



St Mark's School Newsletter

Issue 1
31 January 2018

Kia ora everyone,

Welcome to St Mark's School for 2018. Staff hope that you have all enjoyed a lovely break and shared family time. We are now ready to embark on our first year with the whole campus open and look forward to maximising the strength of our physical environment. Gone are the restrictions on space and teaching spaces. We look forward to working with you to fully outwork our curriculum surrounded by our special character.

Powhiri

It was wonderful to welcome so many of you to our powhiri on Monday where we welcomed **Mrs Liz Coster (Assistant Principal), Ms May Bryant, Mrs Maree Bigelow and Rev. Canon Ben Truman**. Through karanga, waiata, mihi, haka and gift giving we were able to honour them and their shift from manuhiri (guest) to whanau (our St Mark's family), and they were supported by their own families.

A highlight was the gorgeous karanga written and delivered especially for our school by **Mrs Clare Pattison**. In this karanga is a call to this school highlighting our christian walk and our four school values - Grace, Excellence, Courage and Faithfulness.

Staff

To start the year staff enjoyed two days together, gathering a shared vision for 2018, committing to systems and processes that track the progress and development of every student and building relationships with new staff. A priority for 2018 will be the review of our curriculum including those "subjects" that would fall under the term "broad curriculum" - Science, PE, Art, Environmental Education, Drama, Dance to name a few. Literacy (Reading, Writing, Spelling) and Mathematics are key areas, however research is clear that raising achievement in these areas is also indicated by robust teaching and learning in the others. Tracking every child across all areas and whatever their gifts and talents and learning needs. We will report on the progress of this review and gain your feedback at certain junctures.

As the class compositions are different this year, it will be important to hear and understand the benefits and challenges of these changes as we further refine our practice in this school. I am not prone to following others, but rather seek answers through good practice, good analysis and research evidence.

We will continue to work with a focus on Writing - our greatest need most recently (this is true for many schools in New Zealand) - and congratulate **Ms Katrina Steans** who won a position within our school supporting the achievement challenges of our Community of Learning - Te Mana Rauo. She will work specifically in our school to raise achievement in this area, monitoring the development of writing skills and working alongside colleagues from other schools to share best practice.

Noticeboards

This year we have three noticeboards. The one in the foyer is primarily our school noticeboard where you will find Board of Trustee news, Board of Proprietor news, Parents' Association news and other items related to our school. The noticeboard just inside the hallway leading to the hall will be for all our community notices. Further along the hall is a noticeboard that will be dedicated to our Environmental Education Program (more about that in a later newsletter) and a place for our Enviro Group Leaders to share their happenings with the school.



Transforming lives through the St Mark's Story

Church Services

In 2018 our weeks will be bookended by 2 church services - Monday, student lead service and Friday our formal full school service.

As you will see in the calendar there are school Eucharist services planned and school learning team services at St Anne's church. Rev. Ben Truman has made these changes so that he may join each Base Group class on a rotational basis for devotions on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Each learning team will deliver Religious Education on Fridays using age appropriate resources sourced by Rev. Ben. He will deliver the senior program in collaboration with staff. We are confident these programs will enhance our special character building faith in young children.

Ōmoho

This is now open for browsing and reading. We are not in a position to issue books yet due to a delay in hardware arriving for the purpose. I do want to thank **Mrs Christine Fairchild and Mrs Diane Stewart** who have audited and catalogued our collections ready for use.

Some furniture funded by our wonderful **Parents' Association** has arrived and we have bright new cushions courtesy of the clever hands of **Mrs Rachael Okey**. Please feel free to use this outstanding space with your children and we will let you know when issuing arrives!! We do ask that all books read are returned to exactly the same spot from whence they came. There has been much work done to catalogue our collections using a pictorial system, and picture books are alphabetically arranged.

Some nuts and bolts!

