



St Mark's School Newsletter

Term 2 Week 8
20 June 2018

Kia ora St Mark's Whanau,

A week does not go by without reasons to celebrate and celebrating children's learning is the most important! I have just walked through classrooms, as I often do, and celebrated with teachers the engagement and energy of both the staff and students. We are currently in a changing Educational environment nationally - so many questions yet unanswered by the coalition government and educators alike. Children and young people are why we exist and they are worthy of an unrelenting focus on their well being/hauora and learning/ako. What enables this focus, and although not an exhaustive list, these include engaging with whanau in partnership, quality of teaching and learning, skill and expertise, and focussed targeted understanding of what story the evidence and data is telling us.

THINGS TO CELEBRATE AND SHARE

- **Speech Cup Winners:**

- Year 5 and 6**

- 1st: Zoe R

- 2nd: Olivia C

- Year 7 and 8**

- 1st: Samantha P

- 2nd equal Plumm T

- 2nd equal Lucy N

- **E-Learning Forum**, today is a further step in our e-learning journey as a school and part of our ongoing commitment to consulting with parents so that our journey is shared. Gathering student voice is always part of hearing where we are and where we are going!
- **Principal Awards**. Although I have been giving these out for some time now, I realise that for the students it enables a conversation with me about more than just their work, which often signals a shift in learning in some way. I have decided to celebrate these moments in the newsletter as these conversations often result in "goose bumps" as students describe their success to me. So this week Principal Awards have gone to: **Isaac W** - project work and commitment to learning, **Ethan S** - descriptive writing and "painting" and excellent picture in words, **Violet H** - understanding of doubling in mathematics, **Ella R** - independent writing and digital literacy,
- **Miniball Team** - and their game at half-time in the Rams game in front of 6,000 people! They won 20 - 4 against a Thorrington School team.
- **Year 8 Camp** - this was hugely successful despite rain, mud and a stubborn fire! My thanks to the incredible staff who made this happen - **Miss Cristy Yonetani, Mrs Maree Bigelow, Mr Tom Gordon and Mr Adrian Rennie**.
- **Mokihi Church Service** - What a wonderful occasion with our superb **Vicar Rev. Ben Truman**. This service will be remembered for fellowship with our St Mark's Parish family, singing, and the five finger prayers on blown up gloves!! What a way to share a living faith in God and grow faith in children - we are blessed to have him in our midst.
- **Selwyn Care** - and a growing relationship with a group of senior adults who gather at the St Mark's Church hall on Mondays. We can pray that this develops for mutual benefit and outreach.

DIARY EVENTS NOT TO BE MISSED!

- **Book Week** - next week, Week 9 - all week! There will be opportunities to read, dress up as a favourite book character and other events - watch out for the communication from our Ōmoho leaders - **Samantha P, William M and Harry C**.
- **Parent Interviews** - Years 4 - 8! We are looking forward to meeting with as many of you as possible. Whanau will have received student reports by then which can be a focus for discussion.



Transforming lives through the St Mark's Story

- **Assessment for Learning Forum Wednesday 4th July 8.30am.** As promised I will run a forum of information sharing and discussion about our Assessment processes and planning post National Standards. At this forum I will share some teaching and learning practice that has informed our current position and seek your feedback on what research is telling us and how the student evidence in our school supports assessment.
- **Whanau Hui Assessment, and Teaching and Learning Focus Wednesday 1st August 8.30 am.** I invite all whanau to this meeting with a focus on Assessment and Teaching and Learning with a specific emphasis on Maori and Pasifika students progress and achievement. This specific discussion seeks feedback and understanding of how we can improve our processes for specific needs and celebration.
- **NZEI Ti Riu Roa paid stop work meeting, Tuesday 26th June from 1.30pm.** This event has been advertised in this newsletter weekly and I want to draw your attention to the detail in this communication from the NZEI which I have signed indicating that we *“strongly encourage parents to make arrangements to pick your children up from school by 1.30pm on Tuesday 26th June. if you are unable to pick your children up then please advise us so that your children can be supervised until 3.00pm”* Can I ask that you communicate with your child’s teacher as soon as possible.
- **Elocution Cup Wednesday 27th June.** Information regarding this annual event for year 5-8 students, including the criteria for success in this competition, will be sent home in a separate communication. We are delighted that our much loved **Mrs Nell Pascoe** will be the adjudicator and has set the materials and standards for this event. It will be split into Year 5 and 6, and Year 7 and 8 categories.
- **Photographs tomorrow!** A separate communication has gone out, including the need for students to be in formal uniform including white shirts.

