



St Mary's
Catholic School
Tauranga

newsletter

ISSUE 2: 2 March 2019

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 - Haere mai Nau mai haere mai

We continue the great start to our school year. On Tuesday we welcomed 44 new students and their families to our St Mary's Whanau. Our welcome liturgy is always a great event as it warmly signals a start to a journey of growth, development and partnership for children and their families. My thanks to those parents from with our PTA and community who catered an amazing morning tea for all present. My thanks also to Father Mark for the meaning blessing he bestowed on our new students. At the same liturgy we welcomed Mr Anthony Mills and Miss Emma Washer to our leadership and teaching team.



IT in Schools

I am sure many of you watched the recent piece on Sunday regarding the use of digital technology in schools. I remember the push for schools to reach the desired 1:1 ratio of devices to students. Many did it in differing ways including BYOD. We were always cautious of flooding our school with technology and so staged the approach, ensuring we selected devices carefully, towards 1:1 in our senior school and 1:2 across the remainder of the school in 2016.

Since this time we have also been focused on the growing body of research that highlights the need for developmental learning opportunities aligned with stages of physical and cognitive development. Nathan Mikaere Wallis who is a world leader in this field is someone whose research we have examined. It was great to see his perspective also portrayed on Sunday. Reflecting on and evaluating such views and research has encouraged us to seek a balance in the implementation of digital technology across our school.

The resulting approach has been to actually redefine the use of digital devices in our junior school. Now focusing on the use of iPads to capture evidence and examples of learning that can be shared online and through our reporting

processes. This has also meant a reduced number of devices in year 1 and 2. The balance therefore, an emphasis on developmental growth for learning as per Nathan Wallis' view of aligning learning experiences to stages as opposed to ages of learning. Ratios still grow towards that 1:1 ratio we experience in our senior school but with the focus being on the device as a tool of learning.

It would be fair to say that there is still a need for a developmental balance within all areas of our school. I would be the first to say that we need to look at the amount of screen time our children experience. We have redesigned our curriculum to address this which will see more ambition apparent, particularly in senior learning experiences. You will see examples of this through more open ended student inquiry projects and use of our immediate environment.

Going back to the Sunday exclusive, many of you may have been taken by the Silicon Valley (paperless) Junior High School. What was not shared in relation to Silicon Valley schools was the highly developmental programmes, often completely device free, that are a signature of their primary schools. All food for thought!

Buses

In my last newsletter I spoke of some teething problems associated with recent changes to our city bus routes and city provider. I would now suggest teething problems is an inaccurate statement particularly given the continuing threats to child safety. Previously I offered to work with Bay of Plenty Regional Council Transport Operations Officer to ensure current issues are resolved and the efficient service we all hope for is gained in the near future. Unfortunately this was not accepted and so I am now in the same space as other bus users, a frustrated stakeholder. I therefore again ask that if you have any issues with the bus service, especially if student safety is compromised, get in contact with either myself or Theresa in our office. Alternatively contact the council bus team directly.

Property Developments

The new turf is all but installed. I am really looking forward to this as it will provide a great surface for all hard court activities. I would like to thank both our PTA and the Catholic Diocese of Hamilton on behalf of you all for their financial support. Look out later in the year for new mobile goal posts, tennis nets and basketball backboards to complement the court surface. Again thanks to the generous support of our PTA.

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2019 Term Dates

Wednesday 6 March

- Ash Wednesday Liturgy BAMJC 10am

Thursday 7 March

- Class Mass Whanau Mayall 9am
- Aquinas Twilight Festival 3-7pm

Sunday 10 March

Parish School Mass has been cancelled

Tuesday 12 March

- South Cluster Swimming Sports (qualifiers from Aroha Swimming Sports 9am-1pm)
- PTA Meeting 7pm

Thursday 14 March

- Class Mass Whanau Rush 9am
- New Entrant Meeting 3.15pm

Friday 15 March

PTA Outdoor Adventure Day 11am-2.30pm

Thursday 21 March

**Estuary Science Tidal Discoveries
Whanau Rush 10.30am-2.30pm**

Friday 22 March

**School Mass - St Joseph 9.30am
at St Mary Immaculate Church**

Tuesday 26 March

Board of Trustee Meeting 6pm

Wednesday 27 March

Sacramental Programme Parent Meeting 7pm

Thursday 28 March

- Class Mass Whanau Tanner 9am
- Exposition 10am
- Benediction 2pm

Friday 29 March

- Aroha Caritas visit 9-10.30am
- Principal's Assembly 11.30am
- Fia Fia Night 6.30pm

Monday 1 - Friday 5 April

Aroha Art Gallery visits

Thursday 4 April

Class Mass Whanau Laban 9am

Friday 5 April

- Whakapono Term 1 Celebration of Learning 9-10.30am
- Liturgy - Palm Sunday 11am