- Have you ensured we have all your contact and emergency details?
- Please ensure all lunch boxes are collected at the end of the day. As a school we would like to head to a "litterless" lunch box environment and ask that families seek those lunch boxes that lose their way home!
- Thank you for observing collection points for your children. With a growing roll, and as we reach capacity, there will be more of us!
- You will notice the Board of Trustees Sun Protection policy in our learning areas. Students must have a hat at school every day. Staff will apply extra sunscreen as necessary. In the event that we think the sun is too oppressive for students to be outside, we have the sanctity of well air conditioned rooms that are luxurious!
- The Year 4 and 5 choir which started today, is open to all students in these years. It is every Wednesday from 8.30am - 9.00am. Mr Paul Ellis is looking forward to welcoming you all and there will be opportunities to perform during 2018. The Performance Choir have their first rehearsal on Friday 8.30am - 9.00am and auditions for places will be advertised separately.
- Parent/Teacher interviews are scheduled for Week 5. There will be an online booking schedule published closer to the time and staff look forward to strengthening the partnerships between school and home.
- The PA Back-to-School BBQ is set down for **Friday 9th February**. This is a great way to connect with new families, renew friendships and join us all in fellowship.
- **Ethel and Bethel** - a significant fundraiser for our Parents Association is booked in for **March 3rd at 7.00pm here at school**. This will be a fabulous night and raise money to support every student in our school.

It is my hope to change the format of the newsletter at some point this year. I would like you to hear from more staff and in a variety of areas of the school.

Thank you for your contribution to the smooth start to 2018. Please know that your classroom teacher is only too happy to hear any concerns you may have. We are here to listen and work with you, to ensure your child is developing their God given talents and gifts.

Ngā mihi

Averil



School Notices

Upcoming Events

| | |
|--------|------------------------------|
| 6 Feb | Waitangi Day |
| 9 Feb | PA Welcome BBQ - 5pm |
| 13 Feb | PA AGM - 7.30pm |
| 14 Feb | Ash Wednesday Service - 9am |
| 23 Feb | Y4-8 Swimming Sports |
| 1 Mar | PA Meeting - 7.30pm |
| 6 Mar | Y6-7 Ferrymead trip |
| 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 |
| 5 Apr | ISSA Swimming Sports |
| 13 Apr | End of term service - 2.15pm |

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 Friday 9 February.

Subway Lunch



Just a reminder that Subway can be ordered for lunch every Tuesday starting on 13 February.

To place an online order, visit www.subway.co.nz/schools and follow the instructions to place your order by 9am each Subway day.

Alternatively, envelopes are in the office and you can either pay with the correct cash or credit card.

PA News

Uniform Shop

The uniform shop is open on Tuesday 8.30-9.30am and Wednesday 2.30-3.30pm.

You can contact them at uniformshop@staintmarks.school.nz and don't forget to join the Facebook page to stay up to date 'st marks uniform shop'



Coffee Cart



"School Grounds" is a volunteer run coffee cart, operating out of the school foyer.

Open Mon/Wed/Fri mornings 8:30 – 9:10am

Our coffees are great value, our fluffies are a hit and all profits feed back into the school under the PA umbrella.

We offer cash and eftpos facilities

Coffee Cards are great value pay for 10 coffees or fluffies and get 2 FREE!

The School Grounds Team

P.A. NEWS

Happy new school year everyone! Welcome to 2018 at St Mark's. I hope the holidays have been refreshing and relaxing and you are all set for an enjoyable and productive year.

**St Mark's School Parents Association
NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Tuesday, 13th February 2018, 7.30pm
St Mark's School Library**

The PA is an opportunity to get to know some good people and have some fun while you help the school and your children as well. The PA represents the parent body of the school so if you want to have your say, this is where you should be! Our aims are basically to run social and fundraising events for the school community and apply those funds to the purchase of "extra" items that improve the teaching and learning environment at St Mark's. New Parents – this is a great opportunity to get involved in the school community.

A nomination form is attached below for nominating yourself or someone else (with their consent) for a position on the PA. Please hand completed forms into the school office by 12th February.

Elections will be held at the PA AGM on 13th February 2018.

Susan Bain

President

NOMINATION FORM – Please hand in to school office by Friday 12th February 2018

I NOMINATE _____ FOR THE POSITION OF

(Circle one) President Secretary Treasurer Committee member

Nominator _____ Seconder _____

Nomination accepted by _____ (Person nominated)

For ST MARK'S SCHOOL PARENTS ASSOCIATION 2018

Back to School BBQ

- Friday 9 February 5pm onwards on the school field
- Entertainment will be provided for the children
- Bring a salad to share.
- Meat provided by the PA.
- Bring your own drinks, plates and cutlery.

See you there.



**KEEP
CALM
IT'S
BBQ
TIME**