



St Mary's  
Catholic School  
Tauranga

## newsletter

ISSUE 5: 25 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 you all and looking outside at time of writing, hello winter.

We are well into an exciting term at St Mary's with many events that involve the majority of our community. It was great to welcome back our Year 6 leaders from a day at 'Young Leaders Day' in Rotorua yesterday. The range of speakers was impressive and each of our students has no doubt taken home their own piece of inspiration or message that resonates with them.

I had the privilege of attending the annual Catholic Diocese of Hamilton Principal's and Director of Religious Studies Conference in Rotorua last week. A speaker at the conference who I believe had great messages for all in leadership was Father Richard Leonard. Father Richard is a Jesuit Priest who has written a number of books in regard to being both Catholic and Christian in our modern age.

In one of his key note addresses he referred to the teaching of St Ignatius in regard to the making of decisions. We all have to make decisions in our daily lives but what is important is what guides these decisions. St Ignatius suggests, when discerning, we think "What is the most loving, joyful, peaceful, patient, kind, generous, faithful and self-controlled thing to do here?" If anything this will definitely ensure no decision is made in haste!

### BOT Elections

As parents and caregivers of our school you have an opportunity to hear a short introductory presentation from each of our nominees at 6.30 pm tomorrow evening, Wednesday 25 May. By now you should also have received a copy of each candidate's bio with accompanying voting papers and instructions.

As a community we are fortunate to be able to elect a board of trustees from a number of extremely capable nominees. In selecting candidates that you believe will most effectively govern our school you are able to vote for up to five potential board of trustee members. It is important that you utilise this opportunity so that your view contributes to the board's final composition.

### Trek to the Top

Next week we perform Trek to the Top in front of three full theatres of people. The way our

students have each adopted and grown into their individual and collective roles has been nothing short of impressive. I am sure I am not alone in looking forward to seeing it all come together later next week. There are still tickets available for both evening performances with the matinee being sold out thanks to the support of both St Thomas More School and Aquinas College. If you are yet to get your ticket please ensure you do so as soon as possible to avoid any disappointment.

### Confirmation of the Eucharist

I would like to personally wish all of our Confirmation Candidates and their families best wishes for this Sunday. I have spoken with Bishop Steve and he is very much looking forward to the opportunity to once again be in our Parish and administering the Sacrament of Confirmation and being a part of so many of our children's first Holy Communion. Both Sacraments will be celebrated as a part of the 10.30 am Mass at St Mary Immaculate this Sunday. I, on behalf of all Parishioners wish to welcome you to be a part of this very special Mass.

### After School

We have noticed that there are currently a number of children remaining after school unsupervised. This being due to parents not being able to pick them up by 3pm which poses a potential health and safety issue for both the children concerned and ourselves as a school. Starting from the week of June 5 all children who have not been collected from school by 3.15 pm will be sent to wait for parents in the front office.

If any parents would like information about our After School Care service please ask at the front office.

### Uniform Reminder

By now 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.

Under garments for both boys and girls 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.

13th Avenue, Tauranga, New Zealand

E [office@stmarystga.school.nz](mailto:office@stmarystga.school.nz)

T 07 578 8066

[www.stmarystga.school.nz](http://www.stmarystga.school.nz)

## 2016 Dates to Remember

Wednesday 25 May  
**Rippa Rugby World Cup**

Wednesday 25 May  
**Meet the Board of Trustee Nominees  
6.30pm**

Thursday 26 May  
**Room 4 Class Mass**

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

Tuesday 27 May  
**Sacramental Programme practice 5pm**

Sunday 29 May  
**Confirmation and 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 (school only)**

Thursday 2 June  
**Trek to the Top Production 7pm**

Friday 3 June  
**Argos Gym Sports Festival Year 5 & 6**

Friday 3 June  
**Voting closes at 12 noon**

Monday 6 June  
**Samoa Language Week**

Monday 6 June  
**Queen's Birthday**

Tuesday 7 June  
**St Mary's Cross Country postponement date**

Wednesday 8 June  
**BoP Rippa Rugby**

Thursday 9 June  
**Room 15 Class Mass**

Thursday 9 June  
**Votes are counted**

Thursday 9 June  
**South Cluster Cross Country**

Friday 10 June  
**Argos Gym Sports Festival Year 3 & 4**

Sunday 12 June  
**Parish / School Mass 10.30am**

Tuesday 14 June  
**PTA Meeting**

Thursday 16 June  
**BoP Squash**

Friday 17 June  
**Impact Gym Sports Year 5 & 6**

Wednesday 22 June  
**PTA Maths-a-thon**

Wednesday 22 June  
**WBoP Cross Country**

**be.**  
Christ-like

**be.**  
reflective

**be.**  
creative

### Charter

To be sent home at the end of this week is our revised 2016 to 2018 School Charter. Please look out for it as will accurately inform you of our current strategic priorities and how we intend addressing them as a school.

