



St Mary's
Catholic School
Tauranga

newsletter

ISSUE 3: 9 March 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

I would like to start this newsletter, our third of the year, by congratulating all associated with St Mary's for the great start to our school year. Visitors to our school often comment about the great sense of feeling they get when walking around our school. As an educator I am able to connect with this as it is often portrayed in the people within a school. Our school is full of great people doing great things for our community.

Behaviour Management

Thank you to all those who attended our behaviour management meeting on Tuesday. At this meeting our new Behaviour Management Procedures were unpacked for parents. Staff, students and our Board of Trustees have had significant input into the development of the procedures which are still in draft form. We would now invite parents to view and comment on the procedures in their present form. They can be viewed on our school website and comments made to;

consultation@stmarystga.school.nz.

Before and After School Procedures

We have noticed a number of students who are arriving at school extremely early and a small number remaining at school awaiting collection at the end of the school day. As a result I would like to alert you to the following procedures.

Before School

If at all possible students should not be at school prior to 8.15am. From 8.30am classrooms will be open to students with teachers present. Prior to 8.30am classrooms will be locked to ensure students are not left unsupervised in classrooms. A bell will now ring at 8.30am informing children that they are able to enter their class.

The bell to start school will ring at 8.50am on all days, including Tuesdays. Previously we have met as a staff on a Tuesday morning. From now all meetings will be concluded by 8.30am.

I am aware of occasions where students have supervised before school activities such as Jump Jam, music etc. This organisation will not change. Students can still be dropped at school in time for the relevant activity.

After School

It is the responsibility of parents to ensure children are cared for after school hours. To support parents in this we run an after school care service, details of which are available at our school office. Where a child is not able to be collected at 3pm due to unforeseen circumstances, please make contact with the office staff who will ensure your child waits in the foyer for collection.

Before School Care

Due to the above change in procedures we would once again like to survey parents in regard to the provision of before school care. If you would utilize a before school care service, if available, please complete the following form by going to this link;

<http://goo.gl/forms/uLLXUxrTzw>

Upcoming Events

A reminder that next Friday 13 March is a Teacher Only Day. All staff will be travelling to Auckland to take part in a seminar featuring two world renowned presenters in the area of educational practice. Also please note our Parent Teacher Learning Conversations are scheduled for Tuesday 24 March. Information regarding the booking of times and purpose of the Learning Conversation will be shared later this week.

Gold Sponsors

As a school we are extremely fortunate to have a number of Gold 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 (new)

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

13th Avenue, Tauranga, New Zealand

[E office@stmarystga.school.nz](mailto:office@stmarystga.school.nz)

T 07 578 8066

www.stmarystga.school.nz

2015 Dates to Remember

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
Parent / Teacher Learning Conferences

Tuesday 24 March
Board of Trustee Meeting 6.00pm

Wednesday 25 March
Performance Day 12 noon

Thursday 26 March
Exposition / Benediction

Thursday 26 March
Class Mass Room 9

Friday 27 March
WBoP Swimming 9.00am - 12.30pm

Friday 27 March
PTA Outdoor Adventure Day (new date)

Saturday 28 March
Surfing Competition

Monday 30 March
Holy Week Begins

Thursday 2 April
Term 1 ends

Thursday 2 April
Mass of The Last Supper 7.00pm

Friday 3 April
Good Friday Service 3.00pm

Monday 20 April
Term 2 starts

be.
Christ-like

be.
reflective

be.
creative

SPECIAL CHARACTER

We are now well into the season of Lent and our Liturgies and class Masses have helped us gain a deeper understanding of what this special season of the church is all about as we journey towards the great feast of Easter.

Reconciliation

This Thursday 12 March there will be a special Reconciliation Liturgy for our year 5 and 6 students in the Blessed Anne Marie Javouhey Centre at 9am which you are all very welcome to attend.

School Parish Mass

Sunday 15 March is our first Parish/School Mass for 2015 at 10.30am in St Mary's Church Cameron Road. We encourage all families to attend this Mass to show support of the special Catholic Character of our school. Children are asked to wear their school uniform and sit with their families. Members of Sursum Corda will sit together as a choir.

School Mass Thursday 19 March

We will be having a special School Mass to celebrate the feast of St Joseph on Thursday 19 March at 9.30am in St Mary Immaculate Church.

