



St Mary's
Catholic School
Tauranga

newsletter

ISSUE 4: 10 May 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 community and welcome to what has started as an extremely busy term. A very warm welcome to Benjamin Wilson, Cora Barrett-Hodgson, Sienna Smart, Sam Lock, Samuel Farrelly, Zachary Good-Vitali, Saoirse Williamson, Chloe Evans, Mackenzie Jury, Emma Fulton, Henry Fulton, Carys Parry and Sophie Ferguson who have joined St Mary's since our last newsletter.

We are one week into our 'Trek to the Top' journey and no doubt your children have shared with you how preparations have been progressing. Below is more information regarding ticket sales for this upcoming event.

Term two also signals the start of our winter sporting codes. Many thanks on behalf of all involved to those parent volunteers who have put their hands up to help coach, manage or assist a team. Sport at St Mary's focuses on providing as many opportunities for as many children as possible in the sporting domain. To further refine how we achieve this I will be focusing on the development of a new Sports Policy in the coming weeks so look forward to sharing this with parents later in the term.

The past weeks have seen a focus on education in our country with reference to OECD findings and comparisons with other OECD countries. It is of course unfortunate to see our achievement slip against other countries and not something the sector as a whole takes lightly. However, a recent OECD report ranked New Zealand teachers fourth out of 35 countries in terms of professionalism and primary teachers among those who complete the highest number of contact teaching hours per week.

Parent Trustee Elections

As you are aware this year we are holding our triennial Board of Trustee Elections. Nomination forms have been posted to all parents current mailing address. If you have not received nomination forms please notify our front office. Nominations close on Friday 20 May at 12pm.

Being a trustee is a vital role within our school community. The board is the employer of all staff in the school and is responsible for setting the school's strategic direction in consultation with

parents, staff and students, and for ensuring that it's school provides a safe environment and quality education for all its students. Boards are also responsible for overseeing the management of personnel, curriculum, property, finance and administration. <http://www.trustee-election.co.nz/>

To provide you with more information regarding being a trustee at St Mary's Catholic School we will be holding two short information sessions on Wednesday 11 May in our school staff room. The first session will start at 2.15pm and the second at 6pm with all interested parties welcome.

If you are unable to make either of the sessions but would like to know more information regarding standing for election to our board then please make contact with me.

Trek to the Top Ticket Sales

It is with great delight that we announce that tickets for this year's 2016 St Mary's School Musical are now on sale! Ladies and Gentlemen hold on tightly to your warm furry hats as we prepare to launch up Mt Everest for the very first time on stage. This is the story of Sir Edmund Hillary and his climb to the top of the world and it is coming live, to a stage near you, in a flurry of song, dance and drama! 'Trek to the Top' will be showing on Wednesday and Thursday the 1st & 2nd June, 2016 at 7pm in the Bethlehem College Performing Arts Centre, 37 Elder Lane Tauranga. This highly anticipated event is one not to be missed. Tickets are now on sale at the school office and can only be purchased using eftpos.

Term Two Reporting

This 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.

New Trophy Cabinet

A trip through our front office will highlight a new trophy cabinet that has recently been installed. This item has been crafted to demonstrate and showcase aspects of success at St Mary's. On behalf of our school community I would like to thank the PTA for their generosity in funding this.

13th Avenue, Tauranga, New Zealand

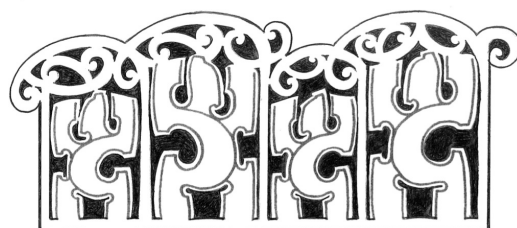
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2016 Dates to Remember

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
Wednesday 11 May
Board of Trustee Information Sessions 2.15pm and 6pm
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
Friday 20 May
Nominations Close at 12 noon
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
Tuesday 31 May
Board of Trustee Meeting 6pm
Wednesday 1 June
Trek to the Top Production 7pm
Thursday 2 June
Trek to the Top Production 11am
Thursday 2 June
Trek to the Top Production 7pm
Friday 3 June
Voting closes at 12 noon
Monday 6 June
Samoan Language Week
Monday 6 June
Queen's Birthday
Wednesday 8 June
BoP Rippa Rugby
Thursday 9 June
Room 15 Class Mass
Thursday 9 June
Votes are counted



Tauranga Moana Ra Whakangahau Kapa Haka Festival 2016

This year Hato Maria (St Mary's) will be hosting the 2016 Tauranga Moana Kapa Haka Festival on the 24th and 25th of November. As a Kura we have participated in the festival in the last three years and we now have the privilege to host it. This is an event that provides primary age school children with the opportunity to participate in Kapa Haka performance in a non competitive atmosphere. As the first Catholic School to host this event we will be looking to work with our other Catholic Schools and wider Whanau to impart Kaupau o Katorika (aspects Catholic) throughout the festival.

