

# ST MARK'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Seek and you shall find



**Newsletter**

**21 September 2024**

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.

Date	What	Details
Tues 24 Wed 25 Sep	<b>Farm Cove Choir Festival</b> 5.30pm and 7.15pm performance times	Children to meet Mrs Beach at Farm Cove at 5pm and to be collected at 8.15pm
Friday 27 Sept	Last day of Term 3 <b>Superhero mufti day</b>	Come dressed for a Super-hero fun day
Mon 14 Oct	First day of Term 4	
Friday 18 Oct	Mission Day/ Lunchtime stalls and games	Yr 5 and 6 leadership event
Friday 25 Oct	<b>MOE Curriculum Teacher Only Day</b>	<b>School is closed</b>
Monday 28 Oct	<b>LABOUR DAY (NZ PUBLIC HOLIDAY)</b>	<b>School is closed</b>
Wed 30 Oct	BOT meeting	7pm in the staffroom
Thurs 31 Oct	<b>SECKA Kapa Haka festival</b>	6pm at Sancta Maria College

## FARM COVE CHOIR FESTIVAL

The choir has been very busy preparing for this year's festival. There are 4 performances over 2 nights. Children must meet Mrs Beach at 5pm and should be collected promptly at 8.15pm following the last performance. All children are required to have an early dinner on both nights. They are to wear full school uniform and summer items are recommended: short sleeved blouses or shirts and summer dresses as the hall does get a bit warm - no jumpers or jackets are to be worn on the stage. Children will also need water for hydration and some snacks to eat between performances.

## TERM 4 SWIMMING

Year 3 - 6 children will swim on Thursdays at Lloyd Elsmore Pools. The first day for swimming is **Thursday 24 October**. This is a fully-funded programme courtesy of the 'Field of Dreams' foundation.

Year 0 - 2 children will swim for **8** consecutive school days from **Tuesday 29 Oct - Thursday 7 Nov** at the Panmure Lagoon swim school. Children will need to bring their swimming clothes and dry towels every day. A financial contribution of \$60 per child is requested for costs associated with transportation and swimming instruction. This has been loaded onto KINDO. Thanks again to the PTFA for their generous donation that helps keep swimming costs to a minimum.

## Yr 5 and 6 Camp to Lakewood Lodge (Sat 2 Nov - Mon 4 Nov)

Thank you to the families who have already submitted camp information forms and made payment through KINDO. A reminder that the children and staff attending camp will have 2 'NO SCHOOL/ in lieu' days due to camp being over a weekend. These 'in lieu' days are **Friday 1 November** and **Tuesday 5 November**. Please also note that camp is to be paid in full by **Friday 25 October**. You will soon receive a 'what to bring/ equipment' list so you can start to prepare during the holiday break. Camp is not a place for fancy, labelled clothing and we hope the items on the list are things you will already have at home.

## MESSAGE FROM SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

The past couple of weeks at school have been fantastic. Last Friday's disco was a resounding success and we really enjoyed the venue at Bucklands Beach. The DJ was absolutely fantastic as he really knew how to engage the crowd with fabulous music and spot prizes. I applaud the PTFA for their great organisation of this event and thank you for your awesome support.

The junior fun run managed to go ahead despite the cold, rainy spell. Well-done to all our tamariki for giving their best as many will not find this kind of running event fun at all! Thanks to all the family members who came along to encourage the children from the sidelines and three massive 'St Mark's specials' to all those senior students who assisted on the course.

Congratulations to Annika T for representing our school at the Auckland Catholic Primary Schools Proclaiming the Word Scripture Reading competition. This was the first time St Mark's has participated in this event and we hope this will become a regular feature in our school calendar.

We always enjoy the children sharing news of their activities outside of school and celebrate with those who have received special awards and trophies for their sporting and cultural pursuits - huge congratulations and well-done! Special mention to Year 6 student, Fletcher O for being awarded 2nd in the Yr 6 event at the recent Auckland Catholic Primary Schools Cross Country event. The course at Monte Cecilia Park is gruelling yet Fletcher ran the course as if walking on air! Our Year 6 boys team is also to be commended for being placed second overall.