### Ra Whakangahau

As I mentioned in our last news letter, St Mary's is privileged to this year be the host school of the Tauranga Moana Ra Whakangahau Festival. Organisation for this event is well under way with 15 schools already registered and \$9000 of initial funding being kindly donated by the Tauranga Energy Consumer Trust.

In coming together as a Catholic Community we would like to provide all with the opportunity to be involved in some way. We would therefore like to invite anyone interested to a presentation after our Parish School Mass on Sunday 12 June at St Mary Immaculate regarding progress and ways you could be involved.

### Retirement of Bruce Stockman

As many of you may be aware, we are farewelling our property manager, the retiring Bruce Stockman at the end of next week. Bruce has been of great service to our school community in his time here, taking immense pride in his work and the presentation of our school. Please join me in wishing Bruce and his wife Frana all the best for their retirement.

Joining us from Monday 13 June will be Mr Duncan Leitch. Duncan is currently a senior caretaker at Botany Secondary College and also has extensive experience in horticulture and landscaping work. Duncan is looking forward to his move down from Auckland where he has been for ten years.

**Ben Fuller**  
**Principal**

## SPECIAL CHARACTER

The gift, as promised, of the Holy Spirit, was given on the feast of Pentecost which is on Sunday 15 May. Our school celebrated this feast day with a whole school Mass on Friday 13 May at 9.30am at St Mary's Immaculate Church. Year 3 & 4 children from Room 2 re-enacted the story of Pentecost. Filled with the Holy Spirit they gathered around our very dear Father Edwin.

### School Parish Mass Sunday 12 June

On Sunday 12 June we warmly invite and encourage all families to attend our Parish School Mass at 10.30am. At this Mass we would also like to take the opportunity to recognise our outgoing board members and commission our new trustees.



## SCHOOL NEWS

### Our Catholic Community of Learning

Our Community of Learning officially began this term. The Community is made up of nine Catholic Schools within the Hamilton Diocese: Bishop Edward Gaines (Tokoroa), St Mary's (Putaruru), St Joseph's (Opotiki), St Thomas Moore, St Mary's and Aquinas College (Tauranga), and St Michael's, St Mary's and John Paul College (Rotorua).

This is an exciting new initiative by the Government that is aimed at lifting student achievement. As a Community of Learning we aim to collaborate with each other to share strengths and expertise, benefit from the skills and knowledge of others and support each other for the good of all of our students.

We are fortunate to have appointed Jacqui-Ellen Price and Fay Warnock as teachers within our school to focus on teacher practice and lifting student achievement. I will be working across the Community of Schools for up to two days a week to do the same with a particular focus on Literacy and the transition to school for New Entrants.

We are very excited about this opportunity for greater collaboration and partnerships between our schools. Michael Fullan points out that the research has been clear and consistent for 30 years – collaborative cultures result in better learning for students. Within collaborative cultures, teachers:

- focus on improving their teaching practice
- learn from each other
- are well-led and supported by principals.

If you are interested in more information you can go to the IES website - <http://www.education.govt.nz/ministry-of-education/specific-initiatives/investing-in-educational-success/> and visit our CoL Facebook page - Catholic Community of Learning.

**Anna MacKinnon, Deputy Principal**

### International Students

This term our International students have been invited to attend the International Students Sports day. It is held each year to give our students the opportunity to meet and interact with other international students from different countries.

The second International event is the Mayoral Reception for International Students.

This invitation is limited to two international students from each educational institute in the Tauranga area.

This is being held on Tuesday 7 June and our school representatives are Yewon Yue and Seyoung Choi both from Year 6.

