



St Mary's
Catholic School
Tauranga

newsletter

ISSUE 2: 20 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

We have concluded the first three weeks of the school year and, in this time, classroom routines have been firmly established and quality teaching and learning programmes are up and running. I would like to congratulate all teachers for the way they have achieved this and thank all our students for the way they are focused on their learning.

Our 'Meet the Teacher' evening last Monday was extremely well attended across all year levels and again extremely well run by our teaching teams. We have received good feedback in regard to the format adopted as it allowed parents with multiple children to attend all related sessions and the team approach ensured consistent messages were delivered to all.

International Conference on Thinking

As a community I would like you to share in congratulating Janet McCarroll and Jana Benson on successfully having an abstract accepted for presentation at the International Conference on Thinking to be held in Bilbao Spain later this year. Janet and Jana's presentation will be centered around our schools evolving assessment and learning vision and related practice.

Playground Development

Many of you would have noticed the work going on in the senior playground area and, in particular, the removal and movement of some equipment. This has been as a result of an agreement reached by the Hamilton Diocese and our 13th Avenue neighbours. When all work is concluded children will be able to access an enhanced structure which will include a climbing wall and sky bridge.

Parent Meeting - New Behaviour Management Procedures

As a school we have drafted new procedures for the management of child behaviour at our school. As parents we would like your input into how you see these procedures working for your children. On Tuesday 3 March at 5.30pm we would welcome as many parents as able to our Blessed Anne Marie Javouhey Centre, where the new procedures will be presented.

Teacher Only Day

We have scheduled a Teacher Only Day on Friday 13 March. On this day all teachers will participate in a day of professional learning focused on Teaching of Growth Mindsets and Teaching Intelligence. Two world class presenters, Carol

Dweck and Guy Claxton, are leading this day centered on how we as educators can develop intellectual ability and foster the individual and inherent gifts all children possess. School will be closed on this day.

Traffic Management

I must congratulate all parents on the sudden improvement in parking and general traffic behaviour around our school site. I have been impressed with parents now parking appropriately and those prepared to walk from vehicles to meet their children. This is now an extremely positive representation of our community to our resident neighbours.

Certified Finishers - Gold Group Sponsor

We welcome Shane Wisnewski from Certified Finishers Plaster and Paint, who has joined as a Gold Group Sponsor. Watch out for an article about Shane and his business in an upcoming newsletter. For Shane's contact information please refer to the back page of this newsletter.

Gold Group Sponsors

As a school we are extremely fortunate to have a number of Gold Group Sponsors who support our Vision and contribute to the many opportunities we aim to offer our children. This year we are seeking new ways to encourage your support and would like to offer the following to our loyal sponsors and to any new sponsors who would like to contribute as a Gold Group Sponsor.

- * School Signage
- * Advertising on the back of our school newsletter
- * An opportunity to feature an article about your business in one newsletter during the year (new)
- * Feature on the Gold Group Sponsor page of our school website with your logo, contact information and an article about your business
- * Advertise in the Trade Directory free of charge
- * 2 school magazines
- * 2 family tickets to the PTA Fireworks in Term 4
- * Winter mix and mingle

Should you or someone you know require any further information in regard to becoming a Gold Sponsor of St Mary's Catholic School please do not hesitate to make contact with either myself or Theresa in our office.

