

# ST MARK'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Seek and you shall find



## Newsletter 1 August 2022

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	Details
Wednesday 3 August	BOT nominations close	
Friday 5 August	Kelly Tarltons Trip	Rooms 8, 10 and 11
Tuesday 9 August	Botanical Gardens trip	Rooms 4, 6 and 7
Tuesday 16 August	Interschool Cross Country	Savings day Thurs 18 August
Tuesday 16 August	BOT meeting	7pm in staffroom
Sunday 21 August	First Holy Communions and Confirmation	Parish Church - time TBC
Friday 26 August	Grandparent's Mass	10am in Parish Church
Friday 26 August	<b>School closes at noon</b>	Staff Professional Learning
Week 5	HPPA Dance Festival	Dates, venue and times TBC
Thursday 1 Sept	Koanga (kapa haka) festival	Sancta Maria College -6pm
Wednesday 7 Sept	<b>BOT ELECTION DAY</b>	
Tuesday 13 Sept	BOT Voting count	
Wednesday 16 Sept	New BOT appointed	
Friday 16 Sept	<b>SCHOOL DISCO</b>	Details TBC
Tuesday 20 Sept	BOT meeting	7pm in staffroom
Week 8	Maori Language Week	
Week 10	ASB Financial Literacy	Educators on site
Friday 30 Sept	Last day of term/ Wheel's Day	

*Please note the change of dates for our Grandparents Mass and School Disco. Please also note that school will close at noon on 26th August for staff professional development. SKIDS care is available on this date.*

## Special Catholic Character



**The special feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord is observed on 6 August**

The term transfiguration comes from the Latin meaning "to change or transform." A transformation involving our Saviour takes place on a mountaintop — an event that glorifies the divine person of Jesus, one that is recorded in the three synoptic Gospels and by St. Peter in 2 Peter, 1:16-20. This story focuses on the Father's words "This is my Son ... Listen to Him," reminding us that it is important that we listen to the teachings of Jesus. At times we can be like the disciples ... Peter, James and John running around, busy in our daily lives, being flustered and forgetting to slow down and listen to Jesus - great advice from God for us all today. We need to remember what our Heavenly Father said to Peter up on the mountain of transfiguration when he was confused. He said to Peter, "This is my Son whom I have chosen, **Listen to Him!**" Listening to God's Son Jesus is so very important and we can do this by reading about the life of Jesus in the Bible and through prayer.

We pray ... Heavenly Father, thank you for reminding Peter to listen to your son Jesus. Help us to listen to Jesus as well. Through your Holy Spirit help us to hear and know your son Jesus more and more each day. Amen!

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Despite the awful wet weather endured these past few weeks, Term 3 is off to a settled start and it's wonderful to see our students taking advantage of the many learning opportunities available. We are excited to have **Jellybeans** music for the Kitea and Torotoro teams and our Whakatere team will soon enjoy music/movement classes with **Footsteps dance**. Groups of students are preparing for a number of events later this term including the interschool Cross Country event, the koanga/ kapa haka festival and

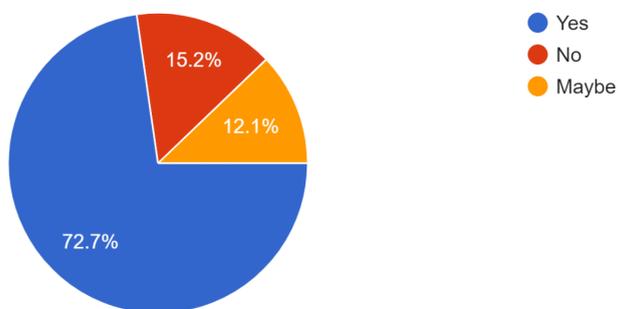
the dance festival. I know the staff and students are excited to see activities like this resuming after 18 months of cancellations and postponements.

