



St Mary's
Catholic School
Tauranga

newsletter

ISSUE 4: 3 April 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 Whanau

As we progress towards the end of term two we look forward to the celebration of Holy Week as preparation for Easter. Sally Washer our Director of Religious Studies has prepared with the support of her Religious Education team an extremely reverent and meaningful focus for each day. You are very welcome to join us for these Liturgies.

Achievement Interviews

My thanks to you all for the commitment shown to our Achievement Interviews last week. I have received great feedback from both parents and staff in regard to the value of the interview as a means of communicating key aspects of achievement specific to each child. This is but one opportunity for dialogue in relation to student learning and so again encourage all parents to communicate regularly with teachers in regard to their child's progress and achievement.

Uniform Update

As you are all aware we are currently in the process of determining the design and composition of a new multi season uniform for the students of St Mary's. Presently we are working towards having the proposed complete uniform available for parents to view early in Term 2 with future supply dates established later in the term.

In the mean time, as we progress into Term 2, I would like to reassure parents that any item purchased this year, be it second hand or new, will be able to be worn for a minimum of two years. The change over time period is yet to be determined and will be established in consultation with parents.

Indications from our present suppliers are that they still have winter uniform items available. However, if this changes or issues arise in relation to supply and availability we will accept the wearing of alternative St Mary's uniform items should it be required.

We will of course keep parents up to date with information in regard to time frames for future supply and possible transition scenarios.

BYOD (Bring your own device) at St Mary's

As a managed move towards a BYOD strategy we will be allowing Year 5 and 6 students to

bring their own Google Chromebook for use at school from the beginning of Term 2. Should any student wish to take up this option, the specific device required is a Samsung X303 11.6" Google Chromebook. At time of writing I am in communication with Noel Leeming as our preferred supplier to provide a promotional deal similar to that which we receive as a school and hope to have more details of this including a purchase procedure before the end of this term.

The next step in the management of BYOD at St Mary's will be to allow additional year levels to bring iPad's to school. The time frame for this will be determined post the completion of current network upgrade work.

TECT Grant Success

It is with great joy and celebration that I announce that we have been successful in gaining funding from Tauranga Energy Consumer Trust to further grow electronic devices throughout our school. Specifically we will be increasing the number of iPads and Google Chrome Books currently in use across our school, updating classroom computers and purchasing 6 interactive LCD display screens for our junior school.

Katy Wealleans Retirement

It is our pleasure to congratulate Katy Wealleans as she looks forward to her retirement. Katy has been Assistant Principal at St Mary's for 28 years and has given amazing service and support to our school and it's community over this time.

We wish to honour Katy and recognise her significant contribution to St Mary's by having a Liturgy on Wednesday 16 April at 2.00pm in the Blessed Anne Marie Javouhey Centre.

You are all warmly invited to attend this and join Katy for afternoon tea following the Liturgy. To assist with catering could you please email or call the school office if you are able to attend.

We wish Katy all the best for a very enjoyable retirement with her husband Ken.

Nga mihi nui,
Ben Fuller

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Dates to Remember

Monday 7 April

Netball Trials Year 4-6

Tuesday 8 April

PTA AGM & Meeting 7pm

Wednesday 9 April

Hockey Trials Year 3-6

Thursday 10 April

Room 13 Class Mass

Friday 10 April

Sports Returns are due back

Friday 10 April

WBoP Swimming

Friday 10 April

Hip Hop / Jump Jam performance 1.30pm

Sunday 13 April

Palm Sunday

St Mary's Parish Community Garden Gala

Monday 14 April

Holy Week Liturgies start

Wednesday 16 April

Farewell Liturgy for Katy Wealleans 2.00pm

Thursday 17 April

RSA Poppy Day - gold coin donation

Thursday 17 April

Term 1 ends at 2.55pm

Friday 18 April

Good Friday

Monday 5 May

Term 2 starts

Thursday 8 May

Class Mass Room 9

Tuesday 13 May

PTA Meeting 7.00pm

Wednesday 14 May

Aquinas Leaders visit Year 6 students

Thursday 15 May

Class Mass Room 10

Thursday 15 May

WBoP Amazing Race

Sunday 18 May

First Holy Communion & Confirmation

St Mary Immaculate 10.00am

Monday 19 May

Welcome to new children & new families

Liturgy 10.00am (BAMJC)

Wednesday 21 May

Aquinas Open Day 9-11am or 1-3pm

Thursday 22 May

Class Mass Room 8

Tuesday 27 May

Board of Trustee Meeting 6.30pm

Wednesday 28 May

WBoP Rippa Rugby

Friday 30 May

PTA A-Thon

Monday 2 June

Queen's Birthday

Tuesday 2 June

Young Einsteins South Cluster

be.
Christ-like

be.
reflective

be.
creative

Special Character

We are fast approaching the end of Lent and are looking forward to our special Liturgies during Holy Week to commemorate the death and passion of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The liturgy times are as follows:

Monday 14th April 10.00am

Liturgy to recall Palm Sunday

Tuesday 15th April 9.00am

Liturgy to recall The Last Supper

Wednesday 16th April 9.00am

Liturgy to recall Good Friday

Thursday 17th April 9.30am

Stations of the Cross in the school grounds

Thursday 17th April 7.30pm

Mass of the Last Supper St Mary's Immaculate Church - Sursum Corda will be singing

You are invited and very welcome to attend any or all of these Liturgies. For your information we also include timetable of the Parish's Easter ceremonies which we encourage you to participate in with your children if you are here in Tauranga for Easter.

