



St Mary's
Catholic School
Tauranga

newsletter

ISSUE 1: 23 February 2016

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 family and whanau of our school and a very warm welcome to the following 42 new students who have started school this year.

Milli Banbury, Isaiah Barry, Nieve Barry, Alexander Bayliss, Niamh Byrne, JayJay Carter, Ella Chea, Kristy Chennoth Smithesh, Minhee Choi, Adam Dillon, Tara Dillon, Mason Francis, Satsuki Fujimoto, Greta Gilbert, Cuinn Harrop, Milla Harrop, Lola Hernnton, Esme Holmberg, Henry Hopkins, Aaniya Jithu, Haeun Kim, Henry Kirk, Maebh Manning, Mia Martin, Gabriel Olvina, Matilda Parry, Madeleine Parry, William Pepers, Lucy Rabbidge, Callum Roberson, Matthew Robinson, Addison Sands, Hazra Syed, William Taylor, Janelle Tustin, Karlah Wadley-Freemantle, Hunter Waites, Amelia Winders, Willem Winders, Liae Yang, Yewon Yue and Yejin Yue.

Summer just seems to keep on happening with some warm days to continue. It is great to see our children wearing their hats and ensuring they are protected from the sun and with the odd bit of rain they have plenty of grass to play on. Hopefully there is more of this fine weather still to come particularly for summer sport.

It has been great to hear of the many students taking the opportunity to play one of the codes on offer this term. I certainly enjoy talking with students on Monday and during the week in regard to their sporting experiences. In celebrating our student involvement we also thank our parents and volunteers for their involvement and commitment.

Meet the Teacher

It was great to see so many parents take the opportunity to meet with teachers last week to discuss their children's learning. As you are aware, parents are our first educators and so make a vital contribution to learning. It is therefore extremely important to be informed about, and involved in the learning process as it applies to your children.

This was the second time this year that we finished early as a school. The first being when our staff attended the launch of our Faith Based Community of Learning. I would like to thank parents for the support of both these events and the changes that may have had to be made in regard to family organisation.

Community of Learning

Our Community of Learning (COL) was launched with a Mass and key addresses on Thursday 11 February. This was a great occasion and one that highlighted how advanced we currently are as a community of learning. For those unaware of what a COL is, it is a group of schools who combine to collaborate on the achievement of key

achievement challenges. We have been lucky to combine with eight other Catholic Schools in the formation of one of our country's first Communities of Learning.

Board of Trustee Elections

All of New Zealand's state and state-integrated schools have a board of trustees. The board of trustees is the Crown entity responsible for the governance, and the control of management of the school. Boards are responsible for setting the strategic direction in consultation with parents, staff and students, and ensuring that the school provides a safe environment and quality education for students.

Standing for election for a board of trustees is a practical way of influencing the quality of your children's education. A truly successful school is reliant on a dynamic board - one that can create the kind of supportive learning environment that drives education achievement.

This year our Board of Trustee Election will be held on Friday 3 June. Interested persons are invited to contact Ben Fuller or any existing board member for more information. An election timeline is overleaf.

Parking

The safety of our students is paramount. We request that all parents take due care and diligence in respect to parking at the school. Please do not park in the bus stop. If you are parked on the other side of the road, we ask that you meet your child/ren on the school side and escort them over the road. It is also important that you avoid grass verges when you park your car. Last week we had a visit from a parking warden who issued several infringement notices.

A reminder also not to drive your car into the school grounds to drop off a child unless special permission has been granted.

Gold Group Sponsor La Brioche Patisserie

We welcome Manish and Sushma Khot from La Brioche Patisserie as Gold Group Sponsors. Manish and Sushma supply our very popular school lunches on Friday. La Brioche is located at 70 St John Street, Tauranga.



Please ring the school office if you are interested in becoming a Gold Group Sponsor.

