

# ST MARK'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Seek and you shall find



## Newsletter

21 September 2023

Kia Ora, Welcome, Hello, Nǐ hǎo, Talofa Lava, Hallo, Salut, Namaste, Bonjour, Bula Vinaka, Guten Tag, Shalom, Ciao, 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 22 Sept	Last day of term/ Superhero Mufti Day	
Monday 9 Oct	First day of Term 4	
Thursday 12 Oct	Swimming at Lloyd Elsmore	Whakatere and Torotoro teams
Friday 13 Oct	WHEEL'S DAY/ Mufti day	
Friday 20 Oct	MISSION DAY	
Wed 25 Oct	Yr 5 and 6 Retreat day	Friary, Hillsborough
30 Oct - 8 Nov	Swimming at Lagoon Pools	Kitea Team: 8 consecutive lessons
7-8 Nov	HPPA Choir Festival	Details TBC
16-17 Nov	Yr 5 and 8 BIKE NZ programme	Details TBC
Friday 24 Nov	CURRICULUM REFRESH DAY	SCHOOL IS CLOSED
Wed 29 Nov	Thanksgiving/ School leaver's Mass	6pm in Parish Church
Friday 1 Dec	Welcome to summer tabloids/athletic sports fun day	
Friday 8 Dec	Christmas concert, nativity and special awards from 1.15pm	
Thursday 14 Dec	Summer mufti and teddy bear picnic (shared lunch)	
Friday 15 Dec	Last day of school for 2023 - school closes at noon	

## SWIMMING IN TERM 4

Learning to swim and being confident and safe in, and around, water is so important. St Mark's values these important life skills and each year, in Term 4, our school children engage in swimming lessons at local swim schools. There is an expectation for ALL children to participate fully in the programme unless there are genuine medical reasons for requesting their withdrawal. Children will need to remember their swim things (togs, towels and goggles) at these times:

- **Every Thursday (at Lloyd Elsmore) for Rooms 8, 10, 11, 1, 2 and 3**
- **Every day (at Lagoon pools) from 30 Oct - 8 Nov for Rooms 4, 5, 6 and 7**

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Firstly I would like to express heartfelt thanks for all the aroha and support I have received during this particularly sad time of grieving my dad's unexpected passing. I have made the difficult decision not to travel back 'home' to Scotland for the funeral. I am however comforted knowing the time I spent in the UK with my dad recently was simply wonderful. Your thoughts and prayers mean the world to me.

It's hard to believe October is just around the corner and there are less than 14 weeks until Christmas! I'm sure you will be enjoying these promising signs of spring. After such a damp, cold and rainy winter, it's great to see the children enjoying outdoor play and spending time with friends in the sunshine. I can only hope the fine weather spell extends into the school holiday period.

The past couple of weeks at school have been fantastic. Last Friday's disco seemed to be a real highlight of the children's social calendar - it was a great night of dancing, eating treat foods, making allsorts of things with glow sticks and enjoying one another's company! I commend the PTFA for their great organisation of this event and thank you for your awesome support. It's been wonderful to see our learners engaged in activities to celebrate *Te Wiki O Te Reo Maori* and to see our Kapa Haka roopu performing with mana and pride at a school assembly and again at the SECKA Koanga festival. As part of a science inquiry, our Whakatere students have been making 'simple machines' and the Torotoro team have explored concepts of transportation/ innovation/ floating/sinking through a 'create a watercraft' challenge.

We always enjoy the children sharing news of their activities outside of school and celebrate with those who have received special awards and trophies for their sporting and cultural pursuits - huge congratulations and well-done! Special mention to Year 5 student, Fletcher O'Brien for being awarded first place in the recent Auckland Catholic Primary Schools Cross Country event. The course at Monte Cecilia Park is gruelling yet Fletcher ran the course as if walking on air!

A reminder that tomorrow is SUPERHERO mufti-day. As our school children are everyday superheroes they can dress as themselves if they have nothing theme related at home. Please do not be going to any expense for this day.

You will notice from the key dates above that next term is an especially busy term with lots of celebratory events planned. I hope you received Mrs McKenzie's notice about Mission Day. We are seeking donations of toys and children's books that are in good condition. Perhaps the school holiday period will provide time for a good spring clean!

On a final note, can I please urge you to inform the office of any changes to your contact information (phone/cell/address/email) or if your child has developed a medical condition we should be aware of. It is important that we keep up-to-date records.

Wishing you all a safe and restful term break.

