



St Mary's
Catholic School
Tauranga

newsletter

ISSUE 3: 27 March 2017

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

Nga mihi nui ki a koutou

Greetings to you all and hello autumn! A special welcome to our new families and new children, Jyron Felix, Rodi Parshikov, Silvia Cha, Ethan Peters, Vienna Vale, Rusila Moqe, Vin Villegas, Sophie Schiphorst and Felix Shin.

Over the last couple of weeks we have had the opportunity to participate in a number of events as a school. Ones that we should be extremely thankful for. Of course top of the list is our fantastic PTA who, despite having to wait for the weather, ran another amazing outdoor adventure day. Our school grounds were buzzing with parents and excitement as all children got the opportunity to test themselves on the well laid out course.

On behalf of our school community I would particularly like to thank Mel Gash for her wonderful organisation of this event. I would also like to thank the organisation of our PTA on, and leading up to the day. Thanks also to the many parent volunteers who assisted in a variety of ways.

I would like to put a plug in for our PTA, they consistently raise a significant amount of money that goes directly towards the benefit of our students. The next meeting for this year is on April 11 at 7pm and it would be great to see a few new faces among the mix.

The Launch of The Parish of St Thomas Aquinas

It was great to see such a large number of our community at the Mass launching our new combined Parish earlier this month. The capacity of the Aquinas College Gymnasium was of course tested but in doing so was a great sign of community. Many I have spoken to were extremely impressed with the homily given by Bishop Stephen Lowe as a part of celebrations. It was a great recount of the history of our church in Tauranga spoken through the spiritual domain and with reference to our local area. Bishop Stephen has therefore indicated that he will provide a copy of it for people in the near future.

Innovative Learning

As we continue our journey towards the development of our learning environments as student centered enablers of learning I would like to continue to present parents with relevant information. Therefore, I have again included

a couple of links that may help widen your knowledge in regard to the rationale behind changes to education both globally and within New Zealand.

Tony Grey: www.youtube.com/watch?v=n6xrTxx8hek

Ken Robinsons: https://www.ted.com/talks/ken_robinson_changing_education_paradigms

Mark Osbourne: <http://edtalks.org/#/video/considering-modern-learning-environments>

Traffic Safety

Of concern has been the number of children put at risk as a result of driver behaviour around our school grounds. While our building project is continuing there is a restriction of access between room 10 and room 9. This has meant an increase in foot traffic down our driveway. This in turn means that we must all respect that no parent cars are to enter or exit our school driveway at all times.

The safety of our students is paramount. We therefore request that all parents take due care and diligence in respect to driving and parking around our school. The best place during summer months to drop off and collect children is our Harvey Street boundary. If this is not possible please remember that no child should be left to cross roads by themselves after being dropped at school.

Before School Procedures and Punctuality

There has been a growing number of children arriving late to school recently which is not ideal for learning. Hopefully with some more light in the mornings post an end to daylight savings routines will be easier to manage. On the other end of the spectrum there are often children who are dropped off before 8am or sometimes earlier. Our before school procedures state that all classrooms will be open and supervised from 8.30am which means children who arrive before this will need to wait in an outside area. During summer months this is not so much of an issue but as the winter months arrive it is not ideal. Ideally any time from 8.15 - 8.45 is a good time to get to school.

New Build

Work continues on our current building project and I am sure you will, like me, be following progress. The new block will house our year 2 students and will in the future provide a continued pathway of innovation through our junior school teams.

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2017 Dates to Remember

Wednesday 29 March

Future Champions

Thursday 30 March

Room 10 Class Mass

Exposition 10am

Benediction 2pm

Friday 31 March

Aroha Caritas Challenge

Sunday 2 April

Daylight Savings ends

Thursday 6 April

Room 14 Class Mass 9am

Tuesday 11 April

- **Board of Trustee Meeting 6pm**

- **PTA Meeting AGM 7pm**

Wednesday 12 April

WBoP Swimming Championships

Thursday 13 April

Term 1 ends

Friday 14 April

Good Friday

Tuesday 25 April

Anzac Day

Monday 1 May

- **Term 2 starts**

- **Liturgy - Resurrection 9am**

Thursday 4 May

Class Mass - Sacramental students

Monday 8 May

Liturgy - Mothers Day 9am

Tuesday 9 May

PTA Meeting 7pm

Thursday 11 May

Class Mass Sacrament students

Saturday 13 May

Sursum Corda to sing at 5pm Vigil Mass

Tuesday 16 May

Welcome to new children and new families liturgy 10am

Wednesday 17 May

WBoP Amazing Race 9am

Thursday 18 May

Room 7 Class Mass

Friday 19 May

Cross Country & PTA Sausage Sizzle

Saturday 20 May

PTA Quiz Night

Sunday 21 May

Confirmation Mass 2pm

Monday 22 May

Young Leaders Day Year 6

Liturgy - Month of Mary 9am

Tuesday 23 May

St Mary's Cross Country postponement date

Wednesday 24 May

Rippa Rugby World Cup

be.
Christ-like

be.
reflective

be.
creative

Present predictions for the completion of this project are for late June, early July, which will mean open for business at the beginning of term 3.

