

# ST MARK'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Seek and you shall find



## Newsletter 14 November 2022

Kia Ora, Welcome, Ni hāo, Talofa Lava, Namaste, Bula Vinaka, Guten Tag, Shalom, Kia Orana, Malo e Lelei, Fakaalofa Lahi Atu, Melo Ni, Halo Ola Keta, Mauri, Fakaalofa Atu, Salam, Welkom.

### KEY DATES

Date	What	Details
Tuesday 15, 22 & 29 Nov	Cricket skills programme	Rooms 4, 6, 7, 8, 10 and 11
Wednesday 16 Nov	Kitea team: Veggie lunch	Rooms 4, 6 and 7
Thursday 17 Nov	HPPA Interschool Athletics day	Pakuranga Athletics club
Tuesday 29 Nov	BOT meeting	7pm in staffroom
Wednesday 30 Nov	WEETBIX TRYATHLON DAY	Details TBC
Tuesday 6 Dec	Kitea team: Beach trip	Details TBC
Wednesday 7 Dec	Christmas Concert/ Presentation of Awards	1.15pm in Parish Church
Friday 9 Dec	Thanksgiving Mass and Year 6 Lunch	Mass at 11.15am
Monday 12 Dec	Christmas themed mufti and fun day	Dress in Christmas colours
Tuesday 13 Dec	Last day of Term/ Certificate assembly	School closes at 2.45pm
Wednesday 14 Dec	End of Year reports emailed to families	

### 2023 TERM DATES

Term 1: Tuesday 31st Jan - Thursday 6th April

National holidays: Waitangi day (Monday 6th Feb)

Term 2: Monday 24th April - Friday 30th June

National holidays: Anzac (25th April) and King's Birthday (5th June)

Term 3: Monday 17th July - Friday 22nd Sept

Term 4: Monday 9th October - Friday 15th December

National holidays: Labour day (23rd October)



## WEETBIX TRYATHLON – Wed, 30th Nov 2022

St Mark's School will be entering as a team for the Manurewa Tryathlon Event.

This is a wonderful opportunity for children in Years 4–6 to participate in a well organised event. Children of all abilities cross the finish line a champion and everyone who participates takes home a medal.

Due to the nature of this event, St Mark's School requires that each child participating must have a parent or guardian who will transport their child and gear to and from the event. The participants need to be at the event venue between 8am – 8:15am to set up their bikes and gear in the transition area. The day finishes around 1pm after the prize giving and only then bikes and gear can be taken away from the transition area.

Children can choose to enter as a team of 2, in which case one child swims, the other one cycles, and both run together. This is to encourage children who are not confident in one sport to still take part.

Anna O'Brien (Fletcher's lovely mum), is the coordinator for St Mark's and will register our team. She will provide some training for the participants with tips for the transition area (eg: changing from swim to bike to run) as NO parents are allowed in the transition area while the race is on and therefore it is important for the participants to know what to do by themselves. Dates for this training session will be organized once all entries are submitted. It is very important that participants who have not completed the tryathlon before attend this session and bring their bikes with them.

### **Event details: Wed 30<sup>th</sup> November at Mountfort Park, Manurewa**

Starts with a swim held in the indoor pool located at the Aquatic Centre beside the park. The pool is 25m in length. Triathletes are mostly able to reach bottom during the short swim; however, everyone is encouraged to give swimming a go! The Transition Area is located at the back of the Aquatic Centre. The bike part is around Mountfort Parks' surrounding roads and the run is around the field.

Approximate Distances (Age 8-10): Swim 100m, Cycle 4km, Run 1.5km

Approximate Distances (Age 11-15): Swim 150m, Cycle 8km, Run 1.5km

Entry fee is \$60.00.

As part of their Official pack each registered child will receive:  
Official Kids TRYathlon T-shirt / Swim Cap / A Kit Bag and the Official Medal.

**The Closing Date for your child's entry is Wednesday 23 November.**

All entries MUST be completed online using our unique school URL:

<https://www.registernow.com.au/secure/Register.aspx?E=48056&G=161724>

Payment is to be completed online.

If you have any questions please contact: Anna O'Brien – anna\_maree88@hotmail.com or on 027 948 1428.

# SPECIAL CATHOLIC CHARACTER

## TERM 4 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



How quickly the year has flown by and we find ourselves grappling with end of year preparations like our Leavers Mass, Advent and the Nativity.

Across the school classes we are learning about the **Communion of Saints, O Te Kotahitanga o Te Hunga Tapu.**

Saints are ordinary people who did extraordinary things. Some are living, while others that have passed are on their journey to God. Collectively these inspiring holy people are called the Communion of Saints. Our tamariki are also watching mini videos, reading books and researching about these godly people that made good choices.