We anticipate over 40 schools participating, with up to 5000 spectators and performers visiting our school over the two days of the festival. How can we help I hear you say? Stand by for information from our Whanau group regarding invitations to attend related meetings and to be a part of working parties.

Traffic Safety

The safety of our students on and around our school grounds is paramount. We therefore request that all parents take due care and diligence in respect to parking around our school. Please do not park in the bus stop and if required to park opposite the school on 13th Avenue, we ask that you meet your child/ren on the school side first before escorting them over the road. Do NOT drive your car into the school grounds to drop off a child unless special permission has been granted.

Uniform

By the end of this week all children should have made the transition to 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 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. Both are available from NZ Uniforms. It is expected that the under garment be an additional layer to the fleece or jacket if required and should not be visible above the collar.

Swimming Presentations

As a result of an extremely full rehearsal schedule for Trek to the Top we are not holding our normal Friday afternoon assemblies. We would however like to recognise swimming success from last term after our Monday Liturgy on 16 May. This will include the recognition of all School, South Cluster and WBoP achievements.

Zero Lunchbox Litter at St Mary's School

Pope Francis has a very clear message about looking after God's Creation and the need to recycle and reduce the rubbish we create. We all need to take action and be responsible for our own beautiful environment here at St Mary's School. Therefore, we want a rubbish free school for everyone to enjoy.

Our existing Zero Lunchbox Litter Programme requires all packaging and fruit/vegetable waste that is used in lunchboxes to be taken home to be disposed of.

Initiated in Term 3 of 2015, this one action alone has had an immediate impact on the amount of rubbish on the school site, and Reusing and Recycling at St Mary's School continues to be a big part of our daily lives.

We encourage you to continue with the commitment you place on teaching children to be responsible and take action for caring for our immediate environment and the world around us.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Ben Fuller
Principal

SPECIAL CHARACTER

Celebrations

This term we celebrate two feast days. The feast of Ascension of our Lord, where Jesus ascended to the right hand of the Father and promised to send the Apostles a gift. This Feast day was on Sunday 8 May.

The gift, as promised, of the Holy Spirit, was given on the feast of Pentecost which is on Sunday 15 May. Our school will celebrate this feast day with a whole school Mass on Friday 13 May at 9.30am at St Mary's Immaculate Church in Cameron Road. All Parents are welcome to attend and celebrate this feast with us.

The Angelus

As May is the month of Mary our school will be saying The Angelus every Friday at 12.00 noon for the term. The Angelus is an old prayer which started around the 11th Century. It calls us to interrupt our daily, earthly routines and turn to thoughts of God, of the Blessed Mother and of eternity.

Welcome to new children and new families liturgy

We will be welcoming all new children and new families who started school since 16 February 2016 on Tuesday 10 May at 10.00am in the Blessed Anne-Marie Javouhey Centre. All families are warmly invited to attend.

Andrew Chinn

Andrew Chinn's visit to our school left it humming tunes for days after. Andrew workshopped with each class group and all of them learned a song or two from his repertoire. His animated, friendly approach warmed the students to him and he had them doing all sort of actions to songs like Ubuntu, a favourite among teachers as well, Rainbow and many more.

After spending time with the students he worked with the teachers after school with the idea of creating a school song. This will be further developed with student input via Skype later this term.

It was a wonderful day of praise and worship and our students, teachers and parents who attended the afternoon concert sang out loud and proud.

Sacramental Programme

The programme resumed again on Monday 9 May. Please keep all these students who are preparing for the their First Communion and Confirmation in your prayers. First Communion Mass is on Sunday 29 May at 10.30am at St Mary Immaculate Church.

Religious Education

This term we will continue to learn how Blessed Anne Marie Javouhey spread God's message through the value of Mercy and the strand we will focus on is the Sacrament. We will be learning about the Holy Spirit.

Our Year 1 and 2's will be learning about the Eucharist and how we as people are welcomed at the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

Our Year 3's and 4's will be learning about the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Our Year 5's and 6's will be learning about the Healing sacraments as well as participating in the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

Gavin Hesqua
Acting DRS

SCHOOL NEWS

Young Vinnies Cup Cake Fundraiser

Thank you for supporting our Cup Cake Fundraiser for the Merivale School Community. We raised an amazing \$714.50. Thank you for your kind generosity.

