

ST MARK'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Seek and you shall find



Newsletter

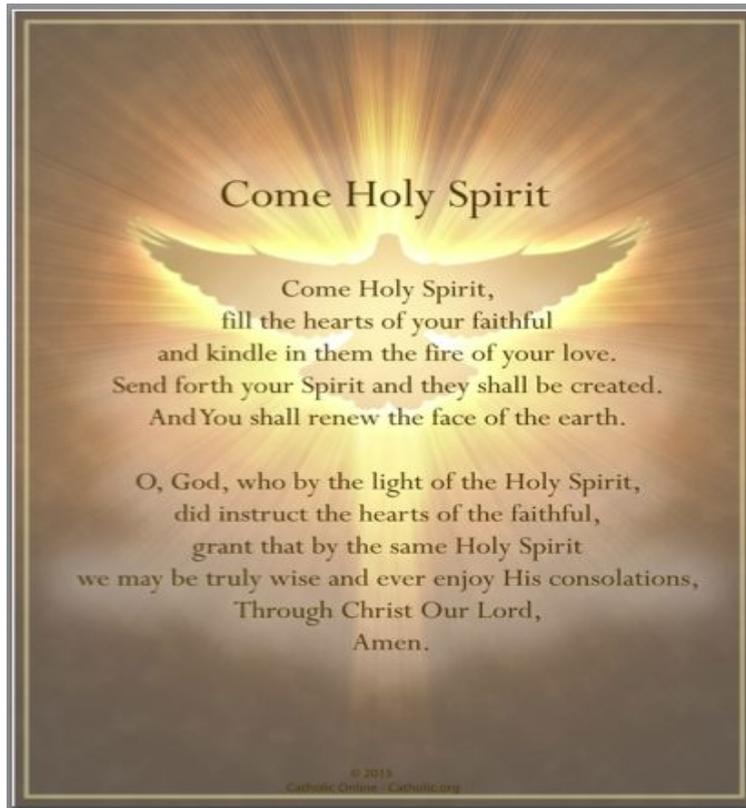
6 July 2022

Kia Ora, Welcome, Hello, Nǐ hǎo, 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	Details
4-8 July	Life Education on-site (Health Curriculum)	
Friday 8 July	PJ Mufti day/ Last day of Term 2	Wear PJs to school
Monday 25 July	First day of Term 3	
Tuesday 26 July	PHOTOLIFE (class, individual and sibling portraits)	Smart uniform required
Friday 29 July	SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY	11.30am - 1pm
Tuesday 9 August	Botanical Gardens trip	Rooms 4, 6 and 7
Friday 12 August	Grandparent's Mass	Time TBC
Tuesday 16 August	Interschool Cross Country	Savings day Thurs 18 August
Tuesday 16 August	BOT meeting	7pm in staffroom
Friday 19 August	SCHOOL DISCO	Venue and time TBC
Sunday 21 August	First Holy Communions and Confirmation	Parish Church - time TBC
Friday 26 August	School closes at noon	Staff Professional Learning
Week 5	HPPA Dance Festival	Dates, venue and times TBC
Thursday 1 Sept	Koanga (kapa haka) festival	Sancta Maria College -6pm
Week 8	Maori Language Week	
Week 10	ASB Financial Literacy	Educators on site
Friday 30 Sept	Last day of term/ Wheel's Day	

Special Catholic Character



In Religious Education, students have been learning about Te Wairua Tapu, the Holy Spirit and the symbols we associate with the Holy Spirit in the Catholic tradition. Symbols we have learned about include:

Water - Our baptism initiates us into the very life of God by power of the Holy Spirit. For us, it is really a new birth.

After the invocation of the Holy Spirit [water] becomes the efficacious sacramental sign of new birth: just as the gestation of our first birth took place in water, so the water of Baptism truly signifies that our birth into the divine life is given to us in the Holy Spirit. (CCC, 694)

Fire - Fire symbolises the transforming power of the Spirit. The *Catechism* cites Scriptural examples, including the words of Jesus and the day of Pentecost.

Jesus will say of the Spirit: "I came to cast fire upon the earth; and would that it were already kindled"(Lk12)

In the form of tongues "as of fire," the Holy Spirit rests on the disciples on the morning of Pentecost and fills them with himself (Acts 2:3-4) (CCC, 696)

The dove- Christian art often represents the Holy Spirit as a white dove, as based in Scripture.

When Christ comes up from the water of his baptism, the Holy Spirit, in the form of a dove, comes down upon him and remains with him (Matthew 3:16) (CCC, 701)

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

It's hard to believe we are approaching another term break, but boy, do we (or I) need it! This past fortnight has been a bit 'crazy' with winter illnesses and a spike in covid cases that has impacted our small community. It is near impossible to book relief teachers and this is seeing many schools across NZ combining classes or adopting a hybrid model (rostering different groups on site whilst others learn from home). At St Mark's we have tried hard to avoid such approaches and instead we have utilised our wonderful learning assistants and part-time teachers as well as cancelling/postponing non-urgent meetings, release time and professional learning. I have also enjoyed being in and out of different classes to cover staff absence as much as my schedule has allowed.

