



St Mark's School Newsletter

Issue 12
3 May 2017

Kia ora everyone and welcome back to Term 2.

We do hope you have enjoyed a relaxing break with family and friends. As we start the new term we can look forward with much joy to the opening of the rest of the campus. For the team and students of Waka Puhara this will be a long awaited journey to their new home bases, and for our school a completed campus opens up the whole complex for new opportunities in teaching and learning. We continue to be thankful for the collective wisdom and drive of the Property Control Group comprising **Raylene McEwan, Matt Sherwood, Craig McInnes and the team from Signal Group.**

Planning has already started for an appropriate schoolwide and community celebration for this momentous occasion in the life of the school.

This week we welcome **Finn James** and his parents **Toby and Eve, Sharon Jimmy** and her parents **Jimmy and Febi**, and **Indie Leatua** and her parents **Palanikeke and Alishiba**. We welcome you to the St Mark's family. May your family find here a turangawaewae, God's love and much happiness.

Performance Choir

It is with much pleasure that I announce to the school community that Mr Paul Ellis has been appointed as Director of the Performance Choir. Paul comes to St Mark's school with a local, national and international reputation and we are blessed to have a person of his calibre nurturing our young singers. Paul played the organ at our school Advent Service last year and we can be thankful that his considerable talent will enhance our music programs and the special character of our school. Paul, welcome to the St Mark's family!

New Entrant Enrolment 2018

A friendly reminder that if you have a child turning 5 in 2018, an application for enrolment is required before the Board of Proprietors meet to consider applications. Applications for 2018 are most likely to exceed places.

From our Senior Students

Tena Koutou katoa

Welcome back, and we hope that you all have had a great holiday.

The whole school has been training hard for the cross country and we are all looking forward to it. All of the people that use the senior playground have been enjoying the new bark chip.

We are all looking forward to the opening of the new middle school.

Sophia Goodrick & Zen Kuwasaki



Transforming lives through the St Mark's Story

Senior Playground

You will notice the 32 cubic metres of “cushion chip” which has been spread on the floor of the senior playground. This is a most welcome sight for keen climbers and a huge thanks to our caretaker **Kevin McKinnel and Mike Percasky** who carried out the bulk of the wheelbarrowing!

Bullying - Conversation 1. Let's talk!

Bullying and antisocial behaviours is an issue for all schools. It has attracted significant media attention in recent weeks and the deleterious effects on those bullied and those who bully are well documented. Taking a proactive and preventive approach is the only course schools should take to reduce incidents at school and have clear policies and procedures for understanding and dealing with the issue transparently. The well-being of every child is the responsibility of everyone. Heightened awareness and increased empathy are key to our conversations.

Research and advice from experts indicate the only way to address bullying is support from the whole community - students, staff and parents. The first step is to accept that bullying incidents occur - at St Mark's School - and acknowledge that appropriate resources are required as part of a prevention strategy.

The second step is to acknowledge that bullying is not “just part of growing up”. The Ministry of Education National Administration Guidelines (NAG 5) states that each school is to “Provide a safe physical and emotional environment for every student”. Although this does not directly cover aspects of bullying, the recommendation is that developing and implementing a bullying policy will help a school ensure that it meets its obligations in relation to providing a safe environment for all students.

The Board of Trustees of St Mark's School will be reviewing our bullying policy this term and community input is crucial. Of course you can talk with any staff member at any time.

Over the next few weeks, students will be taking part in the **Kia Kaha Program- Developed by the Youth Education Service New Zealand Police**. This is a program designed to help create safe positive classrooms in which bullying cannot flourish. It will be delivered by your child's teacher with help from **Senior Constable Ross Mitchell**. A letter for parents and caregivers will be sent to you all and include a link to an overview of the program.

All this will be framed around a document called: **Bullying Prevention and Response: a Guide for Schools**.

<https://www.education.govt.nz/school/student.../bullying-prevention-and-response/>



The week of **22nd - 26th May** is **Bullying-Free New Zealand Week**. Please see the link below to see what other schools are achieving.

<https://www.bullyingfree.nz/>

The following is from this website

A stylised cluster of mānuka branches underlines the Bullying-free NZ brandmark, symbolising the philosophy that underpins our approach.



Whakapūpūtia mai ō mānuka, kia kore ai e whati. ‘Cluster the branches of the mānuka, so they will not break.’

This whakatauki embodies the philosophy of Bullying-free NZ. “Together with a shared vision, we know which direction to go, together - we can prevent bullying in Aotearoa.” Mānuka has an important role as a pioneering plant and nurturer of the forest. The growth of mānuka is the first stage towards the growth of a new native forest. It creates shade and shelter from the wind, protecting young native plants which will eventually grow into mature forests (just as together we can all help prevent bullying of our tamariki).

Schools can’t prevent bullying alone. They need the support of whānau and communities to provide safe, positive learning environments for children and young people.

Our commitment? Fostering healthy social interactions with restorative practices. This is “transforming lives through the St Mark’s Story” through relationships.

Musings from an office

I recently read an article online (well the holidays affords more time!) on where Prince George will attend school. Privileged life aside, the school chosen by his parents has this on it's website:

“Whilst we are proud of our record of senior school entrance and scholarship successes, we place a greater emphasis on a set of core values, which include kindness, courtesy, confidence, humility and learning to be givers, not takers.

