

ST MARK'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Seek and you shall find



Newsletter 28 February 2023

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, 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

Thursday 2 March	BBAFC Soccer	Rooms 4,6,7,8 and 11
Friday 3 March	Auckland rugby sessions	Whakatere team
Friday 3 March	Teacher PUMs	
Friday 3 March	FAMILY PICNIC	6-7.30pm
Tuesday 7 March	KORU Tennis sessions	Kitea and Torotoro teams
Tuesday 7 March	CYCLONE RELIEF MUFTI-DAY	Dress in house/token colours
Tuesday 7 March	PTFA meeting	7pm in staffroom
Thursday 9 March	BBAFC Soccer	Rooms 1,2,3 and 10
Friday 10 March	Auckland rugby sessions	Whakatere team
Friday 10 March	HPPA Swimming Carnival day	Details TBC
Wednesday 15 March	Kitea Trip	Details TBC
Thursday 16 March	BBAFC Soccer	Rooms 1,2,3 and 10
Friday 17 March	St Patrick's Feast Day	Green-themed mufti
Friday 17 March	Auckland rugby sessions	Whakatere team
Tuesday 21 March	BOT meeting	7pm in staffroom
Thursday 23 March	BBAFC Soccer	Rooms 1,2,3 and 10
Friday 24 March	Auckland rugby sessions	Whakatere team
29/30 March	HPPA Cultural festival	Details TBC
Thursday 30 March	BBAFC Soccer	Rooms 1,2,3 and 10
Friday 31 March	Term 1 Showcase Assembly	Details TBC
Mon 3 - Fri 7 April	HOLY WEEK	
Thursday 6 April	BBAFC Soccer	Rooms 1,2,3 and 10

Mon 3- Fri 7 April	LIFE EDUCATION TRUST - MOBILE CLASSROOM ON-SITE
Thursday 6 April	Last day of Term 1 -School closes at 2.45pm
Thursday 6 April	"Dress in the times of Jesus" HOLY THURSDAY MUFTI-DAY and LITURGY
Monday 24 April	MOE Staff Only Day: NZ Curriculum Refresh
Tuesday 25 April	ANZAC DAY/ St Mark's Feast Day
Wednesday 26 April	First day of Term 2
Thursday 27 April	School/Family Interviews - School closes at 1pm

Please note:

- **Teacher's Paid Union Meeting (PUM) - Friday 3 March**

Teachers will be attending a Paid Union Meeting this Friday afternoon. Teaching concludes at 12.45pm as teaching staff are leaving the site to attend the meeting. Students will be supervised by the Senior Leadership Team. As staffing onsite is reduced, if you are able to pick your child up at 12.45pm it would be appreciated.

- **Mufti days: 7th March for Cyclone relief fund (house/token colour theme)**

17th March for St Patrick's Day (green theme)

6th April for Holy Thursday ('dress in the times of Jesus' theme)

- **Staff Only day - school is closed on Monday 24 April**

- **Term 2 start date is Wednesday 26 April**

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST LEARNERS

It has been lovely to welcome lots of new learners to our school family. Please extend 3 very warm St Mark's specials to:

Room 4: Elios, Kael, Valentina, Finn, Andy, Ryan, Eli, Harper, Kane, Gasia, John and Rithini

Room 6: Robbie

Room 8: Arah

Room 10: Oneshi and Alan

Room 11: Helena, Anuhus, Kallen, RJ and Chloe

Room 3: Georgia and Jude

Room 2: Paul

Room 1: Lihensa

Message from the Principal

Kia Ora St Mark's Catholic School whānau

Thank you for your patience and support during these first few weeks of the new school year as we literally weathered a storm or two. Your amazing children are to be commended for their positivity, independence, resilience and adaptability in becoming familiar with 'back to school' routines. The school certainly feels calm, settled and happy with confident, caring learners who are following in the footsteps of Jesus through our refreshed ABCs and 3Rs - ka pai tamariki!

We continue to pray for communities impacted by Cyclone Gabrielle. Next week, there is a special 'house colour/token colour' mufti-day where any generous cash donations will be directed to the Caring Catholic Foundation's Cyclone relief appeal.

Learning teams at St Mark's have specific names that relate to key learning stages and compliment our school's motto, '**Seek and you shall find**' as well as 21 century learning language.

Rooms 4, 6 and 7 is the **Kitea** team (kitea is to **discover**)

Rooms 8, 10 and 11 is the **Torotoro** team (torotoro is to **develop**)

Rooms 1, 2 and 3 is the **Whakatere** team (whakatere is to **navigate**)

This term's inquiry focus is encapsulated by the Māori term, **KAITIAKI** (which loosely translates to the concepts of guardianship and stewardship). Learners will take time to consider concepts such as conservation, care for the environment and sustainability. We hope our school children will enjoy learning more about the wonderful world in which they live.

Thank you for taking the opportunity to meet our classroom teachers and learning teams last week. I hope you found these sessions informative. You will notice 1:1 school interviews are scheduled for the first week of Term 2. These interviews provide the opportunity for teachers to share and discuss your child's individual learning, achievement and progress.

