



St Mary's
Catholic School
Tauranga

newsletter

ISSUE 8: 3 July 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

He mihi nui ki a koutou

Welcome to the conclusion of a short but dynamic term of teaching and learning. Today senior students (year 4 - 6) will bring home their interim report against progress towards National Standards. This will provide a clear indication of progress in learning the core curriculum areas of reading, writing and mathematics as well as make a prediction in regard to end of year achievement. Should you have any questions in regard to your child's report please make time to meet with the class teacher at the beginning of next term.

We will again be interested in your thoughts in regard to both the interim report and writing learning story. An online survey can be accessed through the front page of our website. I would encourage all parents to contribute to this important form of self review. In addition to this there are a number of strategies and initiatives for helping your child's education at home.

It is likely that education is going to be a hot election issue as we prepare to determine as a nation the government that will lead us through the next three years. All indications are that changes within education are apparent and will accelerate rapidly post 2014.

Labour have proposed an interesting \$100 initiative that would see the same figure given to schools per student for schools that did not ask for a parent donation. For a school like ours this would mean we would receive approximately the amount of funding from the Government as we presently do by way of a parental donation. Additional funding by way of parental donations is vital in the provision of additional and dynamic opportunities for learning. Under Labour's proposal this would not have to be funded from our parent body but instead from by means of central government.

Sporting Success

One of the highlights this term has been the success of some of our young athletes in a range of sporting codes. Kellie Low in her informative update provides more detail of this but special mention from the Principal must go to the following three students:

Millie Quin won the Bay of Plenty Year 5 Girls Cross Country held on Tuesday in Opotiki; Callum Jefferies also won his division (Year 6 Boys) of the Bay of Plenty Cross Country Championships and Jasmine Watene winning her division of the 'Best of the Best' Argos Gynsport Gymnastics Competition. Great to see St Mary's students celebrated at the highest level.

Uniform

As has previously been indicated new uniform items will be available from NZ Uniforms on Cameron Road prior to the beginning of next term. This will include the new dress which has been manufactured for our school and all other items that were displayed earlier this term.

I have had an indication from Active Schoolwear, our previous supplier, that they still have some old uniform items in stock and are now in a position to clear these at a discounted rate.

Our new uniform will not be compulsory until the beginning of 2016 for year 1 - 5 students and for year 1 - 6 students until the beginning of 2017, meaning a parent of students presently in year 4 will not be required to purchase new uniform items. This also ensures longevity of second hand items for the same time period.

It is important to note that while we are in a transition period it is important to ensure correct uniform, either previous or new, are worn correctly. A reminder that correct winter shoes are to be black leather and able to be polished. Also girls with long hair must have it tied up with either a green or black hair tie. In addition to this, as part of our present uniform policy, the following applies to jewellery. "The only jewellery permitted at school is a cross or taonga around the neck. Girls may wear one silver or gold stud in each ear."

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Dates to Remember

Friday 4 July

Term 2 ends

Monday 21 July

Term 3 starts

Wednesday 23 July

Meet with Angie Edwards Dyslexia Facilitator

Thursday 24 July

Farewell to Monsignor Frank Eggleton 9.30am BAMJC

Thursday 24 July

Class Mass Room 8 (to be rescheduled)

Thursdy 24 July

Senior School performance 'Thoroughly Modern Millie' at TBC 12pm

Monday 28 July

Grandparents Day

Tuesday 29 July

Board of Trustee Meeting 6.30pm

Thursday 31 July

Class Mass Room 7

Thursday 31 July

WBoP Miniball World Cup

Tuesday 5 August

Welcome to new families and new children Liturgy

Tuesday 5 August

PTA Meeting 7pm

Thursday 7 August

Class Mass Room 6

Tuesday 12 August

Student Led Conferences

Friday 15 August

Whole School Mass 9.30am at Church

Tuesday 19 August

South Cluster Sevens Senior School

Thursday 21 August

Class Mass Room 10

Monday 25 August

Ski Championships begin

Tuesday 26 August

Board of Trustee Meeting 6.30pm

Tuesday 26 August

South Cluster Speech Competition

Thursday 28 August

Class Mass Room 9

Monday 1 September

Music Festival

Wednesday 3 September

Year 6 Maths Quiz

Sunday 8 September

AIMS Games starts

Tuesday 9 September

PTA Meeting 7pm

Wednesday 10 September

Senior School 'Be' the difference beach clean up

Thursday 11 September

Class Mass Room 14

Sunday 14 September

School Parish Mass 10am

be.
Christ-like

be.
reflective

be.
creative



Farewell to Monsignor Frank Eggleton

It is with much sadness that we say good-bye to Monsignor Frank at the end of this month. Monsignor has been an outstanding servant and advocate for our school and will be surely missed. The Gisborne Parish are blessed to now have the services of such a committed Priest. You are all warmly invited to a very special farewell liturgy for Monsignor Frank on Thursday 24 July at 9.30am in the BAMJC.

Our school community and Parish welcome Father Mark Field who will be moving over from St Mary's Rotorua. We look forward to welcoming Father Mark to our school and Parish.

Traffic Management

With the increased events of wet weather there has been an intensification of parent traffic in our surrounding area both before and after school. Could I please ask on behalf of our school and our neighbouring community that all care and consideration is taken in your traffic related actions. I have had a number of neighbours express concerns in regard to parking on grass berms and in front of access ways. I would therefore ask parents to park appropriately on all occasions.

