



St Mark's School Newsletter

Issue 4
21 February 2018

Kia ora everyone,

What a busy week - Softball for our senior classes, Year 4 and 5 class trips, Bowls for Year 8, Kapahaka starting on Tuesday, Year 4 - 8 swimming, Tennis at Opawa Tennis club, opening of Ōmoho, Performance Choir auditions, Miniball, Chess club, Specialist language program in year 8, and all of that on top of classroom programs. There is such strength in our staff and the opportunities for our students are increasingly wide and varied, thanks to a marvellous campus and foresight of the members of our **Board of Proprietors** in recent years. We are so fortunate.

ETHEL AND BETHEL

Tickets from the office for this wonderful evening out - **ONLY TWO WEEKS AWAY!!**. This is an Over 18 event that has had rave reviews from around Canterbury. Come and join us for a great community event that benefits our school in so many ways.

RESOURCES! THANK YOU!

The Scholastic Lucky Book Club is a great way of you investing in books and other educational items for your child. Perhaps a little known fact is that St Mark's School receives Rewards to the value of 20% of all sales. We have been able to purchase many items to benefit the school and this week we purchased new dictionaries for Waka Hourua and Waka Puhara. Staff are enormously grateful for these resources. There has been a dearth of dictionaries available for students - not now!!



WATERPOLO 2018

Last Friday the Water Polo team had their first game at Jellie Park. We won against Cobham 9-0. The player of the day for our very first game was Bede Hamilton for his awesome attack. Congratulations to our year 7's and Anna because they had little to no practice due to camp and other commitments. They all had an amazing game while still learning the rules. Overall this will be a great season this year. **Samantha P**



Transforming lives through the St Mark's Story

CURRICULUM

STAFF PROFESSIONAL CURRICULUM REVIEWS

Staff have begun the process of reviewing all areas of the curriculum at St Mark's School. This is part of a natural review cycle but more importantly timely in terms of recent media and Ministry of Education communication. Whilst we cannot know the details or implications for Boards and Communities of the Labour-led government reforms at this stage, we can be assured that the developmental needs of children are well understood by staff at our school. However concerns re Mathematics standards across New Zealand and in comparison with the rest of the world have hit the headlines in recent days. This is a concern voiced at our Kahui Ako (Community of Learning - Te Mana Rau) meetings, where raising achievement in Mathematics from ECE to High School is a focus. Sharing best practice and Professional Development across our schools will be of benefit to all including St Mark's students. Raising teacher capability and capacity, and understanding the needs of every child has **always** been important.

Concerns about "what will replace National Standards?" have also been voiced. The New Zealand Curriculum is a document praised overseas, and embedded in it are Learning Progressions and levels of learning. These progressions have always offered descriptors of where student can be positioned with next steps indicated and whether they are achieving at the expected level for age. This is the kind of information staff share with you regularly. Our Board of Trustees, along with other boards will be guided through the change necessary through legislation and will likely make specific decisions for our school. The curriculum document will be a focus of this change I am sure.

To this end staff had already made the decision to work in three Curriculum Review teams - Literacy, Mathematics and our Extended/Broad Curriculum. It is our plan in 2018 to review what is already happening in these areas, identify needs and areas of challenge, and come together regularly in the coming months to articulate new frameworks in each area. Of course our special character and the five marks of mission are wrapped around this local curriculum.

At an appropriate juncture there will be an opportunity for you all to comment and have input into what our curriculum looks like. We are not sure what that consultation will look like but engaging with your child's learning in support of classroom programs will give you insight into key areas of importance.

NEW FAMILY

This week we welcome **Seth K** and his parents **Thomas and Ruth**. Welcome to the St Mark's family! May you find God's love here and a turangawaewae for your extended family.

NZEI PAID UNION MEETING

Attached to this newsletter is a communication from NZEI (Our teacher union), indicating that there will be paid union meetings this term to which all member staff are legally entitled to attend. To minimise disruption to programs, staff at St Mark's have identified **Thursday 22nd March from 1.30pm** as the day where our staff will attend.

St Mark's School remains open on this afternoon with relievers and other staff available to support teaching and learning. If you would prefer, you are welcome to collect your child from school from this time. If this is your choice, please inform your teacher.

Thank you everyone for your support for such a great start to the year. We are so grateful and any concerns at all please contact your classroom teacher in the first instance.

