



St Mary's
Catholic School
Tauranga

newsletter

ISSUE 12: 8 September 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

Kiaora Koutou e te Whanau o Hato Maria

Greetings to all St Mary's families. I am writing to you at the later half of a very busy and exciting term at St Mary's and there is more to come! I was immensely proud of our senior students last Monday night as they took to the stage at Bay Court and presented as a group and in some cases individually the standard to which we can reach in Music and the Arts.

I know many parents and members of our community who witnessed our Tauranga Music Festival Performance will agree with me when I speak of the high level to which our students performed. My thanks on behalf of our school community to Sally Washer and members of our Aroha team who prepared our students so well.

Two weeks ago we had a great day of sport and fun with our visiting Selwyn Ridge staff and students who were splendid guests. The day took me back to times when school sporting exchanges were common place. With this in mind it is something we hope to do again.

It was also great to be able to spend two days at camp last week, again with our Aroha team. Though the weather was not what you would classify as perfect, attitudes and application to the varied activities was not thwarted. I was again impressed to witness the many challenges and opportunities undertaken by our senior students.

Moving forward to the term end we have one last event to be enjoyed and celebrated in the area of visual arts. Week 10 will be Arts Week at St Mary's, and though this will be a week of celebration, what we will in effect be doing is recognising work that has occurred in classes over the last two terms.

As a school we have once again enlisted the expertise of Laura Grace as we plan, prepare and present a celebration of the visual arts. As in 2013 our Arts Week will again conclude with a presentation evening on Thursday 24 September. More details in regard to this are communicated later in this newsletter.

Communication to Teachers

At St Mary's we definitely encourage active communication between caregivers and our classroom teachers. However, it is important to note that teachers may not be able to read or respond to messages during the school day

due to teaching responsibilities. Therefore, any information or communication that may be urgent in regard to your child should be made by phone through our front office.

We have had some instances lately of parents attempting to convey changes in afterschool organisation through the teacher via email with short notice.

Fireworks

With a little under two months before our annual Taylor Brothers Fireworks Gala our PTA are deep into the final planning. One of the key objectives being, gaining enough volunteers to ensure the event's success.

As you may well be aware, community raised income is a key component of a successful school. It gives us the ability to turn good into great by the provision of high end resources and key personnel.

Our St Mary's PTA has an outstanding record of consistently raising in excess of \$60,000 a year, a major component of this being provided by our Fireworks Gala.

In the next few weeks our PTA will be asking for your commitment to this year's event which could involve as little as one hour of your time, on or leading up to the night.

I therefore ask, if at all possible, to support the continued growth and development of our school by supporting our PTA. Keep an eye for the information and when it appears please consider carefully a role that will suit you.

Looking forward to another outstanding Fireworks Gala at St Mary's!

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

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2015 Dates to Remember

Tuesday 8 September

PTA Meeting

Wednesday 9 September

Parent meeting for the Walking School Bus

2.15-3.00pm

Thursday 10 September

Room 5 Class Mass 9am

Thursday 10 September (new date)

Maths Parent Workshop 9am-10am &

1.30pm-2.55pm

Friday 11 September

Jump Rope for Heart

Sunday 13 September

School Parish Mass (Sursum Corda to sing)

10.30am

Thursday 17 September (change of date)

Room 4 Class Mass 9am

Thursday 17 September

Exposition / Benediction

Monday 21 September

Art Week starts

Tuesday 22 September

WBoP 7's Champs

Tuesday 22 September

Board of Trustee Meeting 6pm

Thursday 24 September (new date)

Room 16B Class Mass 9am

Thursday 24 September

Art Week Exhibition & Performance 6pm

Friday 25 September

Term 3 ends

Monday 12 October

Term 4 starts

Tuesday 13 October

PTA Meeting 7pm

Thursday 15 October

Room 2 Class Mass 9am

Friday 16 October

Sursum Corda Trip to Hamilton 8.30am-4pm

Wednesday 21 October

WBoP Tennis

Thursday 22 October

Room 1 Class Mass 9am

Monday 26 October

Labour Day - school is closed

Tuesday 27 October

Board of Trustee Meeting 6pm

Friday 30 October

School Mass - All Saints/Souls Day

Friday 30 October

WBEET Maths

Friday 30 October

PTA Fireworks

Tuesday 3 November

Welcome to new children and new families

liturgy 10am

be.
Christ-like

be.
reflective

be.
creative

SPECIAL CHARACTER

Parish / School Mass

A reminder that our Parish/School Mass is this Sunday at 10.30am in St Mary Immaculate Church Cameron Road.

