



St Mary's
Catholic School
Tauranga

newsletter

ISSUE 7: 20 June 2014

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

He mihi nui ki a koutou

We are approaching the end of a short nine week term that has contained a multitude of events including the celebration of First Holy Communion and Confirmation Sacraments, School Parish Mass, Science Week, School Cross Country, PTA Spell-a-thon to name a few and there is still Matariki celebrations to occur in week 9.

As we approach the midpoint of our academic year and reflect on both individual student achievement and the achievement of respective cohorts within our school I think it is important to be focused on the value of such information for the individual child. While national standards provide us with point in time guidelines of achievement these are only signposts, checkpoints in an educational journey.

The true value of achievement information is the information it gives us about the journey to date and the next steps to come. These next steps are presented in a number of ways and occur throughout the year, not just as a result of set reporting dates. Teachers are constantly celebrating success and providing the next tangible accession of knowledge and strategy to children as part of this journey.

Many schools are investigating ways to share this with parents as the journey unfolds in real time and for many the online environment is serving as a vehicle for this. At St Mary's we have a history of providing such opportunities for parents but we continue to grow a more seamless approach to the acquisition of knowledge and information related to the learning of your children.

Many of you would have received access to your child's learning stories as both evidence and reporting of achievement in writing (an example of this approach). By the conclusion of the term all students will have completed a learning story in writing. I trust you take the time to discuss the accompanying writing sample and enjoy the critical conversation as an indication student understanding of next learning goals in writing. The interim report will be distributed to parents during the last week of term.

E learning workshop for parents

As part of our school community's e learning journey, we are going to hold a series of parent workshops and presentations, the first being focused on the use of Google in our school. As you know Google is much more than a search engine but a means of utilising cloud based technology, something we are focused on at St Mary's. There will be two opportunities for parents on Thursday 26 June. The first being at 2pm and the second at 5.30pm.

Hall Rejuvenation

For those who have walked past our hall complex (not the new centre) you would have noticed the near completed refurbishment of the Monsignor Ryan Centre. Thanks to the financial commitment of the Hamilton Diocese, the enthusiastic project management of Mrs Janet McCarroll and the hard work of our Property Manager Bruce Stockman we are now near completion. Once furnished this will be an exciting learning space for our children.

Photos: Before and after photos of the Monsignor Ryan Centre



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Dates to Remember

Friday 20 June

PTA Disco

Monday 23 June

Teacher Only Day

Tuesday 24 June

Board of Trustee Meeting 6.30pm

Wednesday 25 June

WBoP Cross Country 9am

Thursday 26 June

Class Mass Room 2

Thursday 26 June

E Learning Workshop 2pm & 5.30pm

Friday 27 June

WBoP Cross Country postponement date

Friday 27 June

Argos Gymnastics Championships

Saturday 28 June

PTA Quiz Night

Tuesday 1 July

BoP Cross Country

Wednesday 2 July

BoP Cross Country postponement date

Wednesday 2 July

WBoP Young Einsteins

Thursdy 3 July

Senior School Hangi

Friday 4 July

Term 2 ends

Monday 21 July

Term 3 starts

Thursday 24 July

Class Mass Room 8

Monday 28 July

Grandparents Day

Tuesday 29 July

Board of Trustee Meeting 6.30pm

Thursday 31 July

Class Mass Room 7

Thursday 31 July

WBoP Miniball World Cup

Tuesday 5 August

Welcome to new families and new children Liturgy

Tuesday 5 August

PTA Meeting 7pm

Thursday 7 August

Class Mass Room 6

Tuesday 12 August

Student Led Conferences

Friday 15 August

Whole School Mass 9.30am at Church

Tuesday 19 August

South Cluster Sevens Senior School

Thursday 21 August

Class Mass Room 10

Monday 25 August

Ski Championships begin

Tuesday 26 August

Board of Trustee Meeting 6.30pm

be.
Christ-like

be.
reflective

be.
creative

Uniform

Thank you to all who took time to give feedback in regard to the new uniform when and after being displayed. Firstly it was great to get such positive feedback in regard to the look, design and fabric choice. It has also been valuable to get your insight into the functionality of the uniform as proposed. It is from this feedback that the following has been decided.

- Black tights will be added to the girls uniform for additional warmth during the winter season

- The addition of a white cotton knit undergarment will also be investigated for both boys and girls for the same reason

- As an additional option the feasibility of introducing a woollen cardigan for girls and a jersey for boys will be investigated with the view towards having these available prior to the winter season of 2015.

We will also source a girls dress in the proposed fabric as soon as possible for display and presentation. As with previous predictions all displayed items including the girls dress will be available at the start of next term.

Teacher Only Day

A reminder of our teacher only day on Monday 23 June. On this day all teaching staff will be attending a day led by Rev. Dr Elio Capra who is a priest of the Salesians of Don Bosco (sdb). He has taught units in sacramental theology at Australian Catholic University (ACU), as well as teaching accreditation courses for teachers at ACU.