A reminder of some health and safety practices that we have been required to implement. These include controlled entry of all construction related vehicles and specific site access requirements. Please ensure when you are here out of hours with your children you are aware of any work that is in progress.

Last week, I accompanied a group of leaders from within our school to the most recent 'newly built' school in our wider area. Endeavour school in Hamilton. Of great interest was how teachers focused on providing deeper learning experiences enabled by the environment.

Contact with our Community

In order to remain in contact with our school community it is vital that we have up to date contact details for all parents and caregivers. If your details have changed, particularly phone numbers and email addresses, or you think you are not receiving information either from our office or your child's teacher please let our office know.

Nga mihi nui

Ben Fuller
Principal

SPECIAL CHARACTER

The Monday liturgies during lent have focused on Caritas, Our inspiring Saints and People, World Water day and the Annunciation. Students in classes have started focused learning activities from the Caritas Lent Unit: Your face Lord, do I seek. With a special focus: JUST WATER: Climate Change in the Pacific. The Aroha hub students are organising a fundraiser for Caritas, details will be out soon.

We celebrated our first whole school Mass at Church on Friday to celebrate St Joseph's Day. Student participation at Mass was excellent, it was a very special mass where we thanked the Sisters of St Joseph of Cluny for all they have done for our school and for others.

Baptism

If you are interested in having your child baptised, please phone Margie at the Church office, 07-578 6209. If you have any questions please feel free to see me or email me on trush@stmarystga.school.nz.

Lent timetable

Over the next few weeks we have a busy Lent timetable. Please take note of these times.

Thursday 30 March: Benediction - 2pm BAMJC. The Eucharist will be present in the chapel after Mass from 10am if you would like to take time to come, reflect and pray with our Lord. Classes will be visiting throughout the day, all Whanau are welcome.

Holy Week

Friday 7 April: 11am Palm Sunday liturgy followed by a Donkey procession - students are encouraged to bring "Jesus Clothes" to dress in.

Monday 10 April: 10am Washing of the Feet and Last Supper Liturgy

Tuesday 11 April: 10am Garden of Gethsemane Liturgy

Wednesday 12 April: 10am Good Friday Liturgy

Thursday 13 April: Way of the Cross - times to be confirmed

Lent Prayer

E te Ariki, we pray for Your guidance during our Lenten journey. May these times of reflection and prayer help us to more clearly see your face – the face of mercy. Provide us with the strength to be Your voice and to make good choices. Help us to help others face the tests that challenge them. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Teresa Rush

Director of Religious Studies



FROM OUR DP

Tracking Success

Will there be data compiled to track the success rates of students within the collaborative learning environment?

This is a very timely question from our community. Our latest ERO Report stated that: "The important next step is for the board and senior leaders to continue to evaluate the impact of current initiatives, such as innovative teaching environments, on various groups of children, especially those at risk of underachievement."

One way that St Mary's School tracks the success rates of learners is our commitment to internal evaluation. "Evaluation is the engine that drives improvement and innovation. Internal evaluation is undertaken to assess what is and is not working, and for whom, and then to determine what changes are needed." (ERO - Effective Internal Evaluation For Improvement).

Another way that St Mary's School tracks the success rates of learners is through monitoring cohorts and in particular individual students. Senior leaders, team leaders and teachers meet regularly to discuss, monitor and track individual students who are causing concern and all students to ensure that sufficient, and in some cases accelerated, progress is being made. It is important to track not just academic progress, but progress in areas like the Key Competencies.

As part of our research project for the Teacher Led Innovation Fund, we are also collecting data from teachers, students and parents to track improvements in teacher practice and student agency.

Research can confirm that collaboration between teachers improves teacher quality, and in turn quality teaching has a significant effect on student learning and achievement. "Collaborative learning, team teaching, using ICT in learning and peer teaching are all recognized as effective methods with strong research about each of these areas." Professor David Mitchell.

Anna MacKinnon
Deputy Principal

CLASS NEWS

The Aroha Team have already had many experiences this term. A trip to Waimarino, Swimming Sports, a Triathlon, to name a few. Lachlan has shared his Triathlon experience with us.