It's been wonderful to see our learners engaged in activities to celebrate *Te Wiki O Te Reo Maori* and to see our Kapa Haka roopu performing with mana and pride as they prepare for next term's SECKA Koanga festival.

A reminder that next Friday is SUPERHERO mufti-day. As our school children are everyday superheroes they can dress as themselves if they have nothing theme related at home. Please do not be going to any expense for this day.

You will notice from the key dates above that we have Mission Day in the first week of Term 4. You will soon receive more information about this from Mrs Jenny McKenzie's. We will be seeking donations of toys and children's books that are in good condition. Perhaps the school holiday period will provide time for a good spring clean!

On a final note, can I please urge you to inform the office of any changes to your contact information (phone/cell/address/email) or if your child has developed a medical condition we should be aware of. It is important that we keep up-to-date records.

Wishing you all a safe and restful term break.

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

*Tracey Kopua*

## SAFETY IN THE CAR PARK

Thank you for your care in the car park before and after school. We are all responsible for child safety near cars, in the carpark and on roads. At pick up time it is important not to linger around once you have collected your child/children. We are noticing children running around unsupervised as parents chat and this poses a safety risk. This issue is a tricky one as we very much want you to connect and get to know one another - perhaps you could arrange a playdate at a local park, at the pools or nearby beach - we are definitely spoiled for choice in the Pakuranga/ Howick area.

## UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS

Uniforms help create a feeling of oneness and belonging. The St Mark's uniform is an integral part of our school's proud Catholic identity. Please ensure your child wears the correct uniform items to school every day. This includes shoes - black school shoes or the option of black school sandals in the summer. All uniform items should be clearly labelled. Summer uniform (short-sleeved shirts, sandals and school dresses) can be worn from the beginning of Term 4. Please ensure your child has a school sunhat too. Melanoma in NZ is a real threat and most exposure to the sun occurs in childhood. Wearing a hat saves lives as does the use of a protective sunscreen.

If you require uniform items, you can purchase on-line here: <https://stmarks.nzuniforms.com>

Alternatively, you can go into the NZ Uniform shop on Bishop Dunn Place, next to the big Mitre 10 and opposite Sancta Maria College.

## HEALTHY LUNCHBOXES/ LITTERLESS LUNCH

Primary-aged children require a balanced, nutritious diet for energy and overall health. We all know that too many highly processed, sugary treat foods carry 'empty calories' and affect oral health. The little snack packs in many lunch boxes also reap havoc with the environment as they are not compostable and end up as land-fill waste. Please consider what you put in your child's lunch box each day and think about practical ways to reduce waste by using reusable containers/ wrappings.

## NEWS FROM OUR SCHOOL'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES

At Tuesday's BOT meeting, the term dates for 2025 were approved

Term	Dates	Holidays/ Staff Only days
Term 1	Thurs 30 Jan - Fri 12 April	6 Feb: Waitangi Day
Term 2	Mon 28 April - Fri 27 June	Fri 30 May: Staff only day Mon 2 June: King's Birthday Tues 3 June: SECKA Kahui Ako staff only day Fri 20 June: Matariki
Term 3	Mon 14 July - Fri 19 September	
Term 4	Mon 6 Oct - Fri 12 December	Mon 27 Oct: Labour Day

**Please note: Any changes as a result of the MOE granting additional Teacher Only Days to support curriculum development will be communicated in a timely manner.**

