



St Mary's  
Catholic School  
Tauranga

## newsletter

ISSUE 3: 6 April 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

A very warm welcome to Jack Cunningham and Helena Caunter who have joined St Mary's since our last newsletter and greetings to all family and whanau of our school community. We are approaching the end of our first term of learning here at St Mary's Catholic School. An eleven week term that has had a much deserved and celebrated Easter Break within it.

Last month we both recognised and celebrated Holy Week as a school. In recognising and participating in the week, children were immersed in learning associated with the events of Easter. I must thank all staff, children and members of our community who contributed in many ways to such a successful and faith filled week, especially our acting DRS Mr Gavin Hesqua who, assisted by our RE team, planned and implemented a memorable week of Our Lord's journey to the Cross.

### Board of Trustee Elections

This year is our triennial Board of Trustee Election where as a community parent trustees are nominated and elected to roles of Governance. At St Mary's our Board of Trustees has five positions for parent trustees and a range of skills and experiences are needed in order to perform effective governance of our school.

There is more information in regard to being a trustee and the process of nomination and election to be distributed as we progress towards our Election on Friday 3 June. If you have any questions in regard to becoming a board member I would be happy to speak further with you or alternatively the link below has information in regard to the role of a school board trustee. 'A parents' guide to the role of the board of trustee' booklets are also available from the school office

<http://www.trustee-election.co.nz/>

### Term 2 Reporting

Next term we will be completing interim reports against National Standards. This will occur in the form of a written report with a comment, suggested next steps in learning and a interim overall teacher judgement in regard to progress against National Standards in the core curriculum areas of Reading, Writing and Mathematics.

### Uniform

Next term we will make the transition to winter and our winter uniform expectations. With our new multi season uniform this is quite simple with the only change being footwear. Black leather shoes with white socks for girls and black leather shoes with grey St Mary's school socks for boys. Shoes must be leather lace up for boys, leather lace up or with a buckle for girls and have no other colour than black visible.

In addition to this we also allow a white under garment to be worn under girls dresses should an additional layer be required and a black undergarment that boys can wear under the polo. These are available from NZ Uniforms.

### Fees

A reminder to Parents, that all remaining amounts on your term one school account should be paid in full no later than Thursday next week.

This does not include the optional donation portion of the account, which can be paid over the remaining school terms.

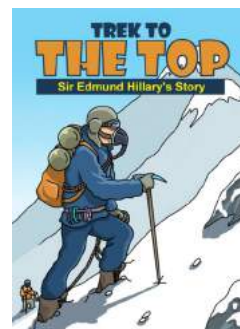
Should you need to discuss this or anything else in relation to your school account, please contact Karen at the school office.

[kmulhern@stmarystga.school.nz](mailto:kmulhern@stmarystga.school.nz)

### Trek to the Top

As you may be aware earlier this term auditions were held for our lead roles in Trek to the Top. These children are already working hard learning their parts and honing their acting skills. From the start of next term each class involved, from year 2 - 6, will start to learn songs and parts pertinent to their role in our production. It will be an exciting time and will ensure parents are well informed of progress towards our final performances in the first week of June.

Ben Fuller  
Principal



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## 2016 Dates to Remember

Tuesday 12 April  
**PTA Meeting 7.00pm**

Wednesday 13 April  
**WBoP Swimming Sports**

Thursday 14 April  
**Room 1 Class Mass**

Thursday 14 April  
**Room 7 Art Gallery visit 12.45pm**

Friday 15 April  
**Jump Jam performance 12.30pm**

Friday 15 April  
**Room 8 Art Gallery visit 9.30am**

Friday 15 April  
**PTA Sausage Sizzle**

Friday 15 April  
**Room 9 Art Gallery 12.45pm**

Friday 15 April  
**Term 1 ends**

Monday 2 May  
**Term 2 starts**

Thursday 5 May  
**Room 2 Class Mass**

Sunday 8 May  
**Mother's Day**

Monday 9 May  
**Aquinas staff visit Y6 students & parents at St Mary's School 1.30pm-2.30pm**

Tuesday 10 May  
**PTA Meeting 7pm**

Wednesday 11 May  
**Aquinas Open Day 9am-10am or 12.30pm-1.30pm**

Friday 13 May  
**School Mass Pentecost**

Tuesday 17 May  
**Welcome to new children and new families liturgy**

Wednesday 18 May  
**Amazing Race**

Thursday 19 May  
**Room 3 Class Mass**

Thursday 19 May  
**Tauranga Moana Catholic Schools Whanau Group Meeting held at St Thomas More School 6pm**

