



St Mary's  
Catholic School  
Tauranga

## newsletter

ISSUE 5: 16 May 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

Welcome to Term 2. This term is one of short duration (only 9 weeks) but one traditionally full of learning. It is a time of the year where clear learning goals are established and student, teacher and parent work hard to make the progress necessary to achieve these. This can be measured by progression through reading levels, growing mastery of concepts within math stages and developing skills and abilities within curriculum writing levels.

At the conclusion of this term all year 4-6 students will receive an interim report against national standards. In addition to this all students from years 1-6 will present a learning story in writing as a form of reporting writing achievement. However, I urge all parents to actively seek information in regard to their child's progress as reporting times are only a periodic indication of achievement.

Winter terms are great terms for kids. Though the mornings get cold, the nights get darker, fields get wet and we may need to spend more time indoors, many opportunities present themselves. Opportunities to be involved in winter team sports, cross country training, time at home with the family and of course the opportunity to focus on inside pursuits. Top of the list for our young people should be reading. This can of course be done individually and with parents. Parents please do not underestimate the value of reading to your children.

This Sunday as a community we come together to celebrate with those children from within our school and within our Parish who are receiving the sacrament of Holy Communion for the first time and also undertaking the sacrament of confirmation. We both congratulate you and your families as you conclude your most recent sacramental journey. As a school and a community we look forward to continuing to support your faith development.

### Uniform

On display in our school foyer are samples of our new uniform. Please take time to come and view the items which will be available for purchase from NZ Uniforms from the beginning of Term 3. The uniform items on display are samples with actual items being produced to a consistent colour pallet.

Please note the dress on display is the design only and will be manufactured in the green and white tartan also on display.

This is a multi-season uniform that will be worn all year round. However, as we progress into

summer and winter seasons additional items will be introduced such as the fleece or soft shell jacket. The foot wear for both girls and boys will remain the same, brown roman sandals in summer and black leather shoes in winter as has been the case with our previous winter and summer uniforms.

Items associated with our previous uniform have become hard to source such as the girls coloured tights, however, should there be a need communicated then we will look to source an appropriate item.

As a community I am sure you will be impressed with the items and the service to be provided by NZ Uniforms. The presentation of our students in this new uniform will certainly present our greatest asset (the students) as a true reflection of our valued brand.

### Bus Changes 2015

From next year (2015), the Ministry of Education is withdrawing funding for 'out of policy' school transport in Tauranga. This is due to a Ministry of Education policy which sets out who is eligible for school transport funding.

One reason for the change is the improvements made to the public transport network in Tauranga since 2001, which is provided by Bay of Plenty Regional Council. Because the 'out of policy' students now have access to suitable public transport, the Ministry will no longer fund ineligible students' school travel, so Bay of Plenty Regional Council is now planning and will soon be consulting on replacement services which it will provide.

Replacement services will include school buses which will be called Schoolhopper services. Between now and the start of next year's school year, the Regional Council will work with schools and the wider community, including affected students and parents, to develop transport solutions together.

We have emailed all parents a comprehensive communication from Environment Bay of Plenty, in addition to having posted the same communication on our website.

In closing I would like to thank all those currently supporting our school in so many ways. Your continued commitment to our young people is what makes St Mary's such a great place to be for students, staff and parents.

