



St Mary's
Catholic School
Tauranga

newsletter

ISSUE 4: 12 May 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

A special welcome to our new families and new children; Elia Szulakowski, Sara Szulakowski, Jooyeon Kim, Hugo Kolless, Bryley Raass, Manaia Brazendale, Regan Dobbs, Mali Lawrence, George McKinnon, Oriol Olvina, Oliver Reid, Delilah Smith and Solomin Smith. It is great to be into Term 2 and with you look forward to the many opportunities and events within our school community as winter approaches. It has been great to see some of our winter sports codes starting to prepare for the season. I wish all players, coaches, managers and parents all the best for your first games and congratulations to Mr Finlayson for the work he has done in getting approximately 300 children involved in sport.

As with any term there are many events and activities on our busy calendar so please take time to look either online or on our website for what's coming up. I was in Korea at the same time as our PTA Quiz night last year but looking forward to joining in with you this time. Make sure you have a table together as it is always a fun night.

Innovative Learning Environments

As you may be aware we have a new Minister of Education, The Honorable Nikki Kaye. Nikki Kaye comes from an academic background that covers both the sciences and law and is therefore a big supporter of Innovative Learning Environments. It is important to note that the word innovative refers to what happens within the learning environment, not what the environment looks like. It is very much learner centred with the learner in control as opposed to the teacher. The teacher obviously has a role different to that which has been more traditional in nature.

Father Santi gave a great homily on Sunday with a focus on leadership. He looked at the words efficient vs effective. Efficient being related to managing and effective being related to leadership. My view is that the New Zealand Education system and teaching practice developed high levels of efficiency since the time of tomorrow's schools but is now realising the need to be effective in leading learning.

Those parents who attended the Aroha open afternoons last week and those who regularly help or are in attendance in Room 13 will no doubt make some connections with how we are

working towards being effective as a school. We have some further times to share scheduled with other learning teams this term. Maramatanga parents are invited to share in the focus on their new learning environment at either 2.20pm or 6pm next Tuesday.

The OECD has published many reports that are guiding educational practice globally a recent one, "Schooling redesigned towards innovative learning systems focuses on 7 ILE learning principles. The first being 'Make learning central, encourage engagement and be where learners come to discover themselves as learners'. This statement indicating that children need the scope to explore and connect with what successful learning looks like for them. We are examining all 7 ILE principles as a staff and will continue to share them with our community.

Before School Procedures and Punctuality

Thank you to all who have been making an effort with ensuring children are at school on time. It definitely makes a difference when a child is set up and ready to learn at the start of the day. Equally, in moving forward to our colder months it is not ideal to have children waiting in the cold for classrooms to open. 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. Ideally any time from 8.15 - 8.45 is a good time to get to school.

New Build Progress

With a run of recent good weather we have seen some great progress with the construction of our new learning environment. Early next week we should start to see a roof go on which will of course signal the end of potential weather delays. The time frame for completion is therefore still the end of the term meaning we will be in a position to welcome our Year 2 students into their new learning space at the beginning of Term 3.

Nga mihi nui

Ben Fuller
Principal

Jack and Mikayla
2016 PTA Quiz
Night Principal
and Deputy
Principal of the
day.



