



St Mary's
Catholic School
Tauranga

newsletter

ISSUE 5: 13 June 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

A very warm welcome to our new students Mollie Gleaves, Rohan Lijo, Adam Alasad, Liam Du Toit, Maddy Wheeler, Josh Binny, Ella Younger, Arielle Duytshoff and Kimberly Dobbie. Winter is upon us and learning is ramping up at St Mary's with all of our teams focused on some great learning inquiries. It is a good time of year to check in on your children as learners with the aim of gaining an understanding of where they are presently at in their learning journey. It is important that you make contact with your child's teacher should you have any questions or queries related to their learning.

Reports will be circulated later this term and as the first stakeholder in their learning students will have a significant role in evaluating their learning. This is a further step toward enhanced student agency (students in control of their own learning pathway) at our school and though it will mean progress is communicated in a slightly different way it is still related to learning progress. Again if you have any questions regarding progress please let your child's teacher know.

PTA Quiz Night

On behalf of our school community my thanks to all who supported our annual Quiz Night again run by our tireless PTA and in particular Michelle Pine who headed the Quiz Committee. It was great to see the number of parents participating in the fun and digging deep to support our PTA and our school. I am sure you will all join me in congratulating our PTA on running another magnificent event.

New Build Progress - Creating Conditions for Powerful Learning

As a community we are sharing in the excitement of seeing our new learning environment nearing completion, anticipated to occur within the next 4 weeks. It has been great watching the experts bring our design to life within the heart of our school. However, it is the potential for educational outcomes from within this design that I would invite parents to explore as our objective as a school is to create conditions for powerful learning.

To further explore this concept it may be helpful to compare our time at school (as students). You may recall as I do an underlying narrative similar to this; a story that many of us bought into in order to achieve the best we could within our respective schools. It may have gone similar to this.

"If you wanted to learn something, like quadratic equations or French, then you needed to be in the right spot at the right time (your desk), with this

teacher (the expert), with these kids (your class) who you had to learn the same things as at the same time. And ... at the end, when the expert had shared their knowledge, then your success would be measured by their test".

Are you able to make connections with this? Did it work for you? Did it work for everyone? Learning today asks the question "How can we create conditions for powerful learning?" Answers include concepts such as the following:

- Make environments safe and secure
- Grow personal connections
- Make learning fun
- Make learning real and relevant to life
- It should be future focused
- It should be positive and include opportunities for social interaction
- Adapt learning so it is personalised and so that students can demonstrate their passions
- There needs to be opportunities for autonomy and self agency.
- Don't constrain it to a time

If these are indeed conditions for powerful learning and these are the conditions we need to create to support our learners, then it makes sense that the way we design learning and the environment we design to support learning has to evolve.

At St Mary's sitting in desks and waiting to be told what to do is no longer the norm. Where previously students were told to be quiet while they worked independently is now a collaborative space where learning related dialogue is encouraged. Where there were worksheets to fill time for those who finished their work early, now there are open ended learning opportunities where children can continue to build their understanding, and there are teachers continuing to feed rather than determine the journey.

Before School Procedures and Punctuality

Thank you to all who have been making an effort with ensuring children are at school on time. It definitely makes a difference when a child is set up and ready to learn at the start of the day. Equally in our colder months it is not ideal to have children waiting in the cold for classrooms to open. All classrooms will be open and supervised from 8.30am which means children who arrive before this will need to wait in an outside area. Ideally any time from 8.15 - 8.45 is a good time to get to school.

Ben Fuller
Principal

13th Avenue, Tauranga, New Zealand

E office@stmarystga.school.nz

T 07 578 8066

www.stmarystga.school.nz

2017 Dates to Remember

Thursday 15 June

- Room 9 Class Mass
- BoP Squash Tournament

Friday 16 June

2 teams from Aroha entered into EPro8 Engineering Challenge at Tauranga Intermediate

Monday 19 June

Liturgy - Matariki 9am

Wednesday 21 June

WBoP Cross Country

Thursday 22 June

- Room 16 Class Mass 9am
- Exposition 9.30am - 2.00pm
- Benediction 2.00pm

Friday 23 June

WBoP Cross Country postponement date

Monday 26 June

- Liturgy - Sacred Heart of Jesus 9am
- Art Week starts

Tuesday 27 June

- BoP Cross Country
- Board of Trustee Meeting

Thursday 29 June

- BoP Cross Country postponement date
- Celebrating the Arts Evening 6.30pm

Friday 7 July

- Term 2 ends
- PTA Disco 6 - 8.30pm

Monday 24 July

- Term 1 starts
- Liturgy - School Values 9am

Tuesday 25 July

Board of Trustee Meeting

Thursday 27 July

Room 12 Class Mass

Monday 31 July

Cook Island Language Week

Tuesday 1 August

Grandparents Liturgy and Morning Tea 10am

Thursday 3 August

Room 11 Class Mass 9am

Tuesday 8 August

- New children and new families liturgy 9am
- PTA Meeting 7pm

Thursday 10 August

Room 13 Class Mass 9am

Saturday 12 August

Sursum Corda sing at Vigil 5pm

Monday 14 August

Liturgy - Assumption 9am

Friday 18 August

School Mass

Thursday 31 August

Room 1 Class Mass

be.
Christ-like

be.
reflective

be.
creative

SPECIAL CHARACTER

Welcome Father Danny



We enjoyed welcoming Father Danny as a school community in the Pentecost Mass. Father Danny was also welcomed at school when he said Mass for us and visited classrooms. We look forward to getting to know Father Danny and him becoming a part of our faith journey as a school.

