



# St Mark's School Newsletter

Term 1 Week 6  
4 March 2020

Kia ora St Mark's Whānau,

## ST MARK'S SCHOOL APP - Number one item this week!!! AGAIN

Thank you to all whānau who have downloaded the St Mark's School app and enjoying the benefits of its functions. Communicating an absence has never been easier and you will never lose the newsletter!!!! I know how much you love it!

In all seriousness this app will be used in Term 2 for all major communications and we need all whānau to download it - it is free and we include the easy steps to achieve that in this newsletter.

## Christchurch Music Festival

It is now time for our wonderful musicians and singers to apply to audition for the special groups of the festival - junior and senior choirs, orchestra and concert band. Please follow the link below to locate an application form and fly!!

[Festival website here.](#)

## Walk with a Purpose

In the calendar for the **12th of June 2020.**

This amazing initiative is becoming an annual event and after meeting with Mrs Sharr and Mrs Harris on Monday we have some new ideas to expand it further. **Please** commit the 12th June to your calendar (**You will see it on the St Mark's school app calendar!**) and consider how your family might be involved in our continuing support for the christian mission of The Fountain of Peace.

## Exciting News

It is my pleasure to announce that **Miss May Bryant** has been accepted to travel to Uganda in October to work alongside teachers as part of a mission group of The Fountain of Peace.. We are so proud that she has answered this call which will not only be of personal and professional benefit, but of enormous value to our school. Whilst there she will be able to communicate with us and create links and networks for our school to further develop our connections to children whose lives are so different to ours.

## Ngāi Tahu

Further to my conversation last week, I am thrilled that by the end of Term 2 most staff will have attended a day workshop at Tuahiwi marae as part of our local partnership and work in this area particularly our curriculum. Our commitment to bicultural practices that lead to serve our many cultures is a priority.

## Covid- 19

There will be some of our community who are concerned about the response to this virus. I can assure you that it is behoven upon the Board of Trustees and myself to ensure that we follow all guidelines set by Health officials, the government and the Ministry of Education. It is my job to keep you informed of communications that come over my desk particularly as we enter influenza season which can affect us all.

I have attached to this email the latest advice which contains information and links which you may find useful. Handwashing remains vital for any infection or virus, with current advice suggesting 20 seconds of washing which is approximately **2 medium paced versions of "Happy Birthday"!!!** Something we can communicate easily.

## Swimming Sports - Tomorrow - please look out for a separate communication from Mrs Bigelow.

This year we are trialling a new system for recording results, house points and records. This program has been **gifted** to us by **Mr Malcolm Long** - past Deputy Headmaster of The Cathedral Grammar School - we are enormously grateful for his generosity, expertise and commitment to our school. It will smooth many paths and extend into other events. Thank you Malcolm - your gift is a blessing.

## Lunchboxes

We ask for your diligence in uniting your child with their lunchbox at the end of every day. Despite our best efforts there always seems to be a growing pile each week not named or claimed.

## Behaviour

From time to time because I am on duty, in classrooms and generally part of the teaching staff, I am asked because of my time spaces to find answers to questions about events that happen in the playground. Whilst talking with me can be seen as a very big deal, it is important that I am seen acting in all levels of discretions. Obviously if things are escalated to me by teachers because of their seriousness, there are policies and procedures that govern my actions. (You can see **ANY** of the Board of Trustees policies and procedures on the School Docs website and you are often asked to be part of the regular review processes).

Like all teachers I follow clear practices of seeking all information from children before acting. I thank you for your support and patience as these fair and open processes are followed - the best outcomes for **all** children are at the centre of all we do.

Blessings everyone, Averil



*Transforming lives through the St Mark's Story*

## Upcoming Events

5 Mar	Swimming Sports - Christ's College - 9.30am - 2.30pm
9 Mar	Independent Swimming Zones
6-8 Apr	Holy Week Service - 9.00am

## 2020 Term Dates

Term 1 - Monday 27 January - Thursday 9 April  
Teacher only day - Tuesday 28 April  
Term 2 - Wednesday 29 April - Friday 3rd July.  
Teacher only day - Tuesday 2 June  
Term 3 - Monday 20 July - Friday 25 September  
Term 4 - Monday 12 October - Friday 11 December  
Teacher only day - Tuesday 27 October

## Church Certificates

Inaka	Madeleine J
Pūtakitaki	Archer W
Kōura	Violet J
Tuaki	Adam R
Karoro	Jashil C
Kāmana	Kali V
Karengo	Summer McC
Kahawai	Milli L

## Sport Results

### Miniball

St Mark's Tigers 16 v Mt Pleasant Megalodons 15  
POD: Zachary O - great attack & defensive work, feeding around the hoop, looking for space and hoops. Amazing!  
The team gave it everything they had and played their hearts out. So great to see their determination and teamwork in action, they displayed such great sportsmanship.

## Student News

Congratulations to Hannah P who passed Ballet Grade 5 (Royal Academy of Dance) with Merit and Jazz, 3.5 stars (Stretch, Leap and Spin).

Jake H has achieved his yellow belt at a recent grading for Karate.

