



St Mark's School Newsletter

Term 4 Week 4
7 November 2018

Dear St Mark's family,

The significant work of our Parents' Association was on show on Saturday. Our school fair is not only a whānau event but a significant family and community event. It always has been. However each year's iteration is a reflection of the energy and commitment of those who are on the committee and the parent body who join them in service. It is a privilege to be the principal of this school. Special thanks to **Gary Miller** and his team for creating an event that was fundraiser and relationship/community building in one!

Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi engari he toa takimano
My strength is not that of an individual but that of the collective.

Athletics

At the time of writing preparations for our annual athletic sports are finalised and we are looking forward to a great day of competition. We look forward to welcoming those of you who are able on the day. The coffee cart will be there for **adults only**. Fluffies and hot chocolates **will not** be available for students.

Waka Hourua Church Service

This Sunday has been set aside in the calendar for this annual gathering at St Anne's Church as we join the congregation there to build on our significant relationship between church and school. ERO made special mention of this relationship, and staff look forward to joining students and families at this service.

Graduate School of New Zealand

From this week until the end of the term we have 8 Graduate School of Education teachers with us. They are at various stages of their training and expertise and our school offers a unique experience of an Integrated School. They join us under the guidance of tutors from Graduate School and will have the many and varied experiences of school events in Term 4.

Mana Ake

Mana Ake - Stronger for Tomorrow was established in March 2018 to promote wellbeing and positive mental health for children in school years 1-8 across Canterbury. It was the result of additional funding provided by the government in response to the ongoing effects on children of the Canterbury Earthquakes.

The initiative aims to provide early intervention and support for teachers, families and whānau when children are experiencing ongoing issues that impact their wellbeing. The service can support individual children and groups of children and provide advice, guidance and support for teachers and parents/whānau.

This term our school, along with the other primary schools in our Community of Learning (St Martins, Waltham, Beckenham, Opawa, Diamond Harbour) will be working together to develop systems for accessing this resource. We will have a team of five dedicated 'kaimahi' - workers, who come from a range of NGO backgrounds involved in supporting mental health and wellbeing of children and families.

We are looking forward to being able to have these people able to engage with our children and families. If we think your child might benefit from some support through this resource, we will always discuss this with you first, and you will be able to decide if you feel this is appropriate for your child and family.



Transforming lives through the St Mark's Story



What else is on this week?

- Year 6 Cycle Safety
- Softball coaching Year 3 - 8
- Kapahaka
- Languages year 8 (Year 7 and 8 2019!)
- First Aid Refresher Course for staff.
- Garden planting.
- Athletics Day - Senior!

End of the School Day

After some questions from parents and whānau, I thought I would add some details in this newsletter.

St Mark's School has always finished at 3.00pm in recent history and has encouraged community time after this time for children's play and parent catch up. The "clearing bell" has rung at various times but is currently set at 3.15pm now to signal the end of this community time. This ensures that professional meetings - staff meetings, team meetings, parent/teacher meetings, senior staff meetings and professional learning and development can begin as soon after 3.15pm as is practicable. This allows for those staff on gate duty, the late departure of Power Zone/Casper programs and circumstances for individual parents to be met in terms of duty of care and responsibility for staff. We acknowledge the need to be flexible at the end of the day, but do thank you for your support in this, as staff communicating well across teams in meetings, and professional development time is a significant part of success for students.

November 5th

On Monday night many of you will have had the "backyard fun" of fireworks in your homes or those of friends. I have some memories too - some better experiences than others! But November 5th in New Zealand is also a date to remember for the events at Parihaka. On this day in 1881, several thousand Maori sat quietly on the marae as children sang, while 1600 colonial troops arrived to claim the land as their own. The leaders Te Whiti o Rongomai and Tohu Kākahi had ordered a pacifist response to troops who ultimately imprisoned the leaders without trial, destroyed gardens, burned houses and forcibly sent iwi to other areas of New Zealand. An apology was offered by the Crown in June 2017, but since 2006 Parihaka nestled in the hill surrounding Mt Taranaki has become a place signifying peace. This image is mirrored in the Sermon on the Mount and the message to turn the other cheek and love our enemies seeking to turn them into friends (Matt:5 38 - 40). A radical idea!

Parihaka is an historical story worth knowing well.

Blessings

Averil

School Notices

Upcoming Events

| | |
|-----------|---|
| 9 Nov | Grandparents' Day |
| 11 Nov | Waka Hourua Service - St Anne's - 10am |
| 12 Nov | ISSA Athletics |
| 12 Nov | Year 3 Living Springs |
| 16 Nov | Canterbury Anniversary Day |
| 19/20 Nov | Year 7 Leadership Camp |
| 20 Nov | New Parents Evening |
| 29 Nov | Advent Carol Service - 7pm |
| 11 Dec | Internal Prizegiving - 1.30pm |
| 13 Dec | Prizegiving - 7.00pm |
| 14 Dec | End of Year Service - 11.45am |

Church Certificates

| | |
|--------|------------|
| Raupo | Jake H |
| Inaka | Sofia S |
| Kereru | Joshua W |
| Kamana | Ari R |
| ToeToe | Oliver P |
| Paua | Benjamin C |
| Kotuku | Daniel S |
| Wheke | Daniel H |
| Toroa | Thomas H |

Prize giving Cups

Children, who were awarded Cups and Trophies at the 2017 Prize Giving ceremony, are asked to return these to the school office this week. It would be greatly appreciated if these can be polished before returning.

Photographs

Staff, students and families can access these anytime now at:

<http://www.photoshots.co.nz>

then click the button 'Event Gallery Login' in the top right.

Photos appear in several sub galleries, for ease of viewing / loading, under 'St Mark's School 2018' in red to the bottom right.

Password access is:

18stMk18

Sports Results

24 October

St Mark's Pumas 18 v Homeschool Hoopers 14
Players of the Day: Ruby T/Theo A-C

31 October

St Mark's Lions 32 v Halswell Thunder 13
Player of the Day: Miriama N

Orders are due by Friday, 9 November at 9am.