All families are encouraged to come together to celebrate Mass and also to support the Special Character of our school. We have much to be grateful for!

Sursum Corda will be singing. All other students are asked to wear their school uniform and sit with their families.

Feast of the Birthday of Mary - 8 September

At our Monday Liturgy this week we celebrated the feast day of Mary's birthday, her love for us and our love for her. We give thanks to God for Mary-the Mother of God and our Mother too. With the students we reflected how Mary is the model disciple following the call of God in her life and saying yes to His plan. We are grateful that Mary intercedes for us and takes our prayers to the Father. What a wonderful patron Saint to have for our school!

I share with you some writing from Ciaran in Room 15, Mrs Goldsmith's class.

Mary is a loving Mother to all of us. Mary said "yes" to God and became the Mother of Jesus. Mary is the Patron Saint of our school. Mary is special because we pray to her in our prayer time. Mary will always love us and be our Mother. We love Mary terribly and Mary loves us terribly too. We will never forget Mary. We are happy that Mary is our Mother and Jesus is happy that Mary is the best Mother at loving everyone.

With kind regards and God bless

Sally Washer (DRS)

SCHOOL NEWS

Maths Parent Information Workshops

"How together we can help your child develop as a competent mathematician"

We warmly invite parents to a Maths Workshop to be held in the B.A.M.J.C. on:

Thursday 10th September at 9am and repeated at 1.30pm.

Key Concepts to be explored in the workshops include

- An Inquiry Approach to Mathematics
- Developing a 'Growth Maths Mindset'
- Everyone can be good at Maths
- The ability to solve maths tasks/problems using different ways
- Using the Language of Maths
- How you can help at home

Following the opening presentation, parents will be able to observe students from each level of the school who will be modelling and explaining the strategies they use to solve rich tasks.

Year 5 & 6 Camp

Last week the Aroha Team were fortunate to visit Totara Springs Christian Camp near Matamata, as a part of our EOTC week. We spent four days and three nights together, along with exceptional parent helpers, to support, guide and challenge our students in a variety of outdoor activities. Some of the activities included Abseiling,

Orienteering, Crate-Climbing, Kayaking, and the list goes on! We had an outstanding week together, despite the weather, and want to thank again our fantastic parent helpers, all of which worked tirelessly to support our students and the teachers in every way. Great memories for us all!

Mrs Price, Mrs Akkerman, Mr Piceno, Mr Hesqua and Mr Crowe

Sursum Corda's Trip to Hamilton

We are delighted that our wonderful Sursum Corda Choir has been invited to sing at the midday Mass at the Cathedral of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Hamilton on Friday 18 October.

This will be a very worthwhile experience for the choir and also an honour to represent our St Mary's School.

To help with costs involved we will be selling ice blocks on the next three Thursdays of term at lunch time for \$2.00 each.

We would certainly appreciate and be grateful for your support with this.

Art Week 21-25 September



We are really looking forward to our Art Week in week ten of this term 21-25 September. The theme of Art Week is Cultural Diversity and many exciting activities have been planned during the week.

Art week would not have been possible without the very generous

sponsorship of Michael Grace from Grace Team, Chartered Accountants, we thank you very much for supporting this special event.

Please find out more about Grace Team by visiting their website www.graceteam.co.nz.

We must also thank our wonderful PTA for financially supporting this week. We are very thankful that we can offer this wonderful opportunity to our students.

As part of Art Week each class will be visiting the Art Gallery.

The following is a list of the different visiting artists and activities that are planned for the week.

Lipika Sen - tricky box installation

Murray Clode - collaborative art on canvas

Matua Iwi - clay

Kim Artus - perspective drawing

Nicola Sanders- screen printing

Helen Reijthar - portrait art

Rob McGregor - acrylic painting

Julie & Peter Green - floral art

Lisa Meehan - sculpting

All parents are invited to our Art Exhibition on Thursday 24 September at 6pm in the Blessed Anne Marie Javouhey Centre.

At the Exhibition the following groups will be performing : Sursum Corda, our Kapa Haka Group, Senior Fuse Band and our Samoan Group. It promises to be a wonderful night!

Thank you to the parents who have offered their help



Parent Maths Workshops Thursday 10 September

to classes with creating the Art projects, mounting Art work and other activities. If you have any queries please contact Laura Grace or Sally Washer.