You will have noted date changes for the Disco and Grandparents Mass. We are hoping to be over the worst of the lingering winter viruses before proceeding with any indoor events and larger gatherings. As you know Covid-19 continues to present challenges and today we have 2 staff members and 7 students in isolation. The MOE is once again recommending mask use indoors for the next 3-4 weeks to allow the current spike in cases to subside. Mask use is encouraged for all children in Year 4 and above.

Thanks to those who completed the recent survey about our school's **ABC and 3R** framework. Your voice is important in shaping our school's future direction and we look forward to gathering more thoughts, ideas and suggestions when the newly appointed BOT takes office. For this particular survey, a total of 66 responses were received - please find a summary below:

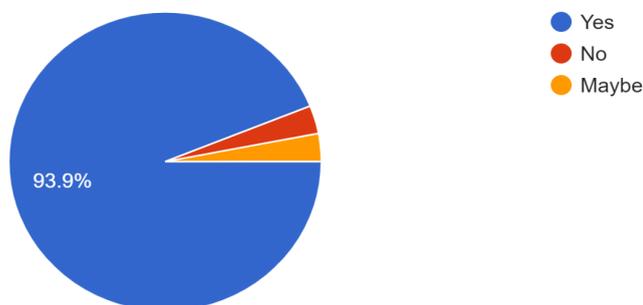
Our current ABCs stand for: Attitude, Behaviour and Care. We propose a change to: Aroha, Belief and Courage. Do you support this change?

66 responses



Our current 3Rs stand for: Respect for self, Respect for others and Respect for the environment. We propose a change to: Respect (all encompassing...lity and Resilience. Do you support this change?

66 responses



### Some comments received:

*"I think it validates Christian values and the statement: We follow Jesus through Aroha, Belief and Courage."*

*"I like the original ones, they're easy to understand for children. If you say to them 'belief', a 5 year old would have no idea what that is"*

*"The revised 3Rs are perfect- very affirming in today's world (especially the Resilience part). Just a thought- since you have one Maori word for the ABCs (A= Aroha), perhaps if you could find one for these revised Rs, it would be great. For example- rangatiratanga? (I am not sure if it fits though my understanding is it something related to taking responsibility- best to check with someone who is an expert though). Nevertheless, these revised ones are definitely with the times."*

*"Just be active in explaining it to the children and parent. Make it alive by doing school news about it. Let the children write about it and include the parents too. Resilience should be emphasise under the attitude. Best to identify what attitude best to have and what Behavioral should be. I suggest first term should focus mainly about the Mission statement, vision and value including the participation of parents. The school would provide how to help parent to understand this too and practice it. In following the footsteps of Jesus regulars mass should be given HIGH IMPORTANCE for the children and understanding it too in their level. Adoration should be introduced to the children too."*

*"I support the change, however the behaviour & attitude components are important. If those are incorporated into belief and courage that would be good."*

*"Aroha is a nice way to include Te Reo language and move away from behaviour which can be a difficult value to uphold."*

Your voice is important in shaping our school's future direction and I look forward to hearing more thoughts, ideas and suggestions when the newly appointed BOT takes office.

On a final note, last Friday our Year 3-6 students enjoyed running an adapted Cross Country course. What a wonderful day with fabulous sideline support as our children gave their 100% effort! Special thanks to Mrs Kippen for coordinating this event and huge congratulations to our 'podium' placers:

	<b>First Place</b>	<b>Second Place</b>	<b>Third Place</b>
<b>Year 3</b>	Ekuni and Olive	Richard and Juane	Ryan and Abigail W
<b>Year 4</b>	Fletcher and Chloe L	Jack and Mia	Elijah and Laura
<b>Year 5</b>	Errol and Ariana	Charlie and Sarah G	Sean and Abigail F
<b>Year 6</b>	Nicholas and Isla	Vinny and Kazia	Raynal and Indumini

Have a blessed week.

Your friend in Christ

Tracey Kopua

## **WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST LEARNERS**

An especially warm St Mark's Catholic School welcome to Sydney (Room 2), Marella (Room 11) and Emira (Room 4).