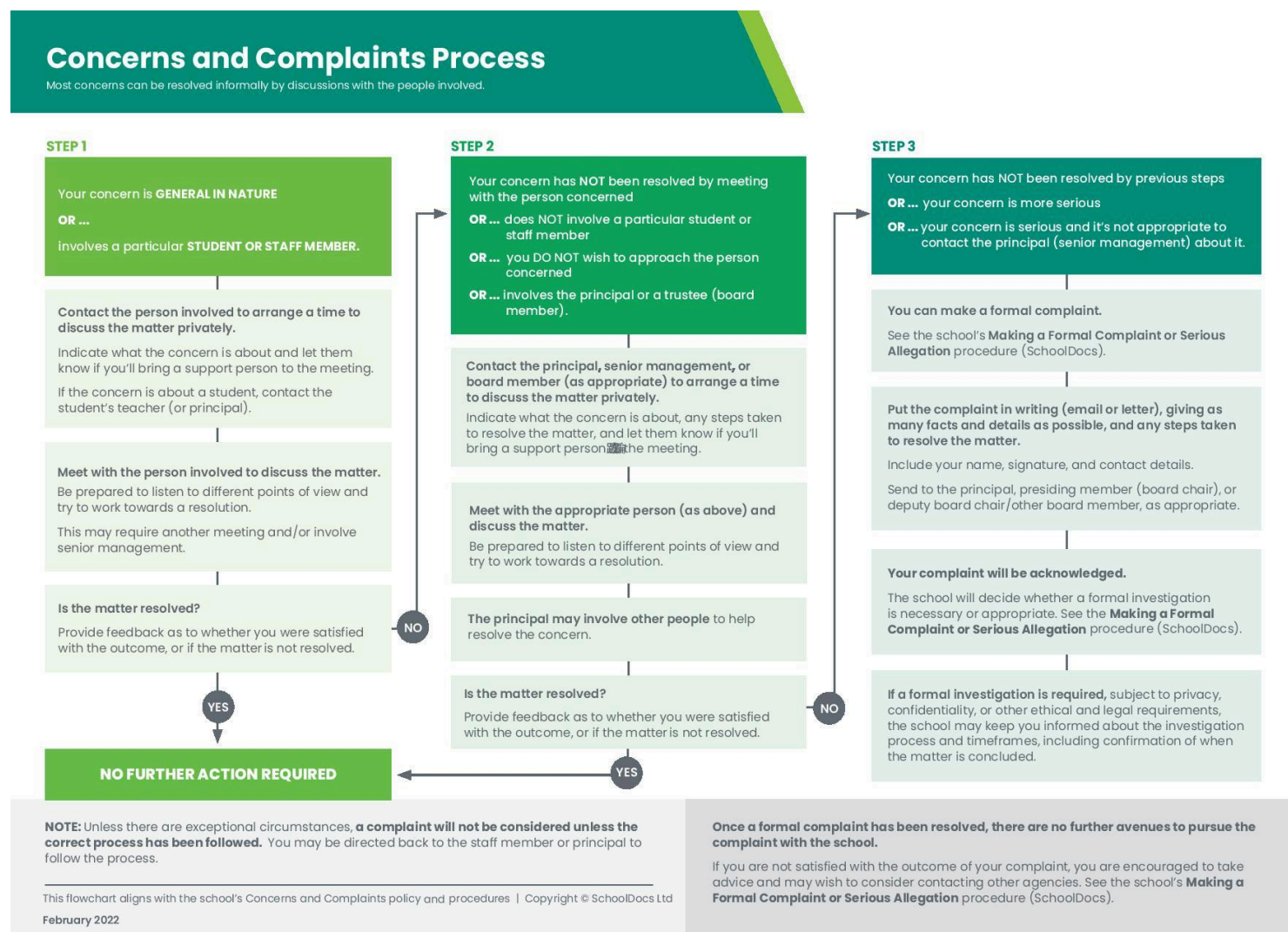
## POLICY and PROCEDURE

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".

## 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.



## Financial Contributions for 2024

Please ensure the compulsory Attendance Dues (collected by the school on behalf of the Auckland Catholic Diocese) are paid in full before the end of the school year. If you are experiencing any financial difficulties in regard to these payments, please contact our accounts administrator, Shireen Monteiro, in the strictest confidence.

## Planning for 2025

The school's leadership is considering class compositions and staffing for 2025. If for any reason your child will not be returning to St Mark's, please let the school know as soon as possible (with exclusion of Yr 6 families).

## 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