Palm Sunday

The 10am Mass on Sunday 13th April (Palm Sunday) is to be held in the Blessed Anne Marie Javouhey Centre. This is a Parish Mass which we as a school are supporting. Following the Mass there is to be a Gala held in the school grounds. The proceeds of this Gala are to go to the costs of refurbishing and establishing a Retreat Centre in the Cluny Convent. We encourage you to join the staff and other parishioners to support this wonderful initiative of our Cluny Sisters and to raise money for this very worthwhile project.

With kind regards and God Bless

Sally Washer

DRS

School News

A Vision Alive and Ever Evolving

Students have been making their thinking visible in classes this term, when exploring their understanding of what it means to 'be' Christ-Like. Each term we focus on one of the core dispositions of Christ-Like, Reflective, Creative and 'be' the difference, which

form our School 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.'

It is appropriate that we focus on growing our understanding of what it means to 'be' Christ-Like in Term One, as we establish expectations, classroom, playground and school behaviours. Students are spotted living these behaviours and recognised at Principal's assembly for being 'Christ-Like'. Reflective learning dispositions are the focus for Term Two, when students are explicitly taught to 'be' reflective, with opportunities to reflect on their learning as an essential Assessment Capable strategy at all levels of the school.

Janet McCarroll

Rat Island Adventure

"Yippee!" We were going to Rat Island.

It was ten o'clock on Thursday the 27th of February 2014 and the year three and four children, parent helpers and Mrs Broadmore sludged their way through the thick slimy mud to Rat Island. We were off to Rat Island to explore the estuary habitat, the plants and creatures. We got into our p.e uniforms, put on our hats, had a snack, put on some sunblock and went to the toilet.

We walked to the estuary in our groups and met Mr Morris. He showed us a different type of grass that was thick and round at the top.

Next we started looking under rocks for crabs. I found a big green crab, a big brown crab and two little brown crabs. When we got to Rat Island all the kids ran ahead while the parents stayed behind and talked. The other kids and I tried to get up to the huts. I was the first one up. When a few people got up we started walking towards a red thing in the trees. When we got closer to it we realised it was just a blanket. We wanted to go closer but Jake wouldn't let us go any closer. A parent came over and told us to get down.

After this we started looking at the little cliffs around the Island. The cliffs were covered in crumbly yellow dirt that fell off if you touched it. Next we went to the storm water drains. Mr





Morris said that the storm water drains were broken and need to be fixed. It was then time to go home. We had one last group photo before heading back to class.

I couldn't wait to have morning tea, I was starving! I thought that the adventure at Rat Island was great. I loved finding crabs and going in the huts.

Myscha Barry
Year 4 Room 12



Entertainment Books

The 2014/15 Entertainment books are now available to view and buy from the school office.

School Trade & Services Directory

To all our St Mary's families who own or work for businesses, big or small. Would you like to advertise in our school trade and services directory?

We are preparing an A5 size colour booklet of businesses and services that would like to be listed in our directory. It is a great way to expose your business or service to our school community.

For a small cost of \$20 per year, your business can be listed in the directory. Once the directory is completed a colour copy will be sent home to every family in our school community.

If you would like to be listed in the directory please attach \$20 to your business card and drop it in to the school office before Thursday 17 April. Your business card will be colour copied for the directory. If you do not have a business card then you are welcome to email a description of your business and your contact details will be listed. A receipt will be sent home with your child. If you have any questions please phone the school office.

Sports News

Successful South Cluster Swimming Champs

Well done to our team of 24 swimmers who represented St Mary's School last week.

The 10 swimmers who qualified for the WBoP Champs, to be held next Friday 11th April, are;

Jacob Browne (10 events), Millie Quin (9), Dominic Piceno (8), Jessica Carey (5), Bella Broadmore (4), Lucy Dekker (4), Toby Taylor (1), Thomas Wilkinson (1), Troy Schneebeli (1) and Paige McKay (1). Good luck to all of our team next week.

Sports Returns out next week

This coming Monday all students will be issued with a sports notice. This will be a chance for children to nominate sports and other activities they wish to participate in over the winter.

Please discuss with your child over the weekend about their choices – Netball, Miniball, Hockey, Gymnastics, Hip Hop and Jump Jam. Rugby and Football are not offered through St Mary's School, as these are run through local clubs.

Forms will be due in by Friday 10 April.

Hockey trials next Wednesday 9 April

Any child wishing to trial for a St Mary's School hockey team (Year 3-6) should be available from 3.00-4.30pm next Wednesday 9th April. Children who currently have no hockey equipment should still attend. This would be the perfect time to return your sports registration form.

Netball trials on Monday 7 April

Year 4 students will have their first trial at lunchtime, and year 5/6 will be after school this coming Monday 7 April. Please bring PE gear and appropriate footwear. What a fantastic day enjoyed by children, parents, teachers and extended friends and family. Spirit invaded our fields and we cheered each other on and helped one another out.

Parish News

Baking for Parish Garden Gala

Donations of baking for the Parish Garden Gala on Sunday, 13 April can be delivered to the St Mary's Church supper room on Saturday 4.30 - 5.30pm (prior to 5.30pm Mass) or Sunday morning from 7.30am (prior to the 8am Mass). An alternative drop off point is St Mary's School from 9.00am on Sunday morning. If you require baking collection please contact Clare on 543 9414.





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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a **Gold Group Sponsorship** then please
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