We are extremely fortunate as a Diocese to have Rev. Dr Elio Capra with us and so utilise the opportunity for professional development in the teaching of Religious Education.

Raquets, bats and nets sponsorship

Thank you to Leigh Crockford from Crockford Real Estate who has kindly sponsored \$1400.00 worth of sports gear. Our students will now enjoy the use of tennis and badminton raquets and nets, and short tennis bats and nets.

Nga Mihi Nui

Ben Fuller

Principal



School News

An invitation

You are invited to listen to Guest Speaker Angi Edwards (Dyslexia facilitator) present to parents on Monday the 30th Marie Javouhey Centre.

Angi Edwards is a Dyslexia facilitator based in Whakatane.

Angie supports schools, other educational facilities and health providers with strategies on how to recognise and support their dyslexic students.

Dyslexia is an alternative way of thinking – a learning preference – that affects an estimated one in ten New Zealanders, including 70,000 schoolchildren (Dyslexia

Foundation NZ). Dyslexia is usually first uncovered in the classroom environment when core reading and writing skills are being taught. However, it is equally common for dyslexia to go undiagnosed, with individuals labelled as 'slow' or 'struggling' due to unexpected difficulties in acquiring these skills.

Dyslexia (used as an umbrella term and including Dyspraxia, Dyscalculia, Dysgraphia, Asperger's and ADD / ADHD traits) is not easily defined and recognised, because no two dyslexics will ever display exactly the same signs and symptoms.

Angie will give a general overview of dyslexia and what parents might see at home / at school. Angie will explain why some children struggle at school despite the fact that they are bright and how these children can be supported at home.

You can find out more about Angie Edwards at <http://www.dyslexiabop.co.nz/>. If you are interested in finding out more information about this topic please RSVP to the school office.

PTA News

Spell-a-thon

Congratulations to Room 8 who won a pizza lunch and muffin day for their class, for raising the most money for the spell-a-thon. Room 15 and 13 came in a close second! Well done!

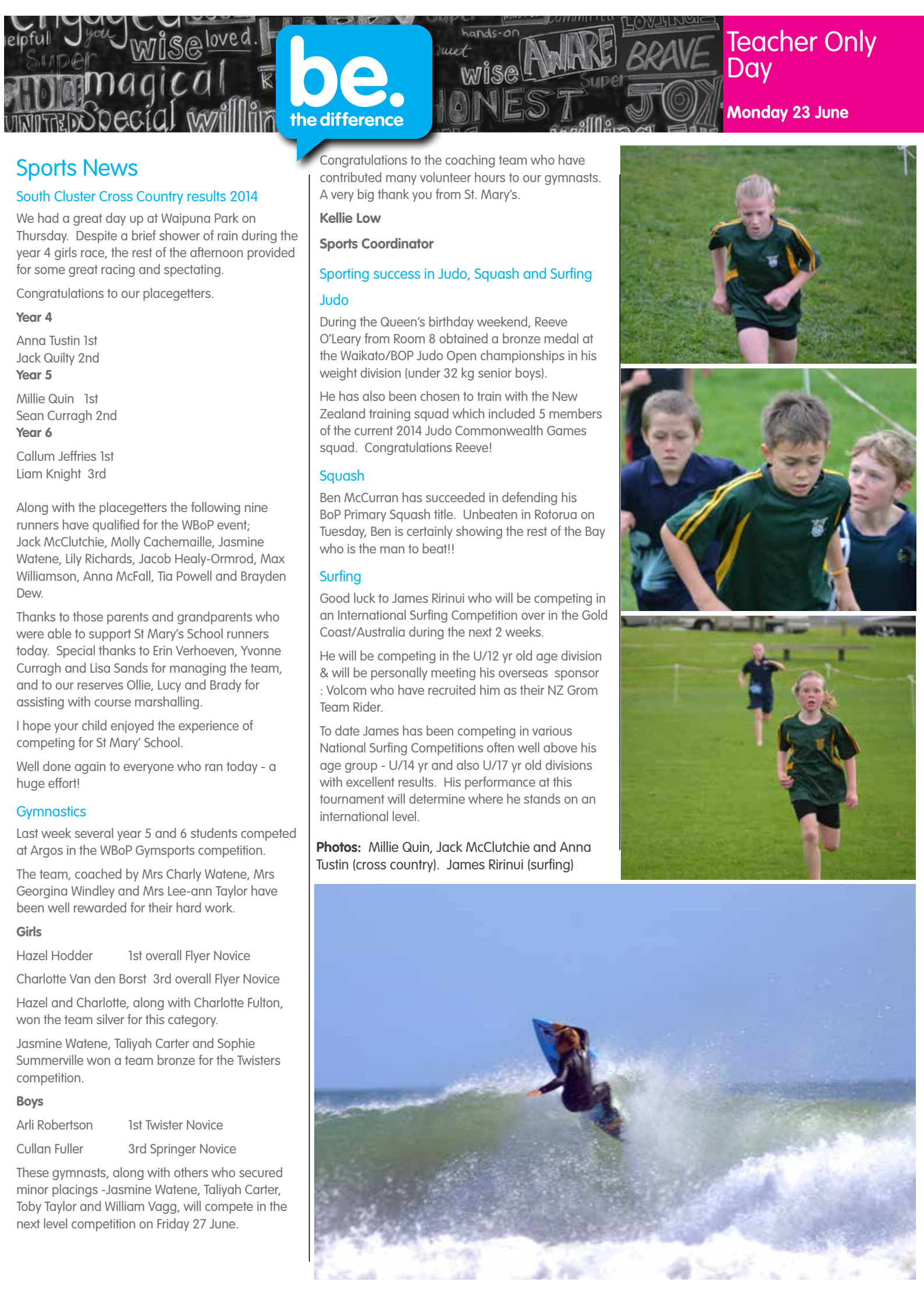
The student who raised the most money overall was Pilgyu Chang from Room 14 - an outstanding effort of \$290. Jacob Browne from Room 8 raised \$245. An amazing effort by these two boys.

