

Newsletter



St Mark's School exists to provide a balanced education, where a child's academic, cultural, physical, social and spiritual needs are identified and nurtured in a dynamic Christian environment, grounded in the Anglican way and supported by a family orientated community.



Issue 5
1 March 2017

Kia ora everyone,

What a joy to join many of you at the swimming sports on Friday! There was such great support for the students and the day was perfect. Thanks again to Mrs Delwyn Wright for her expert organisation! Which brings me to Goose Story - Part 2! *When the head goose gets tired, it rotates back in the Wing and another goose flies Point!*

This is a metaphor for how sensible it is to take turns doing demanding jobs with one another - or with geese flying South!

A great example of that was the announcement last week of the Parents' Association roles - we look so forward to the contribution of **Susan Bain** and her team.

Teaching and Learning

Today's newsletter has some items that show how we are extending learning beyond the classroom. Adapting the academic program across teams and the curriculum ensures diversity and best practice. A range of learning experiences encourages students to develop their own skills and passions, and take a risk on those things where they need to be challenged. Here is just a hint of what you will find in the photograph gallery: Year 3 and 4 Technology, RE with Joe and Sebastian, Tennis training for Year 3, Shrove Tuesday Pancake racing and a new St Mark's Lion for Mokihi!!!!



From our Senior Students!

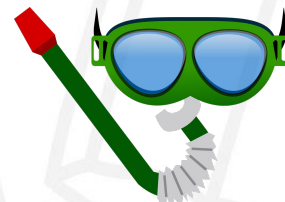
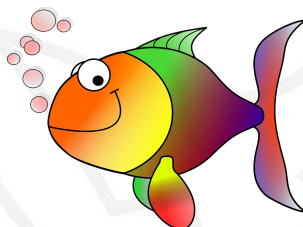
Tena Koutou katoa

Last week we had a very successful swimming sports day with everyone trying their best. Two of the most exciting races were the parent versus Year 8 relay and the teacher versus Year 8 relay. The Year 8 students won both relays due to a few false starts but there weren't any official rules.

Zen Kuwasaki & Sophia Goodrick

From the Principal!

Of course staff are in training now for the staff team trials for 2018 - cameras are being considered as a safeguard for those who wish to "dive early"!



Lost Property

Thank you to those who were able to locate items of clothing on the "Lost Property" table in the hall. The left-overs have been gathered and sent to the uniform shop for resale. We do seem to have an over abundance of clothing items, lunch boxes and other personal items that are just left around the school. It is my view that we need to work together to support your children to take personal responsibility for their belongings. Without names we cannot return items to students or guarantee that your item will be returned. It is disappointing to have few answers to questions from parents as we rely on a high trust model from everyone. Please name items, collect lunch boxes and encourage your child to find their missing items.

Curriculum

Assessment of students has begun in the areas of Mathematics and Reading across the school and will form a bank of data for targeting students acceleration, and raising achievement. Assessment is for learning, not just assessment sake, to inform teachers as to where to direct learning for every student. You will have found information about how your child is tracking in relation to the National Standards in the End of Year Reports. These are carried through into this year as the starting point for teaching and learning. You can of course make a time to discuss your child's progress with the base room teacher at any time, as the goals you have set at the Parent/Teacher conferences this week are outworked in your child's program.

Ash Wednesday Service

Thank you to **Margrett Sherwood** who lead our Ash Wednesday service this morning. Rev. Helen has written a lovely letter to the school about the significance of the day and students had the choice of imposition of ashes. We continue to pray for healing for Rev. Helen.



Thank you all for taking the time to meet with your child and base group teacher this week. It has been encouraging to see how we can partner with you for the best outcomes for your child. Research is unequivocal. If the next steps in learning are made visible and known to the student, there are better outcomes, particularly academic for the learner. John Hattie is one of the most prominent authors in this area. Partnering with parents and whanau is another crucial indicator of success.

Two items to note:

1. The Opawaho Cluster are partially funding a presentation by world-renowned Neuroscience educator Nathan Mikaere-Wallis on what 3-7 year olds need to learn. This is an opportunity not to be missed! Please see flyer for details.
2. Staff are supporting the Zonta initiative "Wrap around Project" This involves a coin trail at our school on **Wednesday 8th of March**. This would be a voluntary contribution to this worthwhile project. Please see flyer for details.

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

Kereru	Xavier Frost
Ti Kouka	Tiffany Cattermole
Kotuku	Mannix Creevey
Paua	Saffron Down
ToeToe	ToeToe
Rimurimu	Max Bachop
Toroa	Bella Edwards
Wheke	Millie Trusttum

Sports Results

Miniball

St Mark's Tigers 2 v Cashmere Stars 8

Player of the Day: Dustin Shaw

St Mark's Cubs 20 v Opawa Orcas 26

Player of the Day: Max Percasky

PA News

Uniform Shop

Winter Uniform

Next term sees a change to winter uniform. The shop now has winter items available for purchase.



ASH Wednesday and the Season of LENT – *What is it all about?*

Dear St. Mark's School family,

Today is ASH Wednesday, which means that some students a) may have arrived home with a smudge (cross) on their foreheads and/or b) may like to tell you what happened at Morning Prayer this morning.

ASH Wednesday marks the beginning of the forty-day season of LENT. But what does that mean? Well, it's really all about God's amazing Love for us, and our response to that Love. In the early Christian Church, the forty days leading up to Easter (the celebration of Christ's resurrection) were special days of preparation for Baptism. While this still occurs today, the focus of Lent has become an intentional time of 'mindfulness' – making time to consider how we live our lives and whether our daily life choices align with God's way of Love. LENT is a time of allowing ourselves to be guided towards new insight and transformation. A great deal more could be said about LENT and we will do so at school in Morning Prayer, RE and services throughout the season. Do feel free to join us!

The following is a portion of my message to your children this morning:

'On ASH Wednesday, we can receive a special cross on our foreheads.... The black cross on our forehead is a way of reminding us that God loves us very much. It also reminds us that although we love God and treasure God in our hearts, we don't always live the way God wants us to live. Beginning on ASH Wednesday, and during the season of Lent, we make a special effort to live the way God wants us to live.'

So today, we can choose to have a funny black smudge on our forehead! And all over the world, millions of other people – children and adults - will do the same. But remember, whether you choose to have a cross on your forehead or not, God never stops loving you. Because nothing can ever separate us from God's love!'

Rev'd. Helen

Swimming Sports



Shrove Tuesday and Pancake Race



Fun at the Woodwork Table



Year 3 Tennis



Tupperware®

A Fantastic Plastic Fundraiser for St Mark's !
Rachel Pharazyn (Oliver's Mum, Ti Kouka) is
donating 10% of all orders collected this term to our
amazing school; check out the BRAND NEW
Autumn/Winter Catalogue in the School Office
PLUS \$10 for each party booked by a school family.
Contact 021 1021 727



the

Every \$50 spend gets you a draw ticket to
win a fantastic Tupperware product from
NEW catalogue



WHAT 3-7 YEAR OLDS NEED TO LEARN

MONDAY 10 APRIL 7.30PM BECKENHAM SCHOOL HALL

PARENTS IN THE ŌPĀWAHO CLUSTER ARE INVITED TO JOIN INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED NEUROSCIENCE EDUCATOR **NATHAN MIKAERE-WALLIS** FOR AN EVENING DEDICATED TO **WHAT 3-7 YEAR OLDS NEED TO LEARN**

During the evening Nathan will explore the needs that relate to the development of social, emotional skills, which as well as developing resilience, play a crucial role in the subsequent development of cognitive skills, including literacy. He also offers practical advice on how to help children who are displaying signs of anxiety.

TICKETS ONLY \$5 and payable at the door. Numbers are Limited.

To secure your seat visit <https://goo.gl/forms/ofL9jf4nH3VQqcVB3>

Nathan Mikaere-Wallis is a father of three and foster parent with a professional background in child counselling, teaching and social service management. Until recently he lectured in Human Development at the University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand and was also a board member and senior trainer with the national body responsible for the dissemination of neuroscientific research to professionals. Nathan is a regular on Radio and Television shows in New Zealand, sharing his expertise on child development.





Fundraising for: **Postnatal Depression Canterbury**
and other Zonta Christchurch Canterbury Club charitable projects



The Wrap Around Project aims to raise much needed funds for Postnatal Depression Canterbury, a support group for Canterbury mothers and their families suffering from postnatal depression, many of whom will be parents and children in your school.

WHAT DOES THE FUNDRAISER LOOK LIKE?

1. You will create a good old fashioned coin trail around the social hub of your school...your playground.
2. Then you are invited to participate in the largest coin trail in Christchurch! Our aim is to wrap around The Margaret Mahy Playground with coins from your school and many other Christchurch schools!
3. Send some student representatives with all of the coins from your school to The Margaret Mahy Playground on the 10th March 2017. Add them to our massive coin trail, enjoy morning tea and media coverage with us.
4. Each school which registers will go in the draw to win amazing prizes for the school! These will be drawn at random at The Margaret Mahy Playground on 10th March 2017.

Would you like to receive more information about how you can incorporate this amazing project into your school's Hauora curriculum?

Please register by 19th February to be in to win fantastic prizes for your school!

[For more details and to register, click here](#)

