

# ST MARK'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

*Seek and you shall find*



## Newsletter 27 October 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
Mon 31 Oct - Wed 9 Nov	Swimming at Panmure Lagoon Pool	Rooms 4, 6 and 7
31 Oct/ 1 Nov	External Catholic Character Review	
Tuesday 1 Nov	All Saints/ All Souls Liturgy	11.30am - Parish Centre
<b>Tuesday 1 Nov</b>	<b>Parent meeting with review team</b>	<b>2pm in staffroom</b>
Wednesday 2 Nov	Positive Puberty Programme	Whakatere Team
Friday 4 Nov	No school for Rooms 1, 2 and 3	Day in lieu for weekend camp
Sat 5 - Mon 7 Nov	Year 5 and 6 Camp	Lakewood Lodge
Tuesday 8 Nov	No school for Rooms 1, 2 and 3	Day in lieu for weekend camp
Tuesday 8 Nov	ASB Financial Literacy Programme	Rooms 8, 10 and 11
Friday 11 Nov	Sancta Maria College Orientation day	Details TBC
Tuesday 15, 22 & 29 Nov	Cricket skills programme	Rooms 4, 6, 7, 8, 10 and 11
Wednesday 16 Nov	Kitea team: Shared Veggie lunch	Rooms 4, 6 and 7
Thursday 17 Nov	HPPA Interschool Athletics day	Details TBC
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	Details TBC
Monday 12 Dec	Christmas themed mufti and fun day	Details TBC
Tuesday 13 Dec	Last day of Term/ Certificate assembly	School closes at 2.45pm

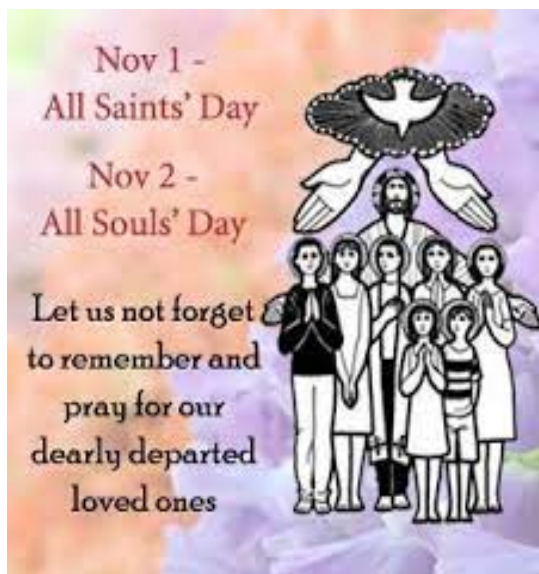
## **KITEA TEAM SWIMMING (Rooms 4, 6 and 7)**

Kitea Team will swim for 8 consecutive school days from **Mon 31 Oct - Wed 9 Nov** at the Panmure Lagoon swim school. Your child will need their swimming togs and a dry towel each day. A financial contribution of \$60 per child is requested for costs associated with transportation and swimming instruction. This has been loaded onto KINDO. Thanks again to the PTFA for their generous donation that helps keep swimming costs to a minimum.

## **WHAKATERE TEAM CAMP (Sat 5 Nov - Mon 7 Nov)**

A reminder that the children and staff attending camp will have 2 'NO SCHOOL/ in lieu' days due to camp being over a weekend. These 'in lieu' days are **Friday 4 November** and **Tuesday 8 November**.

## **SPECIAL CATHOLIC CHARACTER**



### **NOVEMBER PRAYER**

During the month of November, Catholics all over the world pray especially for the faithful departed. November commences with the special feast days of All Saints and All Souls. Our school children have been invited to share prayers for the special people in their lives who are now at eternal peace with Jesus in Heaven. Names of deceased loved ones are posted onto purple hearts to be placed on a remembrance tree during Tuesday's special liturgy. All of these special intentions will be remembered during November prayers in the Parish Church.

### **Christmas Can Drive - Bring a can if you can!**

We are encouraging and accepting donations of non-perishable food items, toiletries and Christmas treats for the St Mark's Parish Food bank. This is a way to support many local families who are struggling and may have to go without at Christmas time. We will continue to collect items until Friday 9 December. Thanks in advance for your generous support.

