



St Mary's
Catholic School
Tauranga

newsletter

ISSUE 7: 11 August 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 Flynn Gardiner, Lucy Hertnon, John Clarke, Brayden Nix, Ella Madams, Mitchell Parry, Jessica Cha, Clover Palairet, Hunter Signal, Olivia Lilly, Samantha Bint, Coen Bint, Kale Bint and Thomas Woo.

First Holy Communion

On behalf of our school community I would like to congratulate all students who received their first Holy Communion over the last two weeks. This completes your recent sacramental journey and significant step in your young lives as Catholic. I must also thank and congratulate all who prepared our candidates from when the programme began last year through until now. As a school we had many teachers involved in the preparation of students for the receipt of the three sacraments but key leadership came in the form of Mrs Donna Vincent, Mrs Elizabeth Driver and Mrs Teresa Rush.

Personalised Learning at St Mary's

Like many educators I sat eagerly waiting to watch Seven Sharp's story on Modern Learning Environments. I won't say I was disappointed in the story but it was a shame that the focus was on the physical environment as opposed to the pedagogy (way of learning) that is the feature of an effective innovative learning environment.

The key area of focus that I would encourage you as parents to continue to connect with is that change from a structured, teacher dominated, industrial model (factory) to a less formal student led or centred environment. This approach brings aspects of learning that sit alongside the traditional content based approach. A key goal for us at St Mary's is 'skilling' the students to be independent and self managing learners. For this to occur it is paramount that students understand their role and responsibilities as the learner and also the learning process. This is of course not an 'overnight' process, it requires a process of learning to learn integrated into the classroom programme.

I am sure you will agree that everything is hard before it gets easy. We therefore want our students to develop skills to cope with the 'hard'. They need to be able to persist, think flexibly, be creative, and take responsible risks. The space does have a role in enabling students to test new ideas, make mistakes and use what they know. Hence the flexible nature of our developing learning environments where students can adapt

to a setting that gives them confidence. This is why you will find many settings within the setting of an innovative learning environment ... including desks!

Community Information Evening

We are delighted to host a Community Evening with Andrew Jones (Melbourne University). Andrew will talk about what the very best learning organisations are focussing on; the skills and competencies learners will need for the future and how this fits with our focus on collaboration.

When: Monday 14 August 2017; 6:00pm

Where: Blessed Anne Marie Javouhey Centre

Come along and enjoy some light refreshments, and hear the future direction of education.

So we can gauge numbers for catering please indicate your attendance via this link to the online form <https://goo.gl/forms/6GZ2bRNZCsRCgwNh2>

Student Led Conferences

It was great to see so many parents embrace the opportunity to share in their children's learning journey through our Student Led Conferences last week. As a form of student led reporting, our student led conferences are now an integral part of our reporting to parents process as they provide authentic examples of progress in learning through the sharing of and interaction with actual examples of learning. As always, should you have anything you wish to discuss with your child's teacher in relation to the conference, examples of learning shared or current achievement information please do not hesitate to make contact with them.

New Learning Environment

Our new learning environment is now ready for final council internal inspections and sign off, however, there are a few external areas needing to be completed before it can be effectively occupied by students.

Prior to this we will be blessing the building (Kawanga Whare) in conjunction with local iwi at **6.15am on Tuesday morning (15 August)** before holding the official opening on **Friday 25 August at 9.30am. You are all welcome to attend both events.**

The liturgy on Friday 25 August will be led by Bishop Steven Lowe who will be dedicating the building to a significant member of our school community. As with an event of such a nature we welcome all current and former members of our school community.

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2017 Dates to Remember

Saturday 12 August

Sursum Corda sing at Vigil 5pm

Monday 14 August

- Liturgy - Assumption 9am
- School community invited to view our new learning environment - doors open at 5.30pm
- Community Information Evening with Andrew Jones

Tuesday 15 August

Blessing of the Kawanga Whare in conjunction with local Iwi 6.15am. All welcome!