Nga Mihi Nui

**Ben Fuller**

**Principal**

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## Dates to Remember

Sunday 18 May
<b>First Holy Communion 10am</b>
Monday 19 May
<b>Welcome to new children &amp; new families Liturgy 10am</b>
Tuesday 20 May
<b>Whanau Meeting 5.15-6.15pm Staffroom</b>
Wednesday 21 May
<b>Aquinas Open Day 9-11am and 1-3pm</b>
Thursday 22 May
<b>Class Mass Room 8</b>
Tuesday 27 May
<b>Board of Trustee Meeting 6.30pm</b>
Wednesday 28 May
<b>WBoP Ripa Rugby</b>
Thursday 29 May
<b>Class Mass Room 5</b>
Friday 30 May
<b>PTA Spell-a-thon</b>
Monday 2 June
<b>Queen's Birthday</b>
Tuesday 3 June
<b>Entertainment payment or books due back to the school office</b>
Tuesday 3 June
<b>Young Einsteins South Cluster</b>
Wednesday 4 June
<b>St Mary's Cross Country</b>
Thursday 5 June
<b>Whole School Mass 9.30am (Church)</b>
Sunday 8 June
<b>School /Parish Mass</b>
Tuesday 10 June
<b>South Cluster Cross Country</b>
Tuesday 10 June
<b>PTA Meeting 7pm</b>
Thursday 12 June
<b>Class Mass Room 4</b>
Friday 13 June
<b>WBoP Gymnastics Year 5 &amp; 6</b>
Tuesday 17 June
<b>Bop Squash</b>
Tuesday 17 June
<b>WBoP Gymnastics Year 3 &amp; 4</b>
Wednesday 18 June
<b>WBoP Young Einsteins</b>
Thursday 19 June
<b>Class Mass Room 3</b>
Friday 20 June
<b>PTA Disco</b>
Monday 23 June
<b>Teacher Only Day</b>
Tuesday 24 June
<b>Board of Trustee Meeting 6.30pm</b>
Wednesday 25 June
<b>WBoP Cross Country</b>
Thursday 26 June
<b>Class Mass Room 2</b>
Saturday 28 June
<b>PTA Quiz Night</b>

**be.**  
Christ-like

**be.**  
reflective

**be.**  
creative

## Special Character

"Alleluia Christ is Risen He is risen indeed"

This is the wonderful Good News we hear at Easter and it is this message that we are called to proclaim. Our liturgies and class Masses have certainly focused on this Easter message since our return to school after our holidays.

What Good News and what a joyful occasion it will be this Sunday when 81 students, mostly from our school will be receiving the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist for the first time. It is our hope and prayer that this first Holy Communion will be the beginning of a lifelong commitment in receiving and meeting Jesus in the Eucharist.

The Sacramental Programme has been taught by the teachers of our school and we thank them very sincerely for their generosity, time, commitment and support of the programme. It is a wonderful example of the very strong and close relationship that we have with Monsignor Frank and our Parish.

### Welcome to new children and new families Liturgy

A reminder that this next Monday 19th May is our new families liturgy where we welcome all the students and their families who have joined us this term. All parents are very welcome to join us for this liturgy at 10am in the Blessed Anne Marie Javouhey Centre. There will be morning tea following the Liturgy.

### Whole School Mass Thursday 5 June 9.30am

We will be celebrating the feast of Pentecost as a school at this Mass. Room 7 will be re-enacting the story of the first Pentecost and we encourage as many parents as possible to join us for this Mass.

With kind regards and God Bless

**Sally Washer**

**DRS**

## School News

### Supporting Your Child's Learning in Maths

As parents, you can play a critical role in developing mathematically successful children. Developing positive attitudes towards mathematics, stems from attitudes and beliefs developed initially in the home. Long term success in maths is determined by many influences, not solely effective teaching, curriculum, mathematical prowess in the parents or in the child. We can help our students with their learning in maths when faced with challenge by encouraging them to work with the unknown and win the struggle. This is particularly important when students face challenge with mathematical problems.

It's important to accept struggle in maths, just as we do in music and sport, as this is how we learn. Whether it is practicing the piano or tennis for hours, our response is usually pride, and a 'Well done!' How often do we praise our children when they struggle in maths? Encourage them to win the struggle.

To be successful in problem solving, every maths learner needs a very solid foundation in basic facts knowledge. This is where you can help.

At every level of the school, students need to master their basic facts/times tables. Please check with your child and/or your child's teacher, what mathematical knowledge they require at the Numeracy Stage they are currently working at.

