



## Newsletter 17 March 2023

Kia Ora, Welcome, Hello, Nǐ hǎo, Talofa Lava, Hallo, Salut, Namaste, Bonjour, Bula Vinaka, Guten Tag, Shalom, Cìào, おはよう (Ohayoou), 안녕 Ahn Nyeong, Olá, Privet!, Xin Chào, Kia Orana, Malo e Lelei, Fakaalofa Lahi Atu, Sat Shari Akal, Melo Ni, Halo Ola Keta, Mauri, Fakaalofa Atu, Salam, Welkom.

### Key dates

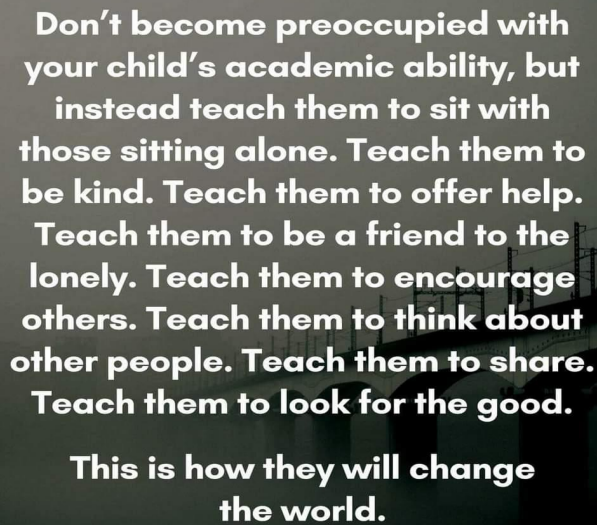
Monday 20 March	BOT meeting	7pm in staffroom
Tuesday 21 March	Beach clean up trip (Kaitiaki focus)	Kitea Team
Thursday 23 March	BBAFC Soccer	Rooms 1,2,3 and 10
Friday 24 March	Auckland rugby sessions	Whakatere team
Thursday 30 March	BBAFC Soccer	Rooms 1,2,3 and 10
Mon 3 - Fri 7 April	HOLY WEEK	
Thursday 6 April	"Dress in the times of Jesus" HOLY THURSDAY MUFTI-DAY and LITURGY	
Thursday 6 April	BBAFC Soccer	Rooms 1,2,3 and 10
Mon 3- Fri 7 April	LIFE EDUCATION TRUST - MOBILE CLASSROOM ON-SITE	
Thursday 6 April	<b>Last day of Term 1 -School closes at 2.45pm</b>	
<b>Monday 24 April</b>	<b>MOE Staff Only Day: NZ Curriculum Refresh</b>	
<b>Tuesday 25 April</b>	<b>ANZAC DAY/ St Mark's Feast Day: School is closed</b>	
<b>Wednesday 26 April</b>	<b>First day of Term 2</b>	
Thursday 27 April	School/Family Interviews - School closes at 1pm	

Please note:

- **Thursday 6th April - 'dress in the times of Jesus' for our special liturgy**
- **Staff Only day - school is closed on Monday 24 April**
- **Term 2 start date is Wednesday 26 April**

## Message from the Principal

Kia Ora St Mark's Catholic School whānau



Don't become preoccupied with your child's academic ability, but instead teach them to sit with those sitting alone. Teach them to be kind. Teach them to offer help. Teach them to be a friend to the lonely. Teach them to encourage others. Teach them to think about other people. Teach them to share. Teach them to look for the good.

This is how they will change the world.

It's hard to believe we are already into mid-March with Easter just around the corner. Thank you for your ongoing support of our school. The recent 'meet the team/meet the teacher' sessions were very well attended and informal feedback received was that the sessions were informative and helpful. The family picnic was just fabulous and it was so good to be able to reconnect after a couple of years of covid cancellations. I look forward to more occasions that bring us together as a school family.

At the last BOT meeting, the 2022 end of year achievement data was presented and discussed. At the end of 2022, OTJ (overall teacher judgment) information was moderated and collated to show:

- 86.2%** of students reached at or above Curriculum Expectation in **READING**
- 77%** of all students achieved at or above Curriculum Expectation in **MATHEMATICS**
- 80.1%** of all students achieved at or above Curriculum Expectation in **WRITING**

What we are already noticing is the positive impact of adopting more structured literacy approaches in the junior years

- At the end of 2021, 65% of Year 1 students achieved at or above the expected curriculum level in **Reading** yet in 2022, 80% of Year 1 students achieved at or above the expected curriculum level.
- At the end of 2021, 83% of Year 2 students achieved at or above the expected curriculum level in **Reading** yet in 2022, 94% of Year 2 students achieved at or above the expected curriculum level.