Congratulations Jake - what a great smile!!



## The Board Of Proprietors Seek Your Help!

The BoP has Trustee positions vacant which we are looking to fill. By Deed these positions cannot be filled by parents, so we seek your help to find people from our wider community.

Do you know anyone keen to give back in this rewarding voluntary position? Some experience with legal and/or accounting jargon would be beneficial but not necessary.

Please drop us an email at [chairperson@saintmarks.bop.nz](mailto:chairperson@saintmarks.bop.nz) or contact Raylene on 021 300 686

St Mark's Board of Proprietors' *Holding the vision of St Mark's School, protecting and enhancing the Special Character*

## Grow Ō Tautahi 2020 Garden Show 20-22 March

Free entry into the Christchurch Botanic Gardens  
At St Mark's School we are very excited to be part of this show which celebrates gardening and growth by presenting a school entry that showcases the history of our school community. The students will have contributed to the school creation either with their care of the gardens, garden design and artwork.  
Last year there was a group of parents who have indicated that they would like to be a part of this competition. Are there any people who would also like to assist with either donations of plants or planting materials, building construction of the garden entry structure before the show or with painting materials.  
Please email Liz Coster: [l.coster@saintmarks.school.nz](mailto:l.coster@saintmarks.school.nz).

## St Mark's Church - Book Sale

Book Sale Saturday 21 March 9 am- 1 pm at St Mark's Church 101 Opawa Rd. Donations of recently released fiction and children's books would be greatly appreciated, and can be left by the church foyer door.

## Para Badminton

Here in Christchurch this weekend we have a Para Badminton open day based at Badminton Canterbury for youth aged 5-21 who have a physical or sensory impairment. The event is run by Badminton Canterbury and Badminton New Zealand.

If you have any students with a physical impairment who have a free few hours this Saturday and would be interested in giving badminton a go please send them my way for more details.

Nga mihi,

Mitchell Rhodes [Adviser](#)

[Canterbury, West Coast & Tasman](#)

[M 021 767 309](tel:021767309) | [E Mitchell@halberg.co.nz](mailto:E.Mitchell@halberg.co.nz) | [W](#)

[www.halberg.co.nz](http://www.halberg.co.nz)

[A](#) Unit B, 1 Brynley Street Hornby, Christchurch, | PO Box 2606, Hornby 8042

# Corona Virus Information

Hello everyone,

As you will all be aware there is heightened awareness currently within NZ and in all communities regarding the potential spread of the Corona Virus (COVID19).

If you have any queries we are referring everyone to the Ministry of Health website for the latest information and advice

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov> as this will provide the most current and up to date information and resources. If there are any queries locally you can also make contact with your MOE office or advisor.

Further to this please see below the link to a great little Comic explaining the Corona Virus and how we can keep ourselves healthy and to try and reduce the anxiety that some children will also be experiencing as they are exposed to all this information in the media and at home. This Comic is useful in explaining the current situation in a child friendly manner so they have a better understanding of what it is all about. This Comic can be printed and makes a small booklet.

<https://www.nzherald.co.nz/sections/goatsandsoda/2020/02/28/809580453/and-for-kids-a-comic-explaining-the-new-coronavirus/>

Please also see attached the Handwashing poster as this is one of the best ways minimise spread of any virus along with good coughing and sneezing etiquette and staying at home if unwell.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any further queries.

Nga Mihi,

Anna Marshall

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# ST MARK'S SCHOOL PARENTS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Thank you to all that are participating in our Whittaker's Chocolate Fundraiser. Your efforts in this are greatly appreciated.

One question that often gets asked is Who are the PA? What do they do? A simple answer would be that we are parents of the school, from all class ranges whom are entrusted by the school community to lead and drive initiatives. Much like our current chocolate fundraiser so that in doing so, funds are raised for the school that will benefit the children of St Mark's. We raise the necessary funds for the nice to haves, for things not necessarily covered by the yearly Ministry Operational Grant or the Proprietors Fees.

We are a committee of people, bound by a constitution and policies and procedures who are charged with the responsibility of representing you the parents of St Mark's of decision making around the funds which are raised each year through parent lead initiatives.

The committee is made up of A Chairperson, A Secretary, A Treasurer and 9 Committee members as well as a Teacher Representative and our Principal Mrs. Worner.

This year's committee consist of the following parents:

Chairperson – Gary Miller

Secretary – Natasha Northcott

Treasurer – Marina Martin

Uniform Shop - Serena Smith

Catering – Ashleigh Wendt

Teacher Rep – May Bryant

Principal – Averil Worner

Committee Members – Angela Booth, Jill Buchan, Jacinda Thomsen, Daniel Davy, Adrian Easton, Timothy Ackroyd, Danielle O'Connell, Rebecca Watson.

Not only do we look after those fundraising initiatives, but we also operate the Uniform Shop. We have responsibility and oversight for the PA Coffee Cart, a much-used resource for parents, students and teachers alike. We also ensure that whenever any public events are taking place at the school, whether this be Open Day, Grand Parents Day, School Production etc...that catering and hospitality is provided. We also organize social events for students (i.e. School Discos) and Parents (i.e. – Quiz Night) so that we can all enjoy some community togetherness in a more convivial setting.

