



# St Mark's School Newsletter

Issue 7  
14 March 2018

Dear Parents and Whanau,

## **Siblings 2019!**

Whilst it may seem a little early to be considering 2019, it would greatly help our planning if we could have an indication of the younger siblings who will turn 5 next year. Please email Louise at [office@saintmarks.school.nz](mailto:office@saintmarks.school.nz) to indicate your child's name. The cut off date for applications to the Board of Proprietors is **31st August 2018**.

## **CURRICULUM AREA: SCIENCE**

Science is an often forgotten essential part of a broad curriculum that is by definition encouraging of inquiry and discovery. Watching students delight in discovery through experimentation, collaborating over a question and using apparatus to test hypotheses is exactly the kind of teaching and learning that encourages us to enter teaching as a profession. St Mark's School is fully equipped with a range of science apparatus and equipment ideally suited to higher order thinking and investigations and we are well placed in 2018 to launch Environmental Science as a platform for a range of teaching and learning opportunities. It is a wonderful gateway to opening up our previous work in Enviroschools, but importantly to outwork our Fifth Mark of Mission and STEAM subjects - Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics - given that all are interrelated.

Here Mrs Liz Coster writes a brief overview of the valuable opportunities we are looking forward to initiating in 2018.

### **Environmental Education/Science:**

*Environmental education has four key concepts which are: interdependence, sustainability, biodiversity and personal & social responsibility for action. Interwoven amongst these concepts are the Māori views of the world which include: the partnership established by the Treaty of Waitangi for managing New Zealand's natural resources, the special position of the Māori people in relation to the natural resources of New Zealand, the cultural heritage of New Zealand and the significance of this heritage to present and future generations.*

*Within Environmental Education students are able to engage with scientific investigations about key themes such as the impact of chemicals on eco systems, air pollution, waterways and the human impact on the plants & sustainability.*

And some student voice from two year 8 students! There is a picture to support these blogs later in the newsletter.

[Samantha's Learning Blog](#)

[Lucy's Learning Blog](#)



*Transforming lives through the St Mark's Story*

### Teacher Only Days 2018

Every year St Mark's School looks to find up to 3 days that are set aside in normal term time as Teacher Only Days. These offer the opportunity for staff to gather at key stages in the year, to ensure key pieces of professional development are conducted. These days are always chosen to have the least disruption to parents/whanau and have been on our school calendar since the start of the year. Please check this calendar regularly for upcoming events.

In 2018, the Teacher Only Days will be:

- **Tuesday June 5th (Tuesday after Queen's Birthday)**
- **Monday July 23rd (Anglican Schools Staff Teaching and Learning Symposium - Christs College)**
- **Tuesday October 23rd (Tuesday after Labour Day)**

### OPEN DAY 2018

The **24th of May, 10.00am to 2.00pm**, has been earmarked for our Open Day. Whilst this will be advertised in local media, we encourage you to let any friends and family know of this date and assure them of a warm welcome from staff and students.

### St Anne's Church - Repair Cafe

This **Saturday, 17th March from 1.00pm - 3.00pm** The Anglican Care Community Development Team will be running a repair cafe for toys, garden tools, simple bike repairs etc. More details are available on the flyer on our Community Noticeboard outside Ōmoho.

### Marian College

It was very heartwarming to receive a letter from Mrs Mary-Lou Davidson (Principal of Marian College) informing us of the success of former students of St Mark's School. She wrote that **Taz Brown** gained NCEA Level 2 endorsed with Excellence, and that **Lola Mill** was a major prizewinner at Marian College's Junior Prizegiving in December, sharing the cup for Academic Excellence.

We love to hear about the success for former students - let us know!!

### Uniform!

The Board of Proprietors have approved long grey pants as an **option** for the boys winter uniform. They are available at the uniform shop now and will be a welcome addition. I would like to remind the school community however that the long pants are **NOT** part of the **formal uniform** which remains **white shirt and grey shorts**.