Achievement

I know that often there are successes for students outside school and we love to hear about them. Due to space demands this week we will include a number of recent successes in next week's newsletter. Being successful at St Mark's School is always something to celebrate.

In addition, if you are in a position to link the celebration of alumni to our school we would be most grateful. These are part of the school story and provide stories for the current students to aspire to.

I thank you in advance for reading the material linked in this newsletter and engaging with myself and staff and your children in conversations as we work closely together for the best outcomes for our students. John 13:34-35 *A new commandment I give to you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know you are my disciples.*

Best

Averil

School Notices

Upcoming Events

4 May	PA Meeting - 7.30pm
5 May	School Cross Country
10 May	School Cross Country postponement
17 May	Sports/Cultural Photos
31 May	PA Ice Skating Night - 4.30-6.30pm
31 May	Singing Cup competition

Please refer to our calendar on our website which is updated regularly. It has all major events throughout the year for you to see.

St Mark's Cross Country - Friday 5th May

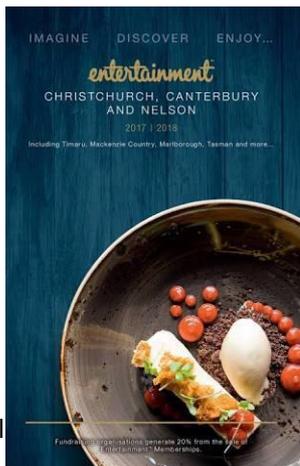
Our school cross country will be held on Friday 5th May. The senior and middle school races (yrs 3,4,5,6,7 and 8) will take place at Hansen Park beginning at 10am. The junior school races will be held at Risingholme Park and will begin at 2:00pm.

PA News

Entertainment Book

We are again holding this Fundraiser this year. These books will be distributed to you in the next two weeks.

If you do not wish to receive this book, please complete the opt-out form which has been sent home with your child today. This is to be returned to the school Office by Friday, 12 May.



PA News

SAVE THE DATE!!

PA Ice Skating Night

Sunday 21 May 4:30-6:30

Fun for the whole family! We've booked out the rink, so grab your friends and get your skates on !

If you pay before the day you can **skate for just \$10 per person.**

Or you can pay on the night for \$12, cash only. Price includes skate hire.

Cash payments accepted at the school office (correct monies in a named envelope please) or you can direct credit your payment to:

St Mark's School PA
03-1598-0015833-00

Please ensure you put your surname and "ice-skating" as a reference.

School Fair

The Fair Committee are now seeking and inviting the donation of 'Prizes' for our very popular School Raffle. An important element of The St Mark's School Fair, and one for which we receive tremendous support of each year. So if you would like to donate a gift/item for the 2017 St Mark's School Fair Raffle please contact us via email - fair@saintmarks.school.nz - Thank you. Gary!!



Uniform Shop News:

Contemplating buying a Tracksuit for Cross Country??

Currently available for \$130- but a hefty price increase from our suppliers will see these increase at the end of May.

If it's Boys Belted Shorts you're after—

we have reduced the price of these to clear some stock....

WINTER: ~~\$62.00~~ \$45.00 SUMMER: ~~\$31.00~~ \$20.00

Shop Hours: Tuesday morning: 8.30 - 9.30am

Thursday afternoon: 2.30 - 3.30pm

Volunteers needed to help run the shop—
please come in and see us if you can spare
an hour per week of your time

Community Notices

Cashmere High School Open Day

On Tuesday 23rd May 2017 from 4pm until 6.30pm Cashmere High School will be “open” for all prospective students and parents.

The Principal, Mark Wilson, will address visitors in the school’s Performing Arts Centre (PAC) at 4pm and again at 5pm. Guided school tours will then be available at 4.30pm and 5.30pm.

The school’s prospectus, enrolment and scholarship forms are available from the school or from the website:
www.cashmere.school.nz

Closing date for Year 9 enrolments for 2018 is Friday 28th July 2017. It is vital that all out-of-zone applications are received prior to this date, as there will be very limited places available and as a result any late enrolments will be placed at the bottom of the waiting list.

For further information please phone the school office on 332 9129.

Avonside Girls’ High School

Open Evening

Thursday 25 May 2017

from 5.00pm – 7.00pm

Starting in the gymnasium at 5.00pm

Come and see how we educate and empower young women to be the best they can be and hear about the plans for our brand new state-of-the-art school, opening Term 2, 2019.

Dyspraxia Support Group

The Dyspraxia Support Group holds fun groups for children aged between 5 to 13 years of age on Saturday afternoons during term time. The groups participate in a programme put together and delivered by a team of enthusiastic supervisors.

If you have a child or know a child with Developmental Dyspraxia/DCD who would be interested in attending, please contact Sue on 358 3249 or email dyspraxia.centre@xtra.co.nz.

St Mark's School Blogs

Please visit our blogs to see some of the teaching and learning happening in our St Mark's School family. There are also extra learning opportunities online for students.

We welcome your comments!

Mōkihi

Aukaha kia kaha.

Strengthen the bindings.



<http://stmarksmokihi.blogspot.co.nz/>

Waka Pūhara

Kia kotahi te hoe o te waka.

Let's paddle in unison.



<http://stmarkswakapuhara.blogspot.co.nz/>

Waka Hourua

He moana pukepuke ka ekengia e te waka.

A choppy sea can be navigated.



<http://stmarkswakahourua.blogspot.co.nz/>