To give some examples of what we (ultimately you the parents of St Mark's) have funded over the past few years – We have assisted in providing furniture and or resources for just about every classroom at St Mark's since the school underwent a major rebuilding and refurbishment program in 2016. We have provided numerous small donations of sports equipment and or uniform items to ensure that our schools sports teams have the best available resources to be able to represent us to the best of their abilities and to also look sharp in doing so. We have provided our teachers with branded coats so when they are out in public with our students' they are easily identifiable to our students in public spaces. Of course, our BIGGEST purchase to date, 2 Minibuses, presented to the school in 2019.

Of course our BIGGEST annual FUNraiser is our School Fair, this is organized by a separate committee to the PA Team as the focus for the fair needs to remain as just that. This year we are looking for new members to join us with the fair organizing - look out for a separate notice regarding this.

Throughout the year we will call out for helpers with various initiatives. Where possible if you find yourself in a position to give a few hours to help with something please let us know.

We look forward to another successful year of FUNraising with you here at St Mark's

Nga  
Gary Miller, Chairperson

mihi

nui



*Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi Engari, he toa takitini.*

For many November the 7<sup>th</sup> is a mere speck in the far distance of the 2020 calendar. For some of us, this is one of the most important days of the 2020 school calendar. It's the day that The Greatest Lil Fair Rolls into town and the school field and surrounds bursts into a scenes of mirth, merriment and fun.

Many of our previous Fair Committee Parents have now moved on, and it is now time to seek out new members from the St Mark's parent community to come on board to help make sure that our Lil Fair continues to grow and to enhance what we already have.

We are looking for parents who can give up a couple of hours per month between now and November to make sure all the nuts and bolts are securely fastened so the wheels turn smoothly on the day.

If you'd like to learn more and/or become involved there will be a meeting on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March in the Staff Room at 7pm. All welcome.

Email [fair@saintmarks.school.nz](mailto:fair@saintmarks.school.nz)

# MUSIC TUITION

## **Violin Lessons**

My name is Lorenz. I have studied violin playing for 20 years and received ATCL performance credentials. I am a Suzuki trained and registered teacher and am passionate about sharing my knowledge and love for music. I have played in orchestral, string quartet, Celtic and folk band settings and currently play in a world dance band called Yurt Party.

My lessons have an emphasis on encouragement, enjoyment and ensuring development happens at the natural pace of the child. Please get in touch and we can talk about what will be best for you and your child.

Ph: 0275673696 or [lorenztws@gmail.com](mailto:lorenztws@gmail.com)



## **Brass Lessons**

If you are in need of **Brass Instrument Lessons** (Trumpet, Horn, Trombone etc) please let me or the school know as I have some still spaces available for Term 1 2020 and beyond.

I have taught Brass music lessons from beginner to tertiary level for over 20 years, and have recently come back to Christchurch after moving abroad in the early 2000's.

I have my Masters in Performance trumpet from the Royal Academy of Music, London I also completed my LRAM which is a Brass specific Diploma in teaching music. I am very active as a performer, I perform live with The Black Seeds, and also play regularly with the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra amongst many other musical ensembles.

Ph: 021 260 6493 or [barrett.hocking@gmail.com](mailto:barrett.hocking@gmail.com)





**BEFORE SCHOOL  
PROGRAMME**

**STARTING**

**MONDAY**

**9TH MARCH**

7:30—8:30am = \$10 per child

**BOOK NOW!**

**MASHKIDS.CO.NZ**

**stmarks@mashkids.co.nz**

# What's new?

We are truly blessed to have such an engaged and supportive community. Thank you for your feedback in 2019. We hear you loud and clear! While we love Seesaw as a tool for sharing learning, it didn't turn out to be the best fit as a communication platform for our St Mark's School Family. There is *so much going on* in our St Mark's School Family, the information overload was simply impractical (especially for families with siblings at school). Subsequently, we are keeping Seesaw as a learning journal and launching our own School App for communication.



If you are already on Seesaw, you don't need to do anything. You will continue to receive updates from your child and their teacher, celebrating learning. Please remember that Seesaw is a learning journal and not a publishing portfolio. Mistakes are a part of learning. You will gain insight into your child's learning journey and have the opportunity to encourage them, every step of the way.

Each child's learning journey is unique. **Seesaw comments will be private within families.** Every day, we are showcasing learning, sharing in class, and utilising peer feedback to deepen learning. We know that home-school partnerships are key to quality learning, so Seesaw will be a special link between you and your child.



With our St Mark's School App, communication is simple and clear. Please feel free to download SchoolAppsNZ from the App Store or Google Play. For term one, communication will be via email, in addition to our St Mark's School App. This will ensure that key information is available for everyone. From term two onwards, our St Mark's School App will be the primary communication platform for our school.

Once again, thank you for your support and engagement. Please feel free to share your questions or feedback:

Cristy Yonetani

E-Learning Lead Teacher

[c.yonetani@saintmarks.school.nz](mailto:c.yonetani@saintmarks.school.nz)