I think we really need this term break as a little circuit breaker to stop the spread of the typical winter viruses and to allow our staff and students some well-deserved time away from face2face contact and social interaction to refresh, relax and indeed recover fully from the nasty bugs and viruses experienced this term. I know my own children need this too.

In my previous newsletter, I mentioned that BOT elections are scheduled for next term and I urge you to consider nominating yourself, or another member of our community you trust, to add value to our school's governing board. We are seeking nominations for **5 parent representative** places on the BOT and I can confirm the election timeframe as:

Main Roll closes:	Wednesday 13 July
Call for Nominations:	No later than 15 July (please note this is during term-break)
Supplementary Roll closes:	Monday 1 August
Nominations close:	Wednesday 3 August
Voting starts:	Wednesday 10 August
Election day:	Wednesday 7 September
Voting count:	Tuesday 13 September
New board appointed:	Wednesday 14 September

Please find supplementary information about the election process in your inbox.

This Friday is PJ day as we celebrate the end of another successful and busy term of learning. We encourage children to wear their PJs, onesies, oodles or housecoats to school. Please ensure shorts and t-shirts are packed as PJs can become too hot and/or restrictive for play.

Again, thank you for your ongoing support of St Mark's and for entrusting your precious children to our care. It is a privilege to serve as your Principal. Have a blessed term-break and if you are travelling overseas, relaxing at home, or enjoying a staycation in beautiful Aotearoa, stay safe!

Your friend in Christ

Tracey Kopua

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST LEARNERS

An especially warm St Mark's Catholic School welcome to George and Isabelle (Room 4).

PARKING SAFETY

We are very fortunate to be able to park so closely to the school and to have access to a large parking area. When entering the site, please remember to drive slowly (5 -10kms) and to be patient as others reverse into, and exit from, individual parking spots. Please also remember that the shared driveway with the retirement village is a one way system - no-one should be driving up this driveway at any time. During school drop-off and pick-up times, all traffic exiting the shared driveway, should turn left as this assists traffic flow and is much safer for everyone.

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.

Concerns and Complaints Process

Most concerns can be resolved informally by discussions with the people involved.

STEP 1

Your concern is **GENERAL IN NATURE**

OR ...
involves a particular **STUDENT OR STAFF MEMBER**.

Contact the person involved to arrange a time to discuss the matter privately.

Indicate what the concern is about and let them know if you'll bring a support person to the meeting. If the concern is about a student, contact the student's teacher (or principal).

Meet with the person involved to discuss the matter.

Be prepared to listen to different points of view and try to work towards a resolution.

This may require another meeting and/or involve senior management.

Is the matter resolved?

Provide feedback as to whether you were satisfied with the outcome, or if the matter is not resolved.

YES

NO FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED

STEP 2

Your concern has **NOT** been resolved by meeting with the person concerned

OR ... does NOT involve a particular student or staff member

OR ... you **DO NOT** wish to approach the person concerned

OR ... involves the principal or a trustee (board member).

Contact the principal, senior management, or board member (as appropriate) to arrange a time to discuss the matter privately.

Indicate what the concern is about, any steps taken to resolve the matter, and let them know if you'll bring a support person to the meeting.

Meet with the appropriate person (as above) and discuss the matter.

Be prepared to listen to different points of view and try to work towards a resolution.

The principal may involve other people to help resolve the concern.

Is the matter resolved?

Provide feedback as to whether you were satisfied with the outcome, or if the matter is not resolved.

YES

STEP 3

Your concern has **NOT** been resolved by previous steps

OR ... your concern is more serious

OR ... your concern is serious and it's not appropriate to contact the principal (senior management) about it.

You can make a formal complaint.

See the school's **Making a Formal Complaint or Serious Allegation** procedure (SchoolDocs).

Put the complaint in writing (email or letter), giving as many facts and details as possible, and any steps taken to resolve the matter.

Include your name, signature, and contact details.

Send to the principal, presiding member (board chair), or deputy board chair/other board member, as appropriate.

Your complaint will be acknowledged.

The school will decide whether a formal investigation is necessary or appropriate. See the **Making a Formal Complaint or Serious Allegation** procedure (SchoolDocs).

If a formal investigation is required, subject to privacy, confidentiality, or other ethical and legal requirements, the school may keep you informed about the investigation process and timeframes, including confirmation of when the matter is concluded.

NOTE: Unless there are exceptional circumstances, a complaint will not be considered unless the correct process has been followed. You may be directed back to the staff member or principal to follow the process.

This flowchart aligns with the school's Concerns and Complaints policy and procedures | Copyright © SchoolDocs Ltd
February 2022

Once a formal complaint has been resolved, there are no further avenues to pursue the complaint with the school.

If you are not satisfied with the outcome of your complaint, you are encouraged to take advice and may wish to consider contacting other agencies. See the school's **Making a Formal Complaint or Serious Allegation** procedure (SchoolDocs).

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