Junior Team request for donations

A request from the Junior Team for donations of any unwanted items from home. They must be in good condition. Please deliver to Anna Mackinnon's office: lego, dominoes, puzzles, construction, string, recycled paper, materials, milk bottle tops, measuring cups, ice cream containers, toy trucks, dress ups, puppets, dolls, magnets, old baking trays in good condition, wooden toys, blocks, carpet road map, straws, craft items, pegs, coloured paper, card.

PTA NEWS

Taylor Brothers Fireworks Gala

TAYLOR
BROS TRANSPORT LTD

With only just 7 weeks to go before our biggest PTA event of the year - the St Mary's Fireworks Gala - the countdown has well and truly begun!

We are very fortunate again this year, to secure our 4 major sponsors from last year, being Taylor Bros (Gold Sponsor), Zariba Holdings (Silver Sponsor), Pak n' Save, Tauranga (Bronze Sponsor) and More FM (Media Sponsor). Thank you to those businesses for their continued support, however we do still have some sponsorship opportunities available.

If you have a business or know of a business that might be interested in sponsoring the event, as part of the sponsorship package, they will have their business logo on all marketing and promotional material and business profile on School/PTA Newsletters, Website and Facebook pages, as well as acknowledgement on More FM event advertising and VIP hosting/access at the event. They will also have the opportunity to promote their business to over 5,000 people. If you are interested or would like further information, please contact Rebecca Honeybone on fireworks@stmarystga.school.nz.

We are again this year, running (no pun intended) with the hugely successful St Mary's Wheelbarrow Race and will be looking for one or more sponsors for each class room. Please watch out for further info regarding this, coming from your Class Rep over the next week.

PHOTOS: 1-2. Soloists Cullen Fuller & Lily Hodgson at the Tauranga Music Festival **3.** Senior Camp - crate climbing **4.** Braden Aleksich **5.** Congratulations India Jarden **6.** Senior camp activities **7.** Tauranga Music Festival **8.** Thanks camp mums and dads!

This year we have assigned each class a stall or activity to co-ordinate for the event. Your Class Rep will again be sending you information over the coming week regarding your class responsibilities. Please watch out for this information and remember to put your name down for your class roster at the event - WE NEED YOU!

If you have any questions, or can offer us some help please drop us an email at fireworks@stmarystga.school.nz.

Michelle & Tracey
Fireworks Gala Organisers

SPORTS NEWS

Sports Returns issued

Sports forms have been issued and are due back by Tuesday 15th September. All information, and copies of this notice, can be found on the St Mary's website.

BOP Gymsports

Congratulations to India Jarden who has been selected for the BOP Gymsports team to compete at New Zealand Nationals Gymnastics for Step 6 for 2015. She'll compete against girls from around New Zealand during the September holidays in Auckland.

School Ski Team

Well done to our four skiers that braved treacherous conditions on the Whakapapa Ski Field last week. After two days of having the mountain closed, the competition finally began. Myscha Barry, who competed for her third consecutive year, was our best placed skier. Braden Aleksich, Jess Carey and Renee Carey all enjoyed their first experience, and are already looking forward to 2016. Many thanks to the ABC team of Mr Aleksich, Mr Barry and Mr Carey for their support and care of the team over the week. Go St Mary's!!

Selwyn Ridge Sports Exchange

The inaugural sport exchange between St Mary's School and Selwyn Primary School took place last week on a gorgeous Bay of Plenty day. Born from the demise of the South Cluster 7s, the two schools took part in the traditional winter codes of football, hockey, netball



and rugby. The morning was full of action - players playing, teachers refereeing, cheer squads cheering and birds singing. St Mary's won all of the games except football. All teams that played against Selwyn Ridge A teams will go forward to the WBoP Champs on Tuesday 22 September. A special thanks to all of our year 5/6 students who provided a wonderful spread for morning tea, and to Julie Simpson, Claire Stott and the Rebels netball team for their incredible help in the kitchen. Mr Stockman did a magical job creating another netball court, so we will keep him on. Thanks, too, to the other teachers that brought their classes out to support the games. Well done everyone!

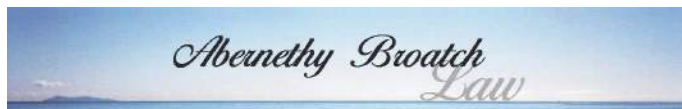




Our People Our Place

be. thankful

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



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