlpool. Despite our frustration we glide around for a few seconds until we finally break free.

Amy Trott Room 8



Music

Music tuition will continue this term, with some places becoming available with Mike our Guitar tutor and Andy who teaches Saxophone.

Please contact Karen at the school office if your child would like to try one of these instruments this term.
kmulhern@stmargytsa.school.nz

Many thanks to our camp parents





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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