



St Mary's
Catholic School
Tauranga

newsletter

ISSUE 5: 28 April 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

Greetings and welcome back to term two. It is great to have just enjoyed a long weekend but, as I am sure is the case, the significance of the holiday was not lost. I am proud of the way classes have focused on ANZAC day and the significant respect we have dedicated to the recognition of our returned service men. In our foyer you will see a wall of remembrance where children have had the opportunity to either remember relatives or simply pay respect to those fallen soldiers to whom we owe so much.



I was lucky enough to work with some of our year 6 students as we constructed a field of remembrance, a visual representation of a military cemetery with the names of 30 New Zealand soldiers killed during World War I represented on crosses. Many of you will have noticed this on our field.

Today we concluded our ANZAC remembrance with a special liturgy.

Enrolment visit Aquinas College

On Wednesday 6 May Mr Ray Scott, Principal of Aquinas College, will be visiting our school at 1.30 pm. The purpose of the visit is to speak to students about Aquinas and the ensuing enrolment process. Should parents wish to be present for this meeting, you are extremely welcome.

PTA AGM

I was privileged enough to attend our St Mary's Parent Teacher Association Annual General Meeting last week. At the meeting the resignation of Jason Croad as President, Maria Trott as Secretary and Cathy Kerr as Treasurer were accepted. On behalf of our school community I would like to thank each of these individuals for the service they have made to the main community fundraising body of our school.

Please also join me in congratulating Tammy McGrory, elected President; Kim Sherlock, elected Secretary and Leanne Mackay, elected Treasurer. Knowing the quality of these individuals, I am sure they will make a significant contribution to the strategic direction of our school.

Buses

I hope the transition to the paid bus service has been relatively smooth for the majority of users. I am aware that this has not been the case for all but hopefully, after some reflection and fine tuning, we will all enjoy an extremely efficient service. A reminder for all bus users to check the School Hopper website for updates www.baybus.co.nz/schoolhopper.

Alpha

Alpha express is coming to St Mary's School. The course will run from Friday 15 May until 17 July. For more information see the advertisement overleaf.

Gold Group Sponsor - Bay Radiology

Welcome to Guy Mason from Bay Radiology, who has joined our Gold Group Sponsor team.

BAY RADIOLOGY LTD

Gold Group Sponsor - Page Transport

Welcome also to Steven and Rebecca Page from Page Earthworks Ltd. We look forward to learning more about both businesses in later issues of the newsletter.

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Ben Fuller
Principal

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www.stmarystga.school.nz

2015 Dates to Remember

Wednesday 29 April

Book Fair starts with Dress Up Day 9.15am

Thursday 30 April

Class Mass Room 2

Thursday 30 April

Book Fair - Sheryl Jordan visits (Author)

Friday 1 May

Book Fair finishes

Monday 4 May

Young Leaders Day (Seniors)

Monday 4 May

Sacramental Programme 3.30pm

Tuesday 5 May

Liturgy to welcome new children and new families

Wednesday 6 May

Amazing Race

Wednesday 6 May

Aquinas College meet our Year 6 students

Thursday 7 May

Class Mass Room 3

Thursday 7 May

Sacramental Programme Parent Session 7 pm

Friday 8 May

Room 10 visit to the Art Gallery

Saturday 8 May

Sursum Corda sing at 5pm Mass

Monday 11 May

Sacramental Programme 3.30pm

Tuesday 12 May

PTA Meeting 7pm

Wednesday 13 May

WBoP Rippa Rugby

Thursday 14 May

Class Mass Room 4

Thursday 14 May

Aquinas Open Day 9-10am or 1-2pm

Monday 18 May

Sacramental Programme 3.30pm

Tuesday 19 May

St Mary's School Cross Country

Tuesday 19 May

PTA Sausage Sizzle

Thursday 21 May

Class Mass Room 5

Thursday 21 May

Jump Jam movie night fundraiser

Friday 22 May

Bishop Steve Lowe visits St Mary's

Friday 22 May

Sacramental Programme Practice

Sunday 24 May

First Holy Communion and Confirmation Mass and Breakfast Celebration

Sunday 24 May

Samoan Language Week Begins

be.
Christ-like

be.
reflective

be.
creative

SPECIAL CHARACTER

We are currently celebrating Easter time; the time of the Church year commemorating the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

It continues for a period of fifty days, from Easter Sunday to the feast of Pentecost. Pope Francis opened his Easter message, Urbi et Orbi, with the words "Jesus Christ is risen" and closed his message with a reminder "Fear not, for I am risen and I shall always be with you." What comforting and reassuring words for us!

