

# ST MARK'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

*Seek and you shall find*



Wednesday 14 August 2024

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

## Key Dates

Date	What
Thursday 15 August	Footsteps Dance: Rms 1,2,3,10,11 and 12 (every Thursday until term ends)
Friday 16 August	Feast of the Assumption liturgy
Tuesday 20 August	BOT meeting in the staffroom
Thursday 22 August	Footsteps Dance: Rms 1,2,3,10,11 and 12
Friday 23 August	Kitea team weekly music lessons with Mrs Carter commence today
Tuesday 27 August	HPPA Rehu Tai Speech finals
Wednesday 28 August	HPPA Dance Festival at Somerville Intermediate School
Friday 30 August	<b>STAFF ONLY DAY</b> (school is closed for instruction)
Monday 9 Sept	Mathematics at St Mark's - parent info sessions: Details TBC
Tuesday 10 Sept	EOTC: STARDOME trip for Rms 2,3,4,5,6 and 7
Wednesday 11 Sept	Auckland Catholic Primary Schools Cross Country event at Monte Cecilia Park
Friday 13 Sept	SCHOOL DISCO: Buckland Beach Memorial Hall (6-7.30pm)
Tuesday 17 Sept	Kitea Cross Country/ fun run event for Rms 2,3,4,5,6 and 7
Tuesday 17 Sept	BOT meeting in the staffroom from 7pm
Tues 24 and Wed 25 Sept	Farm Cove Choir Festival
Friday 27 Sept	Last day of Term 3: Superhero mufti
Thursday 31 Oct	SECKA Kapa Haka festival (date change from 18 Sept)

### STAFF ONLY DAY - Friday 30 August - school is closed for instruction

SKIDS will be surveying the families who use this service often to ascertain whether SKIDS will operate on this day or not. If you think you may require a casual booking due to school being closed, please contact: [stmarks@skids.co.nz](mailto:stmarks@skids.co.nz)

# Special Catholic Character

The Feast of the Assumption 15 August



A special ancestor of our faith is Mary, the mother of Jesus. Mary is known by other names like Madonna, Our Lady, Mother Mary and Queen of Heaven. Catholics believe Mary to be the mother of us all. We also believe Mary was assumed body and soul to Heaven because she was pure in heart. Each year, on 15th August, churches all over the world celebrate the feast of the Assumption in honour of Mary, Mother of our Saviour and Mother of us all. The Assumption is a special day for our school as on the 15th August 1861, Euphrasie Barbier, founded the congregation of The Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions (RNDM).

**Fact:** Aotearoa was dedicated to the protection of Mary by Bishop Pompallier in 1838. Mary is the Patron saint of NZ.

*Mary, give me your Heart: so beautiful, so pure, so immaculate; your Heart so full of love and humility that I may be able to receive Jesus in the Bread of Life and love Him as you love Him and serve Him in the distressing guise of the poor. Saint Mother Teresa*

## Messages from the School's Leadership Team

We are enjoying a positive and productive term and it's fabulous to see our learners engaged in a rich variety of activities across our faith-focused curriculum. The Paris Olympics provided an authentic opportunity for inquiry learning and much fun was had at our recent tabloid games. Whakatere's Cross Country event was a huge success too with approximately 50 children progressing to yesterday's HIPAA Inter School event. Congratulations to all who participated and gave their very best effort. We extend 'three St Mark's specials' to Fletcher O who took the silver (2nd place) in the Year 6 boys event and to Mrs McKenzie for her outstanding organisation of this annual event for the local schools.

Our recent ERO (Education Review Office) visit went well and we appreciated an external perspective about the quality of education we aim to provide. We found the process extremely affirming and encouraging. The formal ERO report should be available in the next few weeks and we'll look forward to sharing this with you all.

We are in the early stages of planning for 2025 and have advertised for a new DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES (position held by Mrs Dias-McCallum until Dec 2023). The DRS is an important position in a

Catholic School as this person has particular leadership responsibilities for guiding the Religious Education programme; co-ordinating school Masses and liturgical celebrations and ensuring the school's special character and caring Catholic ethos is strengthened. We are praying for another amazing educator to join our team and hope you will do likewise.

There has been much media attention about the quality and standard of teaching and learning in Literacy and Mathematics in NZ. The government has a clear directive that 'an hour every day' must be timetabled for both literacy and numeracy. We can assure you that these essential learning areas are a key focus at St Mark's as we firmly believe in giving every child solid foundations during their primary years and we go well beyond the government's 'time' mandate. We have also been an early adopter of structured literacy and mathematics approaches that ensure more coherent and consistent practices across our school. We will look forward to showcasing "MATHS AT ST MARK'S" at parent information workshops on 9th September.

Later in the term many children will participate in the HPPA Dance festival, Speech competition and the Farmcove Choir Festival. We thank all the teachers, school staff and parents involved in preparing the children for these events.

Kitea team is preparing for their fun-run event on 17 September. Until this time, the team will come together for some practice runs on Thursday afternoons. Children in Rms 2,3,4,5,6, and 7 are encouraged to wear sports shoes to school on Thursdays.

We thank you for your loyalty, support and encouragement of our school. We are truly blessed to serve such a wonderful community.

As always, if you have any concerns about your child's learning or wellbeing at school, please get in touch with your child's class teacher in the first instance. For more serious matters, do not hesitate to contact a member of the leadership team.

## **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 Whakatere students**
- **Every day (at Lagoon pools) from 29 Oct - 7 Nov for Kitea students**

## **PTFA SCHOOL DISCO**

We are looking forward to the school disco on Friday 13 September. This year's venue is the Bucklands Beach Memorial Hall on Marine Parade. If you are able to lend your helping hands on the evening, please contact: [ptfaexec@stmarks.school.nz](mailto:ptfaexec@stmarks.school.nz)

More information about purchasing tickets and kiosk tokens will be sent out soon.

## **School Camp - Year 5-6: Lakewood Lodge 2-4 November**

If you have not yet completed the on-line consent and info form, please do so asap by following this link:

<https://forms.gle/rVuS2urTQE7GBR8KA>

Payment is due through KINDO or bank transfer by Friday 18 October. If you prefer hard copies of forms to complete, these can be requested from the school office.

## 2025 PLANNING

- NOT RETURNING - We are in the early stages of planning classrooms and staffing for next year. If for any reason your child/family will not be returning to St Mark's (with the exception of Year 6 school leavers), we would appreciate you letting the school know asap.
- FUTURE ENROLMENTS - If you have a child turning 5 before the end of 2025, please complete an enrolment asap. You may know of other families hoping to enrol their child/children at St Mark's. If this is the case, please encourage them to arrange a visit to the school and a meeting with the Principal.
- YEAR 6 LEAVERS - It is wonderful to hear that the majority of our Year 6 learners are continuing their educational journey into Catholic secondary schools. If you have not yet enrolled your Year 6 child in a school for 2025, you are encouraged to do so asap. Many local schools have zones and closing dates for applications. If you need any support with your enrolment, please let us know. We are only happy to help.

## POLICY REVIEW



Our school BOT 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 are: **Employer Responsibility Policy**

with our school BOT reviewing the following policies: **Concerns and complaints; Performance Management and Protected Disclosures.**

*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