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2017 Dates to Remember

Tuesday 9 May

PTA Meeting 7pm

Wednesday 10 May

Confirmation Candidates Parent Session

7pm

Thursday 11 May

Class Mass Sacrament students 9am

Saturday 13 May

Sursum Corda to sing at 5pm Vigil Mass

Tuesday 16 May

- **Welcome to new children and new families liturgy 10am**

- **Maramatanga Parent Meeting 2.15pm and 6pm**

Wednesday 17 May

WBoP Amazing Race

Thursday 18 May

- **Room 7 Class Mass 9am**

- **Book Club offer 3 closes today**

- **Sursum Corda Concert 7pm**

Friday 19 May

PTA Sausage Sizzle 12.30pm

Saturday 20 May

PTA Quiz Night 7.30pm

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

Wednesday 24 May

Rippa Rugby World Cup

Thursday 25 May

Class Mass Room 6

Friday 26 May

- **Postponement date for WBoP Rippa Rugby World Cup**

- **Gymnastics Competition Year 3 & 4**

- **Pink Shirt Day Be. a Hero... Be. Bullyfree**

Monday 29 May

- **Samoan Language week**

Tuesday 30 May

- **St Mary's Cross Country postponement date**

- **Board of Trustee Meeting**

Thursday 1 June

Whole School mass

Friday 2 June

Gymnastics Competition Year 5 & 6

Monday 5 June

Queen's Birthday

Tuesday 6 June

South Cluster Cross Country

Wednesday 7 June

Book Fair and dress up fun day

be.
Christ-like

be.
reflective

be.
creative

SPECIAL CHARACTER

Holy Week: Last term ended with students, staff and whanau reflecting on the last days of Jesus life and we started back this term with the joy and love of the Resurrection.

Holy Week liturgies started with a reenactment of Jesus entering Jerusalem on a donkey. Students dressed in 'Jesus' clothes and then processed from the liturgy to the field for a donkey procession. On Monday our liturgy focused on Washing of the feet and the Last Supper. Tuesday we reenacted the scenes at the Garden of Gethsemane. To follow on Wednesday we had a very reflective Good Friday liturgy. On a very wet Thursday we prayed the stations of the cross. It was a very moving week as we journeyed with Jesus during his final hours. Upon our return to school we were able to have a very joyful Resurrection liturgy.

We are now in the season of Easter, students are being encouraged to become Easter people in three ways.

Live with Joy

Joy is a deep-down gladness that cannot be taken away, even in the midst of sorrow. The suffering of Jesus was transformed through faith in the Risen Christ. With this faith, we are able to hold on to an enduring sense of joy even in the midst of the sadness we experience from the loss of a loved one, a failure to achieve an important goal, or a setback during recovery from an illness. We need to live each day joyfully.

Live without Fear

The Resurrection teaches us that God can overcome anything, even death. When the Risen Christ appears to the women at the tomb and later to his disciples, his first words are "Do not be afraid!" (Mt 28:5,10) These words speak to our hearts, helping us cope with the fear from the loss of a job, a serious illness, or a crumbling relationship. Our faith allows us to trust that God can overcome our most serious problems.

Live with New Eyes

Easter means to live with a sense of newness. Just as the return of spring lifts our spirits and makes us feel like the whole world is new, the Resurrection of Jesus makes "all things new." (Rev. 21:5) The Easter spirit is a spirit of renewal that enables us to show up at work with a positive attitude, to renew relationships that have been taken for granted, and to express appreciation and affection to those closest to us. It means to see the world through new eyes—God's eyes.

We can use these 50 days to cultivate an Easter spirit that enables us to be truly Christian: embracing joy, living without fear, and seeing the world again—as if for the first time.

This term teaching will focus on the God strand. Leading students to know God better and further developing their relationship with God. A major focus is on God in our lives today, what can we learn from Scripture to bring us closer to God in today's world. Ask your child to share with you what they are learning at school. Help them build their links between school and home and family life; What is your family's relationship with God? How can that be developed?

Farewell Father Santey

Last week we thanked and farewelled Father Santey. We wish him all the best at the Tyburn Monastery which I am sure he will really appreciate the spirituality and beauty the Tyburn Monastery offers. We look forward to welcoming Fr Danny and getting to know him.

Mothers Day

We wish all the Mothers/ Grandmothers/ Aunties and those who are spiritual mothers a very blessed Mothers Day.

May Mary shine her love on you all.

Thank you, Lord, that you fill a mother's heart with love,

That you have instilled in her very being the need to protect her children if at all possible,

Thank you for giving her the gift of nurturing her children, of teaching them, of comforting them,

for feeding them and making a safe place for them.

For guiding them to be all that God has created them to be.

We pray for those women who are not mothers

But still love and shape us with their motherly care and compassion.

Fill every mother with love, wisdom and endurance, with strength and patience and joy.

Give them ability to forgive again and again.

Enable her to rely on You and call upon You, because You will give her all she needs.

In Your precious and all powerful name, Amen

Teresa Rush

Director of Religious Studies

SCHOOL NEWS

Be. a Hero... Be. Bullyfree, everyday!

Wear Pink on Pink Shirt Day on Friday 26 May to symbolise inclusion and diversity in our school community.

A gold coin donation is very much appreciated

Book Fair is coming.....

Exciting range of popular titles supplied by Scholastic.

