

ST MARK'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Seek and you shall find



Newsletter

16 May 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
Friday 19 May	Visit to local Fire Station	Kitea Team (Rms 4, 6 and 7)
Tuesday 23 May	Yr 5 and 6 Netball Field day	HPNC Lloyd Elsmore
Tuesday 23 May	BOT meeting	7pm in staffroom
Friday 26 May	Yr 5 and 6 Soccer Field day	Lloyd Elsmore
Sunday 28 May	Feast of Pentecost - Confirmations at the Parish Church	
Monday 29 May	Diversity Day/ Pentecost Liturgy	Dress in Cultural clothing or something red
Monday 5 June	King's Birthday	School is closed
Tuesday 6 June	Kahui Ako Staff Only Day	School is closed
Wednesday 7 June	PTFA Guest speaker Evening/AGM	Details TBC
12 - 16 June	Scholastic Book Fair in the Library	
Tuesday 20 June	Yr 5 and 6 Hockey Field day	HPHC Lloyd Elsmore
Thursday 22 June	HPPA Dance Festival	Details TBC
Friday 30 June	Last Day of Term 2 PJ and Team movie day	School closes at 2.45pm

FEAST OF PENTECOST - CULTURAL MUFTI-DAY

The feast of Pentecost marks the beginning of the apostolic church and the mission to spread the good news to all corners of the globe. St Mark's is a richly diverse school reflecting the spread of Christianity and Catholicism. We would like to invite children to wear cultural clothing, or the colour RED on Monday 29 May to celebrate this special feast day.

Special Catholic Character - message from Mrs Dias-McAllum (DRS)

Prayer for the Feast of the Ascension



Dear Lord Jesus Christ, Right before your Ascension into heaven you told your apostles to be His witnesses to the ends of the earth upon receiving the Holy Spirit. May I be similarly inspired to spread your Gospel message in word and deed, according to your will for me. Amen

Religious Education

In Religious Education, the focus is the life of Hehu Karaiti, Jesus Christ. Tamariki will be learning about how Jesus shows His love for us, His presence in the Sacraments and how He leads us to God, His Father.

Sacramental Programme at St Mark's Parish

Congratulations Phoenix, Krishav, Elijah and Juané who were recently baptised. We continue to pray for the St Mark's children who will receive the Sacraments of Holy Communion and Confirmation in June.

Liturgical Year

18 May - The Ascension: The church celebrates this feast 40 days after Easter. After His resurrection Jesus completed his work on earth and ascended to heaven on this day. The Ascension enabled the disciples to carry on the mahi of Jesus and spread the Good News.

28 May - Pentecost Sunday: When Jesus ascended to heaven, the apostles and Mary were present in the upper room. *“When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them”.* Acts 2: 1- 4.

Pentecost is also known as the birthday of the church. This is because after receiving the power and gifts of the Holy Spirit, the apostles went out and preached Jesus' message to everyone—even those who spoke other languages.

8 June - Corpus Christi: We celebrate the presence of Jesus in the Body and Blood (bread and wine) at the Eucharist.

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

Message from the Principal

Kia Ora St Mark's Catholic School whānau

Wow - what a wet start to Term 2! Hopefully we are over the worst of the stormy weather and heavy rain that caused so much chaos and disruption last week. It is lovely to see the winter sun shining and to have the children playing outdoors after so many wet-play days. Another little storm impacting our community presently is Covid-19. In the past fortnight we have had 4 staff members (including myself) and 22 children contract the virus. Please be vigilant about testing if symptomatic and do let us know if your child tests positive.

The first three weeks of term have been action packed - we have celebrated St Mark's feast day, ANZAC day, the King's Coronation and Rotuman/Sign Language weeks. There have been team excursions to Motat, the Science Roadshow and SMC's production of Mamma Mia. Many senior students are busy preparing for HPPA sporting events with Netball, Soccer and Hockey later this term and Mrs Beach is working with Yr 3 and 4 children who will perform in the HPPA Dance festival. We have commenced our music classes with Mrs Carter too and our littlest learners are off to the local Fire Station this Friday as part of their inquiry learning about *'people in our community who help us'*.

In an effort to be more environmentally friendly and to be kaitiaki of God's wonderful creation, we have reinstated our worm bins and the children are doing an amazing job placing the correct food waste in the appropriate bins. We have also partnered with Trees4Survival (<https://www.tfsnz.org.nz/>) and look forward to growing and nurturing native saplings to be planted along waterways and on erosion prone hillsides.

The Parish sacramental programme is well underway and approximately 35 children from our school will be confirmed on Pentecost Sunday. Continued thoughts and prayers for all the candidates and their families as they prepare to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit and confirm their baptismal promises.

A reminder that we use Schooldocs to manage our policies. This is a web-based system that allows us to maintain, update and review our policies. Schooldocs provides us with a comprehensive core set of policies, which have been well researched and follow the Ministry of Education National Administration Guidelines.



Parents can logon to the site and view policies and provide feedback.

This term we are reviewing the **Education Outside the Classroom (EOTC)** section.

You can visit the site at:

<https://stmarks.schooldocs.co.nz> (note that there's no "www.")

Our username is "**stmarks**" and password "**seekfind**"

On a final note, I have recently signed 2 petitions to have vaping products banned from non-specialist stores such as dairies and gas stations. Vaping was supposed to assist smokers to give up smoking, instead we are seeing a new wave of addiction. I am concerned that vaping products, through the pretty packaging and fruity smells, are luring young people into very unhealthy habits. I urge you to do likewise:

<https://petitions.parliament.nz/2a168fb2-ec46-478c-52f5-08db2efc521d>

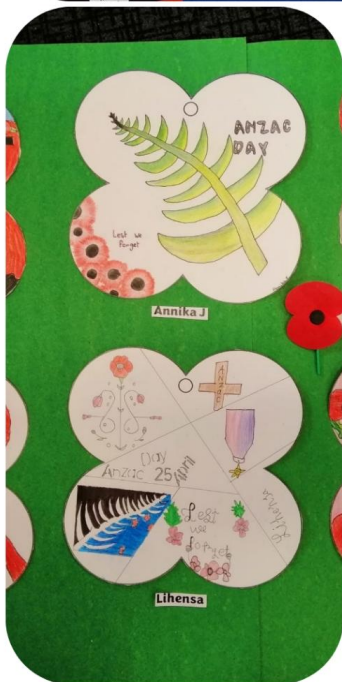
[Petition · Remove disposable vapes and products from dairies and non specialist stores!](#)

Your friend in Christ

Tracey Kopua

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST LEARNERS

A very warm St Mark's welcome to Kaela (Rm 1), Martin (Rm 1), William (Rm 2), Jerizha (Rm 2), James (Rm 7), Linesa (Rm 7), Kyrie (Rm 4), Kalela (Rm 4), Olive (Rm 4), Sadie (Rm 4), Sione (Rm 4), Aiden (Rm 4) and Victoria (Rm 4)



Anzac Day Art works by Team Whakatere