### The Saints in our family

At school we gathered together on November 1 to pray for the souls in our whanau. The hearts that you sent in with the names of the dearly departed are now displayed in the church on our Memory Tree and are being remembered at every Mass.

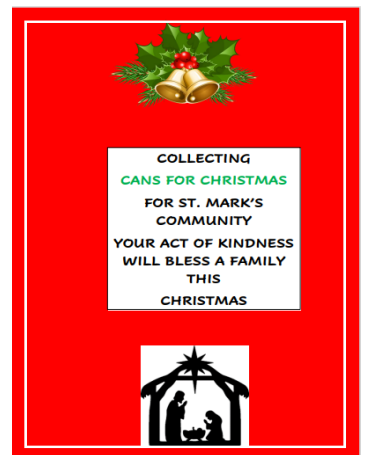
### Cans for Christmas

Thank you for your generosity in supporting our community whenever we have reached out. The last fundraiser for this year is Cans for Christmas which goes to assist families in our community celebrate a better Christmas. For the next few weeks students are encouraged to bring in cans. You're welcome to send other perishables that have not exceeded their best before date.

*'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'* Acts 20:35

Blessings to you and your whānau

Beverley Dias McAllum - Director of Religious Studies (DRS)



## PTFA SURVEY

Our PTFA is seeking your creative input to assist in tailoring events and activities for our community. Please help by completing this short survey: <https://forms.gle/cj3LVtbrz9uk5KDS9>

## WELCOME OUR NEWEST LEARNER

An especially warm St Mark's Catholic School welcome to Sienna who has recently joined Room 4.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Kia Ora St Mark's Catholic School whānau

This past fortnight has been very special. Whakatere team had a safe, happy and fun time at Lakewood Lodge and Kitea team enjoyed swimming lessons at the Panmure Lagoon Pools. I wish to thank all the parent volunteers who gave of their precious time to support these events. Without this help these activities would not be possible.

This Sunday, St Mark's Parish is hosting a cultural food festival in the school grounds from 12-3pm. It would be great to see families of the school in attendance. Please note: for those using EFTPOS, you will be able to purchase \$5 & \$10 vouchers. If you are attending, please bring with you a chair or mat to sit on, sunscreen, a cap or hat and some sun shade (or rain umbrella).

### St Mark's Catholic Mission Parish



You are invited to enjoy our multi-cultural food festival on

NOVEMBER  
20TH  
from 12:00 to 3:00pm

All proceeds go to the renovation of the Parish Centre Kitchen

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

[https://shop.tgcl.co.nz/shop/q2.shtml?shop=St%20Mark's%20Catholic%20School%20-%20Pakuranga&service=cookie\\_time\\_christmas\\_fundraiser](https://shop.tgcl.co.nz/shop/q2.shtml?shop=St%20Mark's%20Catholic%20School%20-%20Pakuranga&service=cookie_time_christmas_fundraiser)

Orders are now open and will close at midnight this THURSDAY 17 NOVEMBER . Cookies will be ready for collection/ distribution on Friday 9 December.

There are 21 school days left until the end of the school year. This is an exceptionally busy time with numerous celebratory events and planning for the year ahead. Please ensure you keep abreast of all key dates and keep connected with your child's class teacher through the various communication platforms (SEESAW, class email, face2face etc).

*God bless*

*Tracey Kopua*

## UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS

Uniforms help create a feeling of oneness and belonging. The St Mark's uniform is an integral part of our school's proud Catholic identity. Please ensure your child wears the correct uniform items to school every day. This includes shoes - black school shoes or the option of school sandals in the summer.

If you require uniform items, you can purchase on-line here: <https://stmarks.nzuniforms.com>

Alternatively, you can go into the NZ Uniform shop on Bishop Dunn Place, next to the big Mitre 10 and opposite Sancta Maria College.

## SECOND HAND UNIFORM

**Second hand uniform donations** - we are always seeking donations of pre-loved uniform items that are in good condition. Donations can be handed into the school office.

**Volunteers required** - St Mark's PTFA runs the second hand uniform shop. Currently we only have one volunteer to oversee the shop's operation and this restricts opening times/hours. Can you help? If so, please let the school know by emailing Tracey Kopua who will pass information to the PTFA exec:

[tkopua@stmarks.school.nz](mailto:tkopua@stmarks.school.nz)

## HEALTHY LUNCHBOXES/ LITTERLESS LUNCH

Primary-aged children require a balanced, nutritious diet for energy and overall health. We all know that too many highly processed, sugary treat foods carry 'empty calories' and affect oral health. The little snack packs in many lunch boxes also reap havoc with the environment as they are not compostable and end up as land-fill waste. Please consider what you put in your child's lunch box each day and think about practical ways to reduce waste by using reusable containers/ wrappings.

## 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.

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