

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT 2010

On behalf of St Mark's Catholic School staff it is my pleasure to reflect on 2010 year and our mission statement "the school will provide the best education in a Catholic environment" - Ka whakaratoa e te kura nga tino matau teitei i waenganui i nga katorika" highlights the pathway upon which a successful future for your children will be built. At St Mark's we value the multi cultural nature of our school and strive to develop a school community of faith where God is recognised and Gospel values and the teachings of Christ are reflected in relationship to all that happens in our school. We provide high quality educational programmes and learning experiences for all children.

Our school uses the acronym ABC for the concepts of Attitude, Behaviour, Commitment and Consistency. This is the umbrella under which our schools' Values and Charism are continually articulated and nurtured. This is visualised in the three circles that wrap around our school's crest.

- A is for attitude and our students are encouraged to have a positive attitude, to always give of their best, set goals and 'have a go' at all new experiences in and out of the classroom.
- B is for behaviour. We discuss with the children the importance of having self control, self management, living St Mark's Gospel Values and making good choices in all areas of their life.
- C is for commitment to teams, group and school work and any other responsibilities that they take on. Consistency is being able to continually do your best in all areas of school and home life.

With these guiding parameters we see our children grow to take on responsibility for their actions and are willing to take leadership positions across the senior school. You as parents can be very proud of your child/children's efforts this year and within the magazine you will see some senior school results achieved at different universities throughout Australasia. We provide a variety of context to support each child's natural creativity and this year all students took part in producing art work not only for their classroom but for our Art Exhibition in September at the Parish Centre. Keyboard, ukulele, and guitar lessons are all available at lunchtime or after school. Recently, our marimba group performed at the marimba festival at Baradene. Our musicians had another opportunity to perform at the Picton Centre in Term 3. Our students who enjoy dance performed both at the local dance festival and at the Pakuranga Summer Festival at Pakuranga Plaza. Also our Polynesian group performed in the Howick Pakuranga Principals' Association Koanga Festival and they too performed more recently at the Summer Festival and have entertained the St Mark's Parish Over 50s Friendship Group.

In sports our Year 5 & 6s and gifted Year 4s have taken part in swimming, softball, cricket, rugby, netball, soccer, hockey and more recently cross country and athletics. Our senior cross country team, along with some very talented Year 3's ensured that we finished first equal in the Howick Pakuranga Zone Championships. We finished 3rd in the Interschool Soccer Tournament that was played throughout Term 2 & 3. Also our netballers finished in the top four schools in the region.

A highlight every year is co-ordinating the first Communion Programme for the children. To a great group of Mums and a wonderful grandma who helped to prepare the students for this sacrament we say thank you. You are very special people.

A very successful Gala was held on 6th November which highlighted the absolute commitment of a small but hard working, vivacious PTFA. Our St Mark's community really pulled together to ensure that the day was a success. We also thank you to the Parish priests for their support in and around the school and also to the parishioners who supported our Gala. Our fundraising will go towards building a school hall for extra space for the students to display, and/or perform dance, choir, Physical Education and Cultural programmes.

Our Catholic Character oral report back to staff and Board of Trustees reiterated that striving for excellence is an important component for our Catholic Character and a strong feature of St Mark's School. Sister Lucille and Neil Laursen added that our school celebrates and acknowledges the diversity of cultures in the school community and the students are able to speak into the values of St Mark's School which are continually being fostered in the daily life of our school. We look forward to receiving the written report in December.

We ask that God blesses our year 6 students always, but especially as they move into their intermediate years at new schools. We hope all year 6's will continue to strive to do their very best and remember that their families and the gospel values we uphold are very important and will 'stand them in good stead' along the way.

God bless you all; have a happy and holy Christmas and a wonderful holiday with family and friends.

Thank you all for your support.
Catherine M Rivers