## CLASSROOM NEWS

### National Young Leaders Day

On Monday 23 May many of our Year 6 students went to Young Leaders day in Rotorua. The objectives of NYLD are Inspiration, Connection, Student empowerment, Promoting positivity and Motivation. Brylee Mills was just one of the Inspirational speakers. Despite losing her left arm in a car accident when she was six, she's never let life stop her! Brylee was accepted into an elite dance programme at Sydney's prestigious





Brent Street Performing Arts Studio for 2015. She has graduated from Brent Street and is now continuing her career as a professional dancer. After many setbacks and bumps in the road throughout Brylee's life she's determined to share how beautiful life is and how lucky we are to live such exciting adventures. To the left is a photo with Brylee with a few of our St Mary's girls. Fantastic inspiration.

### What Peace Feels Like by Room 16

*Peace sounds like beautiful music - like a piano and a violin*

*Peace feels like wind and leaves blowing into your face*

*Peace tastes like delicious ice-cream and chocolate cake*

*Peace smells like beautiful flowers and hot chocolate with pink marshmallows*

*Peace looks like being kind, and peace looks like love*

**by Fenella Price**

*What Peace Feels Like*

*Peace smells like flowers*

*Peace feels like me sleeping in the hammock.*

*Peace sounds like the soft sea.*

*Peace looks like a puppy sleeping.*

*Peace tastes like a strawberry ice-cream.*

**Alex Bayliss**

### Room 2 Trekking to the Top

In order to relate to Ed Hillary and Tenzing's gruelling ascent of Mt Everest, the year 3 + 4 children from Room 2 filled their backpacks with 8 to 10kg of books. They wandered around the school holding on to a lengthy climbing rope, following each other crossing make believe crevasses and sinking deep into pretend



snow. (see pictures below)

*As I looked back I couldn't see the other climbers at Camp 8. My bones were aching but I said to myself keep going. My back and shoulders were numb. It was strenuous going up Mount Everest. I gasped for breath as wind howled like the highway. This formidable mountain stood proud. We were trudging through the snow when we came across a glacier. I grabbed my rope from my shoulder and flung it over the huge glacier. It landed on the whitening snow. We had to climb across the tightrope hoping that we would make it.*

**by Ethan Ryan**

### Personification Room 1

A poem using personification to write as though Mount Everest.

*I am Everest*

*I see climbers driving*

*Their platinum pick axes*

*Into my rocky surfaces.*

*They clamber up my hiding peaks*

*And into the*

*Blanketing snow they*

*Walk through the crevasses*

*That I've earned*

*Through the seasons of*

*Summer, the sun*

*Eats away at all*

*Ice and snow.*

*My body is freezing,*

*I patiently prepare myself*

*For the sun to appear*

*Through the horizon.*

*The sun warms my*

*Healthy peaks.*

*I start to cry when*

*I bleed with snow*

*And tears of melted ice*

*Fall from my peaks.*

*Will they survive?*

*I enjoy talking*

*With the clouds*

*I enjoy victory of*

*Those who make it.*

*I am Everest.*

**by Pateriki Paaka R1**



## PTA NEWS

### Cook Off

A huge thank you to Rachael James-Leitch, Annalees Jones and Katy Wealleans for the beautiful meals you prepared for families in need. The smells wafting from the BAMJC kitchen were mouth watering. Please consider offering a hand the next time Rachel sends out a message for help.

### Fireworks

Since the early 1990's our St Marys PTA have successfully ran our Fireworks Gala as our primary school fundraiser in November. Over the years this has been possible due to the unrelenting support of our school community and as a result have been blessed with many memorable community events.

There have been many developments and changes to the Fireworks Gala over the years but the key focus has always been our community. In continuing to progress the development of this event we are seeking the skills of an event manager. This person will be supported by a strong PTA team, and an established organisational framework.

In progressing organisation of our 2016 Fireworks we would like this person to become involved in the organisation, if you are interested in taking on the lead role please contact me on the details given below before the end of this week.

**Tammy McGrory**  
**PTA Chairperson**  
[mike.tam@extra.co.nz](mailto:mike.tam@extra.co.nz)

### ...and the last words are from Mr Stockman

It is with mixed feelings that I leave this school after 5 years – the special values, this school has is something to be proud of, the Principal, Staff and BOT and children embrace this and live their values.

I have taken pride in the school and the grounds and I have enjoyed keeping the place looking great. Popping over and helping the Cluny sisters has always been a pleasure and having them arrange for us to stay at The Mother House in Paris is something I will never forget.

While I am looking forward to this next chapter in my life (travelling around our beautiful country) I will always hold St Mary's School in my heart as "my school".





Our People Our Place

# be. thankful

oxforddictionaries.com / thankful.

adj: 1. pleased and relieved. 2. expressing gratitude.



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