



Newsletter 6 March 2024

Kia Ora, Welcome, Hello, Nǐ hǎo, Talofa Lava, Hallo, Salut, Namaste, Bonjour, Bula Vinaka, Guten Tag, Shalom, Ciao, 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

Tuesday 12 March	PALS leadership training day	
Tuesday 12 March	Sancta Maria College open day	9am and 1pm guided tours
Friday 15 March	St Patrick's Feast Day Celebration	Green-themed mufti
Tuesday 19 March	SCHOOL INTERVIEWS FOR ROOMS 10 and 12	2-5pm
Wednesday 20 March	SCHOOL INTERVIEWS FOR ROOMS 10 and 12	2-5pm
Thursday 21 March	PHOTOLIFE on-site	
Friday 22 March	HPPA SWIMMING CARNIVAL	Swim team at Lloyd Elsmore
Thursday 28 March	"Dress in the times of Jesus" HOLY THURSDAY MUFTI-DAY and LITURGY	
Friday 29 March	Good Friday - school is closed	
Monday 1 April	Easter Monday - school is closed	
Tuesday 2 April	Easter Tuesday - school is closed	
Thursday 4 April	SCHOOL INTERVIEWS - school closes at noon	
Friday 12 April	Last day of Term 1	
Thursday 25 April	ANZAC DAY/ St Mark's feast day	
Monday 29 April	First day of Term 2	
Sunday 5 May	SCHOOL MASS and FAIR DAY (details tbc)	

Please note:

- School Interviews for Rms 10 and 12 will be on 19 and 20 March due to availability of teachers
- Mufti days: 15th March for St Patrick's Day (green theme)

28th March for Holy Thursday ('dress in the times of Jesus' theme)

- Term 2 start date is Monday 29 April
- St Mark's Feast day Fair/Gala (Sunday 5th May) - Can you help? Do you have any local connections to add to this event? Do you know of any potential sponsors? If so, please contact Megan - PTFA 'gala' coordinator: meganj.douglas@gmail.com

SCHOOL INTERVIEWS - bookings now open

Please login here and use the allocated booking code:

<https://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz/code>

19 and 20 March from 2-5pm	Rooms 10 and 12	Booking code: gw82h
Thursday 4 April	Room 4	Booking code: yxjnj
Thursday 4 April	Rooms 1, 2, 3, 6, 7 and 11	Booking code: mb9jd

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST LEARNERS

Please extend 3 very warm St Mark's specials to: Caleb and Cora

Message from the Principal

Kia ora St Mark's Catholic School whānau

As we come to this mid-term point there is so much to be thankful for. Firstly, I would like to give an enormous shout-out to the PTFA for organising a successful family fun night/ colour run. Thanks to the many past-pupils, staff members, BOT members and families who assisted in the kiosk and/or 'threw paint' at each of the colour stations. Special thanks to the Williams, Coutinho, Hamilton and Lordon families for their generous donations of food and miscellaneous items for the colour run. Huge thanks to all the courageous colour runners who made this event a magical and memorable occasion. It was great to hear so much laughter and to see the JOY on the faces of those participating.

I wish to acknowledge your hard-working children who have settled quickly to school routines and are focused on their learning. Learners at St Mark's try very hard to follow in the footsteps of Jesus and this is evident through polite manners, care for others and respect for the environment. It's been wonderful to see so many children receiving house tokens, certificates and positive affirmation cards for demonstrating the ABCs and 3Rs.

Our teachers are in the process of gathering assessment information and look forward to sharing this during school interviews scheduled for later in the term. They have also been engaging in purposeful professional development by working alongside coaches/mentors: Alex - No Problem Math;

Moey - Mitey and Ellen - Healthy Active Learning. I thank our teachers, and the entire staff team for their great work to ensure our children have awesome opportunities to learn and grow.

At last week's first BOT meeting of the year, Marty Ryan accepted the presiding member role. The strategic plan and annual budget were approved and the 2023 'End of Year' data was presented. Last year's data shows:

84% of all students achieved AT or ABOVE curriculum expectation in **Reading** (target of 85%)

74% of all students achieved AT or ABOVE curriculum expectation in **Writing** (target of 80%)

79% of all students achieved AT or ABOVE curriculum expectation in **Mathematics** (target of 80%)

As a school we are focused on continuous improvement to impact positively on learner progress and achievement. Already, the data above has been used to identify targeted and specialist support.