Nga Mihi Nui

Ben Fuller
Principal

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2015 Dates to Remember

Tuesday 24 February
Welcome to new children and new families Liturgy (BAMJC) 10.00am
Wednesday 25 February
Senior Swimming Sports
Thursday 26 February
Class Mass Room 6
Friday 27 February
Class Mass Room 10 (change of date)
Sunday 1 March
Sacramental Programme Presentation
Mass at St Mary Immaculate 10.30am
Monday 2 March
Sacramental Programme 3.30pm
Tuesday 3 March
Behaviour Management Parent Meeting (BAMJC) 5.30pm
Thursday 5 March
Class Mass Room 8
Friday 6 March
PTA Outdoor Adventure Day
Saturday 7 March
'Noho Marae' overnight stay TBC
Monday 9 March
Sacrament Programme 3.30pm
Tuesday 10 March
PTA Meeting 7.00pm
Wednesday 11 March
Catholic Schools' Swimming Sports
Wednesday 11 March
Sacramental Programme Parent Session 7pm
Thursday 12 March
Year 5 & 6 Reconciliation
Friday 13 March
Teacher Only Day - school is closed
Sunday 15 March
School Parish Mass 10.30am
Sunday 15 March
Top Schools Competition
Monday 16 March
Sacramental Programme 3.30pm
Tuesday 17 March
South Cluster Swimming 9.00 - 12.30pm
Wednesday 18 March
Future Champions
Wednesday 18 March
Baptism Course at St Mary Immaculate 7pm
Thursday 19 March
School Mass (Church) 9.30am
Friday 20 March
Future Champs
Monday 23 March
Sacramental Programme 3.30pm
Tuesday 24 March
Board of Trustee Meeting 6.00pm

be.
Christ-like

be.
reflective

be.
creative

SPECIAL CHARACTER

This last Wednesday was Ash Wednesday, the day that marks the beginning of Lent. Father Edwin led a very special Liturgy for us which included the distribution of ashes.

As Father Mark wrote in our Parish newsletter "Pope Francis reminds us in his Lenten message this year that Lent is a time of renewal for the whole Church, for each community and for every believer. Above all it is a "time of grace.", a time to turn from absorption with self to a deeper listening and responsiveness to God and a greater concern for the other."

In classes we have been discussing with the children how we can show concern for others by "doing a little good every day." Each student has made a Lenten goal striving to do some small action/deed that will make a difference to others.



New children and new families Liturgy

There will be a Liturgy on Tuesday 24 February at 10.00 am to welcome all the new students and their families who have joined us this year. ALL members of our school community are invited and very welcome to attend. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet the new members of our community and make them feel very welcome. After the Liturgy you are invited to stay for morning tea kindly served by our hardworking PTA.

Prayer Group

Every Friday morning at 9am a group of our parents pray the Rosary in our school chapel. All parents are welcome to join this group on any Friday. If you have someone you would like the prayer group to pray for please enter their name in our prayer book which is placed by the statue of Our Lady in the Chapel or let me know.



Ordination of Bishop Stephen Lowe

Last Friday, 13 February, my husband Peter and I were privileged to attend the episcopal ordination of Bishop Stephen in the Cathedral of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Hamilton. It was the most joyous and uplifting occasion as well as being a very significant event in the life of the Hamilton Diocese. Bishop Stephen was being ordained as the third Bishop of the Diocese of Hamilton to succeed Bishop Denis Browne who is retiring after 38 years as a Bishop, 20 years of which were as the 2nd Bishop of Hamilton Bishop Denis was the Principal Consecrating Bishop assisted by Bishop Barry Jones from Christchurch and Bishop Charles Drennan from Palmerston North. The Mass was concelebrated with Cardinal Tom Williams and 8 other Bishops in presence, a number of civic dignitaries as well as many priests, religious, members of Bishop Stephen's family and representation from all the parishes and schools throughout the Diocese.

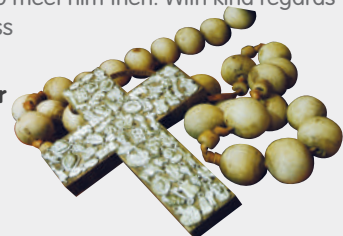
The Mass contained the sacred and ancient rituals for an episcopal ordination and was magnificent! Following the consecration as Bishop, Bishop Stephen was presented with his symbols of office- the Bishop's ring, the mitre and crosier. In presenting the crosier Bishop Stephen was asked to accept the staff as a sign of his pastoral office and to keep watch over the whole flock.