This week I was reminded of how transparent communication with parents is so valued in our school. It is always a privilege to journey with parents - with both positive and challenging points of discussion. I know of no better way than to talk openly about concerns or praise. This supports relational trust - a cornerstone of our work and supported in research as key to outcomes for students. Next week I will publish the Board of Trustees documents supporting the lines of communication that facilitate these conversations, but I do want to acknowledge and offer appreciation to those of you who direct your first communications to the classroom teacher. They are there to listen and support in the first instance while my door remains open!

My two days with Rev. Ben in Wellington at the Association of Integrated Schools conference was fruitful. After a failed first landing at Wellington airport with a closer than I would have liked left wing to the tarmac we landed safely! Rev. Ben and I realised we enjoyed different types of plane rides and went on to enjoy a range of workshops and opportunities to connect with a range of other staff from schools. Of prime importance at the conference was the message of how vital it is to express the special character of these schools but importantly how this is outworked. We are an Anglican school and our Board of Proprietors have beautifully articulated our special character in the five marks of mission. Do you know them? Do you know how they are outworked in our school? Talk to us if you don’t and help us understand how we might communicate this well! We are a Christian school “not in name only but in deed and truth, for the sake of Him whose name we bear, even Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour”. Amen.

Blessings everyone
Averil

School Notices

Upcoming Events

21 June	Sport/Cultural Photographs
25,27,28	Whanau/Teacher Interviews
27 June	Elocution Cup
29 June	Book Character Day
29 June	School Disco
2 July	Strike Concert
6 July	End of Term Service - 9.00am
23 July	Teacher Only Day
19-20 Sept	Wearable Arts Show

Church Certificates

Raupo	Louis B
Inaka	Lily-Belle T
Kereru	Hosea F
Ti Kouka	Finn J
Kamana	James P
ToeToe	Ethan S
Kotuku	Nariah D
Paua	Dustin S
Mako	Minnie E

Sports Results

Netball

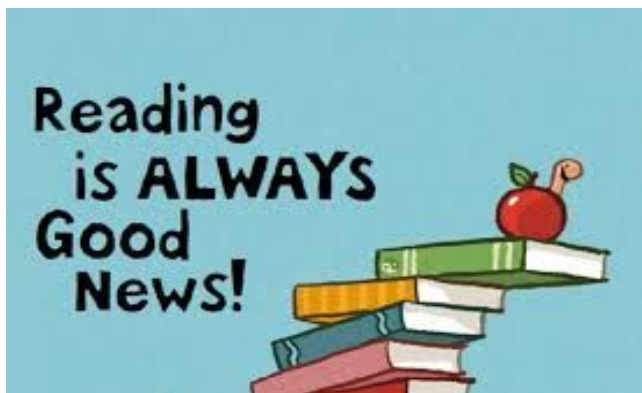
St Mark's Leopards (Yr3) 4 v Marist 0
Player of the Day: Stella P
St Mark's Lions (Yr4) 4 v Heathcote 12
Player of the Day: Meg W

Basketball

St Mark's Titans 8 v St Thomas's 16
Player of the Day: Lucy N
St Mark's Saints 12 v Halswell Thunder 4
Player of the Day: Max P



Next week is book week. We would like to invite you to come to school at 2.45pm to read your favourite book to your child's / grandchild's class. Please let your child's classroom teacher know the day you would like to do this.



