



St Mary's
Catholic School
Tauranga

newsletter

ISSUE 14: 22 October 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

Greetings whanau, and a warm welcome to all those new families and students to our school this term. It is always great, after communicating and meeting with parents throughout the enrolment process, to see new students in their St Mary's uniform turning up for school. This term we have welcomed 18 new students to date and look forward to celebrating this at our new children and families Liturgy on Monday 3 November.

For some students this will be the last term they spend at St Mary's and so hopefully one that is fondly remembered. St Mary's is a school of opportunity and I am sure as our year 6 leavers are evaluating their time here, it will be such the many opportunities to succeed in a variety of areas that are called to mind. As we progress through the term, events will occur that recognise these opportunities and the successes had within.

Learning, of course, remains a key priority for students and teachers. At the end of this term students progress against National Standards will be reported on. It is therefore extremely important that students focus on achieving current and future learning goals in their efforts to best position themselves against the relevant standard. If you have any questions about your child's progress then please see the classroom teacher.

Fireworks

We are on the count down to our annual St Mary's Fireworks Gala and together with you applaud the organisation that is occurring at many levels around us. It is once again looking like being an outstanding community event that will showcase our community and school.

Thank you to all those who have volunteered a small amount of time. It is these small contributions by many that make such events so successful. I am aware of the need for a number of further volunteers in a variety of capacities so if able, and you have not done so yet, please let either your class representative know or email pta@stmarystga.school.nz.

Sporting Success

We had several students achieve at a national level of the holidays. Of note are India Jarden, Gymnastics; Jess Carey and Cullan Fuller Surf Lifesaving.

India placed third in the vault at the Gym Sports NZ National Gymnastics Championships, while at the New Zealand Surf Lifesaving National Pool Champs Jess won a gold medal in the obstacle relay team and fifth in the 50m fins and Cullan a silver medal in the obstacle relay.

2016 Enrolments

We are now at capacity in years 1, 3 and 6 meaning all future enrolments in these year levels for 2016 will need to be placed on our waiting list. We still have places for students turning 5 during or after the month of April (New Entrant Year 0's) but anticipate this year level also being at capacity in the near future. We will, of course, give priority to those children who already have siblings at St Mary's but in order to do so we must have completed enrolment forms on file.

End of Year Events

Term four is traditionally dynamic and one of celebration and as a result we have a number of events that start to happen. It is important that careful attention is paid to all forms of communication to ensure nothing is missed and your child is well prepared for all that is set to occur. Please take note of the school events calendar for events that may affect you.

Mrs Sally Washer

As you are aware Mrs Sally Washer is retiring from St Mary's School at the end of this year.

Sally has been teaching for 38 years, 32 years in Catholic Education and 16 years as our Director of Religious Studies, only taking time away briefly to have her three children, Matthew, John and Emma. Sally and her husband Peter plan to retire together. We are very happy for them both.

Sally holds a very special place in the hearts of all children, staff, religious and parents of our St Mary's community and we wish her all the very best for her retirement.

You are all warmly invited to attend a Mass on Tuesday 8 December at 1pm to celebrate and thank Sally for her many years of dedicated service.

Ben Fuller
Principal

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2015 Dates to Remember

Friday 23 October
Mufti Day for the refugees (Student Council)
Monday 26 October
Labour Day - school is closed
Tuesday 27 October
Board of Trustee Meeting 6pm
Thursday 29 October
WBET Maths
Friday 30 October
School Mass - All Saints/Souls Day
Friday 30 October
PTA Fireworks
Tuesday 3 November
Welcome to new children and new families liturgy 10am
Thursday 5 November
St Mary's Poetry Competition
Thursday 5 November
Room 15 Class Mass 9am
Saturday 7 November
Jump Jam Nationals in Christchurch
Sunday 8 November
Parish / School Mass - Sursum Corda to sing
Tuesday 10 November
Aquinas Transition Day 11am - 2pm
Tuesday 10 November
PTA Meeting 7pm
Wednesday 11 November
WBoP Cricket Carnival
Thursday 12 November
Room 14 Class Mass
Thursday 12 November (change of date)
Senior Athletics
Friday 13 November
Postponement date for the PTA Fireworks & WBoP Cricket Carnival
Thursday 19 November
Class Mass Room 13
Thursday 19 November
South Cluster Athletics
Tuesday 24 November
Board of Trustee Meeting 6pm
Thursday 26 November
Year 3 & 4 End of Year Mass
Friday 27 November (change of date)
Music Concert 12.30pm
Tuesday 2 December
WBoP Athletics
Wednesday 3 December
Middle Athletics
Wednesday 3 December
Junior School Mass
Wednesday 3 December
Middle Athletics
Friday 4 December
PTA Disco

