



St Mary's
Catholic School
Tauranga

newsletter

ISSUE 2: 09 March 2018

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

Tena Koutou Katoa

A special welcome to Soul Clarkin, Austin Day and Olivia Woodhouse who have joined our St Mary's Whanau recently. Also welcome to Autumn I guess, although the temperature definitely does not feel like winter is on the way. I suggest we make the most of it and keep the kids swimming for as long as possible. Hopefully your child has settled well into their learning journey for 2018. A reminder if you have any concerns your child's teacher (whanau) should be the first point of contact.

Congratulations Sister Gabrielle

Sister Gabrielle celebrates 70 years of religious profession as a Cluny Sister this weekend. We wish her all the best on her special day. God Bless you Sister Gabrielle.

Father Mark 10 Years as a Priest

This week I had the opportunity to take a delegation of students along with Teresa Rush to a small celebration of Father Mark's time as a Priest. It is 10 years since Father took his vows and I am sure you will all agree we are lucky to have him as our Parish Priest.



Congratulations Father and thank you for the guidance and leadership you provide within our Parish.

Learning Interviews

It was great to see the majority of parents join in conversation with their child's whanau teacher as we seek to know more about the children we teach. The sharing of learning relevant information and involvement of parents and caregivers in the learning process is something that we are focusing on this year. Our objective, "bring parents into the real conversation", the actual learning that happens on a daily basis. It is a challenge but hopefully by utilising our online environment and connecting all stakeholders with that which is current it can be achieved.

School Parish Mass / School Mass

This Sunday at 10.30am we will celebrate our first Parish School Mass of 2018 at St Mary Immaculate. As always we welcome parents and whanau to help us celebrate this occasion. Children should be dressed in their school uniform.

Following later in the week, our first school Mass will be held on Friday 16 March, again at St Mary Immaculate Church. On this day we celebrate the feast day of St Joseph. Again we welcome Parents, Whanau and Family of our school to share in this celebration.

PTA Outdoor Adventure Day

Once again our PTA will be holding a great day of fun for our children. Our Outdoor Adventure Day will follow our School Mass on Friday 16 March. I know the true success of this day is dependent on the number of volunteers we get along to assist with activities. Our PTA do a great job putting this event on for our kids each year and would welcome your support.

Gobsmacked Productions Presents - 'Mad Pearce takes Flight'

It is that time again, St Mary's moves into production season with auditions occurring today. With memories of 'Trek to the Top' still firmly in our children's minds I am sure Term 2 will be a wave of excitement as we progress to being on stage once again.

Principal Study Leave

As I communicated late last year I have been lucky enough to receive a study award in order to complete my Masters of Educational Leadership. I thank all who have wished me well to date, however, I am still here until the end of this term and will take leave from the beginning of term two. In the time between then and now leadership will be handed over to Anna MacKinnon who will act as Principal in my absence.

Ben Fuller
Principal



Patrice Williams (musical director), from Gobsmacked sets the scene introducing Mad Pearce to the school.

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2018 Term Dates

Sunday 11 March

Parish School Mass 10.30am

Monday 12 March

Liturgy - Pompallier, Viard, Ryan and Cluny
- School Houses

Tuesday 13 March

PTA Meeting 7pm

Friday 16 March

- Whole School Mass 9.30am
- PTA Outdoor Adventure Day 11am

Monday 19 March

Liturgy - St Joseph / St Patrick - Cluny
Liturgy 9am

Thursday 22 March

- Aroha Team Class Mass / Exposition 9am
- Benediction 2pm

Friday 23 March

- Liturgy - Palm Sunday 11am
- PTA Outdoor Adventure Day postponement date

Monday 26 March

Liturgy - Washing of the Feet / Last Supper 9am

Tuesday 27 March

- Liturgy - Garden of Gethsemane
- Aroha Team Rice Lunch
- Board of Trustee Meeting 6pm