Monday 23 May  
**Young Leaders Day Year 6**

Wednesday 25 May  
**Rippa Rugby World Cup**

Thursday 26 May  
**Room 4 Class Mass**

Friday 27 May  
**St Mary's Cross Country & PTA Sausage Sizzle**

Sunday 29 May  
**First Communion Mass 10.30am**

**be.**  
Christ-like

**be.**  
reflective

**be.**  
creative

## SPECIAL CHARACTER

Our Holy week Liturgies at school started with the joyous proclamation as our Lord as King on Palm Sunday which, Catherine Wood and Room 5 waving their palms, spearheaded. This led into the solemn part of the week starting with the Last Supper (Deanne Willemse and Room 2) and the washing of the feet where Jesus showed his humbleness as a Servant King. This was role played by Ben Fuller who washed the feet of members of the School Community. The Garden of Gethsemane was a soulful and prayerful time which ended with Jesus' betrayal by Judas. (Room 4 and Randy Piceno). The culmination of the week was the Stations of the Cross in which Bryan Crowe and Room 7 led us beautifully through Jesus' journey to the cross, with the rest of the school interacting by doing the responses and prayers and a beautiful end to our week at school.

This took us into our Easter break with a Vigil Mass celebrated at St Mary's Immaculate on Thursday evening at 7pm.

We are currently celebrating Easter time. It is the most important time of the year when we commemorate and celebrate the Risen Christ.

Easter time lasts for fifty days and ends in the feast of Pentecost where the Holy Spirit empowers Jesus' followers to go out and spread Jesus' teachings and to gather as a church for the first time.

### Andrew Chinn

We are very excited to have Andrew Chinn visit St Mary's today. We look forward to sharing more about his visit in our next newsletter.

### Upcoming Liturgical Celebrations in Term 2

13 May - Pentecost School Mass  
14 May - Sursum Corda singing at 5pm Vigil Mass  
16 May Catholic School's Day  
17 May - New families Liturgy  
Wed- Fri: 18-20 May - DRS/Principals Conference-Rotorua

### Sacramental Programme

There are only four more lessons left of the Sacramental Programme. Please keep all those students who are preparing for their First Communion and Confirmation in your prayers.

First Communion Mass is on 29 May at 10.30am at St Mary Immaculate Church.

### Praying of the Rosary

Every Friday morning at 9.00am you are welcome to come and pray the Rosary led by Christina Guzzo in the Chapel.

**Gavin Hesqua**  
**Acting DRS**

## SCHOOL NEWS

### Young Vinnies Cup Cake Fundraiser

The Young Vinnies group will have a Cup Cake Fundraiser for the Merivale School families this Friday 8 April at lunchtime.

We are supporting Merivale School because we have heard that many of the families do not have enough adequate bedding in their homes. The money we raise will go towards purchasing more bedding, linen and beds for families in the greatest need.

The Young Vinnies students will bake the cup cakes, run the stalls and collect the money. Mini cup cakes will sell for .50c, larger ones for \$1.00 and decorated ones for \$1.50.

If you would like to support this fundraiser please send along money in a clearly labelled envelope for your child to buy a cup cake. Many thanks for your support.

**Mrs Liz Driver, Pamela Silva (Young Vinnies co-ordinator) and Year 6 Young Vinnies students**

### St Mary's Samoan Group

Talofa lava,

The St Mary's Samoan group would like to invite students to be part of their group. If you are interested in learning more about our Samoan culture through dance we would love you to join us!

We will be working towards a performance for Samoan Language Week and our main goal for the year will be a performance at the Pasifika in the Bay primary schools festival. The first Practice is Friday 29 April (2nd week of the school holidays).

5.30pm - 6.30pm in the BAMJC and practicing every Friday 5.30pm-6.30pm for Term 2 & Term 3.

Note: We would like all students to wear a lavalava to all practices. If you don't have one we can talk about where you can purchase one at our first practice. For more information please contact Charlie 02108394635.

Faafetai lava

Charlie, Ati & Naomi

## OTHER NEWS

### Aquinas Open Day and school visit

Aquinas Open Day: Wednesday 11 May, sessions available are either 9.00 - 10.00am, or 12.30 - 1.30pm. Year 6 parents are encouraged to take their children.

Aquinas staff and students will also visit our Year 6 students at St Mary's School on Monday 9 May to provide an enrolment presentation, and to offer an enrolment pack to each child to take home. Parents are also invited to attend this presentation from 1:30 - 2:30pm in the Blessed Anne Marie Javouhey Centre.





