

ST MARK'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Seek and you shall find



Newsletter 25 October 2023

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

Date	What	Details
Sunday 29th Oct	Fr Sherwin's 10 year ordination - special celebration after the 10.30am Mass	
30 Oct - 8 Nov	Swimming at Lagoon Pools	Kitea Team: 8 consecutive lessons
Wed 1 Nov	All Saints Feast Day liturgy	11.45am in Parish Centre
Wed 1 Nov	PTFA meeting	7pm in staffroom
7 - 8 Nov	HPPA Choir Festival	Tickets through KINDO
16 - 17 Nov	Yr 5 and 6 BIKE NZ programme	Details TBC
Friday 24 Nov	CURRICULUM REFRESH DAY	SCHOOL IS CLOSED
Tues 28 Nov	BOT meeting	7pm in staffroom
Wed 29 Nov	Thanksgiving Mass	6pm in Parish Church
Friday 1 Dec	Welcome to summer tabloids/athletic sports fun day	
Wednesday 6 Dec	Christmas concert, nativity and special awards from 1.15pm in the Church	
Thursday 14 Dec	Summer mufti and teddy bear picnic (shared lunch)	
Friday 15 Dec	Last day of school for 2023 - school closes at noon	
Wed 31 Jan	First day of 2024 school year	

THANKSGIVING MASS - Wednesday 29 November at 6pm

At this special Mass, our Year 6 graduates will be formally thanked and farewelled. Families of Year 6 graduates are invited to bring a small plate of finger foods and join together for a light supper in the Parish centre after the Mass. There is the expectation for ALL children to attend in the correct school uniform.

CHRISTMAS NATIVITY and SPECIAL AWARDS - Wednesday 6 December from 1.15pm

Due to staffing factors a decision has been made to change the date of this event from Fri 8 Dec to Wed 6 Dec. Apologies for any inconvenience this may cause. We do hope you are able to join us for this special Christmas celebration.

2024 TERM DATES

Term 1 Dates

Wednesday 31 Jan - Friday 12 April

Public Holidays: Waitangi day - Tues 6th Feb, Easter - Fri 29 March - Tues 2 April