This feast day has a special significance for our school as St Joseph is the Patron Saint of our Cluny Sisters who began our school. At this Mass we will be praying for and remembering the Cluny Sisters, many who came from Ireland who worked so hard establishing our school and who are now with God.

Again we warmly invite you and encourage you to join us for this Mass.



Prayer Group and Prayer Book

Every Friday morning a group of parents meet in our school chapel to pray the Rosary. All parents are welcome to join this group at any time.

We also have a prayer book which is placed by the Statue of Our Lady in the chapel. If you have anyone you would like this prayer group to pray for please write their names in this book.

Sally Washer, DRS

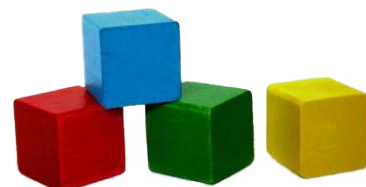
SCHOOL NEWS

Helping your child have the best mathematical start to life

One of the very best things that parents can do to help develop their child's mathematical interest is to provide mathematical experiences using materials. Playing, measuring, talking with your child about their discoveries and ideas are the basis of mathematical ideas being formed. Play with building blocks, interlocking cubes, or kits for making objects is fantastically helpful in the development of spatial reasoning. Jigsaw puzzles, rubic cubes and anything that involves moving objects around, fitting objects together or rotating objects are beneficial. Noticing number all around us, on letterboxes, signs etc offers an opportunity to pose mathematical questions. When exploring mathematical ideas with your child, it is always good to ask lots of questions. Children who take risks to answer questions need great encouragement. The focus is not on getting every answer correct but rather talking about their ideas, so that the child can

reason their way through problems. When you are working with your child on maths it is important to be as enthusiastic as possible. Mathematical conversations should be relaxed and free from pressure. Make your interactions with your child as much fun as possible as attitudes towards maths are so quickly sensed by young children. Have fun learning with your child playing with numbers to develop their number sense.

Janet McCarroll, Deputy Principal



St Mary's Twitter - follow us at @StMTGA
50 followers and counting.....

What is a tweet? A tweet is an expression of a moment or idea. It can contain text, photos, and videos. Millions of Tweets are shared in real time, every day. To keep you up to date with realtime information we are tweeting latest news. Emails will still be sent as well until we get more people following us.

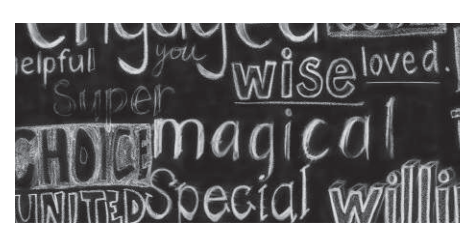
IAAF Nestle Kids' Athletics

On Friday 27 February, 26 of St Mary's Year 3 & 4 students were involved in the official launch in New Zealand of the "IAAF Nestle Kids' Athletics" at Omanu Beach alongside students from Omanu and Matakana Island schools.

IAAF Kids athletics is one of the biggest grassroots development programmes in the world of sports. The IAAF (International Association of Athletics Federations) ambassador and long jump world record holder, Mike Powell, was a main feature of Friday's event - he continues to hold the world long jump record from 1991 with his jump of 8.95m.

Students were placed into teams and rotated around eight running, jumping and throwing activities in the sand, including pole jumping and hurdles which many had never tried before. One of the rotations





Teacher Only Day
Friday 13 March
 School is closed

SPORTS NEWS

Senior Swimming

Thank you to our fabulous senior students, senior teachers and parent helpers. Thank you sooo much for being part of the St Mary's Swimming Sports. It was wonderful seeing our school community spirit alive and kicking!!

My job was made infinitely easier by the recording crew, timekeepers, marshals, photographers, supervisors - thank you so much for sharing the load. Your help with, and support of, our senior students was incredible.

Certificates for the races have been awarded, along with the newsletters (via email) for those swimmers who have qualified for the next level competition - South Cluster Champs on Tuesday 17th March.

