



St Mary's
Catholic School
Tauranga

newsletter

ISSUE 2: 22 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

Nga mihi nui ki a koutou

Greetings to you all! A special welcome to our new families and new children, Brian Liu, Natasha Couchman-Erickson and Briar O'Connor.

It is great to see the start we have had to our school year and the enthusiasm shown by all across our wonderful school community. There is certainly an element of excitement with what the year will bring which has been fueled by the ambitious approach to teaching and learning within our student environments.

Parent Meeting

I was impressed with the number of parents who came to our first information meeting in week 2. While it is always good to see a large number of enthusiastic parents within our centre, the real benefit for myself was the ability to help inform you in regard to how we at St Mary's will be approaching the implementation of collaborative practice.

Following on from this meeting I have had a number of positive comments regarding the approach and aspects of practice that we are all now witnessing. I would encourage any parents who have questions to first talk to their classroom teacher specifically about how they are approaching working together more actively with their teaching colleagues.

Others have asked for more information in regard to current changes within education. Below are a couple of links that may help widen your knowledge in regard to the rationale behind changes to education both globally and within New Zealand.

Tony Grey: www.youtube.com/watch?v=n6xrTx8hek

Ken Robinsons: https://www.ted.com/talks/ken_robinson_changing_education_paradigms

Mark Osbourne: <http://edtalks.org/#/video/considering-modern-learning-environments>

Meet the Teacher

On the same note, it is great to see almost a full attendance at our learning conversations held this week. It definitely shows that you as a parent body are focused on being the best enabler of learning you can be.

New Build

Work has restarted on our current building project which is great to see. Steve Page has had his machinery in operation over the last few days which has been of great interest to the kids. Also of interest to you as parents are some health and safety practices that we have been required to implement. These include controlled entry of all construction related vehicles and specific site access requirements. Please ensure when you are here out of hours with your children you are aware of any work that is in progress.

Present predictions for the completion of this project are for late June, early July which will mean open for business at the beginning of term 3.

Parking Harvey Street

We have had a number of complaints from our Harvey Street neighbours in regard to current parking practices. In particular parents parking at the end of the culdesac and restricting the ability for cars to turn around at the end of the street and parking in residence driveways and on grass verges. As a result, as a school, we are now part of the council traffic monitoring programme which means traffic wardens and police will routinely patrol issuing infringement notices where appropriate.

We would all agree that it shouldn't come to this and the best way to ensure good traffic behaviour and maintain respect for our neighbours is to make sure you have plenty of time to park, park appropriately and then walk to meet your children. There are very few places around our school site where children can walk directly to cars in sight of parents.

We have some great events coming up including trips to Waimarino and our PTA Outdoor Adventure Day so please make sure you keep connected to what is happening.

Don't forget to pop down to school tomorrow afternoon from 2.30pm and visit the Coffee Cart for a free coffee or hot chocolate, kindly sponsored by our wonderful PTA.

Nga mihi nui

Ben Fuller
Principal

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2017 Dates to Remember

- Friday 24 February
Visiting Japanese students (no assembly today)
- PTA Coffee Cart at 2.30pm - free coffee & hot chocolate for parents and caregivers

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

- Mass to celebrate the Inauguration of the Parish of St Thomas Aquinas to be held in the Aquinas College Gymnasium 10am

Monday 6 March

Liturgy - Caritas 9am

Tuesday 7 March

South Cluster Swimming

Thursday 9 March

- Room 5 Class Mass 9am
- Aquinas College Twilight Festival

Friday 10 March

PTA Outdoor Adventure Day

Sunday 12 March

- Top Schools Competition

Monday 13 March

Liturgy - Inspiring Saints / School Houses 9am

Tuesday 14 March

PTA Meeting 7pm

Friday 17 March

- Whole School Mass 9.30am (Church)
- PTA Outdoor Adventure Day postponement date

Monday 20 March

Liturgy - World day for water 9am

Thursday 23 March

Room 4 Class Mass

Monday 27 March

Liturgy - Annunciation 9am

Sunday 26 March

School Parish Mass 10.30am (Sursum Corda to sing)

Wednesday 29 March

Future Champions

Thursday 30 March

Room 10 Class Mass (Exposition)

Benediction 2pm

Sunday 2 April

Daylight Savings ends

be.
Christ-like

be.
reflective

be.
creative

SPECIAL CHARACTER

We have had a very prayerful start to the year. It was amazing to welcome 52 new students and families to the school last week. With such a big group of new families we really need to extend our welcome to our new families and help them to feel part of our community.