Sarote Marafono

Our prayers are with Sister Emelie as her family mourn the death of her mother. Please keep Sister Emelie and her family in your prayers.

Pa Yvan

Pa Yvan has written a very spiritual and moving Pentecost letter in regards to his journey to God with Motor Neuron Disease. See our website for the letter of use this link <http://bit.ly/2rcP58x>. Please keep Pa Yvan in your prayers.

Pentecost Mass and Parish School Mass

The School Pentecost mass was a great celebration of the 'Church's Birthday.' Thank you to the wonderful musicians, the Sursum Corda and soloists. Thank you to Aiti Aaifou-Olive, Ani Hano and the Samoan group. Also a huge thanks to Room 2 who did a great roleplay of the Pentecost story. A highlight was the prayers of the faithful read in the student's first languages Indonesian, Korean, Malayalam, French, Fijian and German.

It was wonderful to see so many families at our Parish School Mass, showing your support for the Special Character of our school.

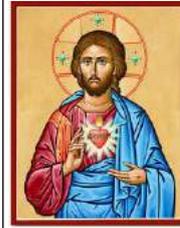
Sursum Corda

Sursum Corda were unable to sing on Holy Thursday night due to Cyclone Debbie. So they put on a special evening performance for parents and the community using Song and Scripture to retell the Easter Story. Concert attendees really enjoyed the quality of the performance and appreciated the hard work the students put into preparing. We thank Sally Washer and Christine Leaf for their work with Sursum Corda.



Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus- Friday 23 June

As a school this is a very important feast for us. As we enter the school administration area above the doors we read:



"Blessed be Jesus Christ True God and True Man"; thus reminding us that Jesus was fully divine and fully human. The feast highlights to us Jesus love for us. Jesus

commandments to love our Lord God with all our heart and to love one another. The heart is part of our whole being - spiritual, emotional, physical and intellectual thus Jesus connecting with each of us in an intimate way.

As a school we will have a day of Adoration and Benediction (2pm) with a special focus on the Sacred Heart of Jesus (Thursday 22nd June).

As a Cluny school we have a very special connection to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Anne Marie Javouhey's devotion to the Heart of Jesus came from her mother and continued very strongly during her life and the life of the Cluny Sisters.

We can connect to the Sacred Heart of Jesus when we reflect:

As I reflect on the words and actions of Jesus in the Gospels, I ask Jesus to reveal to me: how my heart – the essence of my being – reflects his; how my heart needs to change in order to better resemble his?

<http://www.clunyusandcanada.org/pages/sacredheartdevotion.html>

Teresa Rush

Director of Religious Studies

SCHOOL NEWS

Melbourne Study Tour - Growing Leader and Teacher Capacity

Our Board of Trustees is committed to supporting quality professional learning opportunities for our staff so that our learners are well equipped for the future. This year our board allocated significant funding to the exploration of various learning environments. All of our staff have had opportunities to both visit classes within our school and in other learning contexts to help develop our pedagogy (how we teach).

In Week 5 this Term, eight of our staff had the exciting opportunity to visit Victoria, Australia. Victoria is considered a leading state in innovation, research and pedagogy.

We worked with Andrew Jones (former Principal, current PhD Student and researcher at the University of Melbourne) visiting seven schools that are considered leaders in innovative and creative curriculum.

One of the big ideas from our week away was to **'be the learner we want our learners to be'**. To be a learner we need to be curious, develop relationships, work collaboratively, develop creativity and be problem solvers. We need to be open to challenge, inquire into our own practice and utilise research to support innovation. We need to show agency and take responsibility for our own learning.

So how does this relate to our students?

We expect the same dispositions and attitudes from our learners. We want them to be curious, develop relationships, work collaboratively, develop creativity and be problem solvers. We want them to question, show responsibility and take ownership of their own learning. They have to have the courage and conviction to take risks along the way. *"Children grow into the intellectual life that surrounds them" (Vygotsky).*

Our visit to Victoria involved lots of risk-taking for us. The schools we visited and the dialogue that we engaged in challenged our thinking, affirmed our journey to date, and provided lots of opportunities to test our beliefs about learning.

As leaders at St Mary's we need to understand the climate, create the conditions and lead our learning journey. As a successful learning organisation we are dedicated to achieving our potential and fulfilling our goals.

Anna MacKinnon
Deputy Principal

Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair proved to be a very successful week. The Book Fair was well attended with sales totalling \$5601.00 of which the library gets 20% commission in cash, which gives us \$1120.20 to purchase new books for the library.

