



8 February 2022

Kia Ora St Mark's Catholic School whānau

Thank you so much for your patience and support during these first few days of the new school year as we learn to navigate and implement our school's RED level plan together. Your amazing children can be commended for their positivity, independence, resilience and adaptability in becoming familiar with routines and safety protocols in this ever changing COVID space. The school feels calm, settled and happy with confident, caring learners who are following in the footsteps of Jesus through the ABCs and 3Rs - ka pai tamariki!

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: Angela, Atarangi, Felix, Freddie, Jaden, Jayden, Kahu, Kylee-Rose, Lennox and Sheldon

Room 6: Sophie S

Room 8: Joel, Owen and Sophia P

Room 10: Elijah, Johan

Room 11: Dinaya, Eva and Sofia

Room 3: Jonath

Room 2: Moira

Room 1: Luka

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, **KOTAHITANGA** (which loosely translates to '**together as one**'). Learners will take time to consider concepts such as community, inclusion, diversity and unity. We hope our school children will enjoy learning more about themselves and others as they explore the wonderful world in which they live.

In the next couple of weeks you will have the opportunity to meet your child's classroom teacher. This will likely be through scheduled ZOOM meetings to maintain our school's 'no mix and mingle' strategy that restricts the number of potential close contacts and reduces the risk of an Omicron outbreak.

As the eternal optimist, I know 2022 has fabulous things in store for us all and I look forward to seeing what's ahead. I remain hopeful that family and community events will be scheduled and a range of inter-school sporting and cultural competitions will go ahead. I am sure we have had more than enough of the postponements and cancellations! For the families of our Year 5 and 6 students, Lakewood Lodge has been pencilled in for camp in November and we are excited! More information to be shared soon.

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

TEACHING STAFF 2022

School Leadership team

Principal	Tracey Kopua	tkopua@stmarks.school.nz
AP	Jenny McKenzie	jmckenzie@stmarks.school.nz
AP/ SENCO	Trish Hodgson	thodgson@stmarks.school.nz
DRS	Beverley Dias-McAllum	bdias@stmarks.school.nz

Classroom teachers

Room 1	Jenny McKenzie	jmckenzie@stmarks.school.nz
Room 2	Rita Furivai	rfurivai@stmarks.school.nz
Room 3	Julie Kippen	jkippen@stmarks.school.nz
Room 4	Joselyn Laird	jlaird@stmarks.school.nz
Room 6	Trish Hodgson/ Deanne Williams	thodgson@stmarks.school.nz dwilliams@stmarks.school.nz
Room 7	Mackenzie Morgan	mmorgan@stmarks.school.nz
Room 8	Ingrid Manickum	imanickum@stmarks.school.nz
Room 10	Beverley Dias-McAllum	bdias@stmarks.school.nz
Room 11	Jessica Robinson	jrobinson@stmarks.school.nz

Reading Recovery team

Room 9	Rosemary Moffat	rmoffat@stmarks.school.nz
Room 5	Deanne Williams	dwilliams@stmarks.school.nz

Support staff

Admin team	Kerrie Hunt and Catherine Verner
Library/Accounts	Shireen Monteiro
Learning Assistants	Jo Eccles, Imelda Owen and Shireen Monteiro
Caretaking/Odd jobs	Victoria Fischer

SPECIAL CATHOLIC CHARACTER

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

TERM 1 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

As always, we begin the year by learning about the special *MISSION* charism of our school. 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.

This term, our tamariki will learn the meaning of prayer, karakia, and it's importance in our lives. Through daily meditation across the school there will be a conscious reflection on God.

Later, we will enter the liturgical season of Lent which will be followed by the God Strand across the different year levels. Years 5 and 6 will be interweaving other strands in their RE programme as they explore their faith through creative learning experiences.

Your child will bring home their RE books to share their learning. Please take the time to look at your child's work and affirm their learning.

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



*"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)*

KEY DATES

Date	What	Details
Tues 22 Feb	BOT meeting	6.30pm via ZOOM
Wed 2 March	ASH WEDNESDAY	Details TBC
Thurs 17 March	St Patrick's day	Green/Irish themed mufti
Weeks 6-8	School/Family Interviews	To be scheduled via Zoom
Thurs 14 April	HOLY THURSDAY/ Last day of Term 1	Wheels Day TBC



Why Your Child Can't Skip Their 20 Minutes of Reading Tonight

James

reads 20 minutes per night,
5 times per week



Travis

reads only 4 minutes per night
...or not at all



In one week:

100
minutes of reading



20
minutes of reading

In one month:

400
minutes of reading



80
minutes of reading

In one school year (9 months):

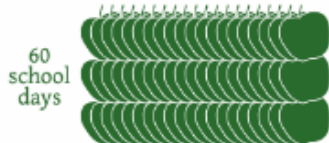
3600
minutes of reading



720
minutes of reading

By the end of year six:

21,600
minutes of reading



4320
minutes of reading

- Which student would you expect to read better?
- Which student would you expect to know more?
- Which student would you expect to write better?
- Which student would you expect to have a better vocabulary?
- Which student would you expect to be more successful in school and life?
- How do you think each student will feel about himself as a learner?



GREER GENIUS
BRILLIANT GRAPHIC & WEB DESIGN