The New Zealand Maths site: <http://nzmaths.co.nz/families> offers lots of ideas for families to support their child's learning in maths, including Number Knowledge Activities. There are plenty of rich and challenging activities to be found on this site, including Problem solving. The problem solving activities are grouped by strand and age level. They are designed for able students to attempt by themselves. Solutions and extensions are provided.

Have fun with your child, as together you explore the games and activities designed to reinforce and consolidate their mathematical understanding.

**Janet McCarroll**

**Deputy Principal**

### Entertainment Books

Today your child will bring home a copy of the Entertainment Book. Browse through and you will see hundreds of up to 50% off and 2-for-1 offers from your favourite businesses. The cost of the Entertainment book is \$60 and for every book purchased St Mary's School will receive \$12.00. To purchase the book please follow the instructions on the flyer included in the envelope. Payment is due by Tuesday 3 June.

If you do not wish to purchase the Entertainment book, please return it to the school office as soon as possible, but no later than Tuesday 3 June in the envelope provided - clearly marked with your child's name and class.

**Please be assured that you are under no obligation to purchase this book.**

### Aquinas College Open Day

Year 6 students and parents are invited to attend our Open Day on Wednesday 21st May 2014.

Two sessions will operate: 9.00am or 1.00pm

See the College in action; take a guided tour; speak with students and staff.

Year 6 students were given an enrolment pack when senior staff members from Aquinas College visited the school on Wednesday 14 May. The completed enrolment form and supporting documentation, as outlined on the back page, needs to be submitted to the college before the end of this term. The college's maximum roll number has been met for the past four years which has resulted with the need for a selection process to operate. Indications are that 2015 enrolment numbers will again be high, due in part to the larger cohort of Year 6 students at both St Mary's and St Thomas More schools. Preference



students from our two Catholic feeder schools, as well as Preference students from the other Catholic primary schools in our area will be significant. We also receive a good number of applications from Preference students attending state school.

A number of factors are taken into consideration during the selection process including involvement with your parish and school; leadership, sporting/ cultural involvement of the student; academic progress.

Please do not hesitate to contact Moira Ramsbottom at the College by either email [admin@aquinas.school.nz](mailto:admin@aquinas.school.nz) or phone 543 9032 for further information.

Enrolment applications for 2015 close on Friday 4 July 2014.

### School Trade & Services Directory

We hope to have our new colour directory out to you within the next two weeks. It's not too late to add your business. Please contact the office for more information.

### Position Available

Local resident currently requires some hands on assistance with getting up and ready for the day on week mornings. They are looking for someone to assist them for half an hour to an hour a day. The ideal person for this role will be caring, friendly, respectful, and have the time.....

Please contact Jenny Dawber (Local Area Coordinator) on 027 4508877 or 578 2580 for further information.

## PTA News

### Spell-a-thon

This week your child/ren will have brought home a Spell-a-thon sponsorship form for the St Mary's P.T.A Spell-a-thon 2014. Accompanying this, will be their spelling lists that class teachers have provided them with. These lists are also on the school website.

As well as supporting your children to learn their spelling words, we would also like to encourage collecting as many sponsors as possible for this fundraiser.

Along with incentives for top class efforts and the student who raises the most, there will also be 18 additional 'spot prizes' for students who manage to raise over \$30. Their names will be drawn out to win these prizes. These include The Warehouse, Smiggles and Family Pizza Hut vouchers.

This is a P.T.A fundraiser which looks forward to raising money towards new class furniture and a school stage. Please support your child in learning their words and collecting sponsors over the next two weeks.

Please feel free to contact P.T.A reps, Amanda Donald - [amanda.brad@extra.co.nz](mailto:amanda.brad@extra.co.nz) or Ana McFarlane - [blessedwithall3@gmail.com](mailto:blessedwithall3@gmail.com) with any queries, or your child's class teacher regarding spelling lists.

### Quiz Night

On June 28th 2014, St Mary's will be hosting our annual Quiz Night as a fundraiser for the school.