Blessings

Averil

School Notices

Upcoming Events

27-28 Feb	Parent Teacher Interviews
1 Mar	PA Meeting - 7.30pm
2 Mar	Y4-8 Swimming Sports
3 Mar	PA "Ethel & Bethel" Fundraiser
6 Mar	Y6-7 Ferrymead trip
26 Mar	Holy Week Service - 9am
27 Mar	Holy Week Service - 9am
28 Mar	Eucharist Service - 9am
29 Mar	Holy Week Service - 9am
30 Mar	Good Friday
2 Apr	Easter Monday
3 Apr	Easter Tuesday
5 Apr	ISSA Swimming Sports
13 Apr	End of term service - 2.15pm

Church Certificates

Inaka	Adam R
Kereru	Jake H
Ti Kouka	Ariya S
Kamana	Finn M
ToeToe	Grace H
Kotuku	Ioli K
Paua	Isla R
Mako	Inaki B
Wheke	Bede H
Toroa	Freddie T

Parent/Teacher Interviews

Parent/Teacher interviews are being held on Tuesday 27 and 28 February. The times available are on www.schoolinterviews.co.nz and can be entered via code **643np**. This will go live on Friday 16 February and close on Friday 23 February.

Subway Lunch



Just a reminder that Subway can be ordered for lunch every Tuesday.

To place an online order, visit www.subway.co.nz/schools and follow the instructions to place your order by 9am each Subway day.

Alternatively, envelopes are in the office and you can either pay with the correct cash or credit card.

PA News

Ethel & Bethel

Ethel and Bethel R18 event information
What you can expect on the night

Doors open at 7pm EYES DOWN 7:30pm SHARP!!!!
Bingo cards will be \$2 each available as you come in cash only for these please
There will be beer wine and non alcoholic drinks available for purchase eftpos will be available for this sorry no cash out option.
The entry ticket you have pre-purchased from the school office includes 1 free drink and a supper.
We will have raffles, chocolate wheel and a live auction on the night so bring cash for these amazing prizes
One of the prizes up for auction on the night will be 1 student of your choice to be PRINCIPAL FOR A DAY!!!!!!! 🎉🎉🎉🎉

So dust off ya hair nets, bust out ya good pearls and lucky charms coz Ethel and Bethel bingo babes are coming to St Marks!!!!

Uniform Shop

The uniform shop is open on Tuesday 8.30-9.30am and Wednesday 2.30-3.30pm. You can contact them at uniformshop@saintmarks.school.nz and don't forget to join the Facebook page to stay up to date 'st marks uniform shop'

Coffee Cart



"School Grounds" is a volunteer run coffee cart, operating out of the school foyer.

Open Mon/Wed/Fri mornings 8:30 – 9:10am

Our coffees are great value, our fluffies are a hit and all profits feed back into the school under the PA umbrella.

We offer cash and eftpos facilities
Coffee Cards are great value pay for 10 coffees or fluffies and get 2 FREE!

The School Grounds Team

STRONGER TOGETHER NZEI TE RIUROA

You may be aware of the nationwide crisis in recruiting and retaining teachers.

Children need teachers with enough time to teach so they can give each child the attention they deserve, and children need talented and inspiring people to be attracted to teaching.

Children are missing out on some opportunities to learn because teachers are bogged down in administration or are struggling to get enough support for children with additional learning needs.

Teachers at our school are joining an NZEI Te Riu Roa campaign, called *Kua Tae Te Wā – It's Time* to address these issues.

Our goal is to free teachers to teach, and principals to lead, by getting the additional support and staff that schools need. And we'll attract more people to teaching by respecting and paying them as the professionals they are.

NZEI Te Riu Roa members at our school have been invited to paid union meetings in March so that we can plan and discuss the campaign and their upcoming collective agreement negotiations.

The meeting schedule has been planned so that teachers and principals across the country can work out the best meetings for them to attend, including the option of groups of teachers attending meetings at different times. This is to help reduce disruption to teaching programmes, children and parents.

Our children deserve the best education in the world, and New Zealand can afford to provide it. It's just a matter of priorities.

Thanks for your co-operation in this important matter.

Training with the Rams!



St Mark's Parents' Association
Social Night and Fundraiser
March 3rd – 7pm



Ethel and Bethel

BINGO BABES

Doors open at 7pm – time enough to grab a great spot, get a drink from the bar, buy bingo cards and check out raffles and auctions before eyes down at 7.30pm prompt. Eftpos for bar, raffles and auctions. Bring cash for bingo cards - \$2.00 each. This is an R18 event.

\$30.00 per ticket or 2 for \$50.00
Includes first drink and a light supper.