Last week our Monday Liturgy focused on the Resurrection of Jesus and this great message of hope and joy. All classes in their Religious Education lessons for these first weeks of term are exploring ways we can live as Easter people proclaiming this Good News!

Liturgy to welcome new children and new families

Our Liturgy to welcome new families and students who have joined our St Mary's family during the last term is to take place next Tuesday 5 May. A reminder that all parents and caregivers are very welcome to attend this Liturgy and help make our new families feel welcome and part of our very special St Mary's community.

Sally Washer, DRS



Alpha Express is coming to St Mary's School

Would you like to explore more about who Christ is?
Why did He die?
Is it possible to have a relationship with Him?
How can I have Faith?

Has taking a course been too difficult because you have little ones?

This opportunity is for you.

Alpha Express will begin on Friday
15th May and run until 17th July
1.40 - 2.40pm in the staff room at St Mary's School

Your babies and toddlers can stay with you and your three & four year olds can come to the crèche.

***Come and see session: Friday, 8th May, 2:15-2:45 in the staff room to learn more.**

Anyone is welcome, whether your children go to St Mary's school or elsewhere, or you don't have children at all.

For more information contact:
Mary-Pat Kengmana:
ckengmana@slingshot.co.nz
OR ring evenings 552-5711



SCHOOL NEWS

Maths and Growth Mindset

Last term we closed the school for a 'Teachers Only Day' on March 13th, to enable all our staff to attend a one day conference in Auckland. The theme of the day was 'Teaching for Intelligent Mindsets', exploring how a 'Growth Mindset', as opposed to a 'Fixed Mindset', can invigorate students and adults alike to re-engage with learning, take on challenges and persist in the face of obstacles. Staff were fortunate to hear Professors Carol Dweck and Guy Claxton along with Jamie Fitzgerald, as they shared ways to promote a 'Growth Mindset' in students, including ways of praising process not ability, strengthening neural connections and growing self belief.

This term we are focussing on developing 'Growth Mindsets' in our students, with a particular focus on the Maths Curriculum, where often students can bring to the classroom a 'Fixed Mind Set' of their own ability in Mathematics.

Research shared by Dr Jo Boaler from Stanford University has educators around the world examining effective mathematics teaching. As teachers our role is to encourage students to believe in themselves. There are different parts to this – first we need students to know that they can achieve at any math level, and there is no such thing as a 'maths person'. We know the brain has great plasticity and that all students can achieve at the highest levels. Second we need them to have a 'Growth Mindset' – believing that they can learn anything, and the more work they do the smarter they will get.

As parents you can significantly help grow your child's mathematical self belief. Here are some useful tips for parents to help transform your child's maths learning.

Encourage your child to play maths puzzles and games. (visit link: <http://nzmaths.co.nz/families>)

Always be encouraging and never tell children they are wrong when they are working on maths problems. Instead, find the logic in their thinking because there is always some logic to what the child says.

Never associate maths with speed. It is not important to work quickly, particularly in the younger years.

Avoid sharing with your children the idea that you were bad at maths at school or that you dislike it. Significant research has identified that when a mother shares that idea with their daughters achievement goes down.

Encourage 'number sense', i.e. composing and decomposing numbers. For example, when working out 29+ 56, if you take one from 56 and make it 30 + 55, it is much easier to work out.

Perhaps most important of all, encourage a 'Growth Mindset', ie the idea that ability and smartness change as you work and learn more. The opposite to this is a fixed mindset, where the idea is

that ability is fixed and you can either do maths or you can't.

For further information visit Professor Jo Boaler's blog and website which contain informative articles and videos. <http://joboaler.com/>
<https://ed.stanford.edu/faculty/joboaler>

Janet McCarroll, DP

Book Fair

Tomorrow we have our book character 'Dress Up Day' to celebrate our Book Fair Week. We are all looking forward to seeing our children dressed as their favourite pre 1915 book character. A parade of all children will be held at 9.15am.

Don't forget to come and have a look at the books we have on display in the school library. Parents and children are welcome to buy books, sponsor books, or make a cash donation. All books are supplied by Scholastic Books. You will find a wonderful variety of books and other products at the fair. All Book Fair purchases benefit our school and provide new books for our library. Our goal is to put more books into the hands of children!

