



St Mary's
Catholic School
Tauranga

newsletter

ISSUE 6: 11 May 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

Hi Mihi Nui Kia Koutou

My greetings to you our parent community. Great to be into the (first) autumn / winter term and seeing and hearing of the great opportunities our children are involved in. This term signals the start of winter sports and, as always, St Mary's is well represented across a number of codes. I would like to wish all children involved in sport at St Mary's an enjoyable season.

I am, of course, proud of all children who get involved in the extracurricular activities offered through our school and know same can be said for the many children who wear St Mary's colours while participating in competitive sport.

Term two is also an important term for learning. The diagnostic and observational activities of term one mean teachers now have a clear understanding of students needs and next steps in learning. This information is then translated into clear and scaffolded learning goals for each child that in turn each teacher focuses on supporting them to attain. Please take time to talk with your child in regard to their present focus or priority for learning in each of the core subject areas.

Last Friday, along with Kelly Quin our Board Chair, I attended a cross sector seminar facilitated and hosted by the Ministry of Education. A key message from the ministry was the effect being late or non attendance has on student achievement. This is, of course, not new to educators but what was significant for me was the effect poor attendance in Primary had statistically on the attainment of key Secondary based qualifications such as NCEA Level 2 and 3.

I accept that each individual case is different and the information presented was data, not a case by case basis. However, we often think days off and holidays during term time are not such an issue at the primary level but ministry based research indicates that a 10% absence rate (one day a fortnight) in years 4 - 8 correlates to a reduction in the likelihood of a student achieving NCEA Level 2 qualifications.

Other items for discussion included the benefits of parental involvement in the education process. This is, of course, something we continue to promote at St Mary's but I am reflecting on ways we can better support and scaffold parent

involvement in your child's learning. The object is for parents to progress from going to schools and being shown what children do to actually knowing what the child is learning and why. Great challenges for us all.

Book Fair

Congratulations to all children who took time to dress up for our Book Character Day last week. This was but one aspect of the week that was well supported by our wider community. Throughout the week we sold over \$4000 worth of childrens books and, as a result, raised nearly \$1,000 for our library.

Many thanks to Debbie Nowell, our librarian, for the work undertaken in staging the fair this year.

Uniform

I was notified last week that the soft shell jackets have arrived at NZ Uniforms meaning all uniform items are now in stock. Tracy from NZ Uniforms has asked me to pass on her apologies for recent supply issues and the inconvenience it has caused.

Trade directory

A reminder to all those who would like to benefit from being included in the second edition of our community trade directory. Being included is a great way to ensure the families of St Mary's are able to utilise the skills and services provided by members of our community. To ensure you are a part of our 2015 Trade Directory please attach \$20 to your business card and drop it in to the school office. Please also email a copy of your business card with some text (less than 50 words) describing your business to; tdunston@stmarystga.school.nz

Traffic Management

It is important that we remain aware of our obligations as road users when driving and parking around our school neighbourhood. As previously communicated please ensure your vehicle is parked appropriately in a designated space before stopping to pick up or drop off children. Unfortunately complaints from neighbours have increased recently due to parents, once again, parking on grass verges and across driveways.

Nga Mihi Nui

Ben Fuller
Principal

13th Avenue, Tauranga, New Zealand

E office@stmarystga.school.nz

T 07 578 8066

www.stmarystga.school.nz

2015 Dates to Remember

Tuesday 12 May

PTA Meeting 7pm

Wednesday 13 May

WBoP Rippa Rugby

Thursday 14 May

Room 4 Class Mass 9am

Thursday 14 May

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

Friday 15 May

Year 5 & 6 to visit Maleme Transfer Station

Monday 18 May

Sacramental Programme 3.30pm

Tuesday 19 May

St Mary's School Cross Country 11am

Tuesday 19 May

PTA Sausage Sizzle 12.30pm

Thursday 21 May

Room 5 Class Mass 9am

Thursday 21 May

St Mary's School Cross Country postponement

Thursday 21 May

Jump Jam movie night fundraiser 7pm

Friday 22 May

Bishop Steve Lowe visits St Mary's School

Friday 22 May

Year 5 & 6 Gymnastics Competition

Friday 22 May

Sacramental Programme Practice 4pm

Sunday 24 May

First Holy Communion and Confirmation Mass and Breakfast Celebration 10am

Sunday 24 May

Samoa Language Week Begins

Tuesday 26 May

Board of Trustee Meeting 6pm

Wednesday 27 May

BoP Rippa Rugby World Cup

Thursday 28 May

Whole School Mass 9.30am (Church)

Tuesday 2 June

South Cluster Cross Country

Thursday 4 June

South Cluster Cross Country postponement

Thursday 4 June

Room 14 Class Mass 9am

Tuesday 9 June

PTA Meeting 7pm

Wednesday 10 June

South Cluster Young Einstein

Thursday 11 June

Room 15 Class Mass

Sunday 14 June

School / Parish Mass 10am

Thursday 18 June

Room 13 Class Mass

be.
Christ-like

be.
reflective

be.
creative

SPECIAL CHARACTER

Liturgy to welcome new children and new families

Last week we welcomed our new children and families to St Mary's School at the 'Welcome To New Families' Liturgy. Father Mark talked about the importance of our older children taking responsibility and looking after the newest members of our flock like the Good Shepherd. It was lovely to see the older children rising to the challenge of the Good Shepherd and looking after those entrusted in their care. May all new children and their families feel truly welcomed to our school and we look forward to getting to know you as part of our special St Mary's family.

