



St Mary's
Catholic School
Tauranga

newsletter

ISSUE 9: 24 June 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

Hello, Greetings to you all. This will be the last newsletter of term two, an 11 week term that seems to have now preceded us with some haste. We are now essentially half way through the 2015 academic year and I trust your children are able to both look back on some great achievements and look forward to opportunities to come.

Student Led Conferences

Our first reporting event of next term will be our student led conferences in week 4. Student led conferences are now an established part of how we report to parents and one where students take a lead role. This is a process that we continue to refine and grow as a student centred reporting tool. Details in regard to date and time will follow early next term.

Mathematics Learning Story

Further to reporting, you should all now be in receipt of your child's mathematics learning story. This being in a similar format to the reading learning story received last term. If you haven't already, please take time to access your child's eportfolio site, view the learning exemplar, read the comment in relation to achievement against National Standards and place feedback in regard to the learning you witness.

No doubt you are starting to see your child's eportfolio take shape and able to visually understand how each individual aspect of reporting will combine to form a real record of learning and achievement during their time at St Mary's. The teacher comment is of course still an integral part of reporting to parents and our legislative obligations but the real actual exemplar of student achievement is recorded in the form of the critical conversation. These are then combined with illustrated standards, progressions, expectations and progress in learning to form the students learning story.

Traffic Management

Unfortunately we still see parents parking on yellow lines, driving into the school grounds, driving on grass verges, parking in the bus bay and parking in the school driveways over the yellow lines. Please parents, for the SAFETY OF OUR CHILDREN, use common sense when parking around the school.

Sporting Success

This term has been a great one for sporting success, gymnastics, cross country and a multitude of team sport achievements. I would like to congratulate all students who have taken the opportunity to participate in a sport or sporting event irrespective of what it is or the level of success. Winter sports will, of course, continue into term three so there will be plenty more smiles to come.

Musical Opportunity

We also have the opportunity to recognise the musical achievement of Lily Richards, Lily Hodgson and Cullan Fuller who have been selected as soloists for the upcoming Tauranga Music Festival. The festival this year will be celebrating 50 years of student performance over four nights. All of our Year 5 and 6 students will be a part of the opening night. Much preparation will occur next term in the lead up to this event in week 7.

Senior Leadership Team

The last week of term will be one of learning for members of our senior leadership team. While Anna MacKinnon and myself will attend the New Zealand Principals Federation Conference, Janet McCarroll and Jana Benson will be attending the International Conference on Thinking. We wish Janet and Jana safe travels.

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.

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 front office.

Happy Holidays!

In closing I would like to wish all members of our community a blessed and safe holiday in what ever shape or form this may take. I look forward to welcoming back our students in mid July and hopefully spring in the not too distant future.

Nga Mihi Nui

Ben Fuller
Principal

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2015 Dates to Remember

Thursday 25 June
Room 16V & 16W Class Mass

Thursday 25 June
Exposition / Benediction

Friday 26 June
PTA Disco from 6pm

Tuesday 30 June
Ski Team meeting 7pm

Tuesday 30 June
BoT Meeting 6pm

Wednesday 1 July
WBoP Miniball World Cup

Friday 3 July
Closing date for 2016 Aquinas College Enrolments

Friday 3 July
Room 10 Art Gallery visit 9.30am

Friday 3 July
Room 6 Art Gallery visit 11am

Friday 3 July
Room 9 Art Gallery visit 12.45pm

Friday 3 July
Term 2 ends

Wednesday 8 July
Baptism Course St Mary Immaculate 7pm

Monday 20 July
Term 3 starts

Tuesday 21 July
PTA Meeting 7pm

Thursday 23 July
Room 16B & 16J Class Mass

Tuesday 28 July
Grandparents Day Liturgy 10am

Wednesday 29 July
French lessons resume

Thursday 30 July
Room 6 Class Mass

Thursday 30 July
Camp meeting all Year 5 & 6 parents 5pm
Camp helpers only meeting 5.30pm

Saturday 1 August
PTA Quiz Night

Monday 3 August
Welcome to new children and new families Liturgy

Wednesday 5 August
Maths Parent Workshop

Thursday 6 August
Room 7 Class Mass

Thursday 6 August
Baptism course at St Thomas More 7pm

Thursday 13 August
Science Roadshow Year 5 & 6

Friday 14 August
Whole School Mass (Church) 9.30am

be.
Christ-like

be.
reflective

be.
creative

SPECIAL CHARACTER

During this term as a school we have been focusing on the teaching and learning of one of our four school values- the value of MERCY.