### Wheels Thursdays

Every Thursday the students from Year 0 to 3 have the opportunity to bring their scooter or roller blades to play on at school during the lunch hour. Everyone who brings a set of wheels to school must also provide a safety helmet. The scooters and blades go home at the end of the day. Please ensure that all equipment is clearly named and that children understand that they are responsible for their own gear.

This week Rev. Ben provided staff with gift wrapped copies of "**Children's Daily Prayer Under the Southern Cross 2018**". We are thrilled to receive these and using these in our daily devotions. We thank the Board of Proprietors for providing this resource to strengthen how we outwork our special character.

This week we welcome **Darcy Quinlan and his parents Patrick and Sarah to St Mark's School**. We welcome you and your extended family to this special place and pray that you find here God's love and understanding and a turangawaeawae - a place to stand with us all

Blessings everyone

Averil

# School Notices

## Upcoming Events

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 (school closed)
5 Apr	ISSA Swimming Sports
13 Apr	End of term service - 2.15pm

## Church Certificates

Inaka	Tyree D
Kereru	Samuel B
Ti Kouka	Sofia D
Kamana	Stella P
ToeToe	Harrison B
Kotuku	Asay U/Daniel S
Paua	Samuel T
Mako	Laura V
Wheke	Olivia C
Toroa	Max W

## Student Success

Congratulations to Olive H and Asay U who entered Seaweed Canterbury Art Competition. Olive was placed 1st In Primary Y1-4 and Asay was placed Highly Commended in Primary Y5-8.

Artworks will be on display in the foyer of the Ecan building at 200 Tuam Street until Thursday 22 March.

## Independent Swimming Zones

Congratulations to these students who are representing St Mark's this Friday 16 March at Wharenui Pool.

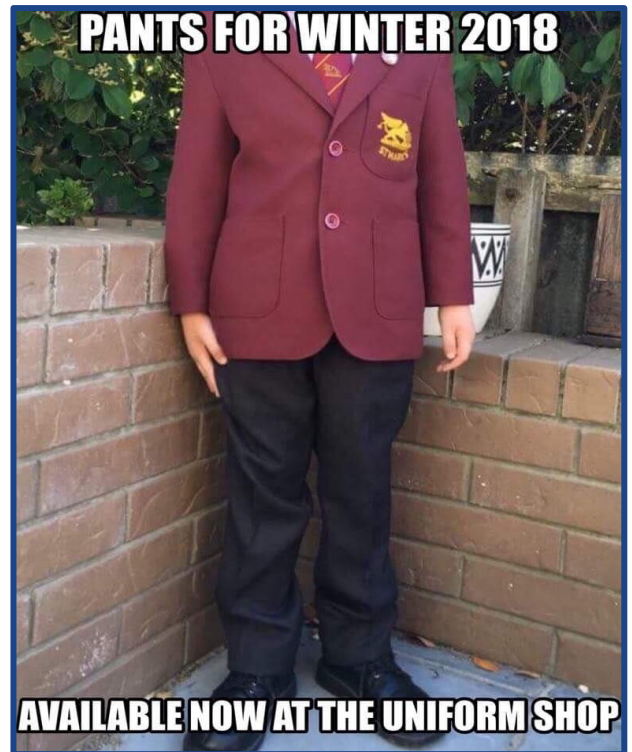
Hannah P, Amelia H, Max P, Ioli K, Sophie F-D, Elizabeth R, Sullivan H, Isaac W, Sophia W, Minnie E, Jeremy H, Bede H, Samantha P, Olivia C-S, Zachary A, Max W, Olivia M, Daniel S-O, Naomi J, Torbin C, Holly-rose M, Vivek L, Lucy N, Oliver C, Olivia C, Ayrton E, Inaki B.

**"Be the Best you Can Be!"**

# PA News

## Uniform Shop

PANTS!!!!!! Now available from the Uniform Shop as an **option** for boys winter uniform, can be worn Terms 2 and 3. **Shorts are still classed as formal uniform** so, for example, when white shirts are required so are the shorts but pants can be worn any other time - yay warm legs for winter!