Sacramental Programme

The hard work is almost done and there is a buzz of excitement as the children are coming to an end of the lessons for the Sacramental Programme which began last October. On Sunday 24 May at St Mary Immaculate Church, 80 children will receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion. This will be a special Mass celebrated by Bishop Stephen Lowe to mark a very important step in the children's faith journey. Please keep all these children from our St Thomas Aquinas parish in your prayers at this time.

Mrs Donna Vincent



SCHOOL NEWS

Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair proved to be a very successful week. The Book Fair was well attended with sales totalling \$4904.50 of which the library gets 20% commission. This gives us \$980.90 to purchase new books for the library.

Many thanks to Mrs Prue O'Connell, Mrs Marina Parshikova, Mrs Tracey Nirmalaraj, Mrs Donna Schrama, and Mrs Jan Best for volunteering their time to help with the Book Fair.

A great deal of fun was had on the Wednesday, when everyone was given the opportunity to dress up as a character from history. Even the staff got into the spirit. A parade was held and certificates and gift vouchers to spend at the Book Fair were given to the best costumes from each class.

Two competitions were held during the week. One was "Which NZ Author was visiting us during the Book Fair?" and the other was "What 100th anniversary event was the country celebrating this year?".

We had two draws for both competitions. Marika Porteners (Room 6), Sophie Karl (Room 8), Beatrice Sutherland (Rm13) and Angela Santos (Room 2) all won a book pack. Congratulations to them all.

Lastly, thank you to all who supported the Fair.

Miss Debbie Nowell, Librarian

Entertainment Book

Don't forget to return your form or go online to order your book or your digital copy of the 2015/2016 Entertainment Book that was handed out on Friday. 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. Valid through until 1 June 2016!

You are under no obligation to buy the book. If you do not want it then simply return it to the school office.

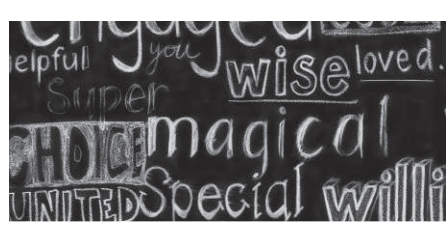
School App

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.



Fundraising Thank You

Vanuatu Appeal	\$700
Napal Appeal	\$900
RSA Poppy Day	\$320



SPORTS NEWS

Amazing Race

Congratulations to the St Mary's team who competed in the Amazing Race on Wednesday. Antony Death, Jacob Sheridan, Reuben Holden, Molly Thompson, Sarah Fitzpatrick and Paige Gregory had a fantastic time at the Tauranga Historic Village. They were sent on a Quest that included, problem solving, clue and fact finding, team work, mental and physical agility. While they didn't win the race, Mr James Sheridan commented on the incredible way these six students worked together and encouraged each other. Well done team, and a big thank you to Mr Sheridan for supporting the team throughout their morning.

St Mary's Cross Country

The school cross-country is fast approaching. All the children are busy training for this event.

Date: Tuesday 19 May

Time: 11.00 am to 12.15 pm

What to wear: School uniform to and from school. Correct School PE uniform or clothing in house colours for the race. RYAN (yellow), POMPALLIER (red), VIARD (green), CLUNY (blue). The courses vary in length for the different age groups, but all start and finish on the school field. The Saint Mary's Cup Race will be the grand event of the morning. This is a very exciting race with a trophy for the winning senior boy and senior girl. All senior students will compete in this race.

Race Order

11.00am Year 2 Girls, Year 2 Boys

11.10am Year 1 Girls, Year 1 Boys

1.15am All Year 0s

11.20am Girls Cup Race (Year 5/6), Boys Cup Race (Year 5/6)

11.40am Year 4 Girls and Year 4 Boys. Year 3 Girls, Year 3 Boys

South Cluster representatives

Years 4, 5 and 6 girls and boys will have the opportunity to represent St. Mary's School at the South Cluster Cross Country if they are placed in the top 7. This will be held at Waipuna Park, Welcome Bay, on Tuesday 2nd June (the day after the Queen's Birthday holiday weekend).

Marshals Required

To assist in the safe running of this event we require approximately 30 marshals for directional and road safety duties. All marshals will assemble at the school tennis courts at 10.40 am for a briefing. If you are able to assist please email klow@stmarystga.school.nz

PTA Sausage Sizzle

The PTA are organising a sausage sizzle at lunchtime. Parents, grandparents and friends are more than welcome to join us for a delicious sausage and juice. Thank you for your continued support.

Kellie Low

Sports Coordinator

OTHER NEWS

Alpha Express

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 course will begin on Friday 15 May and run until 17 July from 1.40 - 2.40 in the school staffroom. Your babies and toddlers can stay with you and your three & four year olds can come to the creche. Everyone is welcome.

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

Noel Leeming Promotion

Please check out the advertisement for the Noel Leeming promotion this week.



an unmissable offer for you

St Mary's Catholic School
Monday 11 May - Sunday 18 May 2015

get cost +10%* storewide

2.5%* of total sales will go towards
St Mary's Catholic School

plus
Spend over \$500 on an LG TV, Washer or Fridge and get one \$50 Noel Leeming gift card per invoice. Gift card will be mailed out.

Hurry in store and make the most of this offer
ONLY AT NOEL LEEMING TAURANGA
Print and present this flyer or show it on your smartphone in store

noel leeming commercial **noel leeming**



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Our People Our Place

**be.
thankful**

oxforddictionaries.com / thankful.
adj: 1. pleased and relieved. 2. expressing gratitude.

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