Ma te Atua koutou e manaaki e tiaki - May God bless and care for you all

*Tracey Kopua*

## NEWS FROM THE CATHOLIC AUCKLAND DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

Please find the September issue of the CDA:

<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/CDA-CONNECT-28-Sept-23.pdf>

*Jesus keeps knocking on our door in the faces of our brothers and sisters, in the faces of our neighbors, in the faces of those at our side. Pope Francis*

## SAFETY IN THE CAR PARK

Thank you for your care in the car park before and after school. We are all responsible for child safety near cars, in the carpark and on roads. At pick up time it is important not to linger around once you have collected your child/children. We are noticing children running around unsupervised as parents chat and this poses a safety risk. This issue is a tricky one as we very much want you to connect and get to know one another - perhaps you could arrange a playdate at a local park, at the pools or nearby beach - we are definitely spoiled for choice in the Pakuranga/ Howick area.

## 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 black school sandals in the summer. All uniform items should be clearly labelled.

Summer dresses can be worn from the beginning of Term 4. Please ensure your child has a school sunhat too.. Melanoma in NZ is a real threat and most exposure to the sun occurs in childhood. Wearing a hat saves lives as does the use of a protective sunscreen.

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.

## 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.

## NEWS FROM OUR SCHOOL'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES

At Tuesday's BOT meeting, the term dates for 2024 were approved:

### Term 1 Dates

Wednesday 31 Jan - Friday 12 April

Public Holidays: Waitangi day - Tues 6th Feb, Easter - Fri 29 March - Tues 2 April

### Term 2 Dates

Monday 29 April - Friday 5 July

Public Holidays: King's Birthday - Mon 3 June; Matariki - Fri 28 June

### Term 3 Dates

Mon 22 July - Fri 27 Sept

### Term 4 Dates

Mon 14 Oct - Fri 13 Dec

Public Holidays: Labour weekend - Mon 28 Oct

## SETTING THE SCHOOL'S FUTURE DIRECTION

Our BOT is keen to gather community 'voice' to inform our school's strategic direction. We have put together a survey and next term you will have the opportunity to attend a face2face meeting. The survey should take approximately 10 minutes to complete - please find the link to the survey here:

<https://forms.gle/RcHD8YGLbHY6riGv7>

Within the survey, there are questions about our school's health curriculum. In regards to the 'Relationships and Sexuality' component, you are encouraged to reference the following resources:

**Te Kupenga:** [Wonderfully Made in God's Image He Mea Hanga Mīharo ki tō te Atua Āhua](#)

**Ministry of Education - Information for Parents/ Caregivers:** [Relationships and sexuality education](#)

## POLICY and PROCEDURE

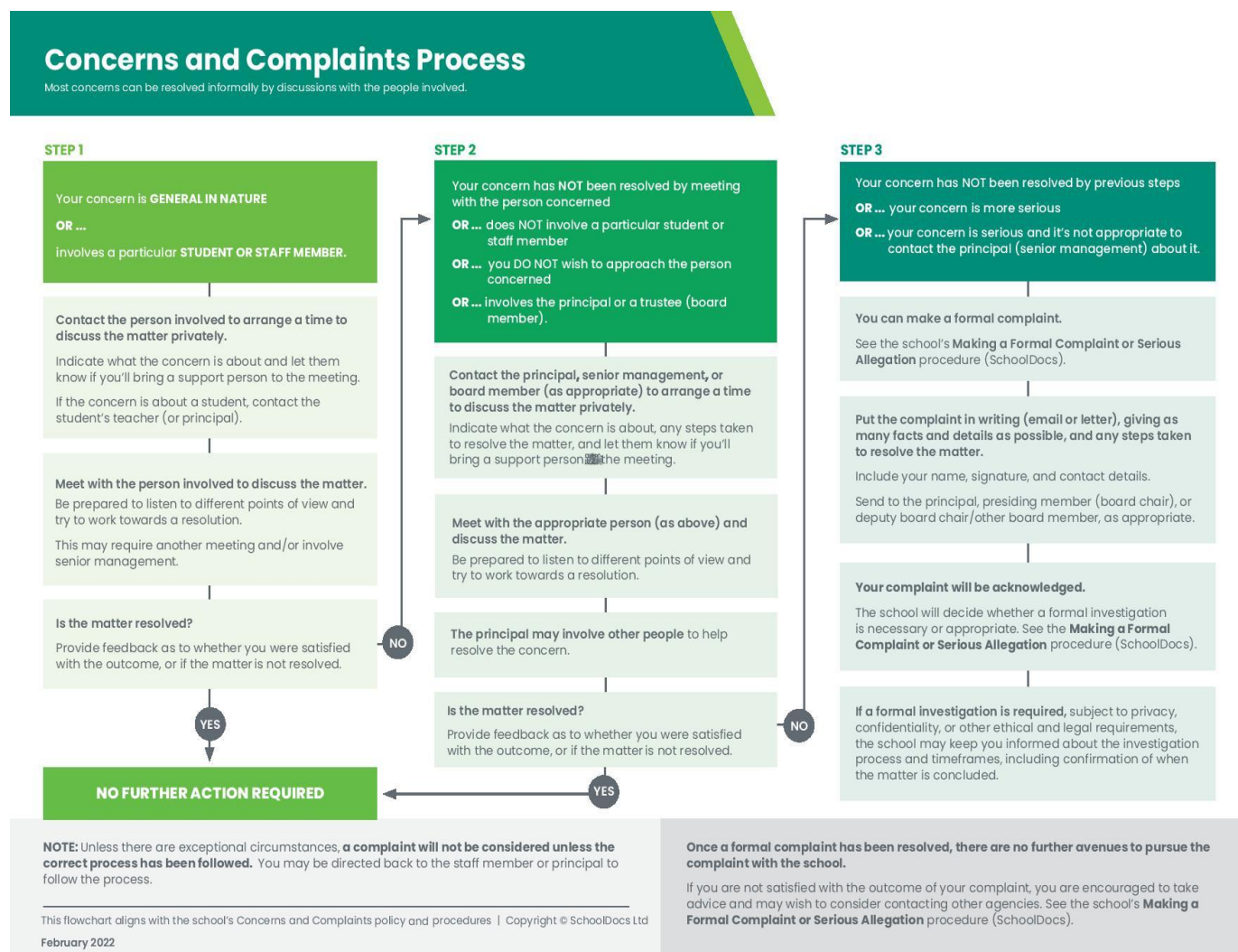
Our school uses SchoolDocs for our policies and procedures. We invite you to visit the site at:

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

"seekfind". This term we reviewed the following policies: *Inclusive Education*, *Maori Educational Success* and *Learning Support*.

## 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.





## Making Magical Memories at St Mark's



## *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



PLEASE SUPPORT THESE ADVERTISERS WHO ARE SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL

## MARIAN

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTRE



f @MarianECCPanmure i

### Why choose us?

- A Non-Profit Catholic Preschool for Children 2-5
- Fully Certificated and Qualified Teachers
- Large Outdoor Area for Play and Fantastic Learning Experiences
- Children 2 to 5 yrs Old

Call Abigail 09 5705690 | 0210 506 374 | Open Mon-Fri 8:00am - 4:30pm  
visit us [www.marianecc.co.nz](http://www.marianecc.co.nz) | 19A Sunset View Road, Panmure

## ENROL NOW

(LIMITED SPACE AVAILABLE)

## THE PROPERTY STYLIST.

027 2044482  
hello@thepropertystylist.nz  
www.thepropertystylist.nz



HOME STAGING SPECIALISTS



BAREFOOT  
THOMPSON &

REAL ESTATE  
AWARDS

## TOP SALESPERSON

Jessie Lu #2 Individual Salesperson in Eastern Beaches  
ending 31st March 2023

Sham Lal #3 Individual Salesperson in Eastern Beaches  
ending 31st March 2023

Jessie Lu  
021 368 978 / j.lu@barfoot.co.nz  
Sham Lal  
021 731 843 / s.lal@barfoot.co.nz



f @ShamLalBarfoot i @shamlal Wechat ID: jessielu888

[www.barfoot.co.nz](http://www.barfoot.co.nz)

## JOSAPHATT IP ANTHONY IP GABRIELLE IP

Proud to support  
St. Marks Catholic School

PO Box 38425, Howick  
PH: 272 2383



Dr Prashant Zaverl  
Orthodontist & Periodontist

Available at:  
Zaverl Orthodontic & Periodontic Centre

95 Ascot Avenue, Ascot Office Park,  
Ground Floor, Building C, Greenlane, Auckland 1051

PH 529 2592

Kilimanjaro Dental Centre  
60 Kilimanjaro Drive, Botany Downs, Howick

PH: 534 2664

[info@zaverlortho.co.nz](mailto:info@zaverlortho.co.nz)

offering clear / coloured / gold / invisible (lingual) braces  
OR straightening teeth without braces - invisible aligners\*



## FREE DESIGN, MEASURE & QUOTE

## SANTAFÉ

SHUTTER & BLIND EXPERTS

Nick 021 617 483  
[www.santafeshutters.co.nz](http://www.santafeshutters.co.nz)

## CoolAwnings

Our products include:

- Fixed and retractable awnings
- Outdoor blinds • Shade sails

Freephone: 0800 100 266

Checkout our showroom

Open Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.00pm  
Saturday 10.00am to 1.00pm



6 Morrln Road, St Johns, Auckland • P: 09 570 6353  
E: [customerservice@coolawnings.co.nz](mailto:customerservice@coolawnings.co.nz)  
W: [www.coolawnings.co.nz](http://www.coolawnings.co.nz)