Similar good progress was noticed in **Writing**:

- At the end of 2021, 65% of Year 1 students achieved at or above the expected curriculum level in **Writing** yet in 2022, 84% of Year 1 students achieved at or above the expected curriculum level.
- At the end of 2021, 66% of Year 2 students achieved at or above the expected curriculum level in **Writing** yet in 2022, 90% of Year 2 students achieved at or above the expected curriculum level.

Going back to some fundamental literacy teaching practices that includes: handwriting, phonics, spelling, grammar, punctuation and sentence structure will benefit all students in their primary years.

We are very lucky to be working alongside Massey University facilitators Dr Chrissy Braid and Belinda Blick-Duggan who are providing valuable professional development to our teaching and learner support team.

At home, I encourage you to read often with and to your child/children. Please take some time to talk about our school values of **AROHA, BELIEF, COURAGE, RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY** and **RESILIENCE** and pose simple questions about what these values 'look like' and 'sound like' at home. These values are deeply rooted in the Gospel. Jesus is the reason for our school and like Jesus, we strive to be caring, compassionate, responsible kaitiaki of God's wonderful creation.

I feel especially blessed to lead our school and genuinely believe I have chosen the very best profession in the world! Thank you for supporting teachers and principals during this time of negotiations with the MOE. Strike action is never ideal and I pray for a quick resolution. Children across NZ are at the heart of the matter as educators only want the very best conditions and access to resourcing to meet the diverse educational needs of every learner entrusted in their care. We need to attract and retain a high quality workforce and promote teaching as a viable and rewarding career option.

Next week, I commence the first 3 week block of my 10 week sabbatical. I will be taking my second block of 7 weeks at the end of Term 2 and into the beginning of Term 3.

This July, I will celebrate my 10th year as principal and in my 30 years of teaching and leadership I have only ever taken the equivalent of 8 months maternity leave so I feel this is the right time for me to have some refreshment and study leave. My sabbatical study is focused on wellbeing and resilience programmes in schools.

Mrs Trish Hodgson will deputise in my absence with the support of Associate Principal, Mrs Jenny McKenzie. I know I am leaving the school (albeit for a short time) in their most capable hands.

I will look forward to seeing you all at the beginning of the new term.

St Patrick's day blessings.

*Tracey Kopua*

## **SPECIAL CATHOLIC CHARACTER** *(message from our DRS, Mrs Dias-McAllum)*

Today we celebrate St. Patrick's Day in the Catholic church. This Patron saint of Ireland was born in Britain. He belonged to an affluent family, however when he was about 14 years old, he was captured by Irish pirates and taken as a slave. He worked as a shepherd which provided him with the perfect opportunity to pray. Patrick already knew about the faith because his grandfather was Christian. After six years he ran away to Britain but was prompted to go back to Ireland. Prior to going to Ireland, he studied and became a priest and later became a bishop. When he went back he converted thousands.

The reason a shamrock is associated with St. Patrick is because he used it to explain the mystery of the Holy Trinity. He died on March 17, 461 which is why we celebrate his Feast on this day.

His poem, The Breastplate, is commonly known and recited among the faithful.

Christ be within me,  
 Christ behind me,  
 Christ before me,  
 Christ beside me,  
 Christ to win me,  
 Christ to comfort and restore me,  
 Christ beneath me,  
 Christ above me,  
 Christ inquired,  
 Christ in danger,  
 Christ in hearts of all that love me,  
 Christ in the mouth of friend and stranger.



## WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST LEARNERS

A very warm St Mark's welcome to Linesa (Rm 4) and Meeval (Rm 10)

### TERM 1 SPORTS

Our learners have loved their coaching sessions in soccer, tennis and rugby this term. Perhaps you will consider registering your child for a winter sport through our local clubs like: Pakuranga Rugby club, Koru Tennis, Howick Pakuranga Hockey, BBAFC etc?

Coach Jack (soccer) will be assisting with the BBAFC holiday programme which could be of interest to you. See flyer below:

**April Holiday Programme 2023**

We have a UEFA B licenced coach to cater for the more advanced players

**Fantastic Football Holiday Programme!**

**@ Rogers Park**

**Week 1: Tues 11th - Fri 14th April**  
**Week 2: Mon 17th - Fri 21st April**

Bookings available for full & half days to best suit you!!

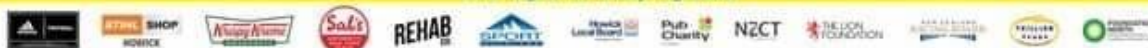
**9am-12noon - \$30 p/day**  
**9am-3pm - \$45 p/day**

Players must bring their own lunchboxes for the day

The program is open to all kids from 5 to 12 years of age.

For registrations, go to **www.bbafc.org.nz** For registrations, go to

Go to "Register for Holiday Programmes"





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