

# ST MARK'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Seek and you shall find



TUESDAY 25 JUNE 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.

## Key Dates

Date	What
24 - 27 June	KEEPING OURSELVES SAFE with Constable Matt Green
Thursday 27 June	Matariki Movie Night from 5.45- 7.30pm
Friday 28 June	Matariki public holiday - school is closed
Friday 5 July	Last day of Term 2 - PJ mufti-day Mid-year reports emailed home
Monday 22 July	First day of Term 3
Thursday 25 July	Whakatere Cross Country/ Fun run event (saving date 26/7)
Wed 31 July/ Thurs 1 Aug	Education Review Office (ERO): Carol Bashford, evaluator, on-site
Friday 2 August	Olympics 2024 Tabloid games
Thursday 8 August	Footsteps dance programme commences for Rms 1,2,3,10, 11 and 12
Tuesday 13 August	HPPA Cross Country
Tuesday 27 August	HPPA Rehu Tai Speech finals
Thursday 28 August	HPPA Dance Festival
Tuesday 17 Sept	Kitea team fun run event
Wednesday 18 Sept	SECKA Kapa Haka festival
Tues 24 and Wed 25 Sept	Farm Cove Choir Festival

## MATARIKI MOVIE NIGHT

We are looking forward to Thursday's Matariki Movie Night. Ticket sales are now open in KINDO and close this evening, so get in quick to secure your place.

This event is for St Mark's school children only. It's also 'drop and go' - children attending are to be signed in and collected from the reception area. Doors will open at 5.45pm. Please ensure your child has had dinner beforehand.

## WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST LEARNERS

We extend a warm St Mark's welcome to Akein and Elle who have recently joined Mrs Butcher's Room 4 class.

### Message from the Principal

Last week I was fortunate to attend the NZ Catholic Convention in Wellington with 600 other educators, Bishops, priests and school trustees of our national Catholic education system. Catholic schools make up 8.1% of the total schooling provision for New Zealand children and educate 65,600 students. It is a high achieving sector aligned with the mission of the Church. The theme of the convention was *Tūhono Whakapono: Together, one faith community*. The sacrament of Baptism brings us into a faith community, and through this we become children of God and brothers and sisters in Christ. As members of God's family, we have responsibilities and obligations to one another, the wider community, and the world. The convention was a time of prayer, renewal, kinship and reflection that inspired me to consider how I authentically live my Catholic faith in sharing the joy of the gospel with others beyond the school and church gates. For me, Christian authenticity is behaving in a way that pleases God when we are in private spaces and public places. It's through our relationships, communications, attitudes and outreach. It's through the time we give and the gifts we share. Living an authentic life is challenging and we don't always get it right but I am strengthened by the promise of eternal life through Christ's own divine resurrection that offers so much hope for the whole of humanity.

I wish to acknowledge the great work happening across our school. The children are enjoying learning more about NZ history and enjoying the magical world of storytelling through the many myths, legends, waiata and traditions of Maori culture. Recent visits to the museum provided further opportunities to explore *Tūrangawaewae me te kaitiakitanga/ Relationship/Connections* and I once again thank all the amazing parents and family members who supported our teachers and learners on these trips.

The Holy Spirit is the focus of our Religious Education programmes and the artwork, prayers and written expressions of faith displayed in classrooms and corridors is just wonderful and clearly reflects our school's proud Catholic identity. I am pleased to see Fr Sherwin back from his spiritual pilgrimage along the Camino and we look forward to recommencing Buddy Masses in Term 3.

Our senior students have been incredibly busy with inter school sporting events. Unfortunately due to bad weather the netball field day was cancelled, however, the soccer and hockey field days went ahead with teams enjoying the opportunity to learn new skills and experience competing against other local schools. Thanks to Mrs McKenzie for coordinating these activities and to all the teachers who volunteer their time to coach and manage teams.

On Friday we will observe Matariki. This relatively new public holiday recognises Te Ao Māori and helps strengthen NZ's bi-cultural identity in honouring Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Matariki is the Māori name for the cluster of stars also known as the Pleiades that rises in midwinter. For many Māori, Matariki is the start of a new year. It's a time of whakawhanaungatanga to connect and share with others. I hope you will mark this occasion by doing something special with your families.

Your friend in Christ

Tracey Kopua



## ENROLLING NOW FOR 2025 AND BEYOND

**NEW ENTRANTS:** If you, or anyone you know, has a child and/or children turning 5 in the next year or so, please do connect directly with Kerrie Hunt in our school office to lodge an expression of interest and to collect an enrolment pack.

**LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE:** We are also accepting enquiries and enrolments from families who may be seeking schooling for their child/children across different year levels. Limited spaces are available so register your interest quickly to avoid disappointment.

For all enrolment enquiries, please contact Kerrie Hunt: [admin@stmarks.school.nz](mailto:admin@stmarks.school.nz)

## MAKING MAGICAL MEMORIES AT ST MARK'S



*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. JOHN 3:16*