When our Cluny Sisters established our school over 70 years ago they established the values of Truth and Mercy as the two key values for our school. The Latin words Verax et Clemens (Truth and Mercy) are still seen today in our school crest and remain our key values.

We have explored with the children what Mercy looks like and feels like at St Mary's using the words love, kindness, compassion, and forgiveness to help the children gain a deeper understanding.

We have used the parable of the Prodigal Son and The Unforgiving Servant to illustrate Jesus' teaching on Mercy.

Each class has created with the help of Mrs Cooper their own Mercy Tree. Onto the branches they have tied cards with acts of mercy they have shown or been part of. The staff too have created their own Mercy tree which is in our school foyer.

We encourage you to talk to your children about their learning of Mercy and how they can show this value in your families and homes.

Next term we will be focusing on the value of Truth.

Sister Teresia

We have been very fortunate to have Sister Teresia with us at St Mary's for the past twelve months.

Sister is returning home to Fiji to prepare for her final profession as a Sister of St Joseph of Cluny. We will miss Sister greatly – she certainly has touched our hearts and we pray for God's abundant blessing upon her as she continues this next stage of her life journey.

Our Liturgy on Monday next week will honour Sister and recognize her very special contribution to our school. All parents and caregivers are very welcome to join us for the liturgy. God bless you Sister .

With kind regards and God bless

Exposition and Benediction

Today we are very privileged to once again be having a special day of prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, concluding with Benediction.

Each class will spend a short time of prayer in front of the Blessed Sacrament and all the school will gather for Benediction in the Blessed Anne Marie Javouhey.

Not only do we believe as a school we receive many blessings through this ancient Catholic devotion but the children also learn and experience reverence, respect, silence. Through the beautiful music, the sound of bells and the sight and smell of incense the children are able to have a very enriching and meaningful prayer time.

We thank our priests Fathers Mark and Edwin and Tom Callinan who comes to help as server for making this possible.

With kind regards and God bless

Sally Washer
DRS

SCHOOL NEWS

'Mathematics A Matter of Balance'

The raised awareness of maths education through the recent media debate is both timely and welcomed for us here at St Mary's.

The promotion of effective Mathematics teaching, learning, assessment and reporting are top strategic priorities in our daily work. St Mary's recognise the indisputable importance of children acquiring solid basic facts knowledge as the building block to understand relationships and connections between numbers.

In St Mary's classrooms, basic facts knowledge is explicitly taught and applied to maths problems. St Mary's focuses on teaching a few efficient problem solving strategies for students to confidently apply to rich problems. It is essential students know the basics by heart to free their working memory to further their understandings with more complex multi dimensional mathematics. We encourage students not only to know their basic facts but to apply and reason with this knowledge. Knowing maths requires concentration, effort and practise to allow children to draw upon this knowledge automatically.

Teaching staff have been learning approaches to mathematical teaching guided by Jo Boaler's award winning research, including using Stanford University's online tutorials. <https://www.youcubed.org/>

St Mary's staff have undertaken Professional Learning and Development in Growth Mindset v. Fixed Mindset attitudes with Carol Dweck, the world expert in Growth Mindsets. We know teachers and parents are key in giving messages to children about their Maths mindsets. We recognise that success comes from sheer persistence and hard work, especially in mathematics. We believe that every child can excel in mathematics. A recent student survey of our middle and senior students, shows well over 80% of our students enjoy maths learning, can talk about their maths learning, know 'where they are at' with their learning and believe that both their teacher and parents think they are good at maths. We continuously seek to develop and refine our maths teaching and learning experiences for both students and teachers.

St Mary's is fortunate to have six teaching staff who hold Maths papers at Masters level, with more staff who will enroll in Post Graduate level Maths papers in the second semester of this year. All our staff are actively involved in 'Teaching as Inquiry' with many selecting a major focus on researching Mathematics based investigations.

We need you to help us at home with your child's maths basic knowledge. Your role is vital. Some of the ways you can help us are:

Talk with your child about their learning in Maths and their current Maths Goal (accessed on your child's Term 2 Maths Learning Story)

Use the 'language of Maths learning' with your child by becoming familiar with the Maths



Term 2 ends
Friday 3 July

Progressions at your child's level (accessed in the Maths Learning Story)

Praise your child for their learning and growth. Make a supportive comment and commitment to your child on the Learning Story, how you will help with their basic facts learning.