Term 2 Dates

Monday 29 April - Friday 5 July

Public Holidays: King's Birthday - Mon 3 June; Matariki - Fri 28 June

Term 3 Dates

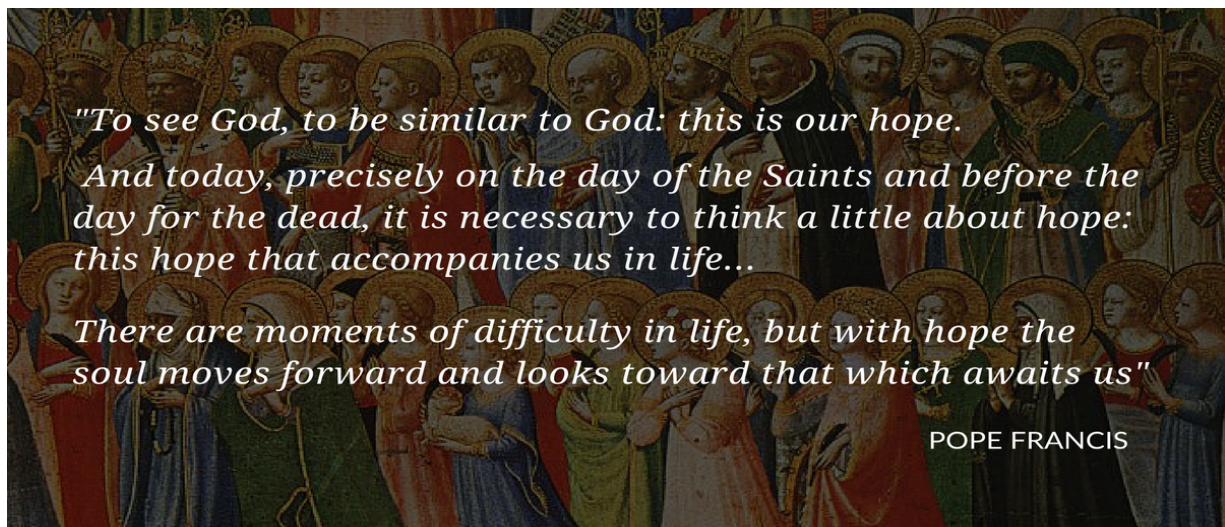
Mon 22 July - Fri 27 Sept

Term 4 Dates

Mon 14 Oct - Fri 13 Dec

Public Holidays: Labour weekend - Mon 28 Oct

SPECIAL CATHOLIC CHARACTER



NOVEMBER PRAYERS

During the month of November, Catholics all over the world pray especially for the faithful departed. November commences with the special feast days of All Saints (1 Nov) and All Souls (2 Nov). Our school children have been invited to share prayers for the special people in their lives who are now at eternal peace with Jesus in Heaven. The children have been invited to write the names of deceased loved ones onto paper butterflies to be decorated and placed into a remembrance box. Their special intentions will be remembered during November prayers at all Masses in the Parish Church.

Christmas Can Drive - Bring a can if you can!

We are encouraging and accepting donations of non-perishable food items, toiletries and Christmas treats for the St Mark's Parish Food bank. This is a way to support many local families who are struggling and may have to go without at Christmas time. We will continue to collect items until Friday 8 December. Thanks in advance for your generous support.

COME CELEBRATE

This weekend, Fr Sherwin celebrates his 10 year anniversary as an ordained priest. St Mark's families are invited to attend the 10.30am Mass and join in the celebrations afterwards.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

We have enjoyed a happy and settled start to Term 4. Recent events like Wheels Day and Mission Day are always a highlight in the school calendar and reflect the school's joyful, community spirit. I would like to commend our senior students for their leadership, initiative and creativity in organising such fun events and for another successful Mission Day. Just over \$2800 was raised in support of the charitable work of the RDMN Mission Sisters and for our sister school in India - an outstanding effort, well-done everyone!

Term 4 is an action packed term with learners enjoying activities such as: swimming; cricket; choir festival; athletic sports; Weetbix Tryathlon and end of year celebratory events. Please ensure you keep up to date with school events through our Facebook page, website, app, email threads and SEESAW.

The school's Senior Leadership Team is busy planning staffing, classroom compositions and curriculum priorities ahead of the 2024 school year. Based on the projected roll, our team structure at the beginning of the year is looking like:

Kitea Team	Years 0 and 1
Torortoto Team	Years 2 and 3
Whakaterere Team	Years 4 - 6

As you are aware the school has recently adopted more structured approaches to literacy learning and we are really starting to notice the positive impacts of doing so for teachers and students. Next year, we will do something similar in regards to mathematics learning and will be introducing the evidence-based **Maths-No Problem** programme across our school. Adopting more structured programmes like these brings greater consistency and common understandings across our learning teams as well as ensuring full curriculum coverage through a research-based scope and sequence. Mathematics Learning is the focus of our Curriculum Refresh Staff Only Day on Friday 24 November when school is closed.

Teachers are currently gathering end of year assessment information and writing student progress reports to be distributed via email in the last week of term. Every child at St Mark's has made good progress across our school's multifaceted curriculum this year be it academically, socially, spiritually etc and we are especially proud of their achievements.

This Friday, our dedicated teaching team will enjoy a special morning tea as NZ observes World Teacher's Day (official date is 5 Oct). I feel especially blessed to work alongside an amazing group of passionate, caring, highly-skilled educators and know this sentiment is echoed by our wider school community. I will look forward to acknowledging the team and thanking our teachers for the great work they do at St Mark's.

At last night's BOT meeting, the resignation letters of Mrs Rita Furivai, Mrs Joselyn Laird and Mrs Catherine Verner were tabled and accepted. Rita and Joselyn have accepted leadership positions at other Catholic schools from the beginning of 2024 and Catherine is pursuing personal interests. Whilst we are delighted for them personally and professionally, they will be sadly missed. All three will be formally thanked and farewelled at the end of the academic year. We are currently in the process of recruiting new members to our team.

The BOT is also taking time to consider the responses of the recent community surveys to inform the school's strategic direction. Thanks to those who took time to complete the 'whanau voice' survey - whilst the response rate was low (less than 20% of the community), valuable feedback and suggestions for continuous school improvement were given. The next step is to gather student 'voice' with the plan to provide you with a summary of responses in the next short while.

