



St Mark's School Newsletter

Issue 8
21 March 2018

Kia ora everyone,

As we approach Holy Week and engage with the significance of Easter, the message in media and retail is the antithesis of sacrifice and love. Rev. Ben will join us each day next week as we gather in Christian communion to hear stories we know but reaffirm an understanding of the great hope Jesus life meant then, and continues to mean now. You are warmly invited to all services next week which are on the calendar.

REMINDER OF DATES:

- **Tomorrow Thursday 22nd March.** This is the union meeting for all NZEI Teachers. As previously communicated, the school will be **OPEN** with relief staff in place, however you are welcome to collect your child from school from **1.00pm**
- **Easter Monday 2nd April and Easter Tuesday 3rd April - St Mark's School is CLOSED**

Ōmoho

The translation of this space in our school is "provisions for the journey" and is the perfect space for reading, collaborating and creating. We are very grateful to our wonderful Parents' Association for the funding of additional items - lego, books, Accessit Library Computer software, shelving and tables and chairs to name some of the items. Pride of place in the centre is our "**Bonfire Seating**". It is proving popular with staff and students alike. We can fit 26 students around the seating and it is a focal point for discussion for classes. Please pop in and enjoy the environment which is still waiting for additional items.

Curriculum Area - Sport Again!

A huge thank you to **Mrs Maree Bigelow** for building on our sports and physical education programmes which continue to be wide and varied. A large contingent of swimmers attended the Zone swimming sports, Softball and Basketball have continued with outside experts working with students, **Mr Adrian Rennie** has been accompanying our tennis players for their annual school competitions to Opawa Tennis club, and our Water polo team continues to go from strength to strength. Netball is being organised by enthusiastic parents and the sports leaders have moved the table tennis tables onto the stage in our hall with a view to encouraging table tennis competitions.

It has been announced in a previous newsletter that our students - year 5 - 8 - will join the Canterbury competitions in Terms 2 and 3. Restrictions to entries for schools aside, it is likely we will confirm next week that our Year 5 and 6 students will travel to Hagley Park on **Thursdays**, and our Year 7 and 8 students will travel to the same venue on **Fridays**. Sports on offer are Netball, Hockey, Football, Rugby and Table Tennis. We are working hard to secure positions for all our students at these levels and will confirm teams shortly.

Principal for the day.

At the recent "Ethel and Bethel" community event, **Ruby-Grace M** was the winner of this opportunity. She will be in the "Principal's Chair" on Friday of this week. She will hand out the certificates, visit every classroom and enjoy a day out of her usual routine. She will be the student in mufti and will start with a scrumptious extra large hot chocolate!

This week I attended the funeral of a dear friend's father, and was touched by the number of speakers who spoke so lovingly using the words - **grace, patience, strength, courage, family, honesty and love**. I reflected on how incredible it is to be loved so much and to have lived so well, but also how our St Mark's School family reflect these attributes in so many, many ways. At Easter, we are reminded of how Jesus life taught us all about these too!

Blessing, Averil



Transforming lives through the St Mark's Story

School Notices

Upcoming Events

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 (school closed)
5 Apr	ISSA Swimming Sports
13 Apr	End of term service - 2.15pm

Church Certificates

Inaka	Pippa F-D
Kereru	Olivia S
Ti Kouka	Jackson O'D
Kamana	Ari R
ToeToe	Phoebe M
Kotuku	Lily B
Paua	Eli D
Mako	Aidan U
Wheke	Olivia B
Toroa	Ruby J

Scholastic Book Club

Order forms for Scholastic Books have been sent home. Orders may be placed direct with Scholastic at www.mybookclub.scholastic.nz. An easy way to order online yourself and will be delivered direct to school. Orders close on Wednesday 28 March

Willows Lunch Bags

Available from Term 2 - Willows Lunch Bags

Willows Lunch Bags will be available for order each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday with a different selection available each of those days.

Each Lunch Bag is \$6.50 with extras available also 50 cents from each Lunch Bag sold will be donated back to the school by Willows

Order forms will be available from the foyer and completed forms to be put in the Order Box by 3:30pm each Monday for that weeks Order/s. You can order for 1, 2 or all 3 days of the week and online internet banking is available for payment.

Lost Property

The lost property is building up, especially lunch boxes. We would like to rehome this property, can you please have a look and see if any items belong to your family.



St Mark's Board of Proprietors

Just a reminder that the Term 1 & 2 invoices are due for payment on the 31st March 2018.

Independent Swimming Zones

A huge congratulations to all the students who were selected to represent St Mark's at the Independent Swimming Zones on Friday 16th March at Wharenui Pool.

What an absolutely fantastic event, we saw on display our values of:

Courage, through participating and taking a risk,
Excellence, through giving our best and achieving to a high standard,

Grace - being encouraging and kind

Faithfulness - trusting ourselves to do our best.

We would like to thank Bridget Sullivan and Felicity Redmile for their support and guidance at the event.

There were some very close finishes and we had many of our athletes progress to the finals. Max Wright was placed 3rd in both freestyle and open butterfly. 1st and 2nd place progress through to the Canterbury Swimming Zones.

Wanted Sandpit Toys

The sandpit has taken off in popularity. If you have any unwanted sandpit toys we would be very happy to receive them.

Community News

South Christchurch Children's Community Orchestra

We are looking for keen and committed musicians – any orchestral instruments to join a new South Christchurch children's community ensemble starting in term 2, conducted by the excellent Richard Oswin. Suggested ability level equivalent approx. grade 2-6. We'll be meeting on Wednesdays after school, venue TBC. If interested, or for more details, please contact Kathy on 021 0650 959, email kathycatton@me.com, or on facebook <http://bit.ly/2tiU2IG>.



Orchestral String Instruments



An Update from the Board of Trustees Review Committee



Term 1 2018 Reviews: **WE NEED YOUR INPUT PLEASE**

This term we are reviewing the following policies and invite your feedback as part of our three year review cycle.

- Home Learning

It is from these policies that the procedures are developed in relation to the way the school approaches these things operationally. For this reason, we want to encourage parents to become familiar with these policies and recommend any changes that might be required..

If you would like to view and give feedback on the policy its as easy as 1,2,3!

1. Go to www.schooldocs.co.nz and click on search for your school. Pick St Mark's School.
2. Enter the following user name and password

Username: stmarks Password: saint

3. Find the policy that's up for review, read it, click on the red bubble in the top right hand corner of the policy and enter your feedback. (if there is no red option, pick the green speech bubble instead).

Feedback can be given anonymously if you choose.

The cut off for feedback is the last day of Term 1 – 13th April 2018.

Term 1 Assurance:

In addition to reviewing policy, it's also the role of the Board to gain **ASSURANCE** that the operational policy and procedures are being operationalised in the school.

This term we will undertake assurance on a variety of areas including

- EEO Policy
- Vetting Requirements for non-Teachers
- 10 Year Property Plan
- Risk Management - Medicines, Minor/Moderate Injury or Illness
- Length of School Year

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.



Orchestral Extravaganza

**FEATURING ORCHESTRAS FROM RANGI RURU GIRLS'
SCHOOL, CHRIST'S COLLEGE AND ST MARGARET'S
COLLEGE**

**Wednesday 4 April, 7.30pm at the Christ's College
Auditorium.**

Free admission. No booking required