



## Newsletter 15 February 2024

Kia Ora, Welcome, Hello, Nǐ hǎo, Talofa Lava, Hallo, Salut, Namaste, Bonjour, Bula Vinaka, Guten Tag, Shalom, Cìào, おはよう (Ohayou), 안녕 Ahn Nyeong, Olá, Privat!, 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

Mon 19 - Fri 23	LIFE EDUCATION (MOBILE CLASSROOM) on-site	
Monday 19 Feb	Parent session in mobile classroom (optional)	1.50-2.35pm
Wednesday 21 Feb	HPPA Softball	Meadowlands reserve
Tuesday 27 Feb	BOT meeting	7pm in staffroom
Friday 1 March	<b>FAMILY FUN NIGHT/ COLOUR RUN</b>	<b>5.30 -7.30pm</b>
Tuesday 12 March	PALS leadership training day	
Friday 15 March	St Patrick's Feast Day Celebration	Green-themed mufti
Thursday 21 March	PHOTOLIFE on-site	
Friday 22 March	HPPA SWIMMING CARNIVAL	Swim team at Lloyd Elsmore
Thursday 28 March	"Dress in the times of Jesus" HOLY THURSDAY MUFTI-DAY and LITURGY	
Friday 29 March	Good Friday - school is closed	
Monday 1 April	Easter Monday - school is closed	
Tuesday 2 April	Easter Tuesday - school is closed	
Thursday 4 April	SCHOOL INTERVIEWS - school closes at noon	
Friday 12 April	Last day of Term 1	
Thursday 25 April	ANZAC DAY/ St Mark's feast day	
Monday 29 April	First day of Term 2	
Sunday 5 May	SCHOOL MASS and FAIR DAY (details tbc)	

#### Please note:

- There have been changes to the dates/times for the BOT meeting, the family fun night and the Softball field day since the last 'key dates' communications.
- Next Monday, you are welcome to visit the Mobile classroom (Life Education) to learn more about the health/wellbeing programmes being offered to our tamariki.

Kia Ora St Mark's Catholic School whānau

It's been a wonderful start to the new school year and it's awesome to see the children focused and engaged in their learning activities. The school certainly feels calm, settled and happy with confident, caring learners who are following in the footsteps of Jesus through our ABCs and 3Rs - ka pai tamariki!

We extend 3 very warm St Mark's specials to the newest learners to our school family:

Room 4            Mariam, Leann, Jae, Laya, Jacob, Jasper, Joelle, Luna, Lucas, Aliah and Finn

Room 3            Danarra

Room 6            Janella

Room 10          Stephanie

Room 11          Giovanna

Room 12          Hashen

New teachers      Ushanthi Leaver, Sarah Danny, Madeline Powell Lorna Simmonds

This week, I have spoken to the children about 'giving things a go' and doing 'ordinary things, extraordinarily well'. Already we have children trialling for the school swim team and softball teams. We have had children take an active role in class prayer and liturgical celebrations. Kapa Haka has recommenced and we are pleased to see lots of new members. Senior students are volunteering as road patrol leaders and applying to be PALS and our children are making new friendships and connections - this is just fantastic.

This year's inquiry focus is encapsulated by the Māori term, **WHANAUNGATANGA**. Whanaungatanga is about forming and maintaining relationships and strengthening ties between kin and communities. This value is the essential glue that binds people together, providing the foundation for a sense of unity, belonging and cohesion. Throughout 2024, learning will be focused around these key questions: How do we establish and maintain positive relationships with God, ourselves and others?

What is a community?

Why/How are communities formed?

What communities do I/we belong to?

How/Why do communities come together to celebrate/ respond to a need/ protect Planet Earth, its people and its resources (preserve/ conserve)?

We hope our school children will enjoy learning more about the wonderful world in which they live.

Thank you for taking the opportunity to informally meet your child's classroom teacher during last week's "open afternoon". You will notice that School Interviews are scheduled for later in the term. These interviews provide the opportunity for teachers to share and discuss your child's individual learning, achievement and progress.

We are looking forward to the Family Fun Night/ BYO picnic on Friday 1st March. This year, we are incorporating a colour run into this event. Please book your spot in the colour run through KINDO (\$5 entry fee). This event is open to the whole family, however pre-schoolers must be accompanied by a paying adult. Please also remember this is a BYO event (picnic, seating and shade) but BYO does not extend to alcohol, smoking or vaping - these are strictly prohibited.



## Our School's special Catholic Character



"We can lighten difficult burdens by our thoughtfulness, a kind smile and a little service."  
*Euphrasie Barbier* (foundress of Congregation of Our Lady of the Missions)

### TERM 1 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Each school year begins by learning about the special *MISSION* charism of St Mark's and thinking about the ways we follow in the footsteps of Jesus through our ABCs and 3Rs. Sister Euphrasie Barbier's dream was to bring faith, education and love to the poor and the marginalised. God is on a 'Mission' in each one of us! God's mission is not impossible - it requires us to use our heads, hands and hearts to do HIS work in sharing the Good News to those we meet.