The first meeting for the St Mark's School Fair Organising Team will take place on Tuesday 20th March at 7:30pm - if you are interested in being a part of a dynamic team that has a lot of fun in bringing fun to the school for our annual iconic School event then feel free to get in touch and come along. The meeting will be held in the community room of Helios House Medical Centre, 275 Fifield Terrace, Opawa.

Contact details either email [fair@saintmarks.school.nz](mailto:fair@saintmarks.school.nz) or you can phone Gary on 0275-918-777

## Thank You

A huge thank you to Luka L-F and his family for organising the donation of 12 rugby balls to our school. What generosity! We are very grateful.



## Loving Service

Yesterday, the children in Kererū had a wonderful time looking at photos that Olivia's Mum had sent from her trip to help out in an orphanage in Uganda.

We had previously looked at photos of schools in Uganda and noticed the walls were very bare. Each child in Kererū drew a beautiful, bright picture for Tania to take with her and give to the children to brighten up their school rooms. It was lovely seeing the delight on the faces of the children when they received their picture.





## **Year 3 Trip**

On Wednesday 7 March, the Year 3's went to Metro Place in Bromley to learn about worms. They dug for worms and then made a worm farm. We still have the worm farms in our wet area.



## **Year 8 Science**



## FOUR SQUARE MANIA



## SOFTBALL





## An Update from the Board of Trustees Review Committee



### Term 1 2018 Reviews: **WE NEED YOUR INPUT PLEASE**

This term we are reviewing the following policies and invite your feedback as part of our three year review cycle.

- Home Learning

It is from these policies that the procedures are developed in relation to the way the school approaches these things operationally. For this reason, we want to encourage parents to become familiar with these policies and recommend any changes that might be required..

**If you would like to view and give feedback on the policy its as easy as 1,2,3!**

1. Go to [www.schooldocs.co.nz](http://www.schooldocs.co.nz) and click on search for your school. Pick St Mark's School.
2. Enter the following user name and password

Username: stmarks Password: saint

3. Find the policy that's up for review, read it, click on the red bubble in the top right hand corner of the policy and enter your feedback. (if there is no red option, pick the green speech bubble instead).

Feedback can be given anonymously if you choose.

The cut off for feedback is the last day of Term 1 – 13<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

### Term 1 Assurance:

In addition to reviewing policy, it's also the role of the Board to gain **ASSURANCE** that the operational policy and procedures are being operationalised in the school.

This term we will undertake assurance on a variety of areas including

- EEO Policy
- Vetting Requirements for non-Teachers
- 10 Year Property Plan
- Risk Management - Medicines, Minor/Moderate Injury or Illness
- Length of School Year



# STRONGER TOGETHER NZEI TE RIU ROA

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

Children need teachers with enough time to teach so they can give each child the attention they deserve, and children need talented and inspiring people to be attracted to teaching.

Children are missing out on some opportunities to learn because teachers are bogged down in administration or are struggling to get enough support for children with additional learning needs.

Teachers at our school are joining an NZEI Te Riu Roa campaign, called *Kua Tae Te Wā – It's Time* to address these issues.

Our goal is to free teachers to teach, and principals to lead, by getting the additional support and staff that schools need. And we'll attract more people to teaching by respecting and paying them as the professionals they are.

NZEI Te Riu Roa members at our school have been invited to paid union meetings in March so that we can plan and discuss the campaign and their upcoming collective agreement negotiations.

The meeting schedule has been planned so that teachers and principals across the country can work out the best meetings for them to attend, including the option of groups of teachers attending meetings at different times. This is to help reduce disruption to teaching programmes, children and parents.

Our children deserve the best education in the world, and New Zealand can afford to provide it. It's just a matter of priorities.

Thanks for your co-operation in this important matter.





# **Orchestral Extravaganza**

**FEATURING ORCHESTRAS FROM RANGI RURU GIRLS'  
SCHOOL, CHRIST'S COLLEGE AND ST MARