



St Mary's
Catholic School
Tauranga

newsletter

ISSUE 1: 5 February 2015

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

E Mihi Nui Kia Koutou

Welcome to 2015 at St Mary's for all children, parents and staff. An extra special welcome to all new students and families. This week we have welcomed over 50 new students to our school meaning we have started the year with record numbers. At time of writing we have exactly 401 students benefitting from attending our school.

We would also like to welcome newly appointed Senior Leader Mrs Jacqui-Ellen Price. Mrs Price comes to us from Tauranga Primary School and will be leading the senior team.

I trust, given the weather we were blessed with, you all enjoyed your holiday break and took time to make the most of summer related activities. I was lucky enough to enjoy some special New Zealand places with my family and a couple of great dive spots.

My observation is that teachers have returned refreshed, full of enthusiasm and ready to do the best for the learning of the children in their care.

In preparation for the teaching of curriculum and undertaking of pastoral care our staff participated in a number of recent professional learning opportunities prior to welcoming children on Monday. There was a balance of curriculum and pastoral care initiatives, with input from our Board of Trustees. All focused on continually improving opportunities for students at our school.

Construction

You may well have noticed much of the work that has occurred over the summer break. On the 4th of January myself and Bruce Stockman welcomed a Diocese directed construction team who set about re-roofing both the old hall and administration blocks. Needless to say they worked tirelessly to complete both task before children arrived this week.

Bus Bay

Outside of school you will notice a reconstructed bus bay, much marked parking, more parking on

Harvey Street, a new drop off bay on Grace Road and a new footpath on the same. This has been prioritised to improve traffic management and safety at drop off and pick up times.

With the provision of parking and pedestrian access to Grace Rd, I would encourage parents to utilise the opportunity to park safely around the corner from our school and simply walk to meet your children in the school grounds. In addition to this the additional Harvey Street parking continues to make this a desirable area to collect children.

Meet the Teacher

Parents and caregivers are warmly invited to join us for our 'Meet the Teacher' evening on Monday 9 February starting at 5.00pm. Each presentation will set out the team and class room expectations for learning, home learning, behaviour management and assessment and reporting for the year ahead.

We have staggered the starting times, to allow parents with children in different year levels to attend the separate presentations.

5.00pm: Tika/Junior Team will meet in the Modern Learning Environment/Room 16, with a welcome by our Principal, Ben Fuller. Team Leader, Fay Warnock and Junior Team teachers will follow with their presentation.

5.30pm: Whakapono/Middle School will meet in the Blessed Anne Marie Javouhey Centre, with a welcome by Mr Fuller. Team Leader Gerardine Robbie, and Middle Team teachers will follow with their presentation.

6.00pm: Aroha/Senior School will meet in the Blessed Anne Marie Javouhey Centre, with a welcome by Mr Fuller. Team Leader Jacq Price, and Senior Team teachers will follow with their presentation.

In closing, please take note of key dates for this term. Looking forward to seeing you all at the 'Meet the Teacher' evening.

Nga Mihi Nui
Ben Fuller
Principal

13th Avenue, Tauranga, New Zealand

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2015 Dates to Remember

Thursday 5 February
Whole School Mass (BAMJC) 9.30am
Friday 6 February
Waitangi Day - school is closed
Monday 9 February
Meet the Teacher Evening from 5.30pm
Wednesday 11 February
Waimarino Year 5 & 6
Wednesday 11 February
Beach Education Trip Room 1 & 2
Thursday 12 February
Beach Education Trip Room 3, 4 & 5
Thursday 12 February
Class Mass Room 7
Wednesday 18 February
Ash Wednesday Liturgy (BAMJC) 9.30am
Tuesday 24 February
Welcome to new children and new families Liturgy (BAMJC) 10am
Wednesday 25 February
Senior Swimming Sports
Thursday 26 February
Class Mass Room 6
Sunday 1 March
Sacramental Programme Presentation Mass at St Mary Immaculate 10.00am
Monday 2 March
Sacramental Programme 3.30pm
Tuesday 3 March
Parent Meeting - Behaviour Management
Thursday 5 March
Class Mass Room 8
Friday 6 March
Class Mass Room 10
Friday 6 March
PTA Outdoor Adventure Day
Monday 9 March
Sacrament Programme 3.30pm
Wednesday 11 March
Catholic Schools' Swimming Sports
Wednesday 11 March
Sacramental Programme Parent Session 7.00pm
Thursday 12 March
Year 5 & 6 Reconciliation
Friday 13 March
Teacher Only Day - school is closed
Sunday 15 March
School Parish Mass 10.00am
Monday 16 March
Sacramental Programme 3.30pm
Tuesday 17 March
South Cluster Swimming
Wednesday 18 March
Future Champions
Thursday 19 March
School Mass

be.
Christ-like

be.
reflective

be.
creative

SPECIAL CHARACTER

Today we celebrated our first school Mass for 2015 in our Blessed Anne Marie Javouhey Centre. We gathered as a school community to give thanks to God for our summer holidays and to ask the Lord's continued blessing on this 2015 new school year. For our Mass we heard the readings for the Feast of the Presentation also known as Candle Mass.

We are reminded that Christ is the light of the world and we are called to share the light of Christ everyday. We have discussed with the students that we can make a difference by how we treat each other. When we are kind to each other, using kind actions and words, the light of Christ within us shines for others to see.

School Liturgies and School / Class Masses

All parents, caregivers and family members are very welcome to come to any of our school liturgies and school or class Masses. Please see the school newsletters and website for the calendar of these special celebrations.

Religious Education

During this first week of the term all classes are focusing on Prayer.

During weeks two and three all classes will be learning and gaining an understanding about the charism of our school which was given to us through our founding order, the Cluny Sisters, and their foundress Blessed Anne Marie Javouhey. We are so fortunate to have the presence of the Cluny Sisters still in our school and living in the convent next door. It is a blessing to have Sister Teresia as a member of our staff working in Room 16.

We encourage you to talk to your child/ren about their learning in Religious Education and if you have any queries at any time please feel welcome to talk to me and/or your child's teacher.

Ash Wednesday Liturgy 18 February 9.30am in the Blessed Anne Marie Javouhey Centre

We will be marking the beginning of Lent with a special Liturgy and distribution of ashes on Ash Wednesday 18 February. You are all very welcome to attend.

Parish Sacramental Programme for Confirmation and Eucharist

This commences again on Monday 3 March at 3.30pm. All students involved are to meet in Room 16 at 3.25pm.

With kind regards and God bless

Sally Washer

DRS



SCHOOL NEWS

2015 Teaching Staff

Junior Team 2015 Years 0 - 2

Yr. 1/NE Rm 16B Lisa Broadmore
Yr. 1 Rm 16W Fay Warnock (Team Leader)
Yr. 1 Rm 16V Donna Vincent
Yr. 2 Rm 15 Janine Goldsmith
Yr. 2 Rm 14 Liz Driver
Yr. 2 Rm 13 Suzanne Tanner

Middle Team 2015 Years 3 - 4

Yr. 3/4 Rm 5 Catherine Wood
Yr. 3/4 Rm 4 Pip Berquist
Yr. 3/4 Rm 3 Gerardine Robbie (Team Leader)
Yr. 3/4 Rm 2 Deanne Willemse
Yr. 3/4 Rm 1 Joanne Meehan

Senior Team 2015 Years 5 - 6

Yr. 5/6 Rm 9 Jacqui-Ellen Price (Team Leader)
Yr. 5/6 Rm 8 Megan Akkerman
Yr. 5/6 Rm 7 Bryan Crowe
Yr. 5/6 Rm 6 Randy Piceno
Yr. 5/6 Rm 10 Gavin Hesqua

School Hours

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

8.50am – 2.55pm

Tuesday

9.10am – 2.55pm

Morning tea:

10.35am – 11.00am

Lunch:

12.30pm – 1.20pm

Principal's Assembly:

2.00pm – 2.50pm every second Friday

Liturgy:

Every Monday 10.00am

Please ensure that your child is at school on time for the start of the school day. This gives the opportunity for a well prepared and settled beginning to classes.

As a general rule, pupils should not be at school before 8.15am or after 3.30pm. An After School Care service is available for parents that need child care after school hours.

Absences

If your child is absent from school you must notify the school office before 9.00am, either by phone on 578 8066 and leave a message on the absentee line, or by text on 021 2969437 on the morning of the absence.

When a child returns to school after an absence he/she should bring / email a written explanation for the class teacher.

If you are away from school for an extended period of time for a trip or event you must give written notification to the school office to explain your absence.

Accidents and Illness at School

Two teachers are on duty at all times during the morning and lunchtime breaks.

Accidents of a minor nature are treated at school in the medical room. Parents, or a nominated adult, are contacted if an accident is of a serious nature. If parents are not able to be contacted, the school will use discretion in obtaining medical aid.

Parents will be notified if their child becomes ill and needs care at home.

After School Care

This service operates from 2.55pm to 5.30pm every day of the school week in the Blessed Anne Marie Javouhey Centre. If you wish to find out more information regarding this please contact Shelley Rose 027 3102090 or email afterschoolcare@stmarystga.school.nz.

Bicycles

Children may ride bicycles to school. A helmet must be worn. Riding in the school grounds is prohibited.

Buses

School Hopper urban routes and Tauranga Network Transport rural bus services have started the year mostly without a hitch. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Schoolhopper buses replaced Ministry of Education urban school buses this year and there are some key differences, such as the introduction of a fare that will commence in term two.

Visit the website to find all urban Schoolhopper route information.

For urban services go to:

www.baybus.co.nz - then click on the Schoolhopper link.

For rural services go to:

www.schooltransport.org.nz

If you would like your child to use the bus service then please check the websites to see what route best suits and then ring the school office so that your child can be added to the bus list.

Contacting the School

The office hours are 8.15am to 4.00pm. If you wish to contact any of the teaching staff this is best done before school, between 12.40pm and 1.20pm, after school, or you may leave a message with the office staff. Alternatively you can contact teachers directly via email. If you have any questions or concerns please make an appointment to discuss these with your child's teacher.

Pita Pit - Price increase \$4.50

Please collect an envelope from the school office to order your Pita Pit. Orders need to be at the school office no later than 9.00am every Thursday morning. Choose from chicken, ham, beef, vegemite or super veggie. Prices range from \$4.50 to \$7.50.

Sun Sense Policy

In accordance with our Sun Sense Policy, regulation sun hats are to be worn during interval and lunchtime in Term 1 & 4. Those children without sunhats will be directed to stay in a designated shade area.

Sign In Book

If you are coming on to the school grounds during school hours you must come through the school office to sign the register. Drop off and pick up times and major school events are exempt.

Reasons for signing the register

- * taking your child for an appointment
- * returning your child from an appointment
- * leaving early
- * late to school
- * parent helper

Telephone

The use of the telephone is not for pupils except in exceptional circumstances. If you wish to contact teaching staff please restrict this to out of class time. We request that you do not telephone the school with reminders for children unless it is urgent. Children are not permitted to bring a mobile phone to school unless prior approval has been given by the Principal. In this case, the cell phone is to be held at the school office during school hours.

Art Classes

Laura Grace, a Visual Art Teacher will be running after school art classes this term here at St Mary's. It's a chance for students to extend their skills and knowledge of Art beyond the classroom.

16 February – 31 March (7 weeks)

Tuesdays 3-4.15pm

Years 4-6 only

All materials are supplied. Cost is \$140.00. The Art Room class is limited to 8 students to allow students to get more in depth teacher direction. Places will full fast, please email lauraandmike@xtra.co.nz to register or phone Laura on 021395051.

French Lessons

Our french tutor returns for lessons on Wednesdays after school. For all enquiries please phone 544 5432.

Scholastic Book Club

The Scholastic Book Club is an opportunity for you and your children to buy books and gifts pack at reasonable prices. The book club is also a major fundraiser for the school library as we receive free books and bonus coupons to use to purchase books with every campaign.

There are two club campaigns per term, 8 per year. The first campaign is out now and closes on Thursday 19 February at 3.00pm. If you wish to make an order, please fill out the form on the back of the booklet with your child's name and room number. Place the order form and payment in an envelope and place the envelope in the green letterbox in the library or hand to the ladies in the office.

You can pay by cash, cheque (payable to St Mary's School) or credit card. If you have any questions or concerns about the book club, please contact Debbie Nowell at the school library. Your support is much appreciated.

Music Tuition

Music tuition will be offered at St Mary's again this year. Enrolment details will be sent home with your child next week.

SPORTS NEWS

Thank you very much to those parents who have volunteered to assist our teams and groups with coaching or managing. We are very fortunate at St Mary's School to have such willing helpers, allowing us to offer a wide range of activities.

Sport forms due back by Monday 9 February

Over 200 children have returned their sports forms already. Thank you very much. A reminder that these were due by today for flippaball, cricket and water polo, or by this Monday 9 February for the other activities.

Cricket on Saturday morning

A reminder to all boys and girls registering for team cricket, please be at St Mary's School this Saturday for some cricket activities and team selection. If you are unable to attend please email klow@stmarystga.school.nz. You are most welcome to bring your own kit, however gear will be available if you do not have your own. We look forward to seeing you there.

Kellie Low

Sports Coordinator

Other Key Dates

Friday 13 March
Teacher Only Day - school is closed

Thursday 2 April
Term 1 ends

Monday 20 April
Term 2 starts



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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