



St Mary's
Catholic School
Tauranga

newsletter

ISSUE 2: 28 February 2014

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

Summer in the Bay of Plenty is continuing to fuel the energy that is being a part of Mary's Catholic School. I am extremely impressed with the start our students have made and compliment the support you as parents have provided your children with.

It has been great to see active programmes of learning are well under way in all classrooms and teachers focusing in on individual learning needs. The formation of our new middle syndicate, ably led by Jana Benson has provided a great scaffold for the delivery of specific learning experiences set to challenge and enrich our year 3 and 4 students; Our senior school has also started at a rapid pace lead by Shelley McKay, with Year 5 camps and Year 6 retreats making up meaningful initial experiences of 2014; and of course it is absolutely fantastic to see the start our new junior school led by Fay Warnock have made to their learning.

Principal's Speedway Challenge

As many of you will be aware Mr Fuller is making his Bay Park Speedway debut tomorrow night. I am thoroughly looking forward to the impending thrill and excitement that will no doubt result from driving a car sideways. Thank you to all who have voted for me on Sun Live and to those who are intending to make it across to see me race. Be it the term 'race' possibly a bit ambitious in my case.



Hamilton Diocese Commissioning Mass

Last Wednesday evening we joined staff from other Catholic Schools in the Bay of Plenty at the annual Commissioning Mass

this year hosted by St Mary's Rotorua. We were treated to an amazing service with a wonderful celebration of culture. Though we work in our individual schools it is important to celebrate together our vocation and responsibility as Catholic Educators.

Meet the Teacher Evening

I would like to thank all of you who attended the meet the teacher evening during week two. It was great to see so many parents active and excited about the year ahead. As you are aware the parent – teacher – student relationship is a crucial one in the learning success of your child. So thank you to those who have taken the time and initiative to establish related communication.

Notices to be returned

Thank you to the families that have returned the Kayak, Cybersafety and Permission Information forms. Unfortunately we still have some outstanding notices. Teachers will be re-issuing forms to those children whose returns are outstanding next week.

Website Development

Thank you to all who have responded to our survey regarding the development of our web site. As a primary communication tool for our school community we need to continually develop and improve its potential. Your thoughts and suggestions will be invaluable as we progress towards the realisation of this.

We have had a great start to the year but with much potential yet to be realised during 2014. I am looking forward to sharing in it with you, your children, our teachers and wider teaching community.

Nga mihi nui,

Ben Fuller

13th Avenue, Tauranga, New Zealand

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www.stmarystga.school.nz

Dates to Remember

Monday 3 March

Sacramental Programme starts 3.30pm

Tuesday 4 March

Year 3 & 4 Kim Westerskov Photographer

Tuesday 4 March

Pause Prompt Praise meeting 9am

Friday 7 March

Year 3 & 4 Costal Marine Field Open Day

Wednesday 5 March

Ash Wednesday

Sunday 9 March

School / Parish Mass

Monday 10 March

Year 3 & 4 Read Leap Theatre Auckland

Thursday 13 March

Room 13 Class Mass

Friday 14 March

St Mary's Swimming

Sunday 16 March

Top Schools

Thursday 20 March

School Mass 9.30am St Mary Immaculate

Friday 21 March

PTA Adventure Day

Friday 21 March

PTA Sausage Sizzle

Tuesday 25 March

South Cluster Swimming

Tuesday 25 March

Parent Teacher Interviews

Tuesday 25 March

Board of Trustee Meeting

Wednesday 26 March

Parent Teacher Interviews

Thursday 27 March

Year 5 and 6 Reconciliation

Wednesday 2 April

Future Champions

Thursday 3 April

Room 14 Class Mass

Thursday 3 April

Exposition / Benediction

Thursday 10 April

Room 11 Class Mass

Friday 11 April

WBoP Swimming

Friday 11 April

Hip Hop / Jump Jam performance 1.30pm

Sunday 13 April

Palm Sunday

Monday 14 April

Holy Week Liturgies start

Thursday 17 April

Term 1 ends

Friday 18 April

Good Friday

Monday 5 May

Term 2 starts

be.
Christ-like

be.
reflective

be.
creative

Special Character

Thank you to those parents and family members who were able to attend our New Families Liturgy last week. St Mary's places great emphasis on family relationships and we look forward to getting to know the new members of our St Mary's family.

In our Religious Education lessons during these first weeks of the term students are learning about the charism of our school which was given to us by the Cluny sisters through their foundress Blessed Anne Marie Javouhey, and her passion for teaching children and assisting them to achieve their personal best. She certainly was the most remarkable woman of her day. We do pray that she will soon be canonized as a Saint by Pope Francis.

Yesterday and today Room 6 and 7 have each spent a day on retreat out at St Joseph's Centre and Church at Te Puna. They have been discussing and exploring ways how they can make and be the difference during this their final year at St Mary's.

This coming Wednesday 5th March is ASH WEDNESDAY and marks the beginning of Lent. We will be having a special full school liturgy at 9.30am with the distribution of ashes to which you are all warmly invited to.

