



St Mary's
Catholic School
Tauranga

newsletter

ISSUE 12: 11 September 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

With term end approaching it is valuable to reflect and celebrate on achievements individually and as a school. There have been many examples of great learning throughout the classes that I visit and all students should be very proud of the progress they have made. It may be of interest to parents to follow up progress towards those next learning steps that were communicated in Student Led Conferences earlier in the term, as it is likely that these have been met and new ambitions established.

Next week we will forward 5 teams to the WBOP 7's Tournament so filling exactly 50% of the qualifying places offered to South Cluster Schools. I am aware of practices that have continued post our cluster event so wish all our teams the very best next week.

Environmental Clean Up

On Wednesday our senior students participated in an environmental cleanup of our estuary. Together with Environment Bay of Plenty they worked to remove rubbish from an area spanning from Turret Road to the Memorial Park Reserve. It was extremely pleasing to have the opportunity to contribute to our wider community in such a productive way.



Parish School Mass St Mary Immaculate

On Sunday we will celebrate our termly School Parish Mass. This will be the first School Parish celebrated by Father Mark which we are all looking forward to. At the Mass we will also recognise two long serving Board of Trustee Proprietor Representatives. Karen Anderson and Clare Sokimi have both made a significant commitment to the Governance of our School and we would appreciate as many parents as possible joining in recognising their contribution to our school. We will also welcome new

Proprietors Representatives, Greg Kerr and Katy Wealleans to roles on our Board of Trustees.

Enrolments for 2015

Early next term I will look to finalise new entrant numbers for 2015. We would also welcome enrolments for all year levels. Therefore, if you have a child who will be starting school in 2015 please ensure all enrolment documentation has been completed and handed in to the school office. If you are aware of any families wishing to send children to St Mary's next year, please encourage them to make contact with the school office as soon as possible.

Resource consent

We have recently received positive news regarding our resource consent application. The great news is we now have the opportunity to expand the provision for Catholic Education in Tauranga and further develop buildings and facilities at St Mary's School. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Hamilton Diocese, Boffa Miskell and Kate Barry Piceno for their huge commitment to obtaining the consent.

Uniform

As we progress towards the end of our winter season it has become apparent that there has been a slip in uniform standards. Particularly in the wearing of non uniform items. Therefore in preparation for the new season I would ask that parents take time to ensure students are prepared with the correct uniform for summer. Both new and old uniform requires that brown roman sandals are worn as footwear and additional adornments, with the exception of those identified in our uniform policy, are not permitted.

Traffic Safety

Traffic safety around our school must remain a focus of our entire school and parent community. Thank you to all parents who park and drive appropriately around our school environment and thank you to all who attended our meeting yesterday. I certainly hope we can work towards the delivery of a walking school bus concept in the interests of student wellbeing and student safety. I look forward to providing more information in regard to how this will progress in the future.

Nga Mihi Nui

Ben Fuller
Principal

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Dates to Remember

Friday 12 September

Jump Rope for Heart

Sunday 14 September

School Parish Mass 10am

Monday 15 to Friday 19 September

Social Justice Week

Tuesday 16 September

WBoP Speech Competition

Wednesday 17 September

WBoP 7's

Thursday 18 September

Class Mass Room 13

Exposition / Benediction

Thursday 18 September

Year 6 Parent Camp Meeting

Friday 19 September

WBoP 7's postponement date

Saturday 20 September

Aquinas Fashion Show

Thursday 25 September

Class Mass Room 11

Friday 26 September

PTA Sausage Sizzle

Friday 26 September

Term 3 ends

Monday 13 October

Term 4 starts

Tuesday 14 October - Friday 17 October

Year 6 Camp

Thursday 16 October

Class Mass Room 12

Monday 20 October

Changeover to summer uniform

Wednesday 22 October

Y5 & Y6 'Kids for Kids' Concert 7pm

Thursday 23 October

Class Mass Room 5

Thursday 23 October

Aquinas Orientation Evening

Friday 24 October

School Photos

Monday 27 October

Labour Day

Tuesday 28 October

Board of Trustee Meeting

Wednesday 29 October

WBoP Tennis

Friday 31 October

All Saints / Souls Day Mass 9.30am

Saturday 1 November

Jump Jam Nationals

Thursday 6 November

Class Mass Room 4

Friday 7 November

PTA Fireworks

Sunday 9 November

School / Parish Mass

Monday 10 November

Cycle week starts for Year 6

be.
Christ-like

be.
reflective

be.
creative

Special Character

Parish School Mass Sunday 14 September

As Mr Fuller has mentioned we have our Parish/ School Mass this Sunday at 10am in St Mary Immaculate Church Cameron Road and all families are invited and encouraged to attend. Our Sursum Corda choir will be singing. Students are asked to come dressed in their school uniform and be seated with their parents.

Cultural Diversity Liturgy

Thank you to all parents and our PTA members who attended our special liturgy to celebrate our cultural diversity here at St Mary's. It is a source of great joy that we now have families from 19 different nationalities that make up our St Mary's family. The students looked absolutely beautiful in their national costumes and we appreciated very much the effort that went into dressing them.



Social Justice Week

This next week 15-19 September is Social Justice Week. Our liturgy on Monday will be focusing on Social Justice. We will be explaining to the students that it all began when God created the world and made us in his image-giving each of us human dignity. At the heart of Catholic social teaching is Christ's command for us to love God and love our neighbour.

Caritas has resources for Catholic primary and secondary schools which help to grow understanding in this tradition of justice. The website is www.caritas.org.nz/resources/cst

Religious Education

All classes in their Religious Education lessons will be covering the Church strand now till the end of the term.

Exposition and Benediction

On Thursday 25 September we will be having Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament following Room 11's class Mass in our Cluny Chapel. Our day of prayer will conclude with Benediction at 2.15pm in the Blessed Anne Marie Javouhey Centre. Parents and Caregivers are very welcome to join us.

With kind regards and God bless

Sally Washer
DRS

School News

Year 5 & 6 Ted Talk Speech Finals

Congratulations to the following students who competed in the St Mary's Senior TED TALK Speech Competition, judged last Wednesday by Mr Philip Sherry and Niamh Blackman.



1st Place Lucy Dekker – "Wellington"

2nd Place Sammual Way – "Polluting the Ocean"

3rd Place Luke Hubbard – "Conservationists"

Very Highly Commended Lucy Johnson – "Brothers are So Annoying"

Highly Commended Anna McFall – "My Uncle"

All twenty participants in the Finals were highly competent, presenting a wide variety of topics. The student and parent audience were captivated and entertained by the range of topics and the impressive delivery skills of our students. Many of the students managed to enhance their delivery with the use of technology and their confident command of the speaking space. Both our judges were impressed by the high standard of speeches presented.

Mr Sherry of NZ Broadcasting fame and Niamh Blackman both spoke to the children of the enormous importance of developing effective communication skills, as a priority skill for their futures.

Niamh Blackman, a former St Mary's student, has recently been accepted into the London Royal School of Speech and Drama, a significant accomplishment, as gaining a place in this college is highly competitive. Niamh is hosting a Fundraising event.

Rialto Theatre: 6pm Thursday 18 September

Film: 'The Skeleton Twins' Cost \$20 Tickets available by phoning Niamh directly on 577 1454.

Nibbles and raffle provided. Drinks are available from the bar. We are delighted to support such a talented former St Mary's student with this exciting learning opportunity.

Janet McCarroll
DP



Preference Cards

The issuing of Preference Cards for St Mary's School and Aquinas College for Tauranga parishioners will now be handled by a committee, appointed by Bishop Denis.

To meet with one of those delegated to issue Preference Cards, you need to ring the St Mary Immaculate Parish office (578 6209, between 9am and 1pm weekdays) and ask Sister Emeli (the parish secretary) to make an appointment for you. Sister Emeli will explain what is required.

Preference Card committee appointments will take place on Tuesday mornings at St Mary Immaculate Church (not at school).

Mt Maunganui parishioners will continue to make an appointment through their parish office.