Ensure all your messages to your child about Maths are positive.

Visit our school website for useful links including www.nzmaths.com.

View Jo Boaler's 'Beautiful Maths' You Tube video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2OgKnrPNZil> to gain understanding to balanced approaches to teaching and learning maths.

Diary our Term 3 Maths Parent Workshop on Wednesday 5 August, times to be advised.

Enrol in 'How to Learn Math' - Stanford University's MOOC (8 sessions / 15 minutes)

or
'How to Learn Maths - For Students' (or students/teachers/parents).

"Every time you make a mistake in maths you grow a new synapse" **Carol Dweck**

Janet McCarroll,
DP

Visit from renown Illustrator

On Wednesday 17 June 2015, the school received a visit from Bruce Potter, a renown Illustrator of 118 books, two of which he also wrote. He is also a singer/songwriter. He did two shows, one for the juniors and another for the middle and senior children. He wowed them with his artistic talent, sang a song, read a couple of his books and displayed his comedic talent as well, judging by the continuous laughter throughout his show. He was an inspiration to us all. Bruce asked the middle and senior children to give him ideas for this doodle he created in front of them. The ideas they gave him were..... potato, muscles and music.



Thank you for ringing in your school absences

A huge thanks to all families who ring the school office, or text on our mobile number (021 2969437) when your child is going to be away. It is much appreciated by the office staff if they do not have to ring you to find out where your child might be when they have been marked absent by their classroom teachers. So thanks very much. Keep up the great work!!

Heaps of Lost Property

Lost property will be laid out on the tables outside the staffroom and Room 10 on Friday night at the disco. There are heaps of summer sandals, hats, drink bottles, lunchboxes, togs and towels!

Please have a quick look when bringing your children to, or from, the disco. It will all be disposed of when the term ends.

I have a small selection of new uniform items that were in the lost property. If you have lost anything then please email Ana McFarlane.

Blessedwithall3@gmail.com

PTA NEWS

Mid Year Disco

Come along and have a boogie on Friday 26 June in the Blessed Anne Marie Javouhey Centre. There will be prizes, and for sale glow things, candy bars, lollies and drinks. Disco Theme is The Letter P, so dress up as a Pirate, a Princess, a Punk, a Policeman, anything you like starting with the letter P.

Session 1: 6 - 7pm Year 0-3

Session 2: 7.15 - 8.30pm Year 5 and 6

Year 4 students can go to either session BUT NOT both. \$2 entry fee includes a free glow stick.

Quiz Night is Coming!!

Hopefully you're all getting some theme ideas ready for the big Quiz Night, and training your brains by now. Corporate Tables are available to sponsor for the night which will guarantee you a table (until general sales start). Ticket sales opening Wednesday 1st July. For more info contact Claire Stott; pitstott@vodafone.co.nz or 021 073 0706.

SPORTS NEWS

More Cross Country Success

Congratulations to Renee Carey who is the Year 4 Western Bay Cross Country Champion. Renee ran an excellent race around the Waipuna Park course last week to qualify for the BoP Champs in Opotiki.

On Tuesday Renee brought home the silver medal from this event - this is an excellent result from a very fast girl. Sean Curragh, Hugo McCarroll and Rozalia Wisnewski also qualified by finishing in the top 15 in their year group at the WBoP Champs and finished 23rd, 27th and 12th respectively. Well done to all of these students. We are very proud of your achievements.

10 a side Barbarians Rugby

Last week Mr Fuller and Mrs Low took 15 students to Eastern Districts. The day was hosted by the BoP Rugby Union in conjunction with some Barbarians players, including our own ex-All Black, Mr Kevin Schuler.

It was an exciting day, with modified rules allowing many children to take part. The team lost two then won two, had an fun day and certainly improved as the day went on. All teams played in good spirit, and rugby was the winner on the day!

Ski team meeting

St Mary's School competes in the North Island Primary School Champs. There will be a meeting on Tuesday 30 June, 7pm, at St Mary's School for anyone interested in competing this year. Skiers need to be above average skiing ability, and each skier must be accompanied by a parent for the week 24th-28th August.



Rozalia Wisnewski, Renee Carey, Sean Curragh and Hugo McCarroll



Renee Carey at the Bay of Plenty Cross Country Championships



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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