We know attendance impacts achievement. It's important for all children to be on-time and attend school every day unless unwell. Thanks for your support with this.

We have reached the mid-term point and we are noticing signs of colder, autumnal weather. It's timely to remind you to monitor your child's on-line activity closely and restrict screen time. I have been informed that some of our younger children are accessing an online game called 'Smiling Critters' and they are replicating this 'fighting' game on the playground and pretending to be 'evil' critters. Whilst we love seeing our school children engage in imaginative and creative play, we simply will not tolerate any kind of play that encourages fighting.

On a different note, I am pleased to inform families of Year 5 and 6 children that we are booked to go to Lakewood Lodge for a school camping experience from Sat 2 November - Mon 4 November. More information will be provided soon and we will host a series of camp meetings early in Term 2. You can however take a sneaky peek of what's in store by browsing this website -

<https://www.lakewoodlodge.co.nz/>

Finally, if you have any concerns whatsoever about any aspect of your child's learning and/or wellbeing at school, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher in the first instance or arrange a time to see myself, Mrs McKenzie or Mrs Hodgson.

Your friend in Christ

Tracey Kopua

SPECIAL CATHOLIC CHARACTER



We are now in the Christian season of Lent. Lent is the period of 40 days which comes before Easter. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, Lent is a season of reflection and preparation before the celebrations of Easter. By observing the 40 days of Lent, Christians replicate Jesus Christ's sacrifice and withdrawal into the desert for 40 days.

During this Lent season, you are invited to :

1. **Pray** - for yourself, for your family, for someone with a special need or a prayer of thanksgiving for blessings received.
2. **Fast** - to intentionally give up something we love or are attached to, as a sacrifice. For e.g. when you enter a store do you buy what you want or what you need?
3. **Almsgiving** - to give to others who are in need, those less fortunate than us.

In RE we have been learning more about Jesus. We think these artworks of the Sacred Heart are fabulous. Well-done Mrs Danny and the budding artists of Room 2.





SCHOOL POLICY AND PROCEDURE

Our school works on a subscription basis with SchoolDocs to maintain, update, and review our policies. SchoolDocs provides us with a comprehensive core set of policies, which have been well researched and follow the Ministry of Education National Administration Guidelines. The policies and procedures are tailored to our school, and the school supplies specific information such as our charter, and procedures for behaviour management, reporting to parents, etc.

SchoolDocs updates, modifies, or creates policies in response to changes in legislation or Ministry guidelines, significant events, reviews/requests from schools, and regular reviewing from the SchoolDocs team. Our board of trustees has the opportunity to view changes/additions and comment on them before they are implemented. We will advise you when policies are up for review and how you can take part in the review.

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"



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.

Concerns and Complaints Process

Most concerns can be resolved informally by discussions with the people involved.

STEP 1



STEP 2



STEP 3



NOTE: Unless there are exceptional circumstances, a complaint will not be considered unless the correct process has been followed. You may be directed back to the staff member or principal to follow the process.

This flowchart aligns with the school's Concerns and Complaints policy and procedures. Copyright © SchoolDocs Ltd February 2022

Once a formal complaint has been resolved, there are no further avenues to pursue the complaint with the school.

If you are not satisfied with the outcome of your complaint, you are encouraged to take advice and may wish to consider contacting other agencies. See the school's Making a Formal Complaint or Serious Allegation procedure (SchoolDocs).

A Lenten prayer to pray together as a family

Open our minds to the silence of Your presence, that we may be refreshed

Open our hands to receive and to give, that we may be replenished

Open our hearts to your word, O Lord, that we may be renewed

Amen

Making magical memories at St Mark's



Over the past week we have enjoyed the colour run and learning lots about science (by making lava lamps and exploring colour absorption). Whakatere students have also enjoyed spending time supporting younger learners in their classrooms. Today, Tammy from Harrison Tew guided our evacuation and lockdown drills.