

ST MARK'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Seek and you shall find



NEWSLETTER

15th December 2021

Kia Ora, Welcome, Hello, Ni hāo, Talofa Lava, Hallo, Salut, Namaste, Bonjour, Bula Vinaka, Guten Tag, Shalom, Ciao, 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, Fakatalofa Atu, Salam, Welkom.

KEY DATES

Date	What	Details
Thursday 16 December	Class lists and Stationery lists	emailed home
Tuesday 1 February	Staff Only Day	School is closed
Wednesday 2 February	First day of Term 1, 2022	School starts at 8.50am and concludes at 2.50pm
Monday 7 February	WAITANGI DAY	School is closed
Tuesday 22 February	BOT meeting	7pm

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Wow... we made it to the end of a most unusual year and I am truly grateful for the support, generosity, love, friendship and encouragement shown by the St Mark's school community throughout 2021. Special mention to our fabulous Board of Trustees (BOT) for effectively governing the school in responding to COVID challenges and for always putting our teachers, learners and families at the centre of all decision making and ensuring our school's Catholic Character is strengthened and safeguarded. Thanks to Trish Hodgson and Jenny McKenzie, our amazing Associate Principals who provide so much wisdom, guidance and support. Their leadership is appreciated.

I am really looking forward to the summer break with some more freedoms given news of the border opening with a welcome shift to the ORANGE traffic light (COVID PROTECTION FRAMEWORK). I plan to read books, watch British TV dramas, visit friends outside of Auckland and enjoy precious time with my family. I sincerely hope you all have something nice planned too. Remember to keep safe by being swim smart and sun smart this summer!

Farewelling our Year 6 students at the recent prize-giving, thanksgiving liturgy and last day 'assembly' was emotional. I am especially proud of our school leavers and know they are moving

onto their respective Intermediate schools and Colleges with very strong foundational skills and faith-filled hearts. I acknowledge our school leavers for their growth; academic progress and achievement; creativity; polite manners; kindness and service during their years at St Mark's. I encourage the graduates of 2021 to **'reach for the stars'** and to **'do ordinary things in extraordinary ways'**. I hope you continue to **be the best version of yourself everyday** - please walk **humbly with God** and share the **good news of Christ** to those you meet along the way!

Despite Covid level restrictions, we were able to coordinate a special awards evening via zoom. Congratulations to ALL Year 5 and 6 learners who were acknowledged in some way for their outstanding effort, progress and achievement this year.

Special awards presented in 2021 - we congratulate:

Boy's Swimming Cup

Girl's Swimming Cup

Performing Arts Cup

Rivers CUP - Academic improvement

Christine Marchant CUP - Writing and Art

Alannah Moffiet Cup - Determination and effort

McColl Cup - Effort and commitment

All round kiwi kid award

Academic Cup

Fr Green Cup - Catholic Character

Etienne J

Mikhayla T

Mikhayla T

Grant D and Joseph M

Amelie C and Hannah D

Sherene R and Jason S

Eva G

Mikhayla T

Amelie C and Leo R

Bernice S

Please note: Recipients of special awards have been given a keepsake plaque and will be able to collect trophies to take home for a period of time in the new year so photographs can be taken.



On behalf of the staff of St Mark's Catholic School, I wish you and your family a very happy Christmas. We hope you are able to reconnect with loved ones and enjoy the blessings of the festive season. May the birth of Christ fill your hearts with renewed joy, peace and love.

Mere Kirihimete!

Your friend in Christ
Tracey Kopua