be.
Christ-like

be.
reflective

be.
creative

SPECIAL CHARACTER

As we are now in October, the month of the Rosary, we began this fourth term with a focus on prayer, in particular the Rosary. All classes will be revisiting their learning about the Rosary and spending time in our school chapel learning how to pray the Rosary. We have a group of parents who come together to pray the Rosary every Friday morning at 9am. All parents are welcome to join this group any Friday.

Religious Education

This term all classes will be continuing to work on our Religious Education target which is to explore the values of Truth and Mercy through the teaching of Jesus found in the parables.

We are grateful to Father Mark who has led the staff in some very insightful and thought provoking Professional Development exploring the value of Truth. Through our teaching we hope our students will come to understand that Truth is far more than a simple right or wrong or not telling lies but the Truth comes from God and is found in the word of God. It is through accepting and living the truth that our faith grows and deepens.

"The Truth is like a lion. You don't have to defend it. Let it loose. It will defend itself." St Augustine

Classes will also be covering the Jesus Strand, Advent and Christmas.

School Mass

Next Friday 30 October we will be having a School Mass to celebrate the feast days of All Saints and All Souls (November 1st and 2nd).

Following the Mass year 5 and 6 classes will be visiting the Catholic Cemetery at 18th Avenue to place flowers on the graves of our Cluny Sisters. This is always a very special and moving Liturgy and we encourage parents to join us for both the Mass and cemetery visit.

Sursum Corda

Last Friday our Sursum Corda choir travelled to Hamilton to sing at the midday Mass at the Cathedral of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It was a wonderful and very worthwhile experience for the choir and all members are to be congratulated on their excellent behaviour and absolutely beautiful singing. A huge thank you to the amazing parents who joined us for the day for their help and generosity of time. It was greatly appreciated.

With kind regards and God bless

Sally Washer
DRS



SCHOOL NEWS

School Hats

All students are required to wear a school sunhat in Term 1 and Term 4 as specified in our Sun Protection Policy. Students at school without a hat will be asked to remain in an allocated shaded area at break times. Hats are available from NZ Uniforms, 371 Cameron Road, Tauranga.

Long Hair

Girls with hair longer than shoulder length must wear their hair tied up, secured with a plain black or green elastic hair tie.

Absentees

If your child is going to be away from school for any period of time due to sickness, appointments, family reasons etc, then please inform the school office by leaving a message on the school absentee line in the first instance. Please do not email daily absentees.

Poetry Competition

All students at St Mary's are participating in 'Poetry Rich' learning experiences in preparation for a Poetry Competition on Thursday 5 November.

Students are encouraged to memorise a poem and to explore poetry performance techniques to engage and communicate to an audience before presenting their chosen poem in class.

A maximum of three students from each classroom will be finalists in the School Poetry Celebration and Competition.

We encourage parents to read poetry to their children and help your child select, memorise and perform a poem they love.

We anticipate a high standard of poetry performance and enjoyment by all participants both in class and at the Poetry Final.

When: Thursday 5th November

Juniors: 9-10.30am

Middle School: 11-12.30pm

Senior School: 1.30-2.55pm

Where: Blessed Anne Marie Javouhey Centre

Who: Students, Teachers, Parents, Guest adjudicators

Why: To develop a love for poetry.