Congratulations Mrs McCarroll

Janet McCarroll, our Deputy Principal, was awarded a 'Fulbright - Meg Everton Professional Development Award' in a ceremony at Parliament on Thursday 24 June.

The award will see Janet travel to the USA to attend a course, 'Leadership an Evolving Vision', at the Harvard Graduate School of Education in Boston. Following the course, Janet will attend and present at the 'Building Learning Communities 2014' Conference also in Boston, where she will present workshops on 'A

Student Centered Approach to Assessment and Self-Reporting', based on her research for her Masters Thesis set in the context of St Mary's School. Whilst in the US, Janet will meet with School Leaders and visit innovative schools in both Boston and New York. This is a very prestigious award and we are very proud of you.

PTA Quiz Night

A huge thank you to Claire Stott and her team of Quiz helpers. Thank you for the organisation of a wonderful social event that was enjoyed by many.

In closing I would like to wish all those associated with our amazing Catholic learning community a blessed holiday break. I look forward to welcoming back students, teachers and parents for a rewarding third term.

Nga Mihi Nui

Ben Fuller

Principal

School News

At St Mary's we see reporting as a three way process between the teacher, child and parents. This Interim Report, identifies what has been learnt, how that compares with progress towards the end of year National Standards, what the next learning steps are and what you can do at home to help.

In this reporting cycle we have focused on the three core curriculum areas of Reading, Writing and Mathematics, with an accompanying general comment. This report is supplemented by an on-line 'Learning Story' in writing. (see separate letter and information on how to access your child's Learning Story accessed through your child's Google gmail account).

Effective assessment practices involve the students discussing, clarifying, reflecting on goals, strategies and progress with teachers, parents and others. In this way, your child is developing their capacity to self-assess and further develop their assessment capability to become autonomous learners. Teachers use a variety of assessment tools, learning conversations and their 'overall teacher judgement' to find out where students are achieving.

Overall Teacher Judgement (OTJ) means:

active schoolwear

**30% OFF ALL
REMAINING UNIFORMS
DRESSES, POLOS, SWEATSHIRT, TIGHTS, HATS, SOCKS**



Term 3 starts

Monday 21 July

- Using a range of assessment tools
- Observing students working in the classroom
- Talking with students about their learning
- Assessing how students manage and assess their own learning

At St Mary's we value student voice, which is all about putting the student at the centre of the learning and assessment process. The Learning Story provides opportunity for students to reflect on their progress using an agreed rubric, to account for their achievement and progress and to co construct with their teacher next learning steps. Student voice in establishing 'where they are at' and 'where to next', is also reflected in our Interim National Standard Report. Information contained in your child's Interim Report provides you as parents with information that can be used as a basis for discussion with your child and for both parents and students with an opportunity to review learning progress.

To ensure that our reporting processes meet the needs of students and families, please help our review of reporting practices by completing our on-line survey accessed through the school website: www.stmarysga.school.nz

Janet McCarroll

Curriculum and Assessment Leader

Meet Angie Edwards Dyslexic Facilitator

There is an opportunity for parents to meet with Angie Edwards Dyslexic facilitator on Wednesday 23 July for consultations. Consultations take about 1.5 hour. Parents will need to book directly through Angie for appointments at angie.edwards@xtra.co.nz

PTA News

PTA Quiz Night

Saturday's Quiz Night was a fabulous night yet again, with a great turnout of happy, clever(?), awesomely costumed, and generous participants. Final dollars are not available just yet, with some more invoices due to be paid etc, but early estimates should put us somewhere between \$12,000 and \$14,000 raised for new furniture and staging for our children. How amazing is that! Please send me any feedback you have (good or bad) to help us make the night better next year for everyone. Very happy to hear your thoughts. Claire Stott pitstott@vodafone.co.nz

Claire Stott PTA Quiz Extraordinaire!

Sports News

BoP Cross Country

While some can only dream of being the fastest cross country runner from Waihi in the North to Taupo in the South, two St Mary's School students have achieved exactly that this week.

Our AMAZING winners are Millie Quin (Year 5) and Callum Jeffries (Year 6).

With 45 runners in each race, the rest of the team had varying degrees of success amongst the cowpats, electric fences and big hills. The other results were

Brayden Dew 19th Liam Knight 8th, Tia Powell 19th, Lily Richards dnf, Sean Curragh 24th, Jack Quilty 14th and Anna Tustin 44th.

All team members can certainly be proud of what they have achieved in qualifying for this event. Mrs Quin commented on how fantastic the team was with their behaviour, effort and support of each other - quite a compliment from our BoT Chair!!!!

Thanks to all of you marvellous parents who took a big chunk of your day to support all of the team. We are so fortunate to have you all within our school community.

Well done to St Mary's....you are the best :)

Gymnastics

With added practice this term on the PTA sponsored beam and tumbling mat Jasmine Watene (1st overall Twister) and Charlotte Van den Borst (2nd overall Flyer) certainly deserved their spot on the podium last week at the Best of the Best gymnastics championship held at Argos. All gymnasts were competing against students as old as year 8 in each category, so this achievement is spectacular!! Our team of eight included Cullan Fuller (4th), Toby Taylor (5th), Arli Robertson (6th), William Vagg (8th), Hazel Hodder (10th) and Taliyah Carter (15th) in their respective age groups.

More success for Charly Watene and Lee-ann Taylor who have continued to coach our gym team on to great things - congratulations to you, too.

Kellie Low

Sports Coordinator





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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