Room 6 were the first class to return all their sponsorship money and won a pizza lunch.

Thank you again to all students and families who supported this PTA fundraiser. All your efforts and contributions have been truly appreciated. We have been overwhelmed by your generosity.

A fantastic \$11600 was raised!

Amanda Donald, PTA Coordinator



Sports News

South Cluster Cross Country results 2014

We had a great day up at Waipuna Park on Thursday. Despite a brief shower of rain during the year 4 girls race, the rest of the afternoon provided for some great racing and spectating.

Congratulations to our placegetters.

Year 4

Anna Tustin 1st
Jack Quilty 2nd

Year 5

Millie Quin 1st
Sean Curragh 2nd

Year 6

Callum Jeffries 1st
Liam Knight 3rd

Along with the placegetters the following nine runners have qualified for the WBoP event; Jack McClutchie, Molly Cachemaille, Jasmine Watene, Lily Richards, Jacob Healy-Ormrod, Max Williamson, Anna McFall, Tia Powell and Brayden Dew.

Thanks to those parents and grandparents who were able to support St Mary's School runners today. Special thanks to Erin Verhoeven, Yvonne Curragh and Lisa Sands for managing the team, and to our reserves Ollie, Lucy and Brady for assisting with course marshalling.

I hope your child enjoyed the experience of competing for St Mary' School.

Well done again to everyone who ran today - a huge effort!

Gymnastics

Last week several year 5 and 6 students competed at Argos in the WBoP Gymsports competition.

The team, coached by Mrs Charly Watene, Mrs Georgina Windley and Mrs Lee-ann Taylor have been well rewarded for their hard work.

Girls

Hazel Hodder 1st overall Flyer Novice
Charlotte Van den Borst 3rd overall Flyer Novice
Hazel and Charlotte, along with Charlotte Fulton, won the team silver for this category.

Jasmine Watene, Taliyah Carter and Sophie Summerville won a team bronze for the Twisters competition.

Boys

Arli Robertson 1st Twister Novice
Cullan Fuller 3rd Springer Novice

These gymnasts, along with others who secured minor placings -Jasmine Watene, Taliyah Carter, Toby Taylor and William Vagg, will compete in the next level competition on Friday 27 June.

Congratulations to the coaching team who have contributed many volunteer hours to our gymnasts. A very big thank you from St. Mary's.

Kellie Low

Sports Coordinator

Sporting success in Judo, Squash and Surfing

Judo

During the Queen's birthday weekend, Reeve O'Leary from Room 8 obtained a bronze medal at the Waikato/BOP Judo Open championships in his weight division (under 32 kg senior boys).

He has also been chosen to train with the New Zealand training squad which included 5 members of the current 2014 Judo Commonwealth Games squad. Congratulations Reeve!

Squash

Ben McCurran has succeeded in defending his BoP Primary Squash title. Unbeaten in Rotorua on Tuesday, Ben is certainly showing the rest of the Bay who is the man to beat!!

Surfing

Good luck to James Ririnui who will be competing in an International Surfing Competition over in the Gold Coast/Australia during the next 2 weeks.

He will be competing in the U/12 yr old age division & will be personally meeting his overseas sponsor : Volcom who have recruited him as their NZ Grom Team Rider.

To date James has been competing in various National Surfing Competitions often well above his age group - U/14 yr and also U/17 yr old divisions with excellent results. His performance at this tournament will determine where he stands on an international level.

Photos: Millie Quin, Jack McClutchie and Anna Tustin (cross country). James Ririnui (surfing)





The St Mary's PTA 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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