

# ST MARK'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Seek and you shall find



## Newsletter 2 September 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
Tuesday 13 Sept	Rms 3, 7 and 8 Buddy class Mass	9am in Parish Church
Wednesday 14 Sept	Rms 4,6,7 and 8 Fun Run	Details TBC
Thursday 15 Sept	Kitea Team shared veggie lunch	Rms 4,6 and 7 lunch
Friday 16 Sept	SCHOOL DISCO	Details TBC
Tuesday 20 Sept	BOT meeting	7pm in staffroom
Week 8	Maori Language Week	
Week 10	ASB Financial Literacy	Educators on site
Tuesday 27 Sept	PTFA meeting	7pm in staffroom
Friday 30 Sept	Last day of term/ Wheel's Day	

### PLANNING FOR 2023

#### 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. Enrolment forms are also available through the school website.

#### NOT RETURNING TO ST MARK'S IN 2023

If St Mark's is not in your family's plans for next year (moving house, going overseas etc.) please advise the school asap as this assists our planning. There is no need for families of our Year 6 school leavers to do so.

## SPECIAL CATHOLIC CHARACTER



The month of September is dedicated to Our Lady of Sorrows, whose memorial the Church celebrates on September 15. As Catholics we acknowledge 7 ‘Swords of sorrow’. Each sword represents a time when Mary experienced great sadness:

- The prophecy of Simeon (*Luke 2:25-35*)
- The flight into Egypt (*Matthew 2:13-15*)
- Loss of the Jesus for three days (*Luke 2:41-50*)
- Mary meets Jesus on his way to Calvary (*Luke 23:27-31; John 19:17*)
- Crucifixion and Death of Jesus (*John 19:25-30*)
- The body of Jesus being taken from the Cross (*Luke 23:50-54; John 19:31-37*)
- The burial of Jesus (*Isaiah 53:8; Luke 23:50-56; John 19:38-42; Mark 15:40-47*)

September falls during the liturgical season known as Ordinary Time, which is represented by the liturgical colour green. This symbol of hope is the colour of the sprouting seed and arouses in the faithful the hope of reaping the eternal harvest of heaven, especially the hope of a glorious resurrection. Green is used in the Masses of Ordinary Time.

## BOT UPDATE

Our school’s new BOT will officially take office at their first meeting on Tuesday 20th September. Members of the St Mark’s Catholic School BOT are:

Parent Representatives	Proprietor’s Representatives	Staff
Gavin Coad Francis Coutino Winidu Kannangara Charlotte Pienaar Sarah Tuckerman	Fr Sherwin Lapaan Nazley Ernstzen Marty Ryan Aaron William	Tracey Kopua (Principal) Ingrid Manickum (Staff trustee)

# HEALTH AND NUTRITION

## Lunches and morning tea snacks

We have recently noticed an increase in the amount of pre-packaged, highly processed, sugary foods being packed in lunch boxes. These snacks, whilst appearing convenient, are very expensive and have little nutritional value. Children need healthier food options to sustain energy during the school day and to support healthy growth. We encourage fruit, veggies, sandwiches, wraps, cooked eggs, chicken, ham, salami etc.

# COVID 19 and WINTER VIRUSES

Yesterday marked the first official day of spring and we have certainly enjoyed the brighter and slightly warmer weather. It seems that we may be over the worst of the winter ills and chills and there are fewer cases of Covid infection being reported amongst our school community (currently 0 children or staff members isolating). Thank you for your support in the first few weeks of term as the MOE encouraged mask wearing indoors. From Monday onwards, mask wearing at St Mark's is completely optional and personal choice will always be respected.

# A FABULOUS FORTNIGHT

Congratulations to all the children who represented the school with so much pride in recent events including the HPPA Cross Country; Year 5 and 6 Speeches; Family Mass; Dance Festival and the SECKA Koanga Festival. Be sure to follow the school on Facebook to see lots of photographs of our learners in action.



# POLICY REVIEW

Our school BOT 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 the topics being reviewed are: **Student wellbeing and Safety** and **Staff Wellbeing and Safety** with our school BOT reviewing the following policies: Child protection, Sun Protection and Harassment.



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. Just think about the impact – if your donations would usually provide resources for two classrooms, by all of us TaxGifting, we could grow that to three classrooms!

#### Here's how:

As a NZ taxpayer you can claim a rebate of 33% on the school donations you make, but if you choose to gift that rebate to us, TaxGift will turn it into even more for our school – all as a gift in your name.



It takes less than a minute for you to sign up, costs you nothing (we pay TaxGift a small fee for this service) and you won't need to do anything further. TaxGift will make your donation grow.

Simply opt into TaxGift when you make your next donation via myKindo (if you've already donated, simply log in to your account and select 'TaxGift' as your rebate tax agent from your details page). Or [Click here](#) to sign up if you don't have a myKindo account. It's the easiest fundraising ever!

#### Haven't claimed your donation rebate before?

Gift them to us! If you haven't claimed your donation tax rebate on your school donations in the last four years, you can donate them to us with a simple tick of the historic tax credits box when you sign up.

#### What else should I know?

It won't cost you anything to sign up to TaxGift; no money leaves your bank account (although the school pays TaxGift a small fee for its services). Signing up to TaxGift appoints TaxGift as your tax agent solely for the purpose of gifting your tax rebate back to St Mark's Catholic School. Don't worry - it doesn't affect any other tax agents that you might have (for example, if you have an accountant who does your tax returns). You must be an individual New Zealand tax resident who has earned taxable income in the relevant tax year to be eligible for the tax credit and you can opt out of TaxGift at any time by emailing their friendly team.

You can visit TaxGift's [website](#) for more information.

**These additional funds will make a huge difference to the education we can provide to your children in 2022, and going forward, and we greatly appreciate any donations received in this way.**

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