This year we are raising funds towards furniture and resources to support our new Modern Learning Environment initiative, and new staging for the school hall.

We are immensely grateful to those businesses that have supported us in this event in previous years, and hope that they have benefitted in some way from their generosity to our school.

We are therefore approaching businesses in our St Mary's community once again in the hope that you are able to donate goods or services as prizes to be auctioned off on the night. We would be very grateful for any contribution you or any friends could make to help make the evening a success.

If you have any business cards or flyers, then we are happy to reciprocate by acknowledging your business alongside the prizes.

Should you have any questions please feel free to contact: Tracey Nirmalaraj 021 0450216

## Sports News

### WBoP Swimming

It was a tough day at the office for the swim team as they headed back to the Greerton Pool last week.

Our team of 10 swimmers certainly tried their best against the top swimmers from the region, but found the competition very tough.

The following swimmers placed in individual events;

Jacob Browne	Year 6	3rd 100m freestyle
Millie Quin	Year 5	3rd 25m, 50m and 100m freestyle, 3rd 75m medley
Jess Carey	Year 5	1st 25m breaststroke, 2nd 50m breaststroke

A special mention for Jess, who can say she is our first WBoP Champion for 2014.

Four of our swimmers were part of various successful relay teams. Dominic Piceno and Jacob Browne were part of the winning South Cluster Boys' relay, Jess Carey placed 2nd with the Girls' relay and Millie Quin's Grand relay team also finished 2nd.

Again our swimmers were supported by a team of St Mary's parents who helped out in many ways. Thank you to all of the parents who have involved themselves in the four swim meets over the past 6 weeks – it certainly has been appreciated.

Well done to all of our team, you represented St Mary's School and South Cluster well. Keep up the good work in the pool over the winter!

### Flippaball and Water Polo season success

During the final week of school our Flippaball and Water Polo teams played their last matches of the summer season.

Our year 3/4 Shooters finished 2nd in the A grade after a close final with Pillans Point. The team included Rose Hennessey, Ethan Nirmalaraj, Holly Ryan, Nina Reijthar, Ava Sands, Kate Dekker, Georgia Verhoeven, Zoe Sherlock and Hugo Carroll.

Our year 5/6 Gold team also made the A final in the big pool, finishing with 2nd place after a battle with Tauranga Primary. This team, coached by Allan McFall, was Anna McFall, Josh Croad, Bella Jones, Elan Kamo-Watson, Sean Callinan, Ben Hamill, Charlene Anderson, Isabella Dobbs and Toby Taylor.

Our other teams finished out of the medals in the other grades, but by all accounts have improved in leaps and bounds over the season. Thanks to all of our poolside supporters who continue to support our players through their games each week. Roll on term four.....

### Water Polo

Our St Mary's Sunfish water polo team had an extremely exciting end to their season, finishing in a draw for 3rd. The new rules state that a penalty shootout must take place for the result, so five of our brave warriors stepped up to shoot, in turn, at the goalie. Great excitement for Brayden Dew, Dominic Piceno, Jacob Browne, Troy Schneebeil, Isabella Broadmore, Bella Jones, Millie Quin, Jess Carey and Thea Smith. A well deserved win!

Tauranga Water Polo offer an u12 programme which several of our players committed to over term 1. With five club training sessions under their belt, our players competed in the Tauranga u12 Tournament – held over the first three days of the school holidays. There were 19 teams from around the North Island. Congratulations to Dominic Piceno and Brayden Dew for their 2nd place in the B grade with the Tauranga Thunder, Jacob Browne and Isabella Broadmore for gaining selection in the club B team finishing 6th in the A grade, and to Jess Carey and Millie Quin who were part of the C grade Cyclones team who won the final in another penalty shootout. Great work St Mary's!!

### Kelly Low

### Sports Coordinator



**PHOTO:** Cyclone team members: Millie Quin (2nd left) and Jess Carey (far right)



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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mark.divehall@konicaminolta.co.nz



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