



## Newsletter 14 November 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
Friday 15 Nov	<b>Sancta Maria College Orientation day</b>	Yr 6 heading to SMC in 2025 to attend. Families to make their own travel arrangements but car-pooling is recommended.
Monday 18 Nov	Cybersafety evening with Rob Cope	OLSOS School Hall at 7pm
Tues 19 and 26 Nov	Cricket Skills (3 x Tuesday sessions)	Rms 2, 3, 4, 5, 6,7 and 10
Wednesday 20 Nov	Weetbix Tryathlon	Thanks to Anna O who has coordinated this opt-in event
Friday 22 Nov	HPPA Athletics	Y4-6 representative team in some Track and Field events at Lloyd Elsmore
Wednesday 27 Nov	Thanksgiving Mass	Whole school to be assembled in Parish centre <u>no later</u> than 6.05pm - Mass will commence at 6.15pm
Friday 6 December	Christmas Concert and Presentation of Special Awards	1.15pm in Parish Church
Sunday 8 December	Howick Santa Parade (St Mark's nativity scene and procession - TBC)	
Tuesday 10 Dec	Summer themed mufti and teddy-bear picnic	children to bring a small plate of picnic food to share (nothing that requires heating, freezing or slicing)
Friday 13 Dec	Last day of term	School closes at 12 noon

### **THANKSGIVING MASS - Wednesday 27 November (meet at 6pm for a 6.15pm start)**

This is a whole-school Mass for our community to come together in prayer to give thanks for the year that's been. There is the expectation for ALL children to attend in the correct school uniform. At this special Mass, our Year 6 graduates will be formally thanked and farewelled. Families of Year 6 graduates are invited to bring a small plate of finger foods and join together for a light supper in the Parish centre after the Mass.

### **LAST DAY OF TERM 4 - FRIDAY 13 DECEMBER: SCHOOL FINISHES AT NOON**

We are now less than one calendar month away until the 2024 school year concludes. School will finish at 12 noon on the last day. SKIDS will operate from 12noon. Casual booking queries via email: stmarks@skids.co.nz

## CYBER SAFETY EVENING WITH ROB COPE - Monday 18 November

We are super excited to be joining our 2 neighbouring Catholic primary schools for this special event on Monday 18th November at Our Lady Star of the Sea School Hall from 6.30pm (for light refreshments) for a prompt 7pm start. Cyber-bullying; access to inappropriate materials and pornographic/offensive content and scamming are real issues we need to be aware of to ensure we keep ourselves and our children safe. It doesn't help when big corporates are making the cyberworld very addictive and we are the targeted click-bait! We expect a parent or family member over the age of 16 to get along to Monday's presentation being held at Our Lady Star of the Sea school. Whilst this event is FREE, our Kahui Ako is funding Rob's presentation. It will be awesome to have a 'sell-out' crowd. Please reserve your tickets here:

<https://www.eventfinda.co.nz/2024/our-kids-online-parent-evening/auckland/howick>

Here's a sneak preview of what's in store for an evening with Rob Cope: [Our Kids Online Parent Evening](#)

## TERM 4 SWIMMING

Year 3 - 6 children continue with swimming programme on Thursdays at Lloyd Elsmore Pools for the remainder of Term 4. This is a fully-funded programme courtesy of the 'Field of Dreams' foundation. Children need to bring their swimming things every Thursday.

Class/ Group	Pick up time from school	Swimming lesson time	Pick up time from pool
Room 12	10:30am	11am	11:45am
Room 11	11:00am	11:30am	12.15pm
Room 1	11:30am	12 noon	12:45pm
Room 10	12 noon	12:30pm	1:15pm
Yr 3 (from Rms 2 and 3)	12:30pm	1:00pm	1:45pm

## 2025 TERM DATES

Term	Dates	Holidays/ Staff Only days
Term 1	Thurs 30 Jan - Fri 11 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: Changes as a result of the MOE granting 2 x Additional Teacher Only Days (in 2025) to support curriculum development will be communicated in a timely manner.**

## CHRISTMAS COOKIE TIME

Please support our CHRISTMAS COOKIE TIME fundraiser by making a purchase through KINDO:

[https://shop.tgcl.co.nz/app/login?shop=St%20Mark's%20Catholic%20School%20-%20Pakuranga&service=cookie\\_time\\_christmas\\_fundraiser](https://shop.tgcl.co.nz/app/login?shop=St%20Mark's%20Catholic%20School%20-%20Pakuranga&service=cookie_time_christmas_fundraiser)



There are 7 scrumptious flavours in 2L buckets at \$22 each and 1L Gluten Free Chocolate Chip for \$20 each. For every bucket sold, \$2.50 comes back to the school. Order cut-off is Wednesday 20 November at 10pm.

**Cookies will be ready for collection/distribution on Friday 6 December.**

## HOWICK SANTA PARADE - SUNDAY 8 DECEMBER

We have been invited to participate in this event. Before committing and engaging in further planning we need to know how many children (who MUST be accompanied by an adult) are interested in participating. Our big idea is to have a walking parade beside a decorated trailer of the Holy Nativity Scene. Our overarching theme is "HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS". All those participating, children and accompanying adults, would be required to dress in the times of Jesus, or as an angel, shepherd, wise king from a faraway place or barn-yard animal (stable setting). ALL participants would create their own signage to support our theme with wording like:

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS; DON'T CROSS CHRIST OUT OF CHRISTMAS; JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON etc.

All participants would be available between 12 noon and 3pm on this date. If interested and you can fully commit and meet the above requirements, please complete this form by **5pm on TUESDAY 19 NOVEMBER:**

<https://forms.gle/xx5FHYBQHG2otox4A>

## PLANNING FOR 2025

We are currently working through our staffing and classroom composition planning for 2025.

### Staffing News

After many years of dedicated service as our school's amazing Associate Principals, Mrs Trish Hodgson and Mrs Jenny McKenzie, have made the decision to transition to part-time employment from 2025. They are not retiring, rather having a well-deserved career change!

Mrs Julie Kippen and Mrs Nazley Ernstzen have graciously accepted Acting Co-DRS positions for 2025. They will oversee our Masses, liturgies and work with our school whanau to ensure our Catholic identity and caring ethos is further nurtured and maintained.

Mrs Lorna Simmonds and Mrs Rosemary Moffat will transition from their current Reading Recovery roles to part-time teaching positions at St Mark's.

All other members of our teaching, admin and learner support staff will be returning in 2025.



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