St Mary's Swimming Champions for 2015 are;

Year 6 Girls

1st	Jess Carey	81 points
2nd	Jaime Hammerich	58 points
3rd	Paige McKay	19 points

Year 6 Boys

1st	Corbin Mackay	69 points
2nd	Jackson Roper	66 points
3rd	Connor Delaney	36 points

Year 5 Girls

1st	Georgia Verhoeven	87 points
2nd	Kate Dekker	54 points
3rd	Cara Butler	21 points

Year 5 Boys

1st	Zach Quin	90 points
2nd	Jack McClutchie	29 points
3rd	Steve Fonohema	23 points

The winning House overall was Cluny. The House points are;

1st	Cluny	383 points
2nd	Pompallier	262 points
3rd	Ryan	206 points
4th	Viard	188 points

Thanks again, and well done, everyone.....a great first senior school event for 2015.

Kellie Low, Sports Coordinator



AQUINAS COLLEGE

ENROLMENT PROCEDURE

Year 6 students and parents are invited to attend our

OPEN DAY - THURSDAY 14th MAY 2015

Two sessions will operate: 9-10am or 1-2pm

See the College in action; take a guided tour.

2016 Enrolment Applications open Thursday 14th May, and close Friday 3rd July 2015.

Senior staff members from Aquinas College will visit St Mary's School on Wednesday 6th May from 1:30-2:30pm to speak with Year 6 students. Parents are warmly invited to attend this session also. Students will be given an enrolment pack to take home which will include the official enrolment form. The completed enrolment form and supporting documentation should be submitted to Aquinas College before closing date Friday 3rd July 2015. The college's maximum roll number has been met for the past five years which has resulted in the need to operate a selection process for enrolment. Preference students from our two Catholic feeder schools, as well as Preference students from other Catholic primary schools in our area will be priority applications. We also receive a good number of applications from Preference students attending state school. Non-Preference applications will be a lesser priority. A number of factors are taken into consideration during the selection process including your family's involvement with parish and school; leadership, sporting/cultural interests of the student; student academic progress. Please contact Moira Ramsbottom at the college with any queries (phone 543 9032 or email admin@aquinas-school.nz)

Enrolment applications for 2016 close on Friday 3 July 2015.

Enrolment applications for 2016 close on Friday 3 July 2015.

Photos: 1. Mike Powell jumps over Destinee Bengie
2. Madison Smith **3. Madison Mackay** **4. Georgia Verhoeven**
Year 5 champ **5. Zach Quin** **Year 5 champ** **6. Corbin Mackay**
Year 6 champ **7. Jess Carey** **Year 6 champ** **8. Our fabulous**
mums - Leanne, Tammy, Lee and Charley **9. Sunrise at St**
Joseph's Te Puna - great photo Father Mark!



included a healthy eating message with a banana and drink of water for all participants. The event was about having fun and encouraging the general development of the run, jump and throw skills which is part of our Physical Education programme.

Some of the students' comments are:

Nathan Holmberg "I liked the ball throwing because we were challenged to go over the highest score."

Madison Smith "I mainly liked everything. I hadn't done the hopping on different number pads and it was a little hard because you had to go back to zero after each hop before going to the next number."

Lily Cooper "The pole jumping was good - I've used Mum's planting stakes to do that at home. The standing long jump was good because it's hard to run and then get the jump right."

Milla Mason "The pole jumping made you jump higher but the Racing Car Run was my favourite because there were lots of challenges on the way."

Gabbie Way "Throwing the ball backwards over my head really tested my throwing skills - the balls went all over the place."

Joanne Meehan, Teacher in Charge

OTHER NEWS

Workbridge - Looking for full or part time work?

Do you have a disability, injury or illness? We have jobs available now! Our service covers a wide range of clients from someone with an illness, for instance (stress), an injury (RSI) or a disability (epileptic fits) which has lasted 6 months or more, anything that impacts on a person's life and stops them living to their full potential. Workbridge is a free & professional employment agency. Please call the Tauranga Team 0508 858 858.

TECT Rescue Helicopter Open Day

You are all invited to the annual Trustpower TECT Rescue Helicopter Open Day which will be held at the Ian Pain Memorial Hangar, Tauranga Hospital, on Sunday 22 March 2015. The day is always fun-filled for the family. You can meet the Rescue Pilots along with local emergency service crews, including Police Dogs, Armed Offenders, NZ Fire Service, Coastguard, St John Ambulance and more! It's a great opportunity to see how emergency services work together to save lives. We put on a sausage sizzle to support the chopper. There'll be face-painting, rides in our rescue winch trainer, and an opportunity to win a flight in the chopper and more.





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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