Aroha Team Triathlon

Mr Finlayson came up with an idea to have a school triathlon. He asked the House Captains and Chris from Sports Bay of Plenty to help. I am a house captain so I helped. We had a meeting to discuss who did the jobs. Jacob and I made the posters and put them up so people knew that the triathlon was happening. All the house captains had to move the rocks in the estuary so they didn't get in the way of the swimmers. Unfortunately we weren't allowed to go on the footpaths because there would be too many cars, so we arranged to do the bike and the run on the field. We planned to do the swim in the estuary.

This is how the event unfolded for me...

As I stood at the start line in the estuary, I was excited to swim in the surprisingly warm water. The current was pushing me backwards. After the swim, I quickly hopped out of the estuary and sped off on my bike, zooming around the field. I felt nervous for the running because I am not a very good runner. I just tried to run my fastest because it was only a lap of the field. I was most excited to go on the slippery slide at the end and slide on my bum as quick as a cheetah. I layed down at the finish because I was pooped and watched the last races of the day. Then we all got together and had first, second and third prizes. The winners got a chocolate bar. Henry came first, Callum came second, and Isaiah came third. This was our first school triathlon. I enjoyed it and everyone seemed to have fun. I am looking forward to doing a triathlon in the future.

By Lachlan Aubrey

PTA NEWS

Outdoor Adventure Day

Once again we have had a fantastic day at our Outdoor Adventure Day. We are grateful our earlier decision to postpone paid off as we were able to enjoy a beautiful sunny day. It posed as a wonderful backdrop for our community to come together and be involved in our House event where our children experienced education outside the classroom. The parent/teacher race proved to be a highlight showing the children adults can have fun too!

We would like to express our sincere thanks to you all. We appreciated all the fabulous baking which was a sell out before the end of the event, to the volunteers, spectators and of course the staff and children at St Mary's School.

Special mention goes to Duncan Veitch our Property Manager, Pip Berquist our PTA Teacher Rep, Stephen Finlayson our Sports Coordinator and start line extraordinaire, Randy Piceno, Brian Crowe, Superslides, and Daily Grindz Coffee Cart.

Of course this would not be possible without the help of our Outdoor Adventure Day Team Gabby, Michelle, Tammy, Kelley, Heather, Laura, Monique, Carolyn, Amy, Trudy, Alice, Ana, and Fiona.

We also recognise that some of our longtime team will be leaving us soon and ask if you are keen to join our PTA and help fundraise for our children, please come along to the PTA AGM on Tuesday 11 April at 7pm in the staffroom.

Sincere Thanks and God Bless

Mel Gash
Outdoor Adventure Day Coordinator

SPORTS NEWS

After completing our Aroha Swimming Sports we moved onto South Cluster. St Mary's had twenty two students competing against the five other schools in our cluster. Not only did we win all three relays, but from the twenty two students who competed, seventeen have qualified for the Western Bay of Plenty Swimming Championships. Giving St Mary's by far the largest contribution to the South Cluster Team.

The student lead mini-triathlon was great fun. It was fantastic to see so many students giving it a go. A massive thank you to Chris Willett and his team who helped organise the morning. Chris' teams encouragement of the students to enjoy themselves on the day, went a long way towards making the day a great experience for everyone. I am looking forward to expanding the event next year to incorporate more year groups.

I am very excited to announce Courtney Smith will be helping me for the remainder of the year. Courtney is in the third year of her Bachelor of Sport and Recreation at Toi-Ohomai Institute of Technology (formerly Bay of Plenty Polytechnic). In order to gain her degree Courtney will be undertaking a research project. This will be to establish an evidence based (scientific research) best practice fundamental skills programme with our year 3 and 4 students, focussing on catching, throwing and passing.

PARISH NEWS

Easter Masses

Holy Thursday - 7pm, St Mary Immaculate (No morning Masses)

Good Friday - Stations of the Cross, St Mary Immaculate 9am; St Joseph's 10am

Good Friday - Walk of Witness, departing Holy Trinity Church 10.15am, concluding at St Mary Immaculate, 11am

Good Friday - Commemoration of the Lord's Passion, 3pm, St Mary Immaculate and St Joseph's

Easter Vigil - 6.30pm St Mary Immaculate

Easter Sunday - Masses at 8am, 10.30am, St Mary Immaculate and 9am St Joseph's.

* St Mary Immaculate Church, Corner Elizabeth Street and Cameron Road, Tauranga

* St Joseph's Church, 10 Pitua Road, Te Puna

* St Therese Chapel, 217 Bethlehem Road, Bethlehem



St Mary's
Catholic School
Tauranga

75 YEARS
1942-2017
Jubilee



Our People Our Place

be. thankful

oxforddictionaries.com / thankful.

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



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