



St Mary's  
Catholic School  
Tauranga

## newsletter

ISSUE 3: 20 March 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

### Achievement Interviews

A reminder that on the reporting horizon are our Achievement Interviews, to be held next week on Tuesday 25 and Wednesday 26 March. The purpose of these interviews is to provide parents with an understanding of initial and potential student achievement during the coming year.

You will have received a notice home earlier this week with more information about the interview, including the procedure for booking times with your child's teacher. If you are unable to attend for any reason please make contact with your child's teacher as the time together will establish key understanding of how parent and teacher work best together for the benefit of the child.

Achievement Interviews will be:

- An opportunity to share current achievement information and observations
- A dialogue about potential areas of achievement
- 10 minutes long (max.)
- Between the parent and the teacher

**Tuesday 25 March 1.30pm - 6.00pm**

**Wednesday 26 March 3.30pm - 6.30pm**

Times can be booked online by following this link.

<http://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz>

Event code: **CCQJJ**

### Website Development

My thanks to all who provided feedback to our survey regarding the current re-development of our web site. Your feedback and suggestions will now help shape the look, purpose and functionality of the new site that we hope to launch early next term.

### Traffic Behaviour

A reminder to all parents who either drop off or pick up children before and after school, it is imperative that we all respect our neighbourhood and those within in it and are always aware of child safety.

It is not acceptable for children to be crossing the road un-attended to meet waiting parents. This is particularly an issue on 13th Avenue.

Please ensure if you are collecting children after school from 13th Avenue you take time and care to park your car appropriately then walk to meet and collect your child from our school grounds.

### PTA Fun Day

What a fantastic day of joy and celebration for our school community this event was.

Many thanks to Tracey Nirmalaraj and Donna Schrama from the PTA and all involved in the organisation of such a great event.

Nga mihi nui,  
**Ben Fuller**



Thank you to the children, parents and staff who supported me at BayPark for the Principal's Speedway Challenge.



13th Avenue, Tauranga, New Zealand

**E** [office@stmarystga.school.nz](mailto:office@stmarystga.school.nz)

**T** 07 578 8066

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## Dates to Remember

Friday 21 March

**PTA Sausage Sizzle**

Tuesday 25 March

**South Cluster Swimming**

Tuesday 25 March

**Parent Teacher Interviews 1.30pm - 6.00pm**

Tuesday 25 March

**Board of Trustee Meeting**

Wednesday 26 March

**Parent Teacher Interviews 3.30pm - 6.30pm**

Thursday 27 March

**Year 5 and 6 Reconciliation**

**Good Friday**

Wednesday 12 April

**Future Champions**

Tuesday 1 April

**Junior School Parent Meeting 2.15pm**

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

**RSA Poppy Day - gold coin donation**

Friday 18 April

**Good Friday**

Monday 5 May

**Term 2 starts**

**be.**  
Christ-like

**be.**  
reflective

**be.**  
creative



### Special Character

We are delighted to welcome and to have Sister Teresa Vasenai join us.

Sister Teresa is a Cluny Sister from Fiji. She was born in Fiji and has lived all her life there. She is

the eldest of three children. Sister has been with the Cluny Sisters for the past six years and at the end of last year completed her training as a fully qualified teacher at the Corpus Christi Training College in Suva.

It means a very great deal to all of us here at St Mary's School to have a Cluny Sister in our midst. We feel hugely privileged to have Sister's presence with us.

All our students have been learning about the charism of our school which as you are aware has been gifted to us through the Cluny Sisters and their foundress Blessed Anne Marie Javouhey.

Sister will be working full time at school beginning in the year 3 and 4 classes.

We officially welcomed Sister at our Liturgy last Monday. Mr Antoine Coffin our school's Kaumatua came and welcomed her on behalf of the local iwi.

We ask for God's blessing upon Sister and pray that she will enjoy her time with us here at St Mary's and be very happy here in Tauranga.

With kind regards and God Bless

**Sally Washer**

**DRS**

### School News

#### Putting the Heartbeat into the Numbers

Why Parents matter as much as schools?

Research tells us that if parents are actively and consistently engaged in your child's learning, you can add the equivalent of two to three years of education over the course of a child's school career. As your child's first teacher, you can encourage the

innate passion to learn. We know education is a three way partnership between our students, our parents and our school, St Mary's.

A great place to actively engage with your child's learning in Mathematics is the website:

<http://nzmaths.co.nz/families>

Here you can find resources, videos, and activities under the FAMILIES section to help raise awareness and share mathematics using every day experiences and resources found in your home. It includes ideas of supporting your children's learning in all areas of mathematics: geometry, measurement, statistics, algebra and number.

Enjoy learning together

**Janet McCarroll**

#### Aongatete Camp

A piece of writing by William Vagg

Room 9 Year 5

Chapter One - The Rush Along the Water

I am on a rock cliff, the damp air blowing my face, my feet feeling the cold rock, the waves jump over the water like a game of leap-frog. The wind speaks and says,

"You can't do it!"

