



St Mark's School Newsletter

8 March 2017
Week 6 of 11

Kia ora everyone,

Week 6! What a busy week already and some signs of autumn to remind us that Christchurch enjoys 4 seasons - our thanks to Kevin for keeping our grounds so smart as the impending leaf litter is upon us!

Last week you and your child will have had an opportunity to talk with the base group teacher and set some challenges for the year ahead. These challenges are the areas where you can "cheer your child on". Encouraging them in challenging endeavours raises expectations of achievement and encourages partnership with school for the very best outcomes for your child. Children are generally very good at cheering each other on and this is another source of encouragement. So! Goose Story Part 3!

Geese honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed!



What are we saying when we call to others? Are we encouraging? Are we helping them to meet their challenges? Are we helping them to respond to their call to Christ? I have created a "wordle" to encourage us all! See the noticeboard!

From our Senior Students

Tena koutou katoa,

This week the year 6 and 7's went on a camp to Waipara. We know that they are having a lot of fun and hopefully they stay safe. The year eights are having a great week as well with cool activities lined up including three sessions of lawn bowls.

Sophia Goodrick and Zen Kuwasaki



Enrolment!

As the numbers of New Entrants applying to St Mark's School for 2018 is likely to exceed places, parents with siblings of current students are urgently encouraged to provide a full application to the school for their child. Applications close on **31st August 2017.**



Coding

Last Thursday I joined the year 5 and 6 students with Miss Yonetani and Ms Steans for their coding class. Some pictures follow in the gallery but I was struck by the collaboration between students and the benefits of solving problems together. There are many useful sites online to describe the benefits of coding aside from the gains in digital literacy these include: logico-deductive reasoning, expressing yourself in different ways, critical for many occupations now and in the future, diverse thinking skills and the opportunity to create and innovate not just to participate.



Curriculum

As part of our attention to writing this term, staff are working to implement the processes of Storytelling Schools into their writing program across the school. This is a program researched in the UK and has proven benefits for raising standards of writing and reading for students. With a strong oral language base, it allows all abilities to innovate and create using stories that are well known to students. A corollary of raised achievement is increased motivation in all forms of written expression. Talk with your teacher for more details but early work started in 2016 is encouraging. In very general terms, Writing (National Standards reporting area of the curriculum) often lags behind the other areas - Reading and Mathematics - in schools across NZ.

We are partnering with our neighbouring schools in Professional Learning in this area and the Resource Teachers in Literacy Service to develop responsive plans in our school to those at risk of not meeting standards at St Mark's School.

On Sunday I had the privilege of sharing some of my faith journey, preaching at the Transitional Cathedral. The topic was "Taking risks for God", and Dean Lawrence Kimberley has asked four people to share some of their story on this topic over the Lent period. Apart from the challenge of the height of the pulpit and the not so strategically placed glass of water, it was a joy to share our St Mark's School mission statement - "Transforming Lives Through the St Mark's Story - as part of this talk which invites everyone to be transformational in the lives of others. We could replace St Mark's with our own names and ask ourselves "What is God looking for in you and me, and how can He greatly use us?" This mission statement is at the heart of this school yet has a wider reach if we are prepared to take risks in His name.

Blessings everyone

Averil

School Notices

Upcoming Events

7-10 Mar	Year 6/7 Camp
17 Mar	ISSA Swimming Championships
27 Mar	Yr 3-5 - Freshwater at the Groyne

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

Church Certificates

Inaka	Kali Niall
Kereru	Sebastien Double
Ti Kouka	Nikhil Jeram
Kotuku	Matthew Chinula
Paua	Lucy McWhirter
ToeToe	Ioli Kuwasaki
Rimurimu	Plumm Twist
Toroa	George Ashton
Wheke	Trinity Mann

Sports Results

Miniball

St Mark's Tigers 12 v Prebbleton Parrots 18

Player of the Day: Hannah Penman

St Mark's Cubs 28 v Pioneer Pistons 26

Player of the Day: Cooper Moore

PA News

Entertainment Books

It's that time of year again!

Our entertainment page is now live for you to pre-order your 2017-18 entertainment books. Feel free to share the link with family, friends and work colleagues and they can be ordered for all over New Zealand.

Help us make the best year ever! Follow the link below to pre-order.

<https://www.entertainmentbook.co.nz/orderbooks/1341r76>

A big thank you to the PA for providing our water polo teams with new balls. The year 8 players got to use



them today at practice and all noticed the better grip. This is much appreciated.





Year 5 & 6
Coding

