



St Mary's
Catholic School
Tauranga

newsletter

ISSUE 1: 7 February 2017

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

Kia ora Koutou Katoa

Greetings to you all, happy new year and welcome to the start of the 2017 academic year at St Mary's Catholic School. Special greetings and welcome to all those new to our school community. I look forward to sharing in the success of your children as they progress through the coming year. I also look forward to interacting with you as members of our community.

We started our school year with 423 students which is a record starting roll for St Mary's. Among those are 46 new enrolments who I am sure will make the most of the many opportunities within our school community.

There are many events within, and involving our community coming up, including a full school parent meeting at 5.15pm on Thursday 9 February, our new children and new families liturgy in week 3 and our Ash Wednesday liturgy on 1 March. Please check our website and / or other sources of communication for these and many more events, which we welcome you all to.

New Teachers to St Mary's

We welcome two new teachers to our St Mary's community. Mrs Lisa Walter will be teaching in Room 4 and Miss Amber Simonsen will be teaching in Room 13. Both Lisa and Amber are new to their respective careers in teaching and we are extremely excited to be in a position to witness their growth and development. I am sure you will join me in welcoming them to our school.

Parent Meeting 5.15pm Thursday

New Zealand and global education is a rapidly changing landscape. However, in negotiating this landscape at a local level it is important that schools continue to explain and evaluate the merits of proposed change. This year we hope to provide a number of opportunities to involve parents in this process. The first being a focus on collaborative practices across our school and within our Aroha team.

New Building

As you may well have noticed, work has started on the construction of our new classroom block. This project is being managed by Aspect Construction. To date initial excavation work has occurred with more progress to follow. There are of course many health and safety considerations that accompany construction work on a school site. As the build progresses and these become

more relevant I will ensure both students and parents are informed of all pertinent and related safety information

Uniform

We have now completed our transition to our new school uniform, meaning all students should be in the correct uniform as outlined on our website. Seeing the full school last week in uniforms that were sparkling was extremely impressive so my thanks and compliments to all parents who ensured their children were well prepared for school.

Sun Safety

As it is summer all students must also have a school hat that needs to be worn when outdoors. Please ensure this is named and stays at school. It is also recommended that you apply sunscreen to your child each morning if required as further protection. We do have sunscreen available in classes should students require it.

Absences

If your child is absent from school please notify the school office by phone or text before 9.00am on the morning of the absence. The school absentee mobile number is: 021 2969437.

When a child returns to school after an absence please give a written explanation to his/her classroom teacher.

Arriving late to school

If your child has an appointment and is going to be late to school then a call or text to the office is much appreciated. When you arrive to school you must come through the school office and sign your child in.

Signing in and out - Health and Safety

If, for whatever reason you are going to be on the school grounds, then please come through the school office to sign in and out. If you are taking your child out of school early then please, also come through the school office to sign out.

School Hours:

Monday to Friday: 8.50am – 2.55pm
Morning tea: 10.35am – 11.00am
Lunch: 12.30pm – 1.20pm

As a general rule, pupils should not be at school before **8.15am** or after **3.30pm**. Please ensure that your child is at school on time for the start of the school day. This gives the opportunity for a well prepared and settled beginning to classes.

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2017 Dates to Remember

Thursday 9 February

- RE / House Leaders Mass 9am
- Parent Information Meeting 5.15pm
- Aroha Parent Meeting 5.45pm

Monday 13 February

PTA Meeting 7pm

Tuesday 14 February

- Welcome to new children and new families liturgy 10am (BAMJC)
- Beach Day Room 1, 2, 3 (9am-2.30pm)

Wednesday 15 February

Beach Day Room 4, 5, 10 (9am-2.30pm)

Thursday 16 February

- International Families Afternoon Tea
- Diocese Commissioning Mass at St Thomas More 6pm

Friday 17 February

- PTA Sausage Sizzle
- PTA Coffee Cart - all welcome for free coffee on the PTA

Monday 20 February

Liturgy - Caring for creation 9am

Tuesday 21 February

Aroha Swimming Sports

Wednesday 22 February

Meet the Teacher - school will close at 12.00pm

Thursday 23 February

Waimarino Aroha Team

Friday 24 February

Visiting Japanese students (no assembly today)

Monday 27 February

- Liturgy - Promise ceremony 9am
- BoP Golf Championships

Tuesday 28 February

Board of Trustee Meeting 6pm

Wednesday 1 March

Ash Wednesday Liturgy 10am (BAMJC)

Thursday 2 March

Room 3 Class Mass 9am

Sunday 5 March

- St Thomas Aquinas - Launch of Parish Mass at Aquinas College Gymnasium 10am

Monday 6 March

Liturgy - Caritas 9am

Tuesday 7 March

South Cluster Swimming

Thursday 9 March

Room 5 Class Mass 9am

Thursday 10 March

PTA Outdoor Adventure Day

be.
Christ-like

be.
reflective

be.
creative

Traffic Safety

The safety of our students is paramount. We therefore request that all parents take due care and diligence in respect to driving and parking around our school.