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**Poppy Day 15 April**  
Please bring in a gold coin donation any day next week

# CLASSROOM NEWS

## Whakapono Team

### Our visit to Hobbiton

Last week Whakapono Team visited Hobbiton in Matamata. This was to support our Social Science study of Peter Jackson and the effect his work has had on New Zealand. We had a perfect day and explored the film set that was used to make the Hobbit. The children listened intently to our wonderful guides and learnt a great deal about the making of a movie. The highlight was having a drink of ginger beer in the Green Dragon at the end of our visit!

### Fay Warnock - Whakapono Team Leader

*Yesterday was a super special day because the middle school block explored Hobbiton. We had a guide named Yvonne. She explained some important rules that even adults always follow. First Yvonne and our group explored the gorgeous gardens that they had. They had lots of maintenance workers taking good care of them. In their gardens they had colossal pumpkins, tall but ruined sunflowers, teeny ripe tomatoes and lots of monarch butterflies and wasps swooping around us. Then we started to climb a steep hill. We saw lots of Hobbit homes all different looking. Some were big and some were small. We even got to go inside one! All of them had revolting moss on their fences, smoke rising up to the sky and decorations sitting on the window sills. Their doors were different colours too. Blue, yellow, red and green. They were all creaky and old. Some even had little old fashioned clothes hanging on the washing lines! When we were half way through we got to have a 5 minute rest at the party field. There was a red and blue see-saw and a swing. When we were nearly at the top of the hill we suddenly stopped to gaze at a fabulous view. I remember seeing cows, sheep, trees and colourful flowers. We crossed a grey, stony bridge and we could see a black swan paddling in the lake. The lake had a violently turning water wheel pouring water into the lake. We walked a little more and stopped to feed our grumbling tummies. The people who work at Hobbiton gave us a huge cup of ginger beer and then it was time to go back to school. Everyone looked disappointed at leaving but we all knew that we have a great memory.*

By Enseko Ko from Room 1

*One bright morning Bilbo Baggins was standing at his front door after preparing breakfast. He was smoking a long wooden, hollow pipe, reaching almost down to his barefeet. Then Gandalf approached him but Bilbo did not recognise him.*

*Gandalf was a tall man with a long silky transparent beard and a grey coat and also a blue hat matched with immense black boots.*

*Bilbo sat down on a chair, crossed his legs and began to create rings of misty smoke. "Good morning" said Bilbo politely.*

*"Hello I am searching for someone to share an adventure that I arranged" Gandalf announced.*

*"Well good luck with that considering that nobody enjoys adventures around here" Bilbo protested. Then Gandalf left.*

By Pateriki Paaka from Room 1

## Maramatanga News

### Mini Pilgrimage

This term our team "Maramatanga" made a mini pilgrimage to St Joseph's Church Te Puna and the surrounding area incorporating Maramatanga Park. We were met by Mark Nicholas who lead us in a brief history and tour of the local area. The children loved the scavenger hunt he had prepared for us. Fr Edwin lead us in a beautiful liturgy in St Joseph's Church. We talked about how lucky we were to be passing through the Holy Doors of St Joseph's as we reflected on this Jubilee year of Mercy. We all developed our understanding about what Maramatanga means to us and our two key words were light and understanding. The most powerful image of light that Mark gave us was the image of the Cross. One of our children summed it up beautifully "When I went through the Holy Doors at the church I felt love" (Yerie Park).

### Donna Vincent - Maramatanga Team Leader

### Room 14

The children had a technology challenge to make a boat that floats. Great boats were made and all the boats floated in the estuary. Check out our photos below.

### Entertainment Book

All families have received either an Entertainment Book or an order form for an Entertainment book. If you do not wish to purchase it then you must return it to the school office as soon as possible. Alternatively if you wish to purchase the book then please follow the instructions on the envelope. You are under no obligation whatsoever to purchase the book.

## SPORTS NEWS

Congratulations to St Mary's Super Strikers, Asa Banbury, August Porter, Callum Roberson, Darcy Gilbert, Finn Pryor, Isaac Schuler, Jack Williamson, Jake Bell, Lachlan Aubrey, Max Broadmore and Samuel Leitch. They have finished the season as Division 1 Blue Champions. A great season for all the boys and a fantastic job by coaches Shem Banbury and Mike Williamson. The boys are looking forward to taking the next step on the cricketing ladder as they move up to the high intensity of Division 1 Gold in term 4. Great work boys!

### Cathy Pini - Sports Coordinator







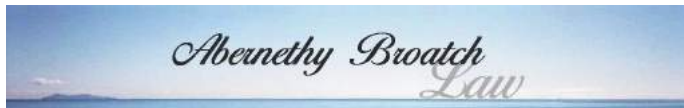
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Our People Our Place

# be. thankful

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



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