## **MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL**

Kia Ora St Mark's Catholic School whānau

Term 4 has started well and it is wonderful to be enjoying the finer weather that comes with spring. Last week's 'Mission Day' was a wonderful celebration of community, student leadership and charitable outreach. With approximately \$2500 being raised in support of the missions and our sister school in India, we know this will make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate than ourselves. Thank you for your generosity and continuous support.

It's good to see our learners in summer uniform. Please ensure your child has their school sunhat. 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.

As we are approaching what is predicted to be another scorching summer, please protect your child and family from the impact of our damaging NZ sun by remembering to: **Slip** on a shirt, **Slop** on the 50+ sunscreen, **Slap** on a hat, **Seek** shade or shelter, **Slide** on some glasses to block out sun. — '**Slip, Slop, Slap, Seek, Slide**'.

Term 4 is set to be an action packed term with learners enjoying activities such as: swimming; camp; cricket; zone athletics; Weetbix Tryathlon and end of year celebratory events. A Christmas concert is planned and we will be visiting the neighbouring retirement village to share some Christmas cheer. Please ensure you keep up to date with school events through our Facebook page, website, app, email threads and SEESAW.

The school's Senior Leadership Team has been busy planning staffing and classroom compositions ahead of the 2023 school year. Based on the projected roll, we will be keeping to the current structure of:

Kitea Team	Rooms 4, 6 and 7
Torortoto Team	Deck classrooms
Whakatere Team	Rooms 1, 2 and 3

Our hard working teachers are currently gathering end of year assessment information and writing student progress reports to be distributed via email in the last week of term. 2022 has indeed been another unusual year impacted by the effects of Covid as evident in absentee statistics associated with sickness and isolation. No doubt you will have experienced disappointment in having to miss particular events and activities due to Covid factors this year. Despite this, we can confidently say every child at St Mark's has made good progress across our school's multifaceted curriculum be it academically, socially, spiritually etc.

My own children are tracking between 67% and 78% attendance this year largely due to covid and cold/flu viral infections (as well as the odd injury through sport!). I have one child struggling to stay engaged in the academic side of school and two others who seem to thrive with different academic pressures and challenges. As a parent (grappling to remove my education hat), I am learning to accept that it 'is what it is' and I am immensely proud of the resilience my children have shown through such unusual times. I do thank Covid for teaching me that there are many pathways for our young people that may not be solely academic. I have come to a greater appreciation that if our young people are clothed in love, have faith-filled hearts and develop a strong moral compass, they will fly! It is our job to give them their wings!

We look forward to welcoming the Catholic Education Service review team on site next week. There is an opportunity for the review team to meet with parents of our school. If you are available at 2pm on Tuesday, please call in for a chat and cuppa in the staffroom. This is a great opportunity to share our school's successes and to identify areas for continuous improvement as we strive to provide the very best Catholic educational environment for ALL.

*God bless*

*Tracey Kopua*

## COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Thank you for taking time to complete the recent survey about our school's 'ABCs and 3Rs'. Your responses and those of the staff and students have helped reshape our values framework that will be introduced and rolled-out in the new school year.

Currently our ABCs and 3Rs are: **A**ttitude, **B**ehaviour, **C**are, **R**espect (Self), **R**espect (Others) and **R**espect (Environment). The revised ABCs and 3Rs are: **A**roha, **B**elief, **C**ourage, **R**espect, **R**esponsibility and **R**esilience.

Here is a sneak peak of our revised framework:



### What the Symbols Represent

-  **Aroha**
-  **Belief**
-  **Courage**
-  **Respect**
-  **Responsibility**
-  **Resilience**

## 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>

## 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.

## WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST LEARNERS

An especially warm St Mark's Catholic School welcome to Alex, Pia, Shalom, Jasper, Nathan and Levi.

## 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.



Did you know that your donation to us attracts a tax rebate? Don't let that money go to waste! St Mark's Catholic School is a TaxGift School! You can grow your donations to us by signing up to TaxGift and gifting the tax rebate on your donations to us from this year forward. It's the easiest fundraising you'll ever do. With TaxGift, your donations are boosted by at least 41% at no cost to you.

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