Ma te Atua koutou e manaaki e tiaki - May God bless and care for you all

Tracey Kopua

A warm St Mark's welcome to our newest learners:

Sala, Makayla, Belle, Eliza, Hans and Alse who have joined Room 4

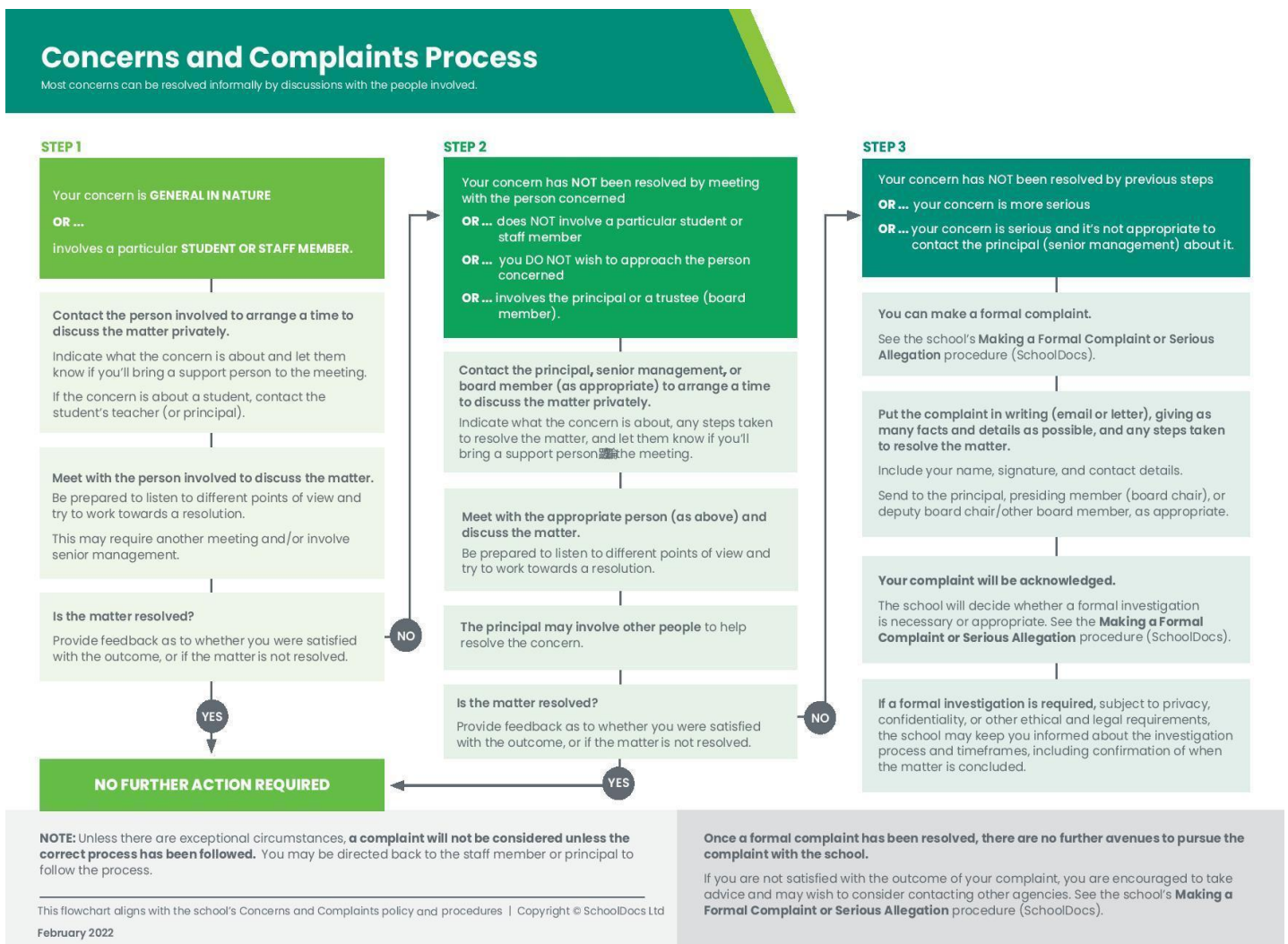
POLICY and PROCEDURE

Our school uses SchoolDocs for our policies and procedures. We invite you to visit the site at:

<https://stmarks.schooldocs.co.nz> (note that there's no "www."). Our username is "stmarks" and password "seekfind". This term, the BOT is reviewing Curriculum policies.

COMPLAINTS OR CONCERNS

Schools are not perfect places and we acknowledge that from time to time there may be cause for concern. Most concerns can be resolved informally through respectful discussion. Please reference the flowchart below outlining St Mark's Catholic School's Concerns and Complaints process.



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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