I think to myself, "Maybe I can't", but I suddenly hear a group of voices.

"You can, you can", call my friends.

I say to my-self, "Don't think, just do", and my fears flow away like the river below me.

I launch off the rocks and down I fall for a moment of time. I felt like a dove flapping its wings and when I hit the water it was a moment of glory like I had just won a medal at the Olympics! The kids cheered as I got out, the calm and peaceful air touched me in a flash. I laughed and realised my fears had gone.

"Talk about a rush along the water", I said!





## Other News

### Congratulations Shelley McKay

The 6th Vibram Tarawera Ultramarathon on 15 March 2014 is an endurance event, a 100km-long scenic buffet. The Vibram Tarawera Ultra is a 100, 85 or 60km trail ultra distance run from Rotorua to Kawerau.

Some of you may not know that our very own Shelley McKay ran the 60km trail in this event and finished 14th woman overall in a time of 7 hours 50mins... an amazing feat considering she battled against tropical storm Lusi.

### Aquinas Enrolments and Open Day

On Wednesday 14 May from 1-2pm the Aquinas Leadership Team will meet with Year 6 students and their 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.

### Entertainment Books

Thank you to the families who have already ordered an Entertainment book online or from the school office. These books are packed with hundreds of up to 50% off and 2-for-1 offers for the best local restaurants, cafés, attractions, hotel accommodation, travel and much more!

Available as a traditional Entertainment™ Book OR the new Entertainment™ Digital Membership for your Apple or Android device, your Membership gives you over \$20,000 worth of valuable offers valid through to 1 June 2015!

Order your new 2014 | 2015 Waikato and Bay of Plenty Entertainment™ Membership from St Mary's Catholic School and 20% (\$12.00) of your Membership purchase goes towards St Mary's School! Order either the digital or book Membership type before March 31, and you'll receive over \$245 worth of Bonus Offers which you can use straight away!

[www.entertainmentbook.co.nz/orderbooks/1555v59](http://www.entertainmentbook.co.nz/orderbooks/1555v59)

## Sports News

### Catholic Interschool Swim Meet

Recently a small team of eight swimmers went over the hill to Matamata to compete in the Waikato Region Catholic Schools' swimming sports. Jacob Browne was the standout swimmer - earning himself the top overall 10 year old boy award - however most of our team achieved a placing in their races, and between all of them they managed to scoop 2nd= overall for school points.

The team was Jacob Browne, Dominic Piceno, Bella Broadmore, Lucy Dekker, Sean Curragh, Jackson Roper, Millie Quin and Jessica Carey.

We were very lucky that Janine Browne and Jodi Carey were able to accompany the team - thanks supermums!

Well done to you all.

### St Mary's Swimming Sports

Last Friday, 14th March, our fabulous senior students headed down to Memorial Pool with the sun on their backs and excitement oozing from their pores to compete in the annual swimming sports. After settling into the grandstand adorned in house colours, the lifeguards chose Cluny as the house with the winning chant, along with some bonus points for Pompallier for being dressed in the same colour as the lifeguards!!

Our team of incredible parents encouraged swimmers, clicked stopwatches, judged races, and wrote down race times. Mrs Schrama, Mr Quin, Mr Jones and Mrs Low even swam in the relay. Mrs Johnson and Mrs Hubbard won the dancing timekeepers competition!!

An enormous thank you to our team of wonderful supporters - you certainly helped make this a day to remember.

After all of the races were complete, the following students have accumulated enough points to be awarded our swimming champion titles;



#### Year 6 Girls

1st	Bella Broadmore	81 points
2nd	Lucy Dekker	69 points
3rd	Atawhai Lynch	19 points

#### Year 6 Boys

1st	Jacob Browne	90 points
2nd	Dominic Piceno	57 points
3rd	Thomas Wilkinson	15 points

#### Year 5 Girls

1st	Millie Quin	74 points
2nd	Jessica Carey	72 points
3rd	Jasmine Watene	23 points

#### Year 5 Boys

1st	Corbin Mackay	74 points
2nd	Sean Curragh	48 points
3rd	Jackson Roper	45 points

The above swimmers plus Bella Jones, Elan Kamo Watson, Tia Powell, Brayden Dew, Toby Taylor, Troy Schneebeil, Grace Summerville, Lily Richards, Paige McKay, India Mahy, Connor Delaney, and Jacob Ormrod will represent St. Mary's at the South Cluster Swimming Sports at Greerton on Tuesday 25th March. Good luck to our team!

#### Kellie Low

### Top Schools

On Sunday March 16, twelve St Mary's students competed against 24 other Western Bay of Plenty schools. They finished 10th overall in events that included 'the magic carpet', 'horizontal bungy', 'the amazing leaky bucket' and 'thread the needle'. It was a great lesson in communication, cooperation and participation.

Ka pai kids!

**Mr Piceno**





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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If you would like to support St Mary's through a **Gold Group Sponsorship** then please phone the school office on **578 8066** or email **office@stmarystga.school.nz**