Each week we have a liturgy on Monday morning at 9am, families are welcome to attend and pray with us. Most Thursday mornings we celebrate mass at 9am in the Chapel, all welcome. Our first Thursday mass in week 2 was to bless the Liturgical and House leaders for this year, classroom masses have now begun.

Last Thursday night the Bishop blessed the staff of the local schools, thank you to the students and families who attended to support our school.

Next Sunday we look forward to the combined Parish Mass at Aquinas college, 10:30am, Sunday 5 March. Followed by a Parish picnic.

Our first School Parish Mass is on Sunday 26 March at 10:30am.

It is great to see the children's liturgy has started at the 10:30am mass on Sunday. Many of our families attend this mass and if you have any questions about attending mass please just ask me.

Staff have prayer in the chapel on a Tuesday morning, if you have an intention you would like us to include in our prayers please email me, trush@stmarystga.school.nz

Lent

Lent begins next week, students will make their lenten promises which we will pray for in our Promise Liturgy on Monday. An Ash Wednesday Liturgy will be at 10am in the BAMJC, we extend an invite to all our community.

Lent is a time for us to grow more 'Christlike' to challenge ourselves to do better each day. It is a great time to make new 'good habits'. It is always a challenge to come up with a lenten promise - a good idea is to 'take something positive' up - setting aside time each day to pray as an individual or a family, helping those in need... It also provides an opportunity to work on things as a family.

Atrium

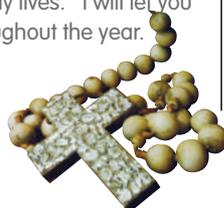
Atrium for the junior school has begun for the year and we would like to thank; Mary Pat, Noelene and Desiree for all the wonderful work that they do each week to help our students develop their relationship with God.

Target

This year as a school, we will be focusing on Scripture. Our target is to provide opportunities for : All students to increase their knowledge and understanding of the relevance of scripture in their daily lives. I will let you know further details on this throughout the year.

E te Atua Manaaki ki a koutou

Teresa Rush
Director of Religious Studies



FROM OUR DP

In Week 2 this term we had a parent information evening on future focused and collaborative teaching and learning. If you missed it, you can access the slideshow on our website. Over the next few weeks we will be answering the questions, that were raised at that meeting, in our newsletter and on our website.

How is St Mary's School preparing our students for secondary school, university and more 'traditional' environments?

At St Mary's we work hard to make the transition to Intermediate and secondary school as smooth as possible. Our job is to prepare students both academically and socially and over the last couple of year's we have been working closely with Aquinas College so that important information is shared.

We are preparing our students for life in a changed and changing world. Education must prepare our children "for jobs that don't yet exist, to use technologies that have not been invented and to solve problems that we don't even know are problems yet" Kath Murdoch sums it up nicely in this 2 minute clip: <http://nzcurriculum.tki.org.nz/content/download/83861/651458/version/1/file/Karen+sewell.mp4>

Research states that the successful transition to school and the ability to deal with change relies heavily on the students acquiring certain key dispositions or competencies. These competencies are a valued aspect of the teaching and learning in our classrooms and align closely with our Catholic Character.

As required by the New Zealand Curriculum, we place an emphasis on the following Key Competencies: Thinking; Using Language, Symbols and Texts; Managing Self; Relating to Others; Participating and Contributing. You can find more information about the NZC Key Competencies here: <http://nzcurriculum.tki.org.nz/Key-competencies/Capable-kids-Working-with-the-key-competencies>.

ERO, through their research on 'Transition from Primary to secondary', has identified the following aspects that make transition successful: "How well students respond to the changes is largely dependent on two key aspects – students' personal resources and coping skills (such as their acquisition of the Key Competencies described in The New Zealand Curriculum framework); [2] and the school culture into which students transition. Schools can support students to make successful transitions by helping them to develop a sense of themselves as competent and capable beings characterised by:

- a 'can-do' attitude
- a sense of self capability
- resourcefulness
- resilience
- strategies to deal with challenges
- independence
- skills relating to others such as listening actively, being tolerant and cooperation



- a sense of contribution to school and community."

At St Mary's, we are excited to join you in the journey of developing lifelong learners who are able to collaborate, be creative, and solve problems that really matter in all of the environments that they encounter.

Anna MacKinnon
Deputy Principal

BOARD NEWS

It's hard to believe we're already 4 weeks into Term 1 and it's great to see the students settling into their new routines and classrooms well.