We are looking forward to this Friday's family picnic - please remember this is a BYO event (picnic, seating and shade) but BYO does not extend to alcohol, smoking or vaping - these are strictly prohibited.

On a final note, 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 myself, Mrs McKenzie or Mrs Hodgson.

Your friend in Christ
Tracey Kopua

SPECIAL CATHOLIC CHARACTER

(A message from Mrs Beverley Dias-McAllum, Director of Religious Studies)



*"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

We begin each school year by learning about the special *MISSION* charism of our school and learning about the ways we follow in the footsteps of Jesus through our ABCs and 3Rs. Charism is divine energy and a gift of the Holy Spirit. The founder of Mission Schools, 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.

In RE, our tamariki will learn more about the meaning of prayer, karakia, and its importance in our lives. Through daily meditation across the school there will be a conscious reflection on God.

Liturgical year learning is focused on the season of **Lent**. Lent is a time we prepare our hearts by praying, fasting and alms giving. 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.



Karakia

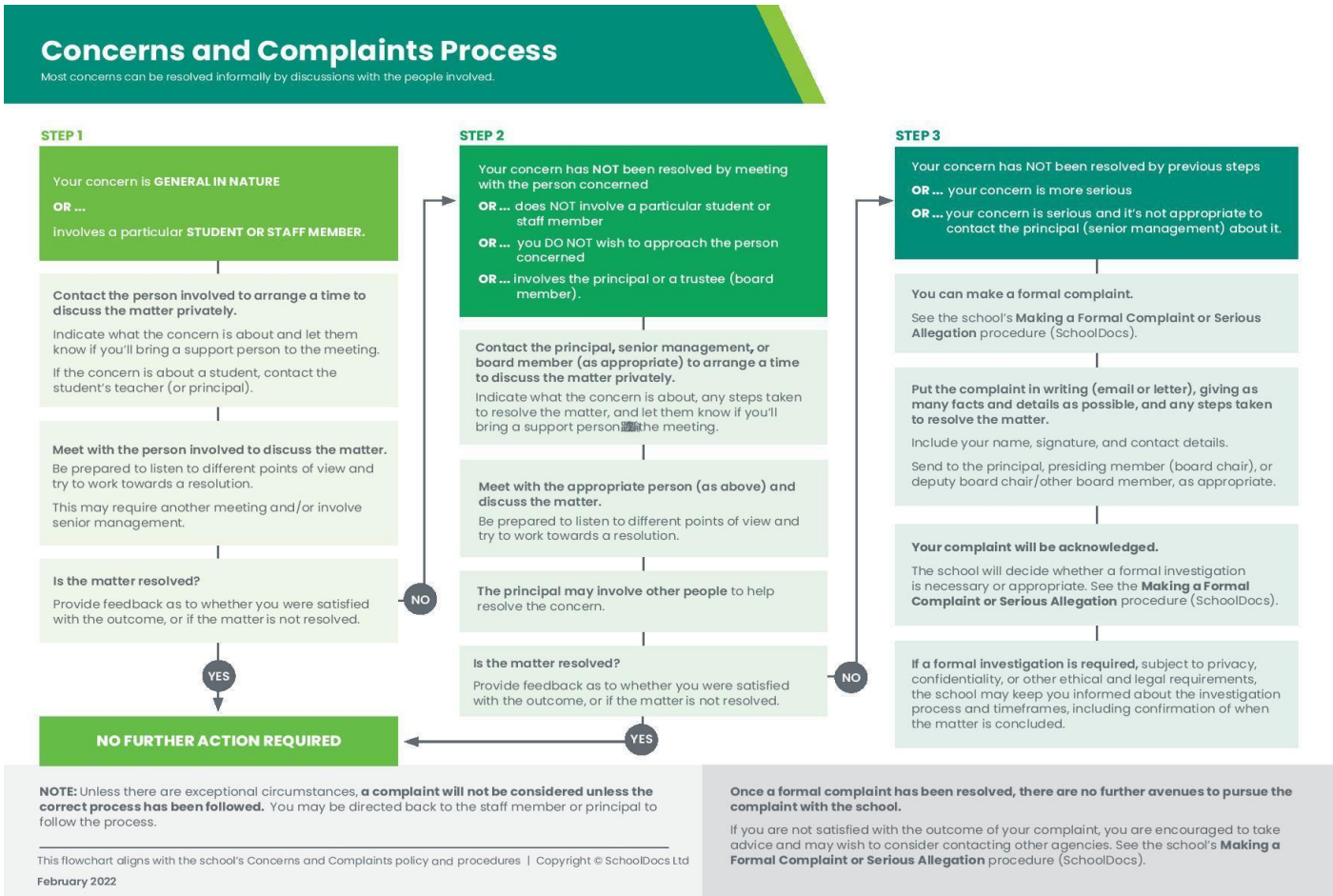
Let all I see today be a prayer of praise.
Let all I smell today be a prayer of thanks.
Let all I taste today be a prayer of awareness.
Let all I hear today be a prayer of listening.
Let all I touch today be a prayer of healing.
Let the work of my mind lead me to you my God.
Let the work of my hands lead others to you my God.
Let all that I am and all that I do today give glory and praise to you my God. Amen

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.



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