## **ENROLLING NOW**

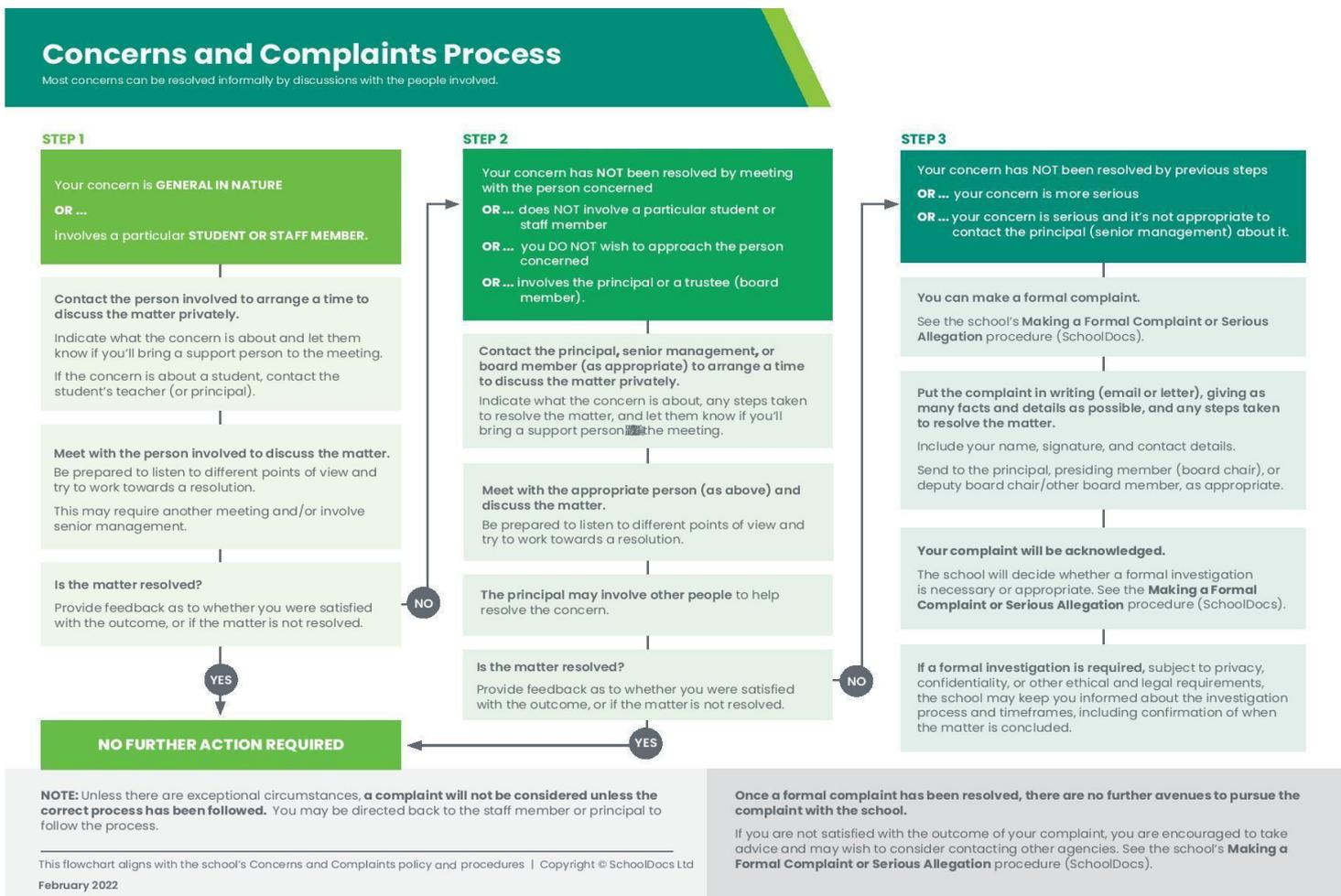
We are accepting enrolments for children turning 5 in the next 18 months. If you have a 3 or 4 year old at home, please collect a pack from the office. Also, if you have family arriving from overseas with school aged children who require Primary schooling in NZ, please arrange a time to meet with Tracey Kopua.

# 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.



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