

ST MARK'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Seek and you shall find



Thursday 2nd December 2021

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, Fakatalofa Atu, Salam, Welkom.

Key Dates

Date	What	Details
Friday 3 December	CHRISTMAS MUFTI	Wear something Christmasy
Tuesday 7 December	BOT Meeting	7pm via ZOOM
Wednesday 8 December	Thanksgiving/ Leavers Liturgy	2pm via ZOOM - ALL Year 5 and 6 students expected to attend
Tues 7 Dec - Thurs 9 Dec	Contactless Collection from 9.30am - 2pm	PTFA Fundraising/ student items (if learning from home)
Friday 10 December	Last day of Term 4, 2021	School closes for ALL children at 12.30pm (please arrange pick-up between 12.30 and 12.45pm)
Wednesday 2 February	First day of 2022	Welcome ALL children
Monday 7 February	WAITANGI DAY	School is closed

Message From The Principal

Kia ora St Mark's whānau

I can't quite believe that we have formally started the countdown to Christmas. Whilst it's wonderful to sense the joyful spirit of the festive season amongst our staff, families and students, I am saddened that our 2021 academic year cannot conclude in its usual celebratory fashion with COVID restrictions still in place.

Tuesday's 'praise-giving' was a wonderful occasion to recognise and celebrate the outstanding effort and achievement of our Year 5 and 6 learners. Having to conduct such a special event via ZOOM is far from ideal but it was definitely better than another cancellation. As mentioned at prizegiving, our teachers have been blown away by the way our school students have coped during this interrupted year. Your children have not only survived lockdown, they have thrived in this unusual space. We acknowledge every learner for showing such resilience, tenacity, mana and grace through the challenges and disappointments. We greatly appreciate your love, care and support in creating the necessary conditions to activate our school's learning from home plan - thank-you! You, the St Mark's whānau, are the most worthy recipients of "FIRST CLASS" merit awards for being absolutely fabulous!

There are a few events before we close our doors for a much needed summer break. Tomorrow, we have our Christmas Mufti day and the wonderful cricket coaches are back on-site for the final day of their 3-day coaching clinic.

From Tuesday next week, we will operate contactless collectless of PTFA fundraising items and a pick-up of any personal belongings if your child/children have not returned post lock-down.

Next Wednesday is the Thanksgiving/ school leavers liturgy. This will be through ZOOM at 2pm and we expect all our Year 5 and 6 students to be in attendance.

Please note that school closes at 12.30pm on Friday 10th December. There is no after-hour care provision for those families who are in our 1.00-2.45pm 'bubble'.

I would like to kindly request that you do not send your child back to school for the last day (or week) if they have not already been attending regularly - our classroom spaces are settled and our 'no mix and mingle' strategy is working really well. Teachers have set up their classroom spaces according to numbers on-site and we are fortunate that this affords good social distancing.

I am aware some of you may be seeking information about 2022 classes, staffing and stationery. We will endeavour to send this information to you by Wednesday 15th December as part of the final newsletter of the year. Senior leaders have taken time to consider the 'best fit' class options and you can be assured that all children have been placed in a class with a good friend and other children they work very well with.

As always, if you need to discuss anything in relation to your child's learning and/or wellbeing at school, please do not hesitate to contact myself or another member of staff.

Have a blessed evening

Tracey Kopua
PRINCIPAL

New Students

An especially warm St Mark's welcome to Ryan W who started school last week.



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Geography	2-5yrs	\$10.00
Science	2-5yrs	\$10.00
Art & Craft	2-5yrs	\$10.00
Music & Movement	2-5yrs	\$10.00
Reading & Writing	2-5yrs	\$10.00
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