OTHER NEWS

Entertainment Book

Payment, or returned books were due back last term. If you still have a book at home that you do not want then please return it to the school office by Thursday 12 May. Phone calls will be made next week to follow up on all books that have not been returned. If you would like to buy the book then payment is also expected by Thursday.

Aquinas Open Day

Last term Year 6's received a notice regarding the Open Day at Aquinas College on Wednesday 11 May. This is your choice for your child to attend, and thus your responsibility to get your child to and from these visits. There are two sessions to choose from. 9.00-10.00am or 12.30-1.30pm.

For these visits, parents are welcome to take the tour of the school with their child. Please let the office know if your child is going to be late for school.

SPORTS NEWS

With our Winter Sports kicking off this weekend we wish all those St Mary's children who are taking part all the best for the season. Our senior Netball girls made a solid start to the season with all 4 teams posting a win on Saturday.

We finished our summer season on a very positive note with division winners across a number of codes. At the end of last term we celebrated the success of our cricketers and today we congratulate our water sport teams.

Flippa Ball

The Year 3/4 teams Flippa Ball teams achieved fantastic results this season.

SM Shooters winners of the A Grade: Donavon Price, Finn Richards, Ethan Ryan, Matthew O'Connor, Roman Rejthar, Aidan Dobbs, Sam Webb and Hunter Sands.

SM Rockets winners of the C grade: Willem Winders, James Whitaker, Lacey Zurcher-Herbert, Ryan Bell, Caitlin Kavanagh, Millie Lochore, Luka Mahy, Jas O'Connor and Chloe Gleaves.

SM Jets third place B Grade: Ben Haydock, Austin Roper, Cole Hulsebosch, Ciaran Manning, Ryder Frank, Theo Shaw, James Whitaker, Xavier Kirk, Eli Banbury, AJ Goodin and Nat Jarden.

Water Polo

The Senior Water Polo Team placed 3rd in the Primary/Intermediate league.

SM Sunfish: Max Broadmore, Cara Butler, Renee Carey, Kate Dekker, Charlie Hammerich, Niamh Manning, Mikayla McGrory, Zach Quin, Stella Roper, Issac Schuler and Georgia Verhoeven.

Swimming Champions

St Mary's also has a number of very talented swimmers and these children achieved excellent results at School, Cluster and Western Bay level. The swimming Champions for 2016 are:

Year 6 Girls

Champion - Georgia Verhoeven
Runner Up - Maia Kahura

Year 6 Boys

Champion - Zach Quin
Runner Up - Hugo McCarroll

Year 5 Girls

Champion - Renee Carey
Runner Up - Niamh Manning

Year 5 Boys

Champion - Charlie Hammerich
Runner Up - Henry Scholes

We sent a strong team to the Western Bay Swimming Champs where there was some fierce competition. Our team of swimmers competed well and had a fantastic day representing St Mary's School. All our swimmers placed in the top 10 in their events which is an excellent result with a large number of podium finishes included in this.

Special mention must go to Renee Carey who set a new Meet Record for the 50m Breaststroke.

Other results were:

Year 6 Girls

Georgia Verhoeven 2nd Mixed 100m Grand Relay.

Year 6 Boys

Zach Quin 3rd 50m Breaststroke.

Year 5 Girls

Renee Carey 1st 50m Breaststroke, 1st 25m Breaststroke, 2nd 100m Freestyle, 2nd 100m IM, 2nd Girls 100m Relay, 3rd 50m Freestyle.

Niamh Manning 2nd 100m Freestyle, 3rd 25m Freestyle.

Stella Roper 3rd 25m Butterfly.

Year 5 Boys

Henry Scholes 2nd Mixed 100m Grand Relay and 3rd 100m Freestyle.

Charlie Hammerich 1st 50m Breaststroke and 2nd Boys 100m Relay.

Certificates and trophies for all these children will be handed out after our liturgy on Monday 16 May.

A huge thank you must go to our amazing team of parents who volunteer their time to coach and manage teams throughout the summer. Without them our children would not be able to participate in these extra curricular activities. Thank you.

Best of luck for all those playing a winter sport. Play hard, play fair and have fun.

And finally... thank you all for making me feel so welcome to the St Mary's School community. I have appreciated your kind patience and help in my first term as Sports Coordinator. I look forward to meeting you all in the near future.

Cathy Pini

Sports Coordinator





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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