



# St Mark's School Newsletter

Term 1 Week 8  
8 December 2022

## Kia ora Te Kura o Hato Māka whānau

This will be the penultimate newsletter for 2022 with some vital information. We ask that you read and note any details in your diary pertinent to your family.

## Advent Carol Service - tonight 7.00pm

We are very much looking forward to seeing as many of our community as possible tonight as we gather for this significant event in our calendar.

## Staff Only Days

I have included 1 staff only day (24th April when school is closed to students) in the recent publication of our term dates for 2023.

On the 2nd December the Ministry of Education announced that they were awarding 2 staff only days in 2023 and 2 in 2024. These days are to "support the implementation of activities across the New Zealand Curriculum refresh and redesign".

The first staff only day fits within the time period specified by the Ministry, with the second day window yet to be advised. Rest assured this additional day will be chosen with the least disruption to our community as possible.

## Staffing

I have been anticipating a review of our school staffing for 2023 by the Ministry following the equity announcement for schools and the seemingly arbitrary way with which calculations are completed. As our school roll and subsequent waiting lists are created the year before, I have been in discussions with other principals from state integrated schools as to how this might be achieved. I have received a positive response to our discussions and staffing for 2023 will be announced on Monday 19th December. I unreservedly apologise for the delay which has been beyond my control.

## Swimming Sports - Monday 19th December - Waltham Pool

Thank you for your support of these "different" arrangements - I have received many positive comments about the strong decision made.

We will be unable to engrave cups in time for prize giving but will instead ensure that champions in each age group will be engraved on the cups next year. We will however be presenting our swimming champions with certificates at our school prizegiving on **Thursday 15th December**.

## Christmas Cards

I am very thrilled to use this space to support Olive Harris (Year 8) who has designed Christmas cards for sale for which some profits will go to Fountain of Peace in Uganda supporting orphaned babies and children and schools. Please see the attachment later in the newsletter - there is an online link too.

## TERM DATES 2023

**Whānau conference days:**

**Monday 30th and Tuesday 31st January**

### Term One:

**Wednesday 1st February - Thursday 6th April 2023**

**Opening Service 9.00am Wednesday 1st February**

*Waitangi Day Monday 6th February - SCHOOL CLOSED.*

### Term Two:

**Monday 24th April - Friday 30th June**

*Teacher Only Day Monday 24th April SCHOOL CLOSED*

*ANZAC Day Tuesday 25th April SCHOOL CLOSED.*

*Kings Birthday Monday 5th June SCHOOL CLOSED*

### Term Three:

**Monday 17th July - Friday 22nd September**

### Term Four:

**Monday 9th October - Tuesday 19th December**

*Labour Day Monday 23rd October SCHOOL CLOSED*

*Canterbury Anniversary Day Friday 10th November SCHOOL CLOSED.*

## Prize Givings

1. Internal Prizegiving - Wednesday 14th December 1.45pm
2. School Prizegiving - Thursday 15th December - 7.00pm

## New parents evening - Tuesday 13th December 6.30 - 7.30pm

A night ahead for our New Parents in 2023. This is an evening attended by staff, Board of Trustees members, Board of Proprietors members and the PA. It is an initial opportunity to welcome our new families and for them to make connections with others.

As the year rushes to a close I want to acknowledge the incredible team of PA parents whose service to the school is an extraordinary gift. You are all so much appreciated and valued.

Kia pai to ra e hoa/Have a happy day everyone.  
Averil and staff.



*Transforming lives through the St Mark's Story*

# Christmas Cards

Olive Harris has made some new Christmas card designs, and is selling them to fundraise again this year for Fountain of Peace..

She will be selling them at the coffee cart and can be bought online at [Zazzle.co.nz Olipopartnz](https://www.zazzle.co.nz/Olipopartnz) - don't they look AMAZING!!





# **ST MARK'S, OPAWA CHRISTMAS SERVICES**

We would love to have you join with us as we celebrate the great gift of Jesus this Christmas.

## **SUNDAY 11TH**

8AM COMMUNION SERVICE  
10AM 9 LESSONS AND CAROLS

## **SUNDAY 18TH**

8AM COMMUNION SERVICE  
10AM SUNDAY SCHOOL PLAY

## **FRIDAY 23RD**

5PM CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS

## **SATURDAY 24TH - CHRISTMAS EVE**

11PM CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS VIGIL

## **CHRISTMAS DAY**

9AM COMMUNION SERVICE

Our Children's services are full of costumes and carols. You can come dressed as a character from the nativity story, otherwise we can provide the costumes.

# FREE PHOTO BOOTH!



## RECREATE THE NATIVITY WITH YOUR WHANAU OR GROUP

From 3-5pm on Sunday 11th Dec to Sunday 18th Dec our chapel will be decorated as a nativity scene. We've got costumes for you to dress up as the various characters so you can take some photos. The only thing you'll need is your own camera. Bookings can be made at other times during that week by request of Rev'd Ben Truman the Vicar at 027 254 3516.

For more information about our church services, baptisms, home communion, study groups and other activities, please get in touch.

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**OFFICE** ST MARK'S CHURCH, 101 OPAWA RD



# SUMMER HOLIDAY DRAMA WORKSHOPS

with Mr Gordon!



## WHAT

Over the six sessions, I will help you build the confidence to perform, build the skills to improvise on the spot, to talk in front of others, how to prepare for a school production audition, project your voice and much more!

*"Mr. Gordon is awesome. He is encouraging, enthusiastic and helps everyone meet their potential. He really helped me develop my confidence on stage." Ethan*

*"Mr. Gordon is one of the best drama teachers I've ever had. He taught me the importance of voice projection and stage positioning. He was always kind and patient." Seth*

## WHEN

There will be six sessions, over two weeks, each three hours long:

Monday 19th - Wednesday 21st December

Monday 9th - Wednesday 11th January

## WHERE

The school hall at Saint Mark's School  
33 Cholmondeley Avenue, Opawa  
9:30am - 12.30pm  
Meet outside the school office

*"Mr G is such a good drama teacher. He is really thorough, and focuses on detail that polish the performances and make them look really professional. He makes it fun to learn lines and work on scenes. I can't wait to work with him again on another project." Ben*

## HOW

**READY TO SIGN UP OR HAVE ANY QUESTIONS?**

My email address is [tomg1715@gmail.com](mailto:tomg1715@gmail.com)  
Flick me an email, and we can confirm dates, prices and any other details!

Age range: Years 4 to 9

Note these are group sessions, not individual tutoring.  
A minimum of eight students required to go ahead and a maximum of fourteen students per group.

One workshop \$40  
Three workshops \$105  
or book all six for just \$180  
if you book before 10th December