Miss Debbie Nowell, Librarian

Entertainment Book

Don't forget to return your form or go online to order your digital 2015/2016 Entertainment Book. Over \$20,000 worth of value! Experience over 2,000 up to 50% off and 2-for-1 offers from the best local restaurants, bistros and cafés, hotels and accommodation, travel, attractions, shopping and more that are valid through until 1 June 2016!

School App

St Mary's School now have a Mobile App for notices, events and other important school messages. To download the app for free on iPhone or Android search 'St Mary's Tauranga' in the app store. Hopefully, you may already have received a text to let you know about the download.



St Mary's Catholic School now have a School App!

Go to the App Store on your Apple or Android Device and Search St Mary's Catholic School to download the App to your phone or tablet.

HEALTH NEWS

Asthma.... A message from our Health Nurse

With seasonal temperature changes it's time to think about your child's asthma treatment. Consider having your child checked if:

- they have a persistent night cough or cough after exercise
- suffer breathlessness & or wheezing (noisy breathing)
- they experience a tight feeling in the chest

For asthma sufferers

If they have a preventer – now is the time to ensure regular use.

Ensure your child has a stock of their asthma medication & that it has not expired!- check the date on the cartridge.

Administering the inhalers with a spacer is the most effective method- for adults & children.

If your child is using their reliever (blue) inhaler more than 3-4 times a week on a regular basis then the asthma is not under control.

Restart the preventer if you have one, and are not using it, or seek advice from your GP or the Asthma Centre. It may be that technique with the inhaler or that a review of medications is needed.

Free advice, information & care is available from the Asthma Centre- Ph 577 6738 or your Doctor. Contact the Public Health Nurse for support of student health and wellbeing.

Contact can be made through the school office or directly on 07 5773383.

PTA NEWS

Outdoor Adventure Day

We had a phenomenal day at our Outdoor Adventure Day. We have been blown away with the support and dedication that our community brings to this event so that our children can all experience the learning aspects of education outside the classroom.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to you all as in some small way everyone has helped, from those fabulous bakers, to the volunteers and, of course, the staff and children at St Mary's School. In regards to the baking WOW we are in awe of our bakers!!

Special mentions go to Bruce Stockman, our Caretaker, Playtime Bouncy Castles, Daily Grindz Coffee Cart, Stark Family for the tyres and Kim Artus.

Of course this would not be possible without the help of our Outdoor Adventure Day Team Tracey, Mel, Michelle, Kim S, Kim D, Leanne, Tammy, Rebecca, Kelly, Ana, Megan, Gabby, Lee and Fiona.

Results

1st	Pompallier	281 pts
2nd	Viard	278 pts
3rd	Ryan	253 pts
4th	Cluny	240 pts

The winning class with the most baking was Room 13. Sincerest thanks and praise to you all.

Donna Schrama

Outdoor Adventure Day Coordinator

Class Reps

As in past years we have always had a parent PTA Class Representative for each class. This year we have decided to ease our way into everything and are only going to instigate the Class Rep role from this term onwards.

Being a Class Rep is very rewarding, and a great way of meeting other parents from your class, other like minded parents from within the school, getting to know the PTA members and supporting your child's teacher and class.

The role of the Class Rep is to:

- support the PTA regarding communicating to parents and co-ordinating help for PTA events
- organise a once a term parent get together (which could be in conjunction with other classes)
- communicate with the PTA Class Rep Coordinator

The role would only be on a, 'as needed' basis. However, coming up to our major fundraising event of the year, our Fireworks Gala, you will be required to assist in co-ordinating your class activity in conjunction with the Fireworks Organising team and the Class Rep Co-ordinator.

There isn't a huge time commitment involved and you would get full support from the Class Rep Co-ordinator.

We will be organising a get together with all class reps and PTA members early this term, where you can all meet each other and we can go over in more detail the role guidelines.

If you are interested in this role for your child's class, please email me on pta@stmarystga.school.nz and please include what room you would like to be the rep for.

We would love to have you as part of this fantastic team.

Michelle Pine

PTA Class Rep Coordinator

SPORTS NEWS

Congratulations to our very own 'Super Coach', Kellie Low who guided her Aquinas Senior Boy's Water Polo Team to finish 2nd at the NZ Premier Schoolboys' Championships in the school holidays. An amazing feat considering this same team entered the second division last year. Congratulations Mrs Low we are all so very proud of you!

Please remember in your prayers the victims of Saturdays Earthquake in Nepal and in neighbouring countries. "We pray for the victims, the wounded and all those who are suffering because of this calamity."

Pope Francis



St Mary's School 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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