When: Wednesday 7 June to 9 June 2017

Where: St Mary's School Library

Times: 8.30am to 3.30pm

Dress Up Day Wednesday 7 June 2017

As part of the book fair we are having a dress up fun day on Wednesday 7 June. Children (and staff) will have a chance to dress up as their favourite "Book Character" such as aliens, pirates, knights, robots, dragons, fairies, cowboys, Indians, animals, just to name a few.

We want costumes that are exciting, interesting, creative and fun.

Muffin (ordinary clothes) is not considered a costume.

The costume needs to include a badge with the name of the character or title of book character is from.

Each child must be in an individual costume. Two children cannot share one costume.

No props / things that need to be carried (eg swords, weapons etc). Children can come to school in their costume, but they MUST bring their uniform to school

PTA NEWS

Quiz Tickets are now on Sale

St Marys PTA invites you to register your table for the **Famous Quiz Night, Saturday 20 May 2017.**

Please complete the below google forms to book your tickets.

FOR TABLE TICKET SALES: <http://bit.ly/2pVTzmb>

Tables are \$250 for a group of ten people. You may purchase only one table. Tables are limited to 18 and will be sold on a first in first served basis.

FOR INDIVIDUAL TICKET SALES: <http://bit.ly/2pSXaRE>

Tickets are \$25 per person and you will be placed at a table with 9 other people to make a table of ten. You are able to purchase more than one ticket. Individual tickets are limited to 20 and will be sold on a first in first served basis.

We are very fortunate to already have many auction prizes available. Here are just a few of the auction prizes you could win!!

- Principal for the Day - Priceless
- Deputy Principal for the Day - Priceless
- Babysitting Services - Priceless - Liz Driver, St Marys School
- St Mary's Fireworks Extravaganza Prize, which includes a VIP Ticket with VIP Parking, entry into the VIP area and nibbles PLUS the opportunity to set off the 2017 Fireworks display! - Priceless
- Snoring Therapy x 3 - Eden Sleep
- Teeth Whitening & Toothbrushes x 2 Jennifer Corson - Corson Dental
- My Food Bag Voucher
- Numberworks Lessons Voucher - Leanne Robinson - valued at \$500.00
- Vegepod self watering Vegetable Garden system - Lisa Lowe - valued at \$299.00
- GHD Hair Dryer and Products - Carolyn Redshaw, Peros Hairtek - valued at \$350.00
- Immerse Nail and Beauty \$35 Voucher + Product - Becky Wilde - valued at \$145.00

If you would like to donate a prize then please contact Michelle at pta@stmarystga.school.nz.

Our 2016 Principal (Jack) and Deputy Principal (Mikayla) share their experience of being in the top jobs last year.

Principal for a day 2016 - Jack Mear – R 10

Being principal for a day is an extremely special day for one lucky child. My parents bid for me to become principal for the day at last year's St Mary's School quiz night and they won!

My amazing day started by traveling to Saint Mary's Church in Mr Fuller's car for our special school mass and I was able to greet parents as they entered the church, right next to Mr Fuller. When we got back to school, I was then invited to the staff room to have morning tea with the teachers. This was great as I got to have my favourite – a mince savoury.

I then showed two new families around our school with Mr Fuller. I really enjoyed this as I could tell these families how amazing our school is, especially my classroom. Then we went to Macdonald's for a very yummy lunch.

At assembly at the end of the day, I handed out the principal's awards to children in our school, it was great because one of

my best buddies got a principals award that day as well as my sister. It was an amazing day I will never forget.

Deputy Principal for a day 2016 - Mikayla R9

In 2016, I had an amazing fun opportunity to spend the day with our deputy principal, Mrs MacKinnon. At the PTA Quiz Night, Mum and Dad bid on "Deputy Principal for the Day" and they won! I was unsure of when I was going to be Deputy Principal but one morning before assembly Mrs MacKinnon came into my classroom and she tells me that I am being Deputy Principal today. I followed her into her office, and she told me that we were teaching Room 5 and I was going to help! While she was looking after the students, I was preparing what I was going to say at the assembly, I was the first person to speak out of all of us..... Wow I was so nervous.