Wednesday 28 March

Liturgy - Good Friday 9am

Thursday 29 March

- Liturgy - Crucifixion and Way of the Cross 9am
- Holy Thursday Mass / Sursum Corda

Friday 30 March

Good Friday - school is closed

Monday 2 April

Easter Monday - school is closed

Tuesday 3 April

Easter Tuesday - school is closed

Wednesday 4 April

Liturgy - Resurrection 9am

Friday 6 April

Whakapono Bake Sale for Caritas

Monday 9 April

Liturgy - Annunciation 9am

Tuesday 10 April

WBoP Swimming Championships

Thursday 12 April

Aroha Team Class Mass 9am

Friday 13 April

Term 1 ends

Wednesday 25 April

Anzac Day

Monday 30 April

Term 2 starts

be.
Christ-like

be.
reflective

be.
creative

SPECIAL CHARACTER

Lent

We are halfway through the Lent journey, This Sunday is Laetare Sunday, traditionally a day of celebration within the austerity of Lent.

Lenten Prayer for Transformation

*Loving Father,
I invite you into my life today
and make myself available to you.*

*Help me to become the-best-version-of-myself
by seeking your will and becoming a living example
of your love in the world.*

*Open my heart to the areas of my life that need to
change in order for me to carry out the mission and
experience the joy you have imagined for my life.*

*Inspire me to live the Catholic faith in ways that are
dynamic and engaging.*

*Show me how to best get involved in the life of my
parish school.*

*Make our community hungry for best practices and
continuous learning.*

*Give me courage when I am afraid,
hope when I am discouraged,
and clarity in times of decision.*

*Teach me to enjoy uncertainty and lead your Church to
become all you imagined it would be for the people of
our times.*

Amen.

St Joseph's Mass - 9.30am St Mary Immaculate

As a school founded by the Sisters of St Joseph of Cluny we look forward to celebrating St Joseph. We pray that St Joseph always protects us and guides us toward God. Joseph is the patron saint of the dying because, assuming he died before Jesus' public life, he died with Jesus and Mary close to him, the way we all would like to leave this earth. Joseph is also patron saint of the Universal Church, families, fathers, expectant mothers (pregnant women), travelers, immigrants, house sellers and buyers, craftsmen, engineers, and working people in general.

Sacramental programme

Congratulations to our 49 students who are preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.



Baptisms

Congratulations Vicky and Rex Lu who are to be baptised this weekend.

In the classroom

Students have been learning about Timor Leste, please ask your child about what they have learnt.

As part of our Caritas lent programme students will actively serve by fundraising for Caritas.

Tika hub will confirm shortly our fundraising activity.

Maramatanga hub are making a hub cookbook to sell to our families in Maramatanga.

Whakapono hub are having a bake sale on Friday 6 April at morning tea and lunchtime.

Aroha hub are having a rice lunch on Tuesday 27 March.

Photos below are from our Ash Wednesday liturgy.

**Teresa Rush
DRS**



SCHOOL NEWS

Collaborative Practice

During our recent 'Parent Information Evening' we asked parents to send through any questions related to the learning at St Mary's.

Many of the questions were related to the use of Innovative Learning Environments and our move to collaborative practice. We would like to direct you to our St Mary's website where many of these questions are answered either directly or through the presentations that we have had at St Mary's over the last couple of years. We hope that by going to this area of our website you can learn more about the research that supports our practice.

Bell Times

On Wednesday we started trialling having our eating time at the end of each break. The positive aspects of this are:

The children are supervised closely by a hub teacher until they have finished eating and lunch boxes can be more closely monitored.

The children have plenty of time to eat and are not finishing quickly in order to play.

The children are more settled coming back into classrooms after eating.

We recommend that the students are given healthy options (brain food) that they can eat during the morning period between breakfast and morning tea.

Reading Together

We have a few places still available for our Reading Together programme starting on Thursday 15 March. These workshops help you to learn how to support your child at home with their reading and are most suitable for parents of students who are in Year 1 or Year 2. Please email Anna MacKinnon amackinnon@stmarysga.school.nz if you are interested.