Liturgical year learning is focused on the season of **Lent**. Lent is a time we prepare our hearts by praying, fasting and giving alms. Lent commences on Ash Wednesday and lasts for 40 days excluding Sundays. It is a time of preparation and an opportunity to grow a deeper relationship with God through reflection and prayer. Lent ends on Holy Saturday, the day before Easter.

Each year our school supports Caritas, an organisation that promotes justice, peace and supports social issues all over the world. During the next few weeks of Lent, your child is encouraged to make a donation which will bless someone's life. This collection box will be seen across the school.

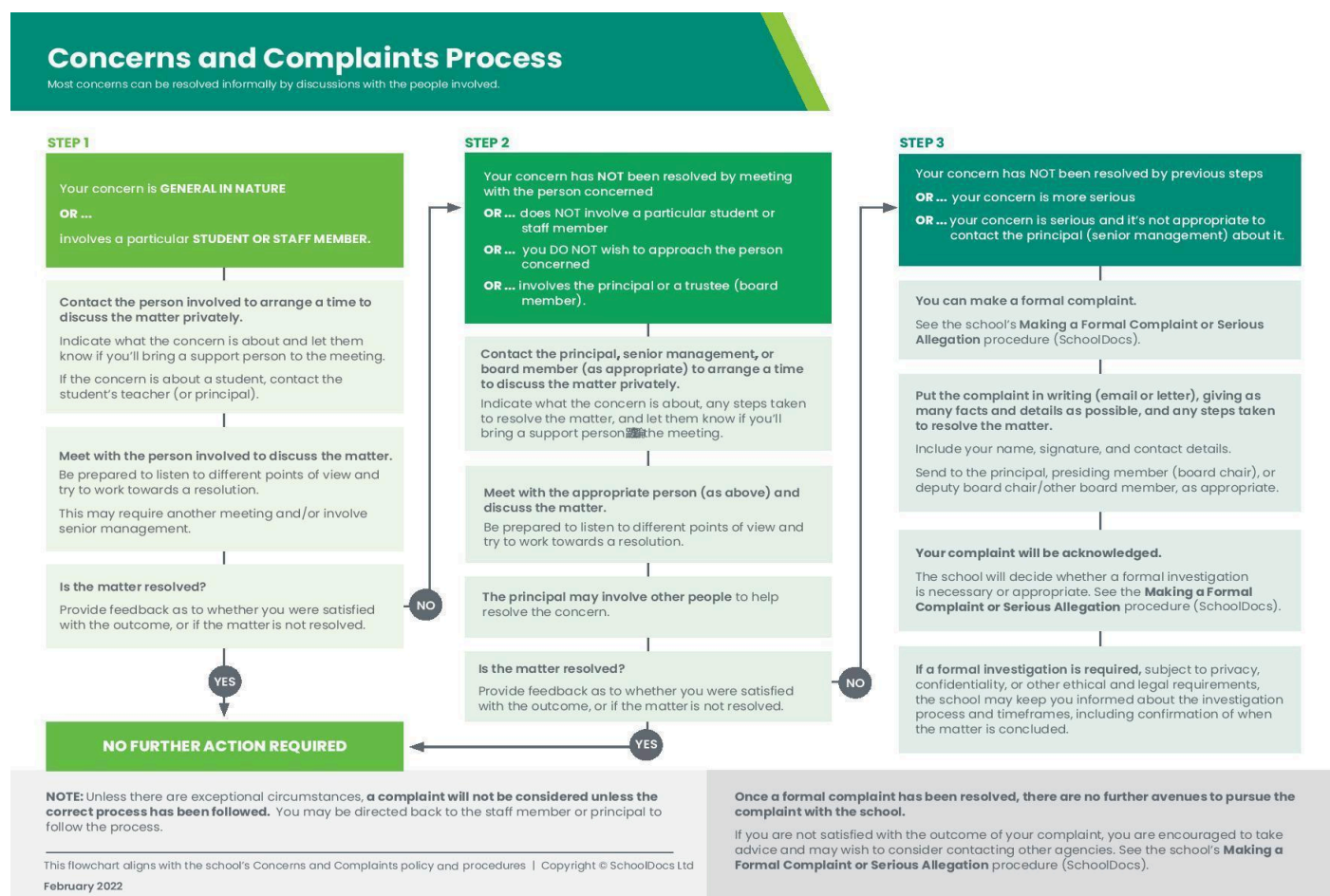
Click on this [link](#) to read more about Caritas and the incredible work done.

# 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.



If you have any concerns whatsoever about any aspect of your child's learning and/or wellbeing at school, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher in the first instance or arrange a time to see Mrs Kopua, Mrs McKenzie or Mrs Hodgson.

Your friend in Christ  
Tracey Kopua

## Making Magical memories at St Mark's



We love being back at school and playing with our friends. This week we celebrated Shrove Tuesday and observed Ash Wednesday.

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