



# St Mark's School Newsletter

Issue 3  
14 February 2018

Kia ora everyone,

The energy and fun evident at the Year 6 and 7 camp in Waipara this week was a visual reminder of how key relationships are in all we do. Learning outside the classroom alongside your peers, provides new and different opportunities to interact, different skills to be explored and relationships strengthened. Thank you to **Mr Adrian Rennie** and **Ms Katrina Steans** for their work to bring these experiences for our students to life, and to those parents who have given up their time (and work!) to join them - we couldn't do it without you. The photographs say it all!

## Parent Interviews 2018.

- **Week 5** - These interviews will be Parent/Caregiver and Teacher interviews. This will be an opportunity to meet with your child's teacher to strengthen the partnership between home and school to best meet the needs of your child and family. These will be 15 minute interviews that can be booked online using the information provided by Mrs Christine Fairchild later in this newsletter.
- **Mid Year** - These interviews will be three-way conferences where Parent/Caregiver, Teacher and Student meet to share all aspects of learning and plan for the second half of the year. Student voice will be crucial at these conferences.
- **Mid Year Celebration of Learning Across the School** - date to be advised in the calendar.

## **CURRICULUM AREA**

### Sport 2018

Strength in sport has been a hallmark of excellence at St Mark's for many years. St Mark's sports teams have proudly represented the school in many disciplines as students of all ages have worn maroon and gold with pride.

In recent times there have been multiple challenges to continuing this proud history, however excellence has continued. Frequent reporting in our newsletters indicate that varied sports and P.E programs have continued to high levels. It has saddened me when I have heard of parent frustrations often voiced as a "lack of sport" - this is not reflected in our school programs and staff have shared the frustration of various restrictions.

Shifts in Junior Sport Canterbury wide post quake has shifted this landscape, with many schools not able to, or unwilling to field teams in formal competitions particularly Saturdays. Indeed some Canterbury codes have actively discouraged school teams from competing in formal competitions.

For these and other reasons there has been an ongoing conversation and review among staff as to the future of sport and physical education at St Mark's School. As this is a key area of the curriculum it is an operational matter, and one that needed much thought. The school was in a full building program until Term 3 last year - the opening of the hall and full playground, coupled with a burgeoning roll have provided the perfect conditions for acting on these conversations.

Today I can share that Students in Years 5-8 will have the opportunity to compete in the Canterbury Schools competitions on Friday afternoons during Terms 2 and 3. The sports represented here are hockey, netball, football and rugby.

Parents of younger students have previously organised teams outside of school hours e.g. junior netball, miniball, football and touch rugby. We will continue to support these moves by including senior students as coaches, space for practices and flexibility for game times etc.



*Transforming lives through the St Mark's Story*

In addition we are continuing to develop existing robust Fitness and Physical Education programs, which have naturally expanded as the school campus has opened up.

It has of course been wonderful to draw on the expertise of our community. For example **Mr George Carnoutsos** (an ex-Olympic Hockey player, former St Mark's student, and grandfather of a current student), working last year during Terms 2 and 3 spearheading our Junior Hockey program. This commitment was so special, I know there have been countless parents who have stepped in to coach, manage and support various teams, and I know of future offers of support. THANK YOU!!

Our connections to the Independent Schools Sports program will continue to grow - our wonderful **Mrs Maree Bigelow** has taken on the role of secretary of this organisation for 2018 and 2019.

We are also looking to strengthen our ties with other schools, with an eye on sports and cultural exchanges.

As we explore other areas of school life in this newsletter each week, can I invite you to talk with your teacher or myself about those things that raise questions for you.

This week we welcome **Adam R** and his parents **Jonathan and Barbara**. Welcome to the St Mark's family! May you find God's love here and a turangawaewae for your extended family.

#### **Happenings this week!**

- Chess club starts this week
- Enviro Group started yesterday
- We have unprecedented numbers of students learning through our Itinerant Music Program!
- Year 8 students off to Lawn Bowls today!
- Ash Wednesday service - Thank you Rev. Ben and parents who shared it with us today!

#### **Happenings next week!**

- Swimming - Year 4-8
- Year 4 and 5 field trips - Waste and Recycling
- ŌMOHO WILL BE OPEN FOR ISSUING BOOKS!!!
- Board of Trustees Meeting Monday, 7.30pm

#### **PARENTS' ASSOCIATION**

Last night I attended one of the most supported and "snappiest" PA meetings ever. It was so encouraging to see so many parents joining as a team to work together to uplift our school. Aply led by **Mrs Susan Bain**, I want to thank you all in advance for what you will achieve in support of your own and other students and families.

Can I make a heartfelt plea to those of you who have been considering buying tickets to **ETHEL AND BETHEL** - DO!! This is a wonderful early opportunity for our community to join in this event which promises to be hilarious by all accounts. ALL money raised goes toward supporting our school.

As the first weeks unfold, the blessing of **Canon Rev. Ben Truman** to St Mark's School is being revealed. A strong Religious Education program is outworking the Special Character of our school. Rev. Ben is involved with every class - an enormous undertaking - his expertise not only as our school Vicar, but also his passion for teaching and learning shining. In the coming weeks we will explore the Five Marks of Mission, and how they are expressed in our school life. In the meantime be assured that through the wonderful faith and teachings of Rev. Ben in our school, our students are learning to love the message of the Gospel in such a tangible and engaging way.

Blessings

Averil

# School Notices

## Upcoming Events

16 Feb	Tennis Champs
21 Feb	Tennis Champs
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	Arran M
Kereru	Isabel H
Ti Kouka	Thomas O
Kamana	Thomas F
ToeToe	Theo A-C
Kotuku	Clara N
Paua	Julia M

## Parent/Teacher Interviews

Parent/Teacher interviews are being held on Tuesday 27 and 28 February. The times available are on [www.schoolinterviews.co.nz](http://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](http://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

## Welcome Back BBQ

What a wonderful evening it was last Friday night. The salads would put many restaurant salad bars to shame. It has often been discussed that we should put our salad recipes in a book and there was some serious contenders for inclusion this year. It is always so nice to see the school community get together like this.

I would like to thank Fiona Clark for putting the evening together and Jon Saxton from Abbott Insurance Group (and Room Kereru) for supplying the BBQ and 100 sausages.

Susan Bain  
PA President

## 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](mailto: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

# Year 6/7 Camp at Waipara





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



# **Ethel and Bethel**

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**BINGO BABES**

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

# Parenting Helpline

get support, advice  
and practical strategies

**Call 0800 568 856**

9am - 9pm Monday to Sunday

we can help  
with any of your  
parenting concerns

[www.parenthelp.org.nz](http://www.parenthelp.org.nz)

**Parent  
Help** For Parent and  
Family Support