

# ST MARK'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Seek and you shall find



## NEWSLETTER

11th December 2022

Kia Ora, Welcome, Hello, Ni hāo, 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
Monday 12 Dec	Christmas themed mufti and fun day	Dress in Christmas colours
Tuesday 13 Dec	Whakatere and Totororo Certificate assembly	1.30pm in Parish Church
Tuesday 13 Dec	Last day of Term	School closes at 2.45pm
Wednesday 14 Dec	End of Year reports emailed to families	emailed to families
Friday 16 Dec	Class and stationery lists for 2023	emailed to families
Tuesday 31 Jan	First day of Term 1, 2023	School starts at 8.50am and concludes at 2.50pm
Thursday 2 Feb	Soccer coaching clinics (first 5 week block)	Rooms 1, 2, 3, 10 and 11
Monday 6 Feb	Waitangi Day	School is closed
Tuesday 21 Feb	BOT meeting	7pm in staffroom

### A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

We are nearing the end of another challenging year that has not been without the impact of Covid. Thankfully there were no lockdowns or school closures this year, but the first wave swept through our school from early March and there appears to be a second wave hitting some households in our community. I can only pray that those infected have mild doses and don't become too sick and I hope your families are covid free for the Christmas season.

I am now into my third year as principal of St Mark's and I still don't know what a typical year 'looks like'. However, I am thankful that we have been able to gather as a community and proceed with things like school Masses, field trips, sporting activities, school interviews, dance/cultural performances and camp. Again, I am truly grateful for the support, generosity, love, friendship and encouragement shown by the St Mark's school community throughout 2022. Special mention to our fabulous Board of Trustees (BOT) for

effectively governing the school and for always putting our teachers, learners and families at the centre of all decision making and ensuring our school's Catholic Character is further enhanced. Thanks to Trish Hodgson and Jenny Mckenzie, our amazing Associate Principals who provide so much wisdom, guidance and support. I greatly appreciate their leadership and care of our school.

Acknowledging our Year 6 leavers at last week's Christmas concert and Thanksgiving Mass was very emotional. Our Year 6 graduates are a fantastic group of young people who are ready to embrace the next exciting stage of life's journey. They take to their new schools strong foundational skills; high standards of learning and behaviour; faith-filled hearts and a spirit of welcome and inclusion. I have every confidence that our graduates will be happy and successful in life as they continue to follow in the footsteps of Jesus through the ABCs and 3Rs. I thank the Year 6 children for their friendship, kindness, laughter and lovely manners. I encourage them to '*reach for the stars*' and to '*do ordinary things in extraordinary ways*'. Be your best self everyday and walk humbly with God to share the good news of Christ to those you meet along the way!

Congratulations to ALL St Mark's learners for their outstanding effort, progress and achievement this year. Reports will be emailed home on Wednesday and I know you will be especially proud of your child/children. At last week's Christmas concert, we presented some special awards. Congratulations:

#### Class Catholic Character Awards

##### KITEA TEAM

Rm 4: Angela, George and Matilda

Rm 6: Chloe, Emilie and Franco

Rm 7: Michaela, Winter and Sheldon

##### TOROTORO TEAM:

Rm 8: Estelle, Devan and Kattaleya

Rm 10: Chelsea, Lucas and Sophie W

Rm 11: Eva, Petelo, Marella and Ryan

##### WHAKATERE TEAM:

Rm 1: Takunda, Charlie, Imani and Rita

Rm 2: Dante, Leigh, Mereane and Keshiya

Rm 3: Mark, Isla, Finau and Naomi

##### Outstanding Service Awards

Joyful Spirit Awards

Performing Arts Awards

School Sport Awards

Visual Arts Awards

'Seek to Find' Inquiry Awards

Rivers Awards - Academic improvement

Christine Marchant Award - Writing and Art

Alannah Moffiet Awards - Determination and effort

All round kiwi kid award

Academic Award

Fr Green Award - Catholic Character

Amelia P, Rita S and Nicholas JP

Latai L, Sydney S and Takunda C

Isla H and Phoenix N

Isla H and Errol T

Grace B and Samantha S

Ceron Z and Vincent W

Kazia C, Ellie C and Ezra G

Nicholas JP

Leigh F, Samya T and Indumini

Isla H and Christian VW

Amelia P and Nicholas JP

Sarah E



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

## **2023 TERM DATES**

**Term 1: Tuesday 31st Jan - Thursday 6th April**

**National holidays: Waitangi day (Monday 6th Feb)**

**Term 2: Monday 24th April - Friday 30th June**

**National holidays: Anzac (25th April) and King's Birthday (5th June)**

**Teacher Only Day: Monday 24th April**

**Term 3: Monday 17th July - Friday 22nd Sept**

**Term 4: Monday 9th October - Friday 15th December**

**National holidays: Labour day (23rd October)**