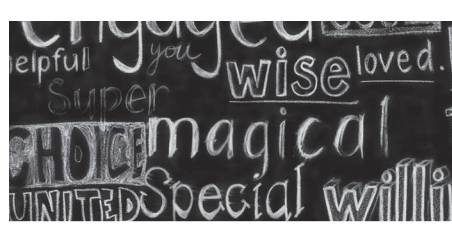
During the concluding Rites Bishop Stephen asked everyone to pray for him as he began his role of shepherd of the Hamilton Diocese. It was quite amazing that just as he was reminding all present that Jesus Christ is the light we should all follow the sun at that moment suddenly streamed in through the Cathedral's large window beaming directly on him. He commented that the Lord's timing is always impeccable!

We look forward to welcoming Bishop to St Mary's School in due course. Those families who have students making their first Communion and Confirmation on the 24th May will have the opportunity to meet him then. With kind regards and God bless

Sally Washer

DRS





SCHOOL NEWS

eLearning/Google Support

As we all grow and increase our understanding around the use of Google Apps for Education and how to access, use and work inside Google Drive we know that there may be some additional support and questions that arise for both students and parents. Every Wednesday morning (through until the end of Term 1) from 8.15am-9.15am Jana Benson will be available for you or your children to drop in and ask any questions. This will be based in the Library. We are not sure how heavy the demand will be and if we will need to have more of a schedule and structure to the morning, so this may develop over the term.

Senior School Waimarino

The five senior school classes were lucky enough to spend a fantastic day at Waimarino Adventure park last week. The students experienced various water activities that challenged many and, in particular, spent time learning how to kayak. The day was extremely successful allowing students to connect with new classmates and giving real opportunities to encourage and motivate one another. We had wonderful support from our parents, and would like to thank them all very much for their time in helping us provide quality outdoor education opportunities.

Middle School Beach Day

In Week 2 the Middle Team classes were very lucky to experience the fun and excitement of Beach Day. The emphasis was on keeping ourselves safe at the beach, both in and out of the water.

On the Thursday trip the sea conditions were very challenging with high, dumpy waves. However every child raced in eager to get under the waves.

A big thank you must go to all our parents who didn't



expect to get so wet - many of them were bowled over by the waves too!

We will certainly keep this trip on our calendar for years to come.

Bus fare information for Term 2

From Term two, Schoolhopper fares will be:

With a Smartride Card - \$1.15

Without a Smartride Card (cash fare) - \$1.60

Smartride cards for the Schoolhopper service can be purchased from the bus driver or at the Tauranga i-site on the corner of Wharf Street & Willow Street.

There is no charge for a smartride card. However, you will have to buy a minimum of \$10 worth of credit. The card will come loaded with the \$10 credit.

You can top up your card by giving the driver the cash amount and ask them to top up your card. You can also top-up your Smartride card at the Tauranga i-site.

All the fun of learning French

Bonjour, My name is Anne Boezennec. I am a French native speaker, born in Paris. Research has unquestionably shown that a second language is best learned at a young age. Research has also shown that even if the second language is not practised or used for many years and may seem to be gone, the fact that children were exposed to it at an early age makes them more academically successful in the future.

Classes will be held for the duration of the school terms at the school, straight after school, every Wednesday. The cost of the class is \$ 10.00 per session. To enrol your child, please contact: Anne on 544 59 32 or txt on 022 1645 800.

SPORTS NEWS

Rippa Rugby

Games begin next Friday 27th February at Greerton Marist Rugby grounds. The year 5/6 teams still requires three players to comfortably field two teams.

Volleyball

We would like one more year 6 girl to play volleyball this term. Games are Friday evenings at the QEYC.

Please email Kellie Low if your child has not registered but would be available for either of these codes.

Bay of Plenty Basketball Under 11 Team

Congratulations to Liam Roberts who has been selected to play for the Tauranga u11 basketball representative team. Well done, Liam.

Kellie Low, Sports Coordinator





Our People Our Place

be. thankful

oxforddictionaries.com / thankful.

adj: 1. pleased and relieved. 2. expressing gratitude.



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paul.manning@bdo.co.nz



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