Monday 8 April

Liturgy - Washing of the feet 10am

Tuesday 9 April

- WBoP Swimming Championships 9am-2pm
- Liturgy - Last Supper 10am

Wednesday 10 April

- Liturgy - Garden of Gethsemane 10am
- Aquinas Cross Walk arrives 12 noon

Thursday 11 April

Liturgy - Good Friday 10am

Friday 12 April

- Liturgy - Way of the Cross 10am
- Principal's Assembly 11.30am
- Term 1 ends

be.
Christ-like

be.
reflective

be.
creative

TECT Grant

Possibly a little ironic given my previous words regarding digital celebrate with and inform you all of our success in gaining a TECT grant of \$25,000. This will be spent in the digital device area but to replace aging and broken devices and screens which are currently being rationalised. We will also add a few specialised items to the IT suit such as a drone and specialist video editing suit. **A big thanks to TECT!**



St Mary's Facebook Page

St Mary's Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/stmarystga/>.

We still do the majority of our communication through email and will continue to do so but will also ensure the same communication is given through our FB Page. I am aware that the majority of our community is among our 500 followers for but new parents or those still new to the social media game the link is above.

Fia Fia Fundraiser

St Mary's School is planning a missionary trip to Samoa in October 2019. Our goal is to raise \$10,000 to help with travel costs for the children and to supply the two major Catholic Schools in Apia with much needed sports equipment and uniforms. Enjoy an evening of traditional Samoan fun, food and entertainment! So please invite your friends and come along to support this worthy cause. Tickets cover your dinner and live entertainment.

Aroha Swimming Sports

On Tuesday 19th of February we held our Aroha Swimming Championships. The weather was outstanding, which contributed to a fantastic day of racing. The day culminated in a win by our Championship relay team against the Parents and Teachers.

A massive thank you to all our parents who helped with time keeping, recording, marshalling and judging. Without your contribution we would not be able to hold this event. So on behalf of the entire school community, I would like to say thank you for giving up your time to be at the event.

Results

Congratulations to the following students, for an outstanding effort on the day:

Year 5 Girls: **1st Areta Kahura, 2nd India Scholes, 3rd Liae Yang**

Year 5 Boys: **1st Tiare Workman, 2nd Jack Quin, 3rd Sidney Orchard**

Year 6 Girls: **1st Yeva Parshikova, 2nd Gia Dumbleton, 3rd = Olivia Williamson/Nina Young**

Year 6 Boys: **1st Austin Roper, 2nd Kiwa Kahura, 3rd Ben Haydock**

Most heartening though was to see so many of our students getting stuck in, having a go and having some fun. The cheer from the grandstand when the result of the relay was announced certainly made the ground shake.

Steven Finlayson - Sports Coordinator

Summer Weather

The great weather continues for us in the Bay of Plenty, however March signals autumn and an expected drop in temperatures. For this reason I ask that all students now transition back into our school uniform and save the PE gear for when it is needed. Letting our children wear their PE gear was a great initiative and one that we will look to utilise again should need dictate.



Cluny Foundation

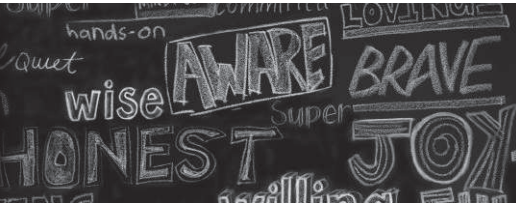
Last year our Cluny Foundation helped a number of children and families within our community in a number of ways, including financial assistance for extra curricula activities both at school and in our community. If you know of anyone who would benefit from assistance please refer them to one of our trustees or call in at our school office.

**Ben Fuller
Principal**



Extra Tuition

Retired St Mary's School teacher available for tuition in Maths, Reading and English. Can pick up from school. Phone Prue 021 0618953.



Change of date:
PTA Outdoor Adventure
day is now confirmed for
Friday 15 March 2019

Preparing for Lent

Next week Lent begins, it is always a good idea to prepare for lent, think about how you can personally grow closer to God.

Preparing for Lent:

FR. ED BROOM, OMV

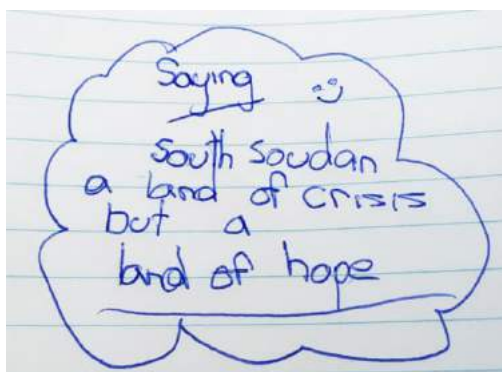
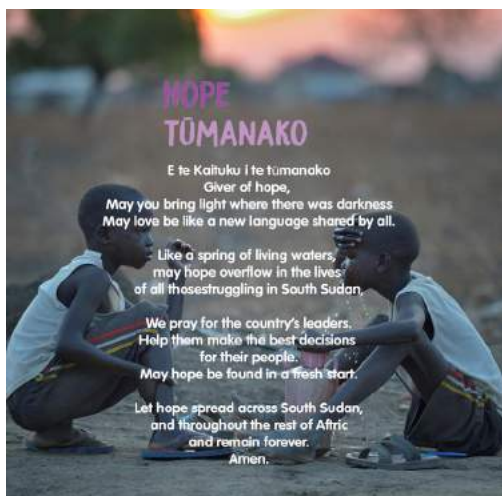
Lent is a season of grace. The joy of the Risen Lord Jesus depends on how we live out the holy season of Lent. God's generosity has no limits, but we often fall short in giving God our whole hearts so that He can fill them with His love.

- 1. Prayer
- 2. Confession
- 3. Daily Mass
- 4. Charity: Acts of Love and Service
- 5. Our Lady and Lent

Let us always rejoice in the season of Lent, which is a gift and blessing for us every Church year. However, let us truly enter in this year with true generosity of heart. Let us die to sin and rise to new life!

<https://catholicexchange.com/preparing-best-lent>

Catholic Character



Caritas: Lent. South Sudan

All students have been learning about life in South Sudan. The theme for Lent 2019 is inspired by a quote from Pope Francis: 'Living our lives with love.' We are called to live our lives with genuine love - for others and for God.

Peace, Love and Life: Hope and Challenges in South Sudan is the title of the unit which features stories from South Sudan that highlight the challenges faced by millions of South Sudanese that have encountered ongoing conflict and food insecurity.

Amy Nilsson in South Sudan

Senior students were very privileged to listen to Amy Nilsson sharing her experience and knowledge of South Sudan.

Amy and her husband volunteered in South Sudan last year.



The Ash Wednesday Liturgy is this Wednesday 6 March in the Blessed Anne-Marie Javouhey Centre at 10am. You are welcome to join us!

Parish School Mass Cancelled

The Mass on Sunday 10th March has now been cancelled due to the demolition work and earthquake issues at the Church. The 10.30am Parish Mass will still go ahead as normal. Thank you for your support and patience.

Baptism

Currently we have five students preparing for Baptism, please keep them in your prayers.

Sacramental Programme

Enrolments closed on 1 March. For all current information please see the Parish website.



Term 1 Welcome Liturgy



Whakapono

We have just completed week 4 of term 1 and we have already done lots in Whakapono. We have had lots of fun with our learning. We have been learning about ourselves, our family and also through Caritas learning about South Sudan.

We had a team building day in week 1 where we did kayaking, swimming, fishing for marbles, slip n slide, estuary races and loads more fun activities.



Caritas Fundraiser

On Friday of week 3 we had a sausage sizzle for Caritas to raise money for South Sudan, **we raised \$554!** Thank you to everyone who helped contribute. On this day we also played games like they do in South Sudan, we carried water on our heads, went kayaking and had heaps of fun.



We have been doing lots of Art and have completed some amazing pieces which we are really proud of and are displayed in our hub.

Thank you to our parents for helping us with our activities otherwise we wouldn't have been able to do all the fun things we have done.



Maramatanga

Tauranga Art Gallery visit

Early this term Maramatanga children went to the Art Gallery.

We were amazed by the wonderful wild flower art made by local artist, Emma Prill.

The children loved making their own flowers and writing about their visit.



Yesterday we went to the Art Gallery. We went on the bus. We met Fiona. She showed us a picture of Emma. Next we went into the room to make our own flowers. It was fun!

By Flynn Gardiner

Yesterday we went to the Art Gallery. We looked at the flowers that were made out of newspaper with pain. It was very cool and then we went to another room and we made a flower and it was made out of paper and glue sticks and colourful pens. We went on a bus.

By Liwoo Yang

Yesterday we went to the Art Gallery. We went on the bus. We saw an ambulance and three Police cars.

Whaea Fiona talked to us and showed us the big flowers and they were pretty.

By Marcello Goodin





FIA FIA NIGHT

Doors open 5.30pm - Midnight

SATURDAY 30th MARCH 2019

CASH BAR
(Eftpos available)

PARTY

Venue: QEYC

Queen Elizabeth Youth Centre

71 Eleventh Ave, Tauranga

LIVE BAND & DINNER

St Mary's Catholic School Tauranga fundraiser - 2019 Mission Malaga trip to Samoa.

Alcohol & non-alcoholic drinks sold at the bar.

ADULTS ONLY EVENT

FOR TICKETS CONTACT 021 08394635

ONLY
\$35
TICKET

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