Many thanks to Mrs Prue O'Connell, Mrs Claire Stott, Ms Nicola Meehan and Mrs Gabby Cardey for volunteering their time to help with the Book Fair.

A great deal of fun was had on the Wednesday, when everyone was given the opportunity to dress up as their favourite book character. Even the staff got into the spirit. A parade was held in the Centre and certificates and gift vouchers to spend at the fair given to best costumes from each class.

Three competitions were held during the book fair. One for the Year 1 and 2 group, one for Year 3 and 4 group and one for the Year 5 and 6 group. The winners were Brody Dobbs, Luke Tustin and Ben Pitpitunge who all won a book pack. Congratulations to them all.

Last of all, thank you to all who supported the Fair.

Art Week 26 - 30 June

A busy week has been planned for Art Week with our students enjoying many opportunities to learn and participate in a variety of aspects of the arts curriculum.

- Eunice Driller and Dee Ellwood - Drama
- Rob McGregor - Artist
- Rose McMahan - Film maker
- Kylie McIntosh - Dance
- Louisa Strange - Craft
- All classrooms - Jubilee Tea Towel Art design

You are welcome to view art in the BAMJC from Tuesday 27 June to Thursday 29 June between 2.30 and 3.15pm. On Thursday night at 6.30pm we showcase our Performing Arts. There will be performances from Sursun Corda Choir, Kapa Haka, Samoan Group, Fuse, Jump Jam and soloists. This will be another opportunity to view all class room art in the Aroha Hub. Entry by gold coin donation at the door.

Caritas Fundraiser

With the help of their parents, Gia and Sophia from Room 3 raised \$473.40 for Caritas. They did this by making stationery, baking biscuits, cakes and muffins, and then selling them to the Whakapono Team. We have a very close association with Merivale School through our Young Vinnies so the extra baking that was left over was given to their students. Principal, Jan Tinetti was very thankful for the surprise and the students super happy to receive a treat. Seeing their excitement over something so small led to some discussion, and a plan to visit Merivale School once a month.

With Jan Tinetti's blessing we would like to ask our families to bake for the Merivale School community one day a month till the end of the year (three classes per month). More information will be emailed out shortly.

SPORTS NEWS

It has been a very busy few weeks for our school sports and students.

Three of our students competed recently at the Taekwondo National Championships; all three produced exceptional results, in the yellow belt category. Athens Harrera finished 1st in Sparring. Jazmine Oficial finished 2nd Individual Poomae (style routine) and 1st in Sparring. Joshua Oficial finished 1st in the Individual Poomae (style routine) and 2nd in Sparring. Jazmine and Joshua then combined to finish 1st in Team Poomae (synchronised routine). Exceptional results, which all three should feel extremely proud of.

In May we had the Rippa Rugby World Cup, where a year 5/6 and year 3/4 team competed. The year 3/4 team of Adam Rush, Areta Kahura, Austin Roper, Ben Haydock, Eva Jefferies, Jack Greaves, Loimata Paaka, Maddison Redshaw, Mia Lowe, and Xavier Kirk won the Shield Division finishing 5th out of 33 teams.

A huge thank you to Megan Wills, Laura Grace and Kylie Aleksich who coached our Gymnastics team to compete at the Argos Gymnastic Competition a couple of weeks ago. St Mary's achieved some outstanding results with: Leia Yang finishing 1st overall all in the Springers Artistic. Madison Smith was 3rd overall in Flyers Artistic as well as 3rd in the Flyers Trampoline. Isla Wills finished 3rd overall in Twisters and 2nd overall in Twisters Trampoline. The Twisters team of Isla Wills, Holly Van Den Borst, Renee Carey and Samara Aleksich finished 3rd overall in Trampoline. The Flyers team of Briar Grace, Keira Whitaker, Lucia Allen, and Madison Smith finished 1st overall in Trampoline, and along with Anna Hartman and Isabella Young were 1st team overall for Artistic teams.

Last week St Mary's competed at the South Cluster Cross Country Championships. Congratulations to Renee Carey (1st Year 6 Girls), Jack Williamson (1st Year 6 Boys), Holly Fausett (1st Year 5 Girls) and Eli Banbury (2nd Year 4 Boys). A huge effort and fantastic results. These students will be joined by Caden Lowe, Callum Roberson, Darcy Gilbert, Donovan Price, Eliana Hulsebosch, Emma Rogers, Lenny Gilbert, Olivia Williamson and Sophia Mason,

who have qualified to compete at the Western Bay of Plenty Cross Country Championships.

Congratulations to our football players. Callum Roberson and Jake Bell (under 11's), Jayden Hyland and Oliver Grosso (under 10's), Caden Lowe, Eli Banbury, Ryan Bell and Xavier Kirk (under 9's), who have all being selected for Waikato Bay of Plenty representative teams.

Congratulations to all our students who have achieved sporting success, so far this term.





Our People Our Place

be. thankful

oxforddictionaries.com / thankful.

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

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