The day of being Deputy Principal was so great, I got to eat morning tea with the teachers in the staff room. They had sausage rolls for morning tea – my favourite! I got to chat to some of the teachers in the staff room which was kind of weird but really fun! As it was Bike Safety week Mrs MacKinnon allowed me to join back with my class and do Bike safety. At lunch time Jack (Principal of the day) and I were taken to McDonalds for lunch with Mrs MacKinnon and Mr Fuller! It was great to sit and chat with them!

Assembly was so much fun, I got to help Mrs MacKinnon give out Christ Like certificates and Jack helped Mr Fuller.

I can totally recommend becoming Deputy Principal of the day, it's so much fun and you get to see all the things the Principal and Deputy Principal do!

SPORTS NEWS

Well done to the St Marys students that turned out for our Marist rugby club at Saturdays BOP Primary schools Marist Tournament. The tournament is played each year between the three Marist clubs in our region, Tauranga – Greerton Marist, Rotorua – Marist St Michaels and Whakatane Marist.

Winners: U6s - Whakatane, U7s - Whakatane, U8s - Draw Whakatane & Tauranga, U9s - Whakatane, U10s - Tauranga, U11s - Tauranga, U12s - Whakatane U13s - Tauranga

An excellent day was had by all. We now look forward to next year's tournament and a strong representation from our St Marys students in Marist colours in 2018.

Taekwondo Success

Joshua (Room 7) and Jazmine Oficial (Room 10) began Taekwondo in 2016 and are now yellow belts. They have entered two competitions and been successful already. Josh has won one gold and two silver medals and Jazmine has won two gold and one silver medal. They practise twice a week and are training hard for the Nationals later in the year. Congratulations Joshua and Jazmine.



to change into later in the day. If a child chooses not to wear a costume then they must wear their uniform.

There will be a costume parade which begins at 9.15am in the BAMJC. Parents are most welcome to come and watch.

Needed: some assistance with book fair sales during peak times – 8.30am–9.30am, 12.30pm–1.30pm, and 3.00–3.30pm Wed and Thur. Just 8.30–9.30am on Fri. If you can help please contact Debbie in the Library.

Learning through play

Learning through play is a term used to describe how children learn to make sense of the world around them. Through play children develop social and cognitive skills, mature emotionally, and gain the self-confidence required to engage in new experiences and environments. Play empowers creativity and problem solving.

In our Year 0 -1 programme we allow our children opportunities throughout the day to engage in meaningful play. Loose parts are materials that can be moved, carried, combined, redesigned, lined up, and taken apart and put back together in multiple ways.

Do you have any of the following items? We would appreciate any of the following...

tyres, planks of wood, pipes, tubes, tarpaulin, nuts and bolts, stones, stumps, sheets, fabric, mats / carpet squares, driftwood, untreated wood, wooden blocks, nets, pallets, buckets, baskets, crates, bike inner tubes, boxes, logs, rope, shells and seedpods, buttons and beads, cotton reels, foam pads, sponges and boxes. Many thanks in anticipation.

Music Lessons

Music lessons will continue this term for those students already enrolled. Trumpet, Sax, recorder and clarinet restarted in week two. Flute and Violin started in week one. For students who are interested in learning more about playing a musical instrument then please contact Karen at kmulhern@stmarystga.school.nz

Entertainment Books

Many thanks to families who have already purchased the Entertainment Book. Last year the school purchased over \$1,000 worth of balls and other lunchtime play equipment.

You are in no way obligated to purchase the book. Simply return it to the school office in it's envelope by Monday 15 May. If you would like to purchase the book then payment is also expected by Monday 15 May 2017.

School Lunches

A reminder that school lunches are available every Thursday and Friday. **Pita Pit lunches** can be ordered online via www.luncheonline.co.nz Follow 4 easy steps to get started. **1.** Register an account. **2.** Add member/s including child's name, school and classroom. **3.** Make a payment so you have funds in your account before you order. **4.** Select your lunch and place an order. **La Brioche lunches** will continue every Friday. A menu can be found on our website.

OTHER NEWS

Tutoring

Retired teacher is available for after-school tutoring in Literacy and Maths. Reasonable rate. Can pick up from school if parents can pick up from my home in the Brookfield area. Phone Prue at 576 4919 or 021 0618953.



Our People Our Place

be. thankful

oxforddictionaries.com / thankful.

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

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