The Parish's Sacramental Programme begins again this Monday 3rd March at 3.30pm in the Blessed Anne Marie Javouhey Centre with lessons learning about the Eucharist.

Please keep checking dates on our school website so you know when our Liturgies and Masses are - all of which you are very welcome to join us for.

With kind regards and God Bless

Sally Washer

DRS

School News

Messages

If you would like a message passed on to your child before the end of the day please make sure you ring the school office before 2.30pm. Do not email messages as they may not be opened before school finishes and your message may not be passed on.

Pause Prompt Praise

Pause Prompt Praise is a programme that supports readers from Year 3-6. Each student has a tutor that spends about 20 minutes with them up to three times a week. The tutor is trained and works independently with the student. This Programme is very rewarding for the Tutor and the Student. Several of our tutors are unavailable to continue tutoring. We need to train more tutors to maintain this Programme. If you would like to be trained or observe a tutor working with a student please contact Katy Wealleans.

Pause Prompt Praise Meeting for all tutors will be held on Thursday 4 March at 9.00 a.m. in the Staffroom.

Absentees

Should your child be absent from school for any reason please text. To inform us of an absence simply text your child's name, room number and reason for absence to 0212969437. This should be done before 9am.

Pita Pit

Pita Pit lunch orders have commenced again this year. Orders cost from \$4.00 (pita and fillings) to \$6.50 (pita with filling, apples slices and either a juice or water). Orders are to be dropped in to the school office before 9.00am. Order / envelopes are available from the school office.





Other News

Aquinas Enrolments and Open Day

On Wednesday 14 May from 1-2pm the Aquinas Leadership Team will meet with Year 6 students and thier families regarding enrolments at Aquinas College in 2015. Enrolments packs will be made available for each student to take home.

Open Day - Wednesday 21 May, two sessions: 9-11 am and 1-3pm.

Closing date for enrolment applications - Friday 4 July.

School Tour for those who miss the Open Day - Wednesday 9 July (in the holidays) 10-11am.

Slingshot 'Better Schools' Programme

Slingshot is New Zealand's largest 100% kiwi owned phone and internet company. They focus on keeping things simple, and providing better service and better value than the big guys.

We are now part of this wonderful programme whereby Slingshot customers can choose to have a percentage of their monthly bill donated to the school. Each month, Slingshot will send us a cheque to use as we see fit. How big that cheque is depends on you! If you'd like this easy and pain free way to contribute please go to <http://www.slingshot.co.nz/about/better-schools/> or call 0800 89 2000 and speak to one of their friendly customer helpers.

Work Wanted

Preferably night shift. Please ring Caroline Funaki 021 2943471.

Little Church

HEY KIDS - if you are aged 3-8 we would love you to join us at Little Church.

Every Sunday, during term time, at 10am Mass. Come and learn about God's love for YOU and have some fun with other cool, Catholic kids!

PS. Mum and Dad are welcome too.

Little Sacred Hearts Atrium News

We'd like to tell you about an exciting New Montessori preschool experience for the Catholic community.

Little Sacred Hearts Atrium is now open at Little Sweethearts Montessori, Historic Village. A treasured addition to our Montessori programme, the Little Sacred Hearts Atrium combines Montessori principles and Catholic values through the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd programme. Beautiful religious materials support children and their knowledge of the Catholic faith and is open for children to use throughout the week, alongside all other areas of the Montessori curriculum. We are opening our Historic Village Beginners Nest, Preschool and Atrium to the public this Sunday 2nd March, as part of the Children's Day celebrations being held on site.

Please contact rhonda@littlesweethearts.co.nz for further programme information.

Sports News

Weetbix Triathlon

A perfect day was had by all at the Weetbix Triathlon. Over 20 students from St Mary's competed in this event.

The new PTA tent worked great and was very easy to put up - thank you PTA. The St Mary's banner stood out and provided extra shade.

Mark Richards

Junior Tough Guy & Girl Challenge

Entries are now open for the Envirowaste Junior Tough Guy and Gal Challenge!!!

It's time to let the kids run around and get covered head to toe in mud and push them outside of their comfort zones. This is a chance for primary and intermediate aged kids to get involved in New Zealand's biggest mud run series! We believe it is time kids get to experience the Tough Guy and Gal Challenge in a version tailored especially for children with the same amazing perks as the original adult Tough Guy and Gal, such a outstanding goodie bags, mud mud and more mud, unique course, incredible venues, hot showers, spot prizes and merit prizes.

All profits from the Junior Tough Guy and Gal Challenge will go towards Cure Kids, raising funds for research into life-threatening illnesses and conditions that affect Kiwi kids. Kids will also have the opportunity to fundraise for Cure Kids themselves!

For more information go to

<http://www.eventpromotions.co.nz/Assets/Event+Promotions+Digital+Assets/TGG+Entry+Form+2014.pdf?method=1>





The St Mary's PTA 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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Matt Dunn 07 578 9417



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