Ben Fuller
Principal

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www.stmarystga.school.nz

2015 Dates to Remember

Wednesday 24 February
Beach Education Room 7, 8 and 10
Thursday 25 February
Beach Education Room 6 and 9
Thursday 25 February
Room 7 Class Mass
Sunday 28 February
Presentation Mass for the participants of the Sacramental Programme 10.30am (Church)
Monday 29 February
Sacramental Programme starts 3.30pm
Tuesday 1 March
Aroha Team Swimming Sports
Thursday 3 March
Aroha Team Retreat
Monday 7 March
Sacramental Programme 3.00pm
Tuesday 8 March
South Cluster Swimming Sports
Tuesday 8 March
PTA Meeting 7.00pm
Wednesday 9 March
Sacramental Parent Meeting 7.00pm
Thursday 10 March
Room 8 Class Mass / Exposition / Benediction
Friday 11 March
PTA Outdoor Adventure Day
Sunday 13 March
Parish School Mass 10.30am (Church)
Sursum Corda to sing
Monday 14 March
Sacrament Programme 3.30pm
Thursday 17 March
St Patrick's Day
Friday 18 March
School Mass for St Joseph's Day 9.30am (Church)
Saturday 19 March
St Joseph's Day
Sunday 20 March
Palm Sunday
Friday 25 March
Good Friday school is closed
Tuesday 29 March
Easter Tuesday school is closed
Wednesday 30 March
Future Champs
Thursday 31 March
Room 9 Class Mass
Thursday 31 March
Whakapono Team Hobbiton trip
Monday 4 April
The Annunciation of the Lord
Monday 4 April
Sacramental Programme 3.30pm

be.
Christ-like

be.
reflective

be.
creative

SPECIAL CHARACTER

In November last year, Pope Francis declared a Jubilee year of Mercy. Our school target in the teaching of Religious Education ties in with this Jubilee year of Mercy. This year we would like all our students to increase their knowledge and understanding of how Blessed Anne Marie Javouhey spread Christ's message through the value of Mercy.

On the 29th January our staff retreat took place at the Cluny Centre with the theme: Mission, Ministry and Mercy. Father Bernie Thomas, was our facilitator. He is a Franciscan Priest and the Chaplain at Auckland University. It was a spiritually enriching experience where we examined and reiterated our purpose as teachers and staff in a Catholic school.

School Liturgies and School Masses/Class Masses

Our School liturgical year started with a School Mass on the 5th February in the BAMJ Centre with Father Mark. We gave thanks to God for our safe return from the holidays and asked the Lord's continued blessing on the new school year. For our Mass we heard the readings of Jesus' call to follow him.

Ash Wednesday, 10th February, marked the beginning of Lent. Father Edwin led a special liturgy which included the distribution of ashes. During Lent we are called to be renewed and to grow closer to God. The Pope asks us to: "Live your faith during Lent and perform works of mercy. All our students have written Lenten promises and as a parental community it would be good to support them in persevering with those promises and role-modelling these works of mercy that the Pope calls us to perform.

At our new families Liturgy on the 16th February we introduced 43 new students to our school community. It was a wonderful liturgy with a special message given to all families by Father Edwin and ended with a lovely morning tea, assisted by members of our parent community.

All parents, caregivers and family members are very welcome to attend any of our school liturgies and school or class Masses. Please check the school newsletters and school website for details about these special celebrations.

Religious Education

During the first week of term all classes are focusing on Prayer.

The next three weeks will cover Lent and we then move onto our R.E. target and the School Charism in the ensuing weeks.

We are fortunate to have our Cluny Sisters in the convent next door and present at most of our liturgical celebrations.

We encourage you to talk to your children about their Religious Education learning and if you have any queries, please feel free to talk to me and/or your child's class teacher.

Sacramental Programme for the Eucharist and Confirmation

The Sacramental Programme re-commences next week, Monday 29 February. The programme starts at 3:25 pm in Room 13.

With kind regards and God Bless,

Gavin Hesqua

Acting DRS



1.

CLASSROOM NEWS

Maramatanga - Room 16 Belonging

Paddington Bear turned up in Room 16 hoping to find a family to look after him whilst he is visiting New Zealand this year. The children wrote letters to Paddington to let him know that he is welcome to come to their house and get to know their families. He will visit each of our houses for a week - lucky Paddington!

The children wrote some lovely letters to Paddington.

Dear Paddington

I'm glad that you promise to be good because you are pretty clumsy sometimes. And I would love you to come to my house. I will read you my Paddington book and will do all sorts of different things with you.