St Mary's Whanau Group

The whanau group has been running for a few years and consists of Maori whanau families with children at St Mary's School. The group works closely with the Principal and staff to promote and embrace te Reo and tikanga Maori within the school community.

All whanau families at St Mary's School are welcome to attend meetings and whanau social gatherings. If you would like to receive information about the whanau group, and be on a regular email list, then please contact Theresa in the school office, or email Shirley-Marie Coffin at teonewa@orcon.net.nz.

Room 2 Writing

We are learning to retell traditional fairy tales. Here is an example of the classic tale, Three Billy Goats Gruff,

Once upon a time there lived three billy goats. They ate grass. When the grass was finished the little Billy goat crossed the bridge. "Who is that on my bridge, you look delicious!". "No". "Then go!"

Along came the middle billy goat. It saw the middle billy goat. "Wait until my brother". She crossed the bridge. The big billy goat came and he lowered his antlers and butted the troll and that was the end of that!

Written by Gianna Russell.

Fantastic for someone who has been at school for just 6 months!

PTA News

Cookoff

On Monday 8 September we had a lovely time preparing and cooking meals for Pastoral Care to fill up our stocks for our families in their time of need. It was so great to see the enthusiasm from our community to help. We made some lovely chicken pies, devilled sausages and beef hot pot, a total of 39 meals. There was some top notch potato peeling going on....10 kg in 10 mins.

Thanks to our fabulous chefs for your generous time and skills in the kitchen. Master Chef has nothing on Our Fabulous Home Execs. Well Done!

If you are able to provide cakes, muffins or loaves for the freezer we would really appreciate them. Please leave baking at the school office.

Fireworks

8 Weeks to Go!! The countdown is on for our biggest PTA Fundraising event of the year – our Fireworks Gala on Friday 7 November.

There has already been plenty of organising and planning behind the scenes and you will see a few new and exciting things happening on the night.

But now we need you...

If you would like to volunteer to help at the event – we need people to assist with tasks leading up to the event, set up and pack down on the day and of course manning stalls and activities for the night.

Thank you to those fabulous parents who have already volunteered. If you haven't heard from us yet, we will be in touch soon. Also, if you or someone you may know would be interested in sponsoring the event, in the way of cash, products or services, we would be more than grateful. Every little bit helps!

So if you would like to help out or donate to the event, please contact us on fireworks@stmarystga.school.nz or call the below organisers:

Michelle Pine – Event Organiser Ph: 021 618 237

Lee-Ann Taylor – Volunteers Coordinator Ph: 027 277 7359

Rebecca Honeybone – Sponsorship & Donations Coordinator Ph: 021 328 220

Watch out for our separate Fireworks newsletter being sent out over the next week for further information.

Sports News

Wrestling

Congratulations to Blair Bromwich, aged 10 from Room 7 who came 1st at the Waikato Wrestling Championships, and 2nd place in the Bay of Plenty Wrestling Championships this term. Blair competed in the 10 – 13 year age group in his weight.

Other News

What do you think of ERO's parent booklets?

The Education Review Office (ERO) publishes a series of five booklets for parents and caregivers. We want to find out how useful the information is to parents, how the booklets can be improved, and if parents would prefer to receive the information in a different way.

We are starting with a survey of 'How is my child doing?' To take part in the survey go to www.ero.govt.nz - Featured Publications. The survey runs until the end of September and only takes a few minutes to complete. Meanwhile if you would like a copy of one of the booklets email info@ero.govt.nz

Monster Garage Sale Saturday 20 September 7am

Devoy Squash and Fitness Centre, cnr 13th Ave & Devonport Road, are having a huge garage sale to raise funds for the E Grade Squash Team (coached by former pupil, Michael Dunston) to compete at the Nationals in Christchurch. Any items you have for the garage sale will be most welcome. Please see Theresa in the office.





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.



RURAL AND LIFESTYLE SALES

Jeremy Pryor 07 579 0611 027 280 2121



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Paul Manning 07 571 6280 021 190 4597
paul.manning@bdo.co.nz



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IT SERVICE PROVIDER AND SUPPORT

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