We warmly invite parents to our Poetry celebration and competition on November 5th.





School is closed on
Monday 26 October
Labour Day

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PTA NEWS

Taylor Brothers Fireworks Gala
Tickets

1 week to go!!
Tickets are on sale in the BAMJC.
Tuesday 27 to Thursday 29 October
8.30am to 9.15am
2.45pm to 3.15 pm

Wheelbarrow Race Sponsors
Thank you to everyone who has sponsored a wheelbarrow this year for our wheelbarrow race.
Please check out the list below and support our sponsors whenever you can.
The race is scheduled to kick off at 5.30pm, come and support your class.

- Room 1 Becky Wilde - Immerse Nail & Beauty
- Room 2 Shane Wisnewski - Certified Finishers
- Room 3 Quintan Moore - DMS Progrowers Ltd
- Room 4 Jeremy Pryor - Bayley's
- Room 5 Paul Domett - Domett Truck & Trailers
- Room 6 Rod Way - Advantage Business
- Room 7 Michelle Pine - Property Managers Group
- Room 8 Jeremy Curragh - Crowe Horworth
- Room 9 Cathy & Richard Bourne - Colourfast Powder Coaters Ltd
- Room 10 Gina Wright-Barry - Girven Road Medical Centre
- Room 13 Warwick & Kelly Jeffries - Jeffries family
- Room 14 Kristen Gilbert - Accident & Healthcare
- Room 15 Ross Abernethy - Abernethy, Broatch Law
- Room 16J Les Geraghty - Harcourt's
- Room 16W & V Eamon & Anna O'Connor - O'Connor Warren Insurance Brokers
- Room 16B Manish Khot - La Brioche Patisserie
- Room 16B Luke & Astrid Schiphorst - Schiphorst family

Sausages in Schools
Thank you also to Hellers 'Sausages in Schools' promotion for donating all of the sausages and to Couplands Bakeries for donating the bread.

Hangi and Hampers
To pre order the following meals for the night please order them when you buy your tickets.

Hereford Kitchen Food Hampers
Includes: Cooked chicken, rocket salad, ciabatta bread, mayo, Whitakers chocolate & strawberries (will feed 4-6 people). **\$35.00 each**

St Mary's Whanau Group Hangi
Meat, vegetables & stuffing. **\$12.00 each**
Limited tickets so get in quick!
\$1.00 for 2 slices of rewena bread, can be purchased on the night.

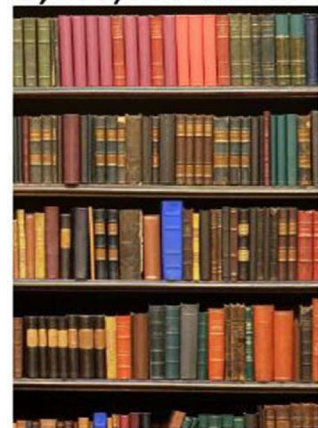
SPORTS NEWS

Sports Uniforms
Thanks to those students who returned their uniforms on Sports Photo day. We are desperately short of rugby jerseys and there are still several netball, miniball and gymnastics uniforms outstanding. Could you please return any remaining winter St Mary's sports uniforms if you still have them?

Why Can't I Skip My 20 Minutes of Reading Tonight?

Student "A"	Student "B"	Student "C"
reads 20 minutes each day	reads 5 minutes each day	reads 1 minute each day
3600 minutes in a school year	900 minutes in a school year	180 minutes in a school year

1,800,000 words



90th percentile

282,000 words



50th percentile

8,000 words



10th percentile

By the end of 6th grade Student "A" will have read the equivalent of 60 whole school days. Student "B" will have read only 12 school days. Which student would you expect to have a better vocabulary? Which student would you expect to be more successful in school...and in life?
(Nagy & Herman, 1987)



Sursum Corda visit
Hobbiton in Matamata





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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Kirstin (Kirt) Richards
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Please contact the school office if you would like to become a Gold Group Sponsor