Firstly, I'd like to welcome our new teachers, Lisa Walter and Amber Simenson to the staff on behalf of the Board. It was lovely seeing them welcomed officially at the New Families liturgy and I'm sure they're enjoying getting to know their students and families.

You all will see that earthworks are underway for the new classrooms also which is very exciting.. We appreciate everyone's care and consideration when moving around the building site to ensure we keep it as safe as possible during the build process. Dont forget to have a look at the classroom plan on the notice board outside the staff room.

The best news we have to share so far though, is the Final ERO External Evaluation Report which has now been published in full on their web site. www.ero.govt.nz/review-reports/st-marys-catholic-school-tauranga-03-02-2017/

We are very pleased with their evaluation which shows that we have a strong leadership team, teaching initiatives, and processes fully supporting staff and students to achieve to the best of their abilities. They comment on the purposeful and supportive community relationships we have, particularly with the Cluny Sisters and our parish, and our strong commitment to our Special Catholic Character. Their recommendations are for us to continue to develop and evaluate our innovative teaching environments and continue in our good work. Well done and congratulations everyone on a great job.

Take care and enjoy the rest of the activities and learning experiences to come this Term.

Claire Stott
Board Chair

Aroha Team Swimming and Whakapono Beach Day photos will be on our website shortly



SPORTS NEWS

Aroha Team Swimming Sports

What a perfect kiwi day it was to have our Aroha team swimming sports yesterday. With competitive and non-competitive events available, it was fantastic to see the students of all abilities having a go.

Racing in the main pool was a lot closer this year than in previous years. From the initial observation of the results it looks like we will have a healthy sized team going to the South Cluster swimming sports, which is a fantastic result for the school. Congratulations to Ryan House who won the year 6 relay and Viard House who won the year 5 relay.

With 45 events running across 2 pools, the day couldn't have run as smoothly as it did without the help of our parents. On behalf of everybody racing on the day I would like to say a massive thank you to all our marshals, timekeepers, recorders, organisers and supporters. We are truly blessed to have so many fantastic parents who give up their time, to support their children and the event.

Swimming Results

Year 5 Girls

- 1st Ariana Workman
- 2nd Hannah Greaves
- 3rd Jessica Taane

Year 5 Boys

- 1st Will Quin
- 2nd Finn Curragh
- 3rd Luka Mahy

Year 6 Girls

- 1st Renee Carey
- 2nd Niamh Manning
- 3rd Stella Roper

Year 6 Boys

- 1st Henry Scholes
- 2nd Charlie Hammerich
- 3rd Max Broadmore

St Mary's 'Spirit' Award - for giving 100% in every event

Axel Osterman

Steven Finlayson Sports Co Ordinator



PARISH NEWS

Welcoming new parishioners

Vision

A Parish in love with God and alive with joyful worship, active ministry and community outreach.

Mission

Build community.

Communities grow stronger when citizens regularly and persistently do a variety of simple things together that give them chances to connect with others.

- Say hello to strangers
- Greet people
- Start talking to people you see regularly
- Start or participate in a conversation with those who you do not know so well.

To build community is a community responsibility, for us all.

As one of the many volunteers involved in various ministries in our Parish we would be very grateful if you could be aware of potential "New Parishioners", assist in making them feel welcome and please hand them one of the "New Parishioner Booklets". For those of you who may not be aware these booklets are available in the back of the Church by the main foyer entrance and also by the noticeboard opposite the Chapel.

If at all possible, please introduce the new parishioner to Father Mark.

Thank you for your service to our community.

Matthew 25:25 - "I was a stranger and you made me welcome".

PARENTS



PTA Outdoor Adventure Day - Friday March 10th 2017 Please come and help us make this day a success!!

We need 40 people to safely run this fun event for our children.

You will be needed for

Set Up 8-10am

Marshalling 10am-1pm approx

Clean Up 1.30-2.30pm approx

Dads we need your muscles! Needing Dads to help with early morning set up from 8am - drop the kids and come help us set up Gazebos and the course.

Bake Sale -We are looking for volunteers also to run the bake sale!

If you are able to help, contact us

Mel - melqash3@gmail.com or Gabby - zumbasistastga@gmail.com

A notice explaining details of the day will be sent out soon

THANK YOU!!!

Request to join our St Marys Parents page ~ search "STM's 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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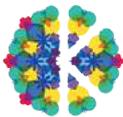
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