School lunches

A reminder school lunches can be ordered from the school office. Sushi lunch - order Wednesday for Thursday. La Brioche sandwiches, filled rolls, pies and sausage rolls can be ordered on Friday.

AROHA NEWS

Omanu Beach Education Day

Aroha team have had a busy time so far this term with EOTC events. We had a fabulous day of learning at the Omanu Beach Education Day where we learnt surf safety rules, the role of a lifeguard, and beach awareness such as how to spot a rip.

Elms Gate Pa battle site

Our trip to Elms and the Gate Pa battle site enabled students to experience a piece of Tauranga's history. Visiting the mission station and where the land wars occurred, provided great links to our big learning idea 'Globalisation and Diversity'.

Nissenko Hitachi High School visit to Aroha

Aroha students had a wonderful afternoon interacting with the Nissenko Hitachi High School. The visiting students taught us many Japanese traditional games and customs. Photos to the right.

BOARD ANNOUNCEMENT

It has certainly been a busy start to the 2018 school year for St Mary's. It has been great to see so many activities both in and out of the class for our students.

As a Board we would like to formally welcome those teachers new to St Mary's. It is great to have such a high standard of teachers joining our staff.

Welcome to Ayn Harris, Tania Yorke, Jasmine Mattock, Angela Cochrane and Adele Mayall.

We would also like to extend our congratulations to our Assistant Principal Jacq Price who has been announced as the new Deputy Principal at Pyes Pa West School. We thank Jacq for the work she has done for our school and wish her the very best in her new role.

The board would like to announce that parent representative Antoine Coffin, has decided to stand down from his role. We thank him for his involvement and the expertise he has brought to this role. The Board has resolved, under Section 105 of the Education Act 1989, to fill this vacancy by selection. If ten percent or more of eligible voters on the school roll ask the board, within 28 days of this notice being published, to hold a by-election to fill the vacancy, then a by-election will be held. Any eligible voter who wishes to ask the Board to hold a by-election should contact Claire Stott, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, in writing.

Over the last 3 months the board has worked hard with the senior leadership team to revise our school charter. This outlines our objectives and goals for the year and we would encourage parents to read this when it is up on the website.

As a board we would also like to thank those parents that contributed to our questionnaire late last year regarding the vision for St Mary's School. We have taken that feedback and are currently working towards bringing those ideas together. It is our intention to come back to the community later this year with a more comprehensive vision and further feedback.

Claire Stott, Board of Trustee Chair



SPORTS NEWS



What a hectic sporting start to the 2018 school year we have had. With our traditional term one sports well underway, we have also had our Senior School Swimming Sports and South Cluster Swimming Competitions done and dusted.

Thank you to all our parents who helped with our Aroha Team Swimming Sports and South Cluster Swimming (which is organised and run by St Mary's). Both events were fantastic days, that wouldn't have been as successful without your assistance. We took 27 students to South Cluster, congratulations to: Yeva Parshikova, Isla Martin, Gia Dumbleton, Austin Roper, John Clarke, Ben Haydock, Ciaran Manning, Eli Banbury, Ryder Frank, Joshua Kell, Eliana Hulsebosch, Jessica Taane, Ariana Workman, Will Quin, Luka Mahy, Kiwa Kahura, who all qualified for Western Bay of Plenty Swimming Championships.



Two of our Cricket teams were lucky enough to be invited to the Bowl at a Black Cap event at Red Square. Our Year 5 & 6 speedsters asked some very searching questions of Colin de Grandhomme, Henry Nicholls and Tom Latham technique. I am pleased to report, several wickets and some outstanding catches were taken.

I would like to welcome new Toi Ohomai Bachelor of Sport and Recreation student Danielle Fox, to St Mary's. Danielle will be with us for the whole of 2018 and is looking forward to taking some sports sessions with our Year 3 & 4 students.

Steven Finlayson, Sports Coordinator





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Our People Our Place

be. thankful

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

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