

ST MARK'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Seek and you shall find



Newsletter

13 September 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
Thursday 14 Sept	Koanga (kapa haka) festival	Sancta Maria College -6pm
Friday 15 Sept	SCHOOL DISCO	Pakuranga Community Centre - 6pm
Tuesday 19 Sept	BOT meeting	7pm in staffroom
Week 9	Maori Language Week	<i>Kia Kaha Te Reo Māori – making the language stronger</i>
Friday 22 Sept	Last day of term/ Superhero Mufti Day	
Monday 9 Oct	First day of Term 4	
Thursday 12 Oct	Swimming at Lloyd Elsmore	Whakatere and Torotoro teams
Friday 13 Oct	WHEEL'S DAY/ Mufti day	

Term 4 Celebratory Event dates

Date	What	Details
Fri 20 Oct	MISSION DAY	
Wed 25 Oct	Yr 5 and 6 Retreat day	Friary, Hillsborough
7-8 Nov	HPPA Choir Festival	Details TBC
16-17 Nov	Yr 5 and 8 BIKE NZ programme	Details TBC
Wed 29 Nov	Thanksgiving/ School leaver's Mass	6pm in Parish Church
Fri 1 Dec	Welcome to summer tabloids/athletic sports fun day	
Fri 8 Dec	Christmas concert, nativity and special awards from 1.15pm	
Thurs 14 Dec	Summer mufti and teddy bear picnic (shared lunch)	
Fri 15 Dec	Last day of school for 2023 - school closes at noon	

SWIMMING IN TERM 4

Learning to swim and being confident and safe in, and around, water is so important. St Mark's values these important life skills and each year, in Term 4, our school children engage in swimming lessons at local swim schools. There is an expectation for ALL children to participate fully in the programme unless there are genuine medical reasons for requesting their withdrawal. Children will need to remember their swim things (togs, towels and goggles) at these times:

- **Every Thursday (at Lloyd Elsmore) for Rooms 8, 10, 11, 1, 2 and 3**
- **Every day (at Lagoon pools) from 30 Oct - 8 Nov for Rooms 4, 5, 6 and 7**

CURRICULUM REFRESH - PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

The Ministry of Education is currently working with the primary and secondary school sector to review and refresh the NZ Curriculum. Our staff will be engaging in a curriculum refresh professional learning day on **Friday 24th November** when we will be looking closely at the area of Mathematics. Please note: **school is closed for instruction on this day.**

PTFA SCHOOL DISCO

We are looking forward to this Friday's school disco. This year, the PTFA will be distributing wristbands as the 'entry ticket'. Please write your child's emergency contact details on the wristband BEFORE arriving at the disco. Kiosk tokens (and wristbands) purchased through KINDO will be distributed to children at school on Friday.

Please remember that there is no parking at the venue. Please park at the Parish/ School car park and walk safely to the Pakuranga Community Hall (pinkish coloured building next to KFC).

The children have been reminded that discos are a place for dancing and fun. In the interest of safety, no chasing games, tiggy or running around will be tolerated. Parents of preschoolers must actively supervise their children on the evening.

PLANNING FOR 2024

ENROLLING NOW

We are accepting enrolments for children turning 5 in the next 18 months. If you have a 3 or 4 year old at home, please collect a pack from the office. Also, if you have family arriving from overseas with school aged children who require primary schooling in NZ, please arrange a time to meet with Tracey Kopua. Enrolment forms are also available at the office or through the school website.

NOT RETURNING IN 2024

If St Mark's is not in your family's plans for next year (moving house, going overseas etc.) please advise the school asap as this assists our planning. There is no need for families of our Year 6 school leavers to do so.

STAFFING NEWS

Mrs Deanne Williams will have her last teaching day with us on Friday 15 September. We look forward to welcoming Mrs Tracee McKenzie to Room 6 on Monday 18 September.

We thank Deanne for her service to St Mark's and wish her, and her family, the very best of luck as they make the move 'across the ditch'.

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 topics being reviewed by our school Board are: **Inclusive Education**, **Maori Educational Success** and **Learning Support**

SPECIAL CATHOLIC CHARACTER - a message from Mrs Dias-McAllum, DRS Congratulations

We are extremely proud of our 26 students who received the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Holy Communion this year. Congratulations and God bless, as you make a conscious decision to follow Jesus' footsteps.

Social Justice

Catholic Schools in Aotearoa celebrated Social Justice Week. **The focus was 'Peace begins with you! - Ka tīmata tonu te Rangimārie i roto i ā koe!'** and responding to conflict. Across the various levels students demonstrated an understanding of being fair and the importance of dialogue to promote peace. This theme also links with the Holy Spirit Strand that we are learning. By the end of the term we will complete this learning. As always, your affirmation in your child's book is appreciated.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Galatians 5:22-23

Peace in My Family Te Rangimārie i roto i Taku Whānau

Loving God, E te Atua Aroha,

I praise Your name and good works.

Your mercy, magnificence, and majesty are unmatched.

Please protect my family against anything that can hurt or tear us apart.

Grant us your love and peace.

And may Your light and peace continue to shine in our hearts forevermore.

Āmene.

Prayer adapted from Ave Pray

Peace I leave with you. My peace I give you.

JOHN 14: 27



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