Love from George

p.s I will tell you how many people are in my house when you get there.



SCHOOL NEWS

School Hats

All students must have a school hat that needs to be worn when outdoors. Please ensure this is named and stays at school. It is also recommended that you apply sunscreen to your child each morning if required as further protection. We do have sunscreen available in classes should students require it.

Absences

If your child is absent from school, please notify the school office by phone or text before 9.00am on the morning of the absence. The school absentee mobile number is: **021 2969437**.

When a child returns to school after an absence please give a written explanation to his/her classroom teacher.

PHOTOS:

1. Blackboard in the office foyer **2-4.** Children receive medals from their buddies at the Welcoming liturgy for new children and families.

Arriving late to school

If your child has an appointment and is going to be late to school then please call or text the office. When you arrive at school you must come through the school office and sign your child in.

Signing in and out - Heath and Safety

If, for whatever reason you are going to be on the school grounds, then please come through the school office to sign in and out. If you are taking your child out of school early then please, also come through the school office to sign out.

After School Care

This service operates from 2.55pm to 5.30pm every day of the school week in the Blessed Anne Marie Javouhey Centre. If you wish to find out more information regarding After School Care then please contact Shelley Rose 027 3102090 or email afterschoolcare@stmarysga.school.nz.

School App

St Mary's School 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 Catholic School' in the app store, or use this link. <http://is.gd/8stOcd>.

Here are a few reasons why you should have the app.

Alerts - we can send you quick messages about

- events
- buses running late
- website updates
- reminders

Absentees - if your smartphone has the latest software update you can send a text message straight to our school absentee line by going through the absentee link on the app. There is also a direct link to our school phone number should you choose to ring in an absentee.



Events - our school calendar is being constantly updated. You will find dates to school trips, class/school/parish masses and other important dates under the events link on the app.

Notices - here you will find copies of all our newsletters and latest news (just scroll down past the, 'what's happening, 'fundraising' and 'projects').

Links - you will find links to key websites relating to our school. Eg. St Mary's School website, St Mary Immaculate Church, Aquinas College, stationery, and buses services.

Contact - key staff email addresses can be accessed directly from here.

School Lunches

Every Thursday and Friday we have school lunches delivered to our school. On Thursday Pita Pit supply lunches. Pick up an envelope from the school office. On Friday La Brioche delivers lunch. Check out our school website for menu options and prices.

PTA NEWS

Outdoor Adventure Day Friday 11 March

Day's Schedule:

10.00am Children assemble on the field for race briefing and House Flag Parade

10.30am Outdoor Adventure begins

12:45pm Approximate lunch time

Come watch your children participate, meet other St Mary's families and join in the House Event! A map of the course will be on the noticeboards this Friday.

The Course will consist of crawling under a net, running over a row of tyres, climbing up and then going down an inflated slide, running through a mass of hanging foam noodles, climbing through an inflated waterslide into a pool of water, wading or swimming around the pool, jumping over some low hurdles, dashing & weaving through poles, and running around the school field!

As well as the adventure of the course we will also have our famous cake stall. So, come and join in, have lunch with your children and begin the 2016 school year together as a community!!

Race and House Event

As many of you know - each child is assigned a Sports House when they start school (all siblings are assigned to the same house).

All students will be reminded which house they are in by a list posted on the classroom window. Each child that participates in the race gets a point. The first ten children to complete the course in each year level will receive extra points. Points will also be given for the best house parade, chant and for the most colour and spirit. Parents can also gain points for their child's house by dressing up. The House with the most points will win the House Shield!

Help needed URGENTLY please

In order for this event to take place we urgently require your help which will ensure our children's safety. We need parents to marshal, early course set up and clean up. We will also need help with the cake stall.

Board of Trustee Election dates

Wednesday 4 May
Close main roll at noon

Friday 6 May
Nominations called for by this date

Wednesday 18 May
Close supplementary roll at noon

Friday 20 May
Nominations close at noon

Wednesday 25 May
Voting papers sent by this date

Friday 3 June
Close poll election day at noon

Thursday 9 June
Votes are counted

Friday 10 June
New board takes office



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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