



St Mary's
Catholic School
Tauranga

newsletter

ISSUE 15: 18 November 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 to all. As I am sure you are aware we are nearing the final stages of term four 2015. I don't have to tell you how many shopping days left til Christmas as I am sure you will soon be reminded. However, in progressing through the term please stay alert for notices and information that pertains to end of year events and activities.

New Families Liturgy

It was my pleasure to join Father Mark and the rest of our school in welcoming a number of new students and families to St Mary's at our termly New Families Liturgy. This is a special Liturgy that we all look forward to as it signifies a start in a journey and a joining of community. To all those new to St Mary's this term, again an extremely warm welcome on behalf of us all.

School Parish Mass

Thank you to all who attended our school parish Mass on Sunday 30 October. It is always great to see our school well represented at this termly event. As always our Susum Corda Choir contributed well to an extremely meaningful celebration. Our thanks to Father Edwin for saying Mass for us on Sunday.

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 occur. 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.

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 be 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.

Callplus and Slingshot 'Better Schools' Programme

We are now part of this wonderful programme whereby Slingshot customers can choose to have

a percentage of their monthly bill donated to the school. Each month Slingshot will send us a cheque to use as we see fit. How big that cheque is depends on you!

Friends and parents can join the Better Schools Programme by calling 0800 89 7733 and registering against your school or by going to Extra Stuff in your My Account portal and selecting St Mary's.

Self Review Survey

Thank you to all who participated in and contribute to recent aspects of self review, in particular those who gave good feedback in regard to our current forms of assessment and reporting. Review is an important aspect when determining future organisational direction so I thank all that have contributed to this process.

Fireworks Fireworks Fireworks

I am sure all who attended our Fireworks Gala a little over a week ago will firstly agree that it was yet another fantastic community event and, secondly, join me in congratulating our amazing PTA. It was a great event that continues to grow and evolve and one that we are obviously famous for. Though the weather threatened early we were left with a great night to showcase a magnificent display.

Michelle Pine, ably assisted by Tracey Nirmalaraj, once again led the fireworks subcommittee and our thanks goes to you, as it does to all who performed a variety of roles and gave up time in ensuring such a successful event.

Thanks again to our major sponsors of the night.

Ben Fuller
Principal



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2015 Dates to Remember

Thursday 19 November

Class Mass Room 13 & 5th Cluster Athletics & Ra Whakangahau in Katikati

Friday 20 November

Sacrament of Reconciliation 4-6pm

Monday 23 November

Senior School Stream & Estuary Clean Up

Tuesday 24 November

Board of Trustee Meeting 6pm

Thursday 26 November

Year 3 & 4 End of Year Mass

Friday 27 November

Music Concert 12.30pm

Tuesday 2 December

WBoP Athletics

Thursday 3 December

Junior School Mass & Middle Athletics

Friday 4 December

Hip Hop performance at Principal's Assembly

Friday 4 December

PTA Disco

Tuesday 8 December

Rooms 16B, 16J, 12 - Memorial Park 9-11am

Tuesday 8 December

Mass of Thanksgiving for Mrs Washer 5.30pm at St Mary Immaculate

Wednesday 9 December

Rooms 16V & W - Memorial Park 9-11am

Thursday 10 December

Graduation Mass 7pm

Friday 11 December

Rooms 13, 14, 15 - Memorial Park 9-11am

Monday 14 December

Middle & Senior School Baywave 11am-2pm

Tuesday 15 December

Prizegiving

2016 Term Dates

Tuesday 2 February

Term 1 starts

Friday 15 April

Term 2 Ends

Monday 2 May

Term 2 starts

Friday 8 July

Term 2 ends

Monday 25 July

Term 3 starts

Friday 23 September

Term 3 ends

Monday 10 October

Term 4 starts

Friday 16 December

Term 4 ends (to be confirmed)

be.
Christ-like

be.
reflective

be.
creative

SPECIAL CHARACTER

November is the month when the church specifically asks us to pray for our beloved dead. As Father Mark reminded us in his weekly newsletter last week it is a good and holy thing to pray for the holy souls.

We encourage you to talk with your children about members of your family who are now with God and to pray for them.

You will be aware that following our school Mass on Friday 30 October our year 5 and 6 students visited the Catholic Cemetery in 18th Avenue and placed a posy of flowers on each of the graves of our Cluny Sisters. Father Mark led us in a very beautiful Liturgy and it was very poignant and moving to see the students, led by our principal Ben Fuller, place the flowers so reverently and respectfully on the 19 graves.

It is a timely reminder that so many of the Sisters buried there left their families and homes in Ireland and other parts of the world to come and work in our St Mary's School.

Friday 27 November marks the 75th Anniversary of the arrival of the Cluny Sisters in Tauranga and we look forward to celebrating that significant occasion with the Sisters.

The midday Mass at St Mary Immaculate Church that day will be to honour and recognise the amazing work and contribution of our Cluny Sisters. Sursum Corda has been invited to sing at that Mass.

End of Year Masses

Please note the following dates on your calendar which you are warmly invited to and we encourage you to attend.