Friday 18 August

School Mass - Assumption - Church 9.30am

Monday 21 August

Liturgy - Mary Queen of Heaven 9am

Wednesday 23 August

Speech Finals

Thursday 24 August

Room 13 Class Mass

Friday 25 August

Opening of Innovative Learning Environment 9.30am

Monday 28 August

Liturgy - St John the Baptist / Father Day 9am

Thursday 31 August

Room 11 Class Mass (change of date)

Monday 4 September

- Tongan Language Week
- Liturgy - Nativity of Mary 9am
- Music Festival at Baycourt 7pm

Thursday 7 September

- Room 13 Class Mass
- South Cluster Speech Finals

Friday 8 September

PTA Sausage Sizzle

Monday 11 September

Liturgy - Social Justice / Peace Day 9am

Thursday 14 September

Room 4 Class Mass

Monday 18 September

Liturgy - 75th School Jubilee 9am

Wednesday 20 September

- Playhouse Theatre - Puss n Boots
- Aroha Camp Meeting
All parents 5.00pm-5.30pm
Parent helpers 5.30pm-6.00pm

Thursday 21 September

Room 3 Class Mass Exposition and Benediction 2pm

Friday 22 September - 24 September

75th Jubilee / Reunion starts

Sunday 24 September

Daylight Saving starts

be.
Christ-like

be.
reflective

be.
creative

75th Jubilee Reunion of our School

You will be aware our school is celebrating its 75th Jubilee on the 22 - 24 September this year.

This is a very significant milestone in our school's history and we are marking the occasion with various activities over the weekend.

Friday 22 September

- 4.30pm Registrations
Tours of the school
- 6.00pm 'Mix and Mingle
Welcome
Kapa Haka
School Students Performance
- 6.30pm Bar Open and light nibbles will be served

Saturday 23 September 2017 - St Mary's School

On Saturday there will be various activities in the school grounds (bouncy castle for the children) with the day finishing with a jubilee dinner at the ASB Arena BayPark.

- 11.00am Roll Call
Decade photographs
Tours of the school
- 1.00pm Picnic lunch (you can supply your own lunch or use the option available on the registration form)

Saturday (Evening) 23 September 2017 - Baypark ASB Arena Stadium Lounge

- 6.30pm Drinks
- 7.00pm Dinner

Our MC for the evening is ex pupil Sam Kelway. You may know him as the popular TVNZ news reporter.



Sam was born in Tauranga and moved to Wellington before being lured by the bright lights of Auckland.

Sam's a passionate story teller, with immaculate hair, who doesn't mind

getting his suit dirty for a good story.

A TVNZ-er since 2012, he's game for anything and will stop at almost nothing in telling the stories that matter. We look forward to hearing some of Sam's stories.

Sunday 24 September

The celebrations will conclude with a Mass celebrated by Bishop Steve Lowe at St Mary Immaculate at 10.30am on the Sunday.

Full details of all activities are available on the school's website, facebook and a hard copy of the registration form is available from the school's office.

We are encouraging ALL members of our past and present community (pupils, parents and teachers) to join us in the celebrations of this weekend.

We look forward to a wonderful and memorable celebration.



St Mary's
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Tauranga

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1942-2017
Jubilee



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- The Harveys Photo Booth - a great attraction at school galas, fun days, quiz night, school dances/ socials (subject to availability)
- A Harveys Master of Ceremonies
- Our charity Auctions bring fun and a touch of theatre to your school event; we know what works, how to source items for the auction and how to coordinate a memorable experience.

• Individual agents with specialist sports knowledge/ interest could sponsor school teams and assist with branded gear.

• We pledge to donate \$1000 from each successful sale of a property referred to us via the schools parents, neighbours and supporters network.

A little about myself..... I moved to Tauranga at the beginning of 2017 with my wife Joanna and our three children who attend St Mary's School, Hannah, Jack and Lucy. We have enjoyed our first six months at St Mary's and look forward to getting to know the St Mary's School Community better.

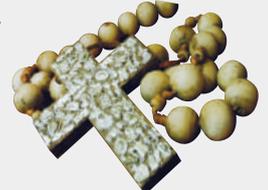
Ben Fuller
Principal

SPECIAL CHARACTER

The Assumption

New Zealand Catholic Patronal Feast - **The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

The Feast of the Assumption on 15 August celebrates the Blessed Virgin Mary's assumption into heaven body and soul. It is also the patronal feast of the Catholic people in New Zealand. It is one of two Holy Days of Obligation for New Zealand Catholics. The other is Christmas Day.



Pompallier Madonna

The depiction of the Blessed Virgin Mary is called the Pompallier Madonna and is of special significance to Catholics in Aotearoa New Zealand.