PA NEWS

How would you like a FREE double pass to the movies?!?!?

Event Cinemas have sponsored entertainment book & digital app purchasers this week! This means for any book or digital app purchased this week will also receive a movie double pass to any Event Cinema in New Zealand. Just ensure your payment is processed online via the link below.

A big thank you to everyone who has supported our Entertainment Fundraiser!

We've almost received all the payments and Books back from our families. If you haven't paid for yours yet can you please organise your payment for the Entertainment™ Book or return your unsold Book to the Entertainment Book drop box in the school office.

If you ordered the Digital Membership please return the Book ASAP.

Any questions contact Ashleigh at stmarksentertainmentbooks@gmail.com

PAY ONLINE AT:

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

Student Success

On Sunday 17th June, Ethan K, Seth K, Eli D, and Emily D all represented their clubs at the Canterbury/Westland Karate championships. All of them did extremely well and Ethan and Emily both achieved bronze medals in their divisions.

MOKIHI CHURCH SERVICE



CHESS CLUB IN ACTION



YEAR 4 MINIBALL TEAM AT RAMS GAME

Some of the Year 4 mini ball team played at the Rams vs Saints game at Horncastle Arena during half time on 8 June. The team was Miriama N, Meg W, Monty S, Dustin S and Tommy P. They played in front of 6,000 people against Thorrington School and won 20 - 4. Amazing effort!



St Marks

DISCO

ENTRY
\$2



JUNE
29TH

Yr 0-4 6pm-7:15pm

Yr 5-8 7:30pm to 9pm

**Parent to come and collect your child (sign
in hall / sign out hall exit)**

**Glow sticks & chips available for purchase.
Drinks free. \$2.00 entry.**





Letter to send to parents

Dear Parents,

You may be aware of the nationwide crisis in recruiting and retaining teachers.

While there are many more children coming into the school system, there are not enough new teachers being trained. Urgent and significant changes are needed to ensure that the teaching profession can attract the people it needs and to ensure class sizes do not start to increase.

On **Tuesday 26th June**, the teachers from this school will be attending a NZEI Te Riu Roa paid union meeting regarding the *Kua Tae Te Wā* - It's Time campaign. The campaign aims to free teachers to teach and principals to lead, by getting the additional support and staff that schools need. The meetings will allow our teachers to discuss how the Ministry of Education has responded to changes that the union is seeking.

Our teaching staff are members of NZEI and legally entitled to attend this meeting. The teachers will be leaving school on **Tuesday 26th June at 1.30pm** to attend their paid union meeting which starts at **2.00pm**.

I strongly encourage parents to make arrangements to pick your children up from school by 1.30pm on **Tuesday 26th June**. If you are unable to pick your children up then, please advise us so that your children can be supervised until **3.00pm**.

I appreciate that this creates some inconvenience for families. However, I encourage you to support your teachers as they strive to achieve the changes which will safeguard quality education for all children and ensure we make teaching an attractive profession for graduates.

Anyone who may need help with arrangements should contact the office.

Sincerely

Averil Worner

E-Learning Update



Thank you for supporting our Waka Hourua Bring Your Own Chromebook (BYOC) programme.

Over 70% of Waka Hourua students now bring their own Chromebook to school.

This fantastic BYOC uptake has enabled us to transform the way we teach, creating new and exciting learning opportunities and developing 21st century learning skills. Equitable access is important to us. We continue to provide access to Chromebooks at school, but these are shared one between two.

Our Chrome Education Licence system is proving to be of great benefit to students as we customise the online learning environment and do our best to keep students safer online. Please be aware that a Chrome Education Licence is required to join our BYOC programme. Licences are included in the recommended Cyclone bundles, or can be purchased for \$48 from the office.



You may have noticed that our blogs are no longer being updated. This is because we are exploring a better way to share our students' learning: Seesaw. When we are satisfied that Seesaw is beneficial for our St Mark's School Family, there will be a schoolwide launch.

Please continue to share your feedback and questions with us.
We would love to hear from you!

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