Graduation Mass this year is on Thursday 10 December at 7.00pm at St Mary Immaculate Church, Cameron Road. At this Mass not only will we celebrate all our Year 6 students graduation we also recognise and farewell our families who are leaving St Mary's this year. We would like our Year 5 students to be present at this Mass to support and farewell our Year 6 students.

Prizegiving is on Tuesday 15 December at St Mary Immaculate Church, Cameron Road at 11.00am.

Sally Washer
DRS

SCHOOL NEWS

Student Council

Hi, I'm Alex Brodie, a member of the Student Council.

A couple of weeks ago, we had a muffin day. This muffin day was to raise money for the refugees, who are fleeing their country because of war and inhumane treatment.

We are proud to say that our school raised \$640.70 and we have donated this money to Red Cross NZ, who will use this to help provide food, clothing and medical treatment. Julie Forest from Red Cross NZ visited our school especially, to collect this donation.

The Student Council would like to thank everyone who participated. Thanks.



PTA NEWS

Taylor Brothers Fireworks Gala

We hope you all enjoyed the Taylor Brothers St Mary's Fireworks Gala night!

Now that we can all catch our breath, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who contributed in one way or another, in making the event an outstanding success.

To all who donated prizes, cash, wheelbarrows, jars, baking, electrical gear etc. just to name a few and, of course, those of you who worked tirelessly giving up your valuable time to organise, set up, run our stalls on the night and then to clean up afterwards. You were all amazing!

We would also like to thank all of our sponsors of the event:



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- New World Gate Pa - Unlock-a-Trolley raffle Sponsor

Our wheelbarrow sponsors, class reps, teachers, staff, parents and, of course, students, who did all the hard work in making our 2nd very successful St Mary's Wheelbarrow Race such a fun, competitive race.

Wheelbarrow Sponsors:

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- Abernethy, Broatch Law
- Harcourt's
- O'Connor Warren Insurance Brokers
- La Brioche Patisserie
- Schiphorst family

Room 15 Abernethy, Broatch Law, won the final wheelbarrow race and Room 6's Advantage Business taking out the Best Dressed. Let's not forget the following who also donated their services to the event:

St Mary's Young Vinnies, St Mary's Whanau Group, the many Aquinas Students, Hereford Kitchens, La Brioche Patisserie, Hirepool, Fulton Hogan BoP, Port of Tauranga, Tauranga Volunteer Fire Service, Filipino Group, St Mary's Pacifica Group, City Care and all those wonderful groups who performed on stage.

This event involves a huge amount of effort to put on and we could not do it without the support from our fantastic St Mary's Community.

We appreciate any feedback on the event, so if you have any please email it to; fireworks@stmarystga.school.nz. We look forward to seeing you again next year.

Michelle Pine & Tracey Nirmalaraj and the Fireworks Gala Event Team

SPORTS NEWS

Tennis

Jack Quilty and Sophie Karl both represented the WBOP at the regional tennis championships in Hamilton on Thursday 20 October. While Sophie finished 3rd, Jack went on to finish 2nd in the main draw and secure a spot in the North Island Championships on Monday 23 November. Well done to both players, and best wishes to Jack.

Athletics

A full report of the St Mary's School and South Cluster Athletics will be in the next issue.

Jump Jam

40 St Mary's Jump Jammers and their families headed to Christchurch on the 6 of November in search of national success. Mr Kim Artus had done an amazing job of coaching and preparing three teams (juniors, boys and seniors) every morning before school throughout the year. The competition was held at St Margaret's College and St Mary's had the biggest contingent from any school outside of Christchurch.

The boys' team performed 'Greased Lightning' and received a standing ovation from the judges. All of our supporters were so vocal that it made it feel like we had a home town advantage. The boys were deservedly named the 2015 National Boys Champions! The junior team performed 'Absolutely Everybody' and gave it all they had.

They were pipped by Pinehill School by .75 to place

second in the Year 1-4 Open section. This junior team shows there is a wealth of jump jam talent for the senior teams in coming years. The seniors performed 'Proud Mary' and were outstanding. In an incredibly strong senior section where there were only the narrowest of margins, they were unlucky to miss out on placing. This was a tough result for a team that has had so much success in the past, but we were very proud of the way they handled the loss and the disappointment.

By placing first and second at Nationals, St Mary's were the most successful team at the competition. This is the third year in a row that St Mary's has held this title. This achievement is a direct result of the skills and hard work of Mr Kim Artus and the dedication of the children and their families. We are so lucky as a school to have Kim running our Jump Jam programme and providing the children with the opportunity and support to succeed at a National level. Kim was acknowledged at the competition for his success as a coach.

Our teams represented the school with pride and were wonderful competitors. The whole trip was a memorable experience for everyone involved and a fantastic learning opportunity for the children. The following feedback was sent to Kim from the Waiopai coach: "I just really wanted to say to you that your school was amazing. Your parents and teachers were so beautiful in their support and comments after the results and it really did help. Please pass on our sincere thanks to the school and its community Kim. They must be a lovely school to work with and attend".





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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