On 13 September 2004 the New Zealand bishops on their ad limina visit to Rome met with Pope John Paul II. Bishop Denis Browne... presented the Holy Father with a copy of the "Pompallier

Madonna". In his address to the Holy Father Bishop Browne said the following:

"Dear Holy Father,

We come as bishops of Aotearoa, New Zealand to visit you from that far distant land. We come to offer you our affection and love as well as our loyalty and appreciation for your dynamic leadership of the Church. ... we wish to present to you a gift of a Madonna which has become an important expression of the links between the Holy See and the Church in New Zealand. This Madonna was presented to Pius IX in the 1840s by the Benedictine Nuns of Campus Martius. In turn, this Madonna was given to Bishop Pompallier by Pope Pius IX on Pompallier's visit to Rome in April 1847. He brought the Madonna back to Aotearoa New Zealand and had copies distributed widely. This work has now become known in New Zealand as "the Pompallier Madonna".

Visit the site <http://www.catholic.org.nz/about/dsp-default.cfm?loadref=187> to read the full article and about the art mystery!!!

First Holy Communion

Congratulations to our many students who made their First Holy Communion in the last few weeks. It was a very special occasion for all the students and their families. We give thanks to the teachers who prepared the students and to those who ran practises and attended the very special occasion.

"May they always know the peace of Jesus, the light of His love and the joy of His life within them."

It was very special this week during class mass where two student were able to receive communion for their first time.

New Families Liturgy

This week during our welcome liturgy we welcomed 25 new students and their families. We were also able to officially welcome Father Danny to our school family. During the liturgy the Cluny Postulants Ana Maria and Vaviola were welcomed as well.

Cluny Sisters

This coming week the Cluny Sisters are hosting their official Chapter, where worldwide appointed Sisters gather and discuss the direction the Cluny order is going to take in the future. Please keep them in your prayers as they travel, pray and plan.

School Song - Be love, Be love, Be aroha

Last year the school commissioned Andrew Chinn to write a hymn for our school. At the New families Liturgy students sang it for the first time, we look forward to making this part of our school. It reflects our values and charism.

Bishop Steves Visit

On Friday 25 August at 9.30am we look forward to welcoming Bishop Steve to bless our new Innovative Learning Environment. Blessing buildings is an important part of our Catholic faith and is a sacramental.

"A constitutive blessing, invoked by a bishop, priest or deacon, signifies the permanent sanctification and dedication of a person or thing for some sacred purpose...dedicated solely to sacred usage." (<https://www.ewin.com/>)

Teresa Rush
DRS

CLASSROOM WRITING

Room 13, Year 1

Today we were writing independently about going to space, stretching out all our words! This is Dominic's fantastic writing and drawing:

I am going around Earth and I stopped on Earth and I put on the flag to tell people the astronauts have been here.

by Dominic Leitch



Room 16, Year 2

Inspired by the recent frosty weather Room 16 have written acrostic poems about Winter. An acrostic poem uses the first letters in a topic word to begin each line. They did an awesome job!

*Winter is really cold
In freezing winter we play
Nice cold snow
Try to get warm
Eat warm foods
Read books by the fire.*

by Matthew Rogers

*Winter is windy
I love to ski on the mountain
No going beyond the mountain
Talking frost freezing the world
Evil ice emerges
Ravaging ice takes over the world*

by Sam Lock

Wild waving winds

*Icy cold snow glistening in the sunlight
New freezing cold snow falls out from the blue sky
Time for going ice skating - cold and fun
Everyone outside playing with the shiny snow
Resting after a big freezing cold icy day*
by Lotte Jones

CONGRATULATIONS

At our Prizegiving last year, and more recently during Arts Week you may have had the privilege to hear Pilgyu Chang play the piano.

Pilgyu recently competed at the Tauranga Performing Arts Competition held at Baycourt during the school holidays.

Pilgyu won all the prizes for his age and above. He won 5 scholarships, 4 cups, 2 trophies along with four first prizes. Below is the outstanding list of accomplishment Pilgyu received.

First in Piano Scholarship own selection
First in Piano Scholarship Classical
First in Piano Scholarship Baroque
First in Piano Pop, Rock and Blues

Mrs P Macdonald Scholarship
TPACS (age 9-12years) Own Selection Scholarship
TPACS (all classes) Classical Classes Scholarship
N Guy (age 9-12years) Baroque Classes Scholarship
D Hull (age 9-18years) Pop, Rock and Blues scholarship

President Cycle Works Cup
Hull Trophy
Leica Studios Cup
Kidd Cup
Knight Trophy
Katherine Hart Cup

What a gifted pianist you are Pilgyu. Congratulations!

Pilgyu's brother, Peter also competed in the competition. Peter received 3 second places and one third place and received a young classical scholarship as well. Congratulations Peter!





Our People Our Place

be. thankful

oxforddictionaries.com / thankful.

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

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