The best place during summer months to drop off and collect children is our Harvey Street boundary. If this is not possible please remember that no child should be left to cross roads by themselves after being dropped at school.

Nga Mihi Nui Kia Koutou

Ben Fuller

Principal

SCHOOL NEWS

Welcome to our new students and new families

As mentioned previously there will be a liturgy on Tuesday 14 February in the Blessed Anne Marie Javouhey Centre (BAMJC) at 10am, to welcome all new children and new families to our St Mary's School Community. We hope to see you all at this very special liturgy.

A very warm welcome to the following new students who have started school this year.

Brian Baihan, Daisy Bell, Jyron Bibi, Cooper Bos, Stefano Cha, Seth Chow, Hunter Clarke, Coco Xavier, Parnell Davis, Charlotte Devoy, Petra Fantham, Jake Fitzpatrick, Sadie Frank, Hannah Greaves, Jack Greaves, Lucy Greaves, Harry Grosso, Oliver Grosso, James Hartman, Emily Hattie, Lucas Hopper, Mathew Indeer, Neil Joseph, Nia Joseph, Mila Kennedy, Hane Kim, Elliot Laurie, Marriann Lawford Prendeville, Migo Legayada, Dominic Leitch, Henoa Lolohea, Francis Markham, Caitlyn Markham, Lucy Marr, Tilly Martin, Carter Montgomery, Keegan Murphy, Jihoo Nam, Max Page, William Peeters, Maya Perrett, Trinity Ponini, Sienna Prince, Luca Seavill, Katara Tana, Annie Van Zyl, Lucy Van Zyl, Oliver Van Zyl, Nina Waites, Jonty Waites, Austin Wilde and Holly Young.

After School Care

This service operates from 2.55pm to 5.30pm every day of the school week in the Blessed Anne Marie Javouhey Centre. If you wish to find out more information regarding After School Care then please contact the After School Care phone on 027 3102090 or email afterschoolcare@stmarystga.school.nz.

School App

St Mary's School have a Mobile App for notices, events and other important school messages. To download the app for free on iPhone or Android search 'St Mary's Catholic School' in the app store, or use this link. <http://is.gd/8stOcd>.

Here are a few reasons why you should have the app.

Alerts - we can send you quick messages about events, buses running late, website updates, reminders, emergency notices etc.

Absentees - if your smartphone has the latest software update you can send a text message straight to our school absentee line by going through the absentee link on the app. There is also a direct link to our school phone number should you choose to ring in an absentee.

Events - our school calendar is being constantly

updated. You will find dates to school trips, class/school/parish masses and other important dates under the events link on the app.

Notices - here you will find copies of all our newsletters and latest news (just scroll down past the, 'what's happening, 'fundraising' and 'projects').

Links - you will find links to key websites relating to our school. Eg. St Mary's School website, St Mary Immaculate Church, Aquinas College, stationery, and buses services.

Contact - key staff email addresses can be accessed directly from here.

School Lunches

Every Thursday and Friday, commencing next week, we have school lunches delivered to our school.

Thursday: Pita Pit - Pick up an envelope from the school office.

Friday: La Brioche delivers lunch - Check out our school website for menu options and prices. Write your child's name, order, room, put the correct money into an envelope and leave at the school office before 9.00am.

PTA NEWS

Coffee Cart - The Coffee is on us!!

Your friendly PTA sends a warm welcome to all parents and caregivers in our St Mary's School community. Please join us for a free coffee on Friday 17 February from 2.30pm to 3.30pm. The cart will be located in the courtyard by Room 16.

SPORTS NEWS

I am looking forward to another action packed sporting year for all our St Mary's families. I hope you all had a fantastic holiday. It is great to see all the kids back and into school, raring to go!!! For all the new families, if you have any sporting questions please feel free to come and see me anytime, if you would like to discuss sporting opportunities as St Mary's for your children.

I am really pleased to announce two new sporting initiatives for this year. In March we will have a student organised and lead mini triathlon, for the senior school. This is a great opportunity for some of the students to apply the skills they are learning in class, into organising and running a sporting event for their fellow students.

As part of her degree, we will have a 3rd year student from the Toi Ohomai Institute of Technology (Bay of Plenty Polytechnic) to initiate a fundamental skills programme for the junior school. This will involve learning skills such as; kicking, catching, and throwing in a fun, interactive and game based situations. I will have more on this programme as it develops during terms one and two.

Please remember our sports registrations for term one, close on Wednesday night. You will be unable to register for your child's chosen sport(s) after close off. Please remember our sports registrations for term one, close on Wednesday night. You will be unable to register for your child's chosen sport(s) after close off.

I hope you all have a great sporting year for 2017!!!!

Steven Finlayson
Sports Coordinator

Wednesday 22 February

School will close at 12 noon on Wednesday 22 February for a 'Meet the Teacher Day / Evening'. More information to follow...