



St Mary's
Catholic School
Tauranga

newsletter

ISSUE 10: 15 August 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

It has been a couple of chilly weeks to date but we are always warmed by the smiling faces of St Mary's students as they greet us daily with enthusiasm to learn and grow.

Thank you to all families who came to St Mary Immaculate on Friday to join with us to celebrate Mary's Assumption into heaven. It is always extremely special to share a Holy Day of Obligation and Feast Day with our wider parent and parish community.

Student Led Conferences

This week as parents you had the opportunity to celebrate your child's learning and progress at their 'Student Led Conference'. It was great to see you and your children engaged in the sharing of learning exemplars and achievement information. This is an opportunity to bring the 'parent' into our assessment capable learning vision so thanks to you all for your most important contribution.

Should you have any questions in regard to information shared, the evidence you viewed or any achievement related inquiry please do not hesitate to make contact with your child's teacher in the first instance.

Farewell Mrs Shelley McKay



On Friday we said farewell Mrs Shelley McKay as she embarks on her next teaching challenge at Otumoetai Intermediate School. We sincerely wish Shelley all the very best in her new school and look forward to continued contact with her as a valued parent within our school community.

Uniform

I am aware that some of our new uniform items are no longer in stock, particularly smaller sizes. We have been in contact with NZ Uniforms and further stock will be available next week. It is great to see so many children in our smart new uniform.

South Cluster 7's

Our senior students will be competing in a variety of codes at the South Cluster 7's tournament. As a school we ensure all senior students have this opportunity to represent St Mary's in a team sport. If able I would encourage parents to get along and support our kids.



Welcome to Mrs Ange McAllister

Today we welcomed Mrs Ange McAllister as the new teacher within Room 8. Parents and students of Room 8 had the opportunity to meet Ange at the Student Led Conferences. We are looking forward to welcoming her officially to our school in the coming weeks.



Nga Mihi Nui

Ben Fuller
Principal

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Dates to Remember

Friday 15 August
Whole School Mass 9.30am at Church

Tuesday 19 August
Class Mass Room 1

Tuesday 19 August
South Cluster Sevens Senior School

Thursday 21 August
Class Mass Room 15 (date change)

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

Monday 1 September
Liturgy to celebrate Cultural Diversity 10am

Wednesday 3 September
Year 6 Maths Quiz

Thursday 4 September
Class Mass Room 10 (date change)

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

Tuesday 16 September
WBoP Speech Competition

Wednesday 17 September
WBoP Sevens

Thursday 18 September
Class Mass Room 13
Exposition / Benediction

Friday 19 September
WBoP 7's postponement date

Thursday 25 September
Class Mass Room 11

Friday 26 September
Term 3 ends

Monday 13
Term 4 starts

Tuesday 14 October - Friday 17 October
Year 6 Camp

Thursday 16 October
Class Mass Room 12

Monday 20 October
Changeover date to summer uniform

Wednesday 22 October
Y5 & Y6 'Kids for Kids' Concert 7pm

Thursday 23 October
Class Mass Room 5

be.
Christ-like

be.
reflective

be.
creative

Special Character

Thank you to all parents who have joined us for the various liturgies we have had since the beginning of the term. Your presence and support means a great deal to your child/children and is certainly appreciated by all the staff.

At your child's student led conference your child would have had the opportunity to explain and show you some of their learning in Religious Education. From now till the end of the term all classes will be covering the Church strand together with our Religious Education target this year which is to increase their knowledge and understanding of the Mass.

We encourage you to take your child/children to Sunday Mass to help them with their understanding about the Mass. Our next Parish School Mass is on Sunday 14 September at 10am St Mary Immaculate Church, Cameron Rd.

Our new Parish Priest Father Mark Field will be saying the Mass. You are all warmly invited and we would love to see as many of our families who are able to be there.

On Monday 1 September our liturgy will be celebrating the cultural diversity of our school. Students are welcome to dress in their national costume for this liturgy and there will be morning tea for parents following the liturgy.

With kind regards and God bless

Sally Washer

Sally Washer
DRS

School News

So What's Going on in our Schools?

You may have viewed Nigel Latta recently on TV ONE Tuesdays 9.30, spending time in both primary and secondary schools looking into our education system. Nigel explains in 'parent speak' what happens in schools today compared to what parents may remember of their own schooling experience.

If you didn't view the episode, "What's Going On in Our Schools?", you may like to view the programme through TV on Demand by following this link. <http://tvnz.co.nz/nigel-latta/s1-ep2-video-6037627>

Parents who were interviewed in the programme, explain how they sometimes struggle to understand what is going on in schools as it is so different to their own experience of schooling. The programme looks at assessment processes, high stakes testing, decile rankings, eLearning, BYOD, NCEA and national standards.

Today at St Mary's, our students were 'Self-Reporting' their progress and achievement in Learning to their parents in our student led conferences. The findings in Professor John Hattie's latest research book 'Visible Learning', have influenced and informed our 'assessment capable students, teachers, school leaders and parents' vision and assessment and reporting practices. Hattie has researched the top 138 influences and effect sizes that lead to greater student achievement, using over 250 million students world-wide and thousands of research studies, student self-reporting sits at the very top of his table of interventions that make the difference. See link to Table <http://visible-learning.org/hattie-ranking-influences-effect-sizes-learning-achievement/>

The purpose of student led conferences is to place the student in the driving seat as they make their learning visible and explain, 'where I am at', 'where am I going' and 'my next learning step' with parents.

Student led conferences and learning stories capturing the student self reporting to the teacher in a 'critical- conversation' are key learning, assessment and reporting processes here at St Mary's. St Mary's was fortunate to have Professor Hattie endorse our student centred assessment and reporting practices. The rest of the educational world is hugely interested in our practices making 'student learning visible' through self-reporting as I discovered on a recent study trip to the USA.



We encourage all parents to complete the student led conference parent survey by going to our school website www.stmarystga.school.nz, where you will find a link to the survey on the home page.

Janet McCarroll
Deputy Principal

Tauranga Community Foodbank Schools' Appeal 18 - 22 August

We have extended our Foodbank appeal. We would be very grateful if families who are able to contribute any food items could bring them to the school office this week. We are aware that there are many families in our Tauranga community who are in need and we, as a school support this very worth-while charity. A very big thank you to those families who have already contributed.



School Parents Warned

Parents picking up or dropping off children in and around Tauranga schools are being warned to obey the road rules or receive a fine. This week Western Bay police launched a back to school monitoring campaign, cracking down on dodgy driving outside schools. The crackdown will target primarily speeding drivers but also illegal parking.

PHOTOS: 1. Keira Whitaker with her parents, Fiona and Craig **2.** Eilah Barriball with her nana, Prue O'Connell **3.** Molly Thomson with her mum Raechel **4.** Ella Cho with her mum Jieun **5.** Isabella Broadmore U14 B Girls Tauranga Water Polo Team

Sports News

St Mary's 2nd at World Cup

A year 4 team, representing Barbados, and a year 6 team representing Finland took on the world recently. The Miniball World Cup is a fiercely contested interschool event. Barbados had a great day, improving as the day went on, but found the bigger nations very tough opposition. Our Finnish team made it all the way to the finish, after a nail biting one goal win in the semi final. Te Akau ki Papamoa certainly had the tactics to keep our team from scoring, eventually winning the last game of the day by eight points.

Well done to both teams for representing St Mary's so well. Our Barbados team was Ava Sands, Maraiah Gardiner Hano, Mitchell Hubbard, Braden Aleksich, Scott Breebaart, Ethan Nirmalaraj, Hugo McCarroll and Jack McClutchie.

Congratulations to the team of Anna McFall, Isabella Broadmore, Brayden Dew, Troy Schneebeil, Ben McCurran, Sean Callinan, Toby Taylor and Callum Jeffries for bringing home the silver medal. A special mention to Callum who also brought home a Tournament Team medal, making him one of the top five players at the tournament.

Three cheers for our third team, our parents. Lead by Coach Allan McFall, St Mary's certainly won the day for parent support!!



Gymnastics

A successful team of gymnasts cleaned up at the final interschool event of the year at Impact Gymnasium. Individual Gold medals went to Charlotte Van den Borst, Hazel Hodder and Toby Taylor, with Arli Robertson claiming silver and Cullan Fuller earning 6th overall.

Team Gold went to our club gymnasts, Jasmine Watene, Sophie Summerville and Taliyah Carter.

Mrs Charly Watene and Mrs Lee-Ann Taylor have spent many hours this term, and over the year, to coach and mentor these students. Congratulations to you both on this recent success!

Water Polo

Congratulations to Isabella Broadmore who played in the Pan Pacific Water Polo tournament in Auckland. She played for the U14 Girls B Tauranga team. The highlight for her was scoring a goal against Waikato. It was a great experience for Isabella as there were teams from Singapore, Canada and Australia at the tournament.

Surfing

James Ririnui represented St Mary's School at the New Zealand Schools Surfing Championship from 5 - 6 August in Raglan.

In huge 4 - 6 ft surf, James was the only Primary School contestant to qualify for the under 14 quarter finals eliminating college students 4 years above his age group.

With a gutsy effort in the semis he only just missed out by 1 point to make the grand final with the top 4, which was eventually won by his older brother and ex St Mary's student Lee Ririnui (Year 10).

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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