



# ST MARK'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Following in the footsteps of Jesus

**Newsletter**

**12 December 2023**

Kia Ora, Welcome, Hello, Nǐ hǎo, Talofa Lava, Hallo, Salut, Namaste, Bonjour, Bula Vinaka, Guten Tag, Shalom, Cìào, おはよう (Ohayoou), 안녕하세요 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

| Date         | What                                                                                                   | Details |
|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Wed 13 Dec   | Last day wearing school uniform                                                                        |         |
| Thurs 14 Dec | Christmas-themed mufti and teddy bear picnic (shared lunch)                                            |         |
| Fri 15 Dec   | Last day of 2023 (mufti day) - <b>school closes at noon</b> / reports emailed home                     |         |
| Wed 20 Dec   | 2024 stationery and class lists emailed home                                                           |         |
| Thurs 25 Jan | School office open from 10am - 1pm for general enquiries<br>Second-hand uniform shop open from 10-11am |         |
| Tues 30 Jan  | School office open from 10am - 1pm for general enquiries<br>Second-hand uniform shop open from 10-11am |         |
| Wed 31 Jan   | First day of the 2024 school year. School hours are: 8.45am - 2.45pm                                   |         |

## NON-UNIFORM DAYS - Thurs 14th and Fri 15th December

The last day for formal uniform is this Wednesday. Any items being donated for the 2nd hand uniform shop can be dropped off at the office on Thursday or Friday this week.

## TEDDY BEAR PICNIC - THURSDAY 14 DECEMBER

This Thursday is a shared teddy-bear picnic lunch for our school children. Please provide a small plate of finger foods for the picnic (nothing that requires cutting or heating). Your child is welcome to bring a soft toy from home to enjoy lunch with. If your child has food allergies, please provide them with their own packed lunch.

## SCHOOL CLOSURES AT NOON THIS FRIDAY

Please arrange to have your child/children collected at this earlier time. SKIDS care in available - if you require a casual booking, please contact: [stmarks@skids.co.nz](mailto:stmarks@skids.co.nz)

## A WARM ST MARK'S WELCOME To JANELLA (Rm 4)

### SCHOOL STATIONERY 2024 - SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS

Next year, we will be using the services of Paper Plus, Highland Park for school stationery packs/items. Whilst Paper Plus is our preferred supplier, you are able to purchase items at your discretion by shopping around.

Please note, if you buy your stationery on-line through the Paper plus portal, you are able to select the items you require (as you may not need every item on the list if you have items from previous years or at home). Full-packs can however be purchased on-line and in-store.

Stationery lists will be emailed home next week.

### ENROLLING NOW FOR 2024 AND BEYOND

NEW ENTRANTS: If you, or anyone you know, has a child and/or children turning 5 in the next year or so, please do connect directly with Kerrie Hunt in our school office to lodge an expression of interest and to collect an enrolment pack.

LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE: We are also accepting enquiries and enrolments from families who may be seeking schooling for their child/children across different year levels. Limited spaces are available so register your interest quickly to avoid disappointment.

For all enrolment enquiries, please contact Kerrie Hunt: [admin@stmarks.school.nz](mailto:admin@stmarks.school.nz)

### SPECIAL AWARDS 2023

Congratulations to the following students who received recognition for their outstanding efforts this year at last week's Christmas celebration.

**Classroom 'Footsteps' Awards** *Awarded to 2 children who consistently follow in the footsteps of Jesus and provide a positive example of authentic Christian living through loving acts of service, aroha and pastoral care.*

|         |                             |
|---------|-----------------------------|
| Room 1  | <i>Annika T and Phoenix</i> |
| Room 2  | <i>Alice and Charlie</i>    |
| Room 3  | <i>Ariana and Amelia</i>    |
| Room 4  | <i>Armando and Makayla</i>  |
| Room 5  | <i>Brooklyn and Jayden</i>  |
| Room 6  | <i>Robbie and Winter</i>    |
| Room 7  | <i>Ana and Levi</i>         |
| Room 8  | <i>Ethan and Sophie</i>     |
| Room 10 | <i>Devan and Kattaleya</i>  |
| Room 11 | <i>Pia and RJ</i>           |

## **Special awards**

*In recognition of Year 6 graduates who have done exceptionally well in different areas of school life.*

|                                                                                     |                                        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| <i>Most improved across the curriculum</i>                                          | <b><i>Abigail, Ron and Rusahdi</i></b> |
| <i>Academic diligence and effort across the curriculum</i>                          | <b><i>Amelia, Brent and James</i></b>  |
| <i>Creativity award in Writing and Visual art</i>                                   | <b><i>Brent and Noah</i></b>           |
| <i>Oratory Award - ambassador in public speaking and in liturgical celebrations</i> | <b><i>Bernyce</i></b>                  |
| <i>Performing Arts award</i>                                                        | <b><i>Phoenix and Sarah E</i></b>      |
| <i>Kaitiaki Award - care for the environment</i>                                    | <b><i>Abigail</i></b>                  |
| <i>Joyful Spirit award for always giving of their best</i>                          | <b><i>Imani and Phoenix</i></b>        |
| <i>Sportspeople of the year</i>                                                     | <b><i>Charlie and Ariana</i></b>       |
| <i>All round 'kiwi kid' award</i>                                                   | <b><i>Alice</i></b>                    |
| <i>Top academic scholar awards</i>                                                  | <b><i>Christian and Joshua</i></b>     |
| <i>FOOTSTEPS AWARD - Monsignor Green memorial award</i>                             | <b><i>Sarah E</i></b>                  |

## **A FEW WORDS OF THANKS BEFORE THE YEAR'S END**

- To the school's dedicated and hard working Board of Trustees for their visionary, strategic leadership and constant support of the school management team, staff, students and wider community.*
- To the school's staff - St Mark's is blessed with a high-calibre, talented, professional, caring team. Individually and collectively, team members are to be thanked for their great work in 2023.*
- To the PTFA for everything they do to build community and to raise funds for our school.*
- To the parent and family community for choosing St Mark's as your partner in educating your tamariki in the Catholic faith. Thank you for entrusting your most precious children to our care.*
- To Fr Sherwin and the Parish team for providing spiritual leadership and supporting our school*
- To the amazing children of St Mark's for bringing so much joy, laughter, fun and innocence to each new day. We absolutely love and treasure each and every one of you - thank you for being YOU!*

*Heavenly Father, Surround our Year 6 graduates with your grace. Bless them with hope so that they move into the future with eager and open hearts. Help them to put the knowledge, skills, and insights gained through their education at St Mark's for the good of all mankind. Inspire them to believe in the goodness of life even when faced with challenges and difficulties. As they commence the next phase of life's exciting journey, may they grow even more faith-filled, grateful and wise.*

*Amen*



## Making Magical Memories at St Mark's



## *Following in the footsteps of Jesus* At St Mark's Catholic School

Learners at St Mark's are reminded to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. To encourage learners to do this, we reference our school's ABCs and 3Rs.

ABCs: A - AROHA; B - BELIEF; C - COURAGE  
3Rs: RESPECT; RESPONSIBILITY; RESILIENCE



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Sham Lal #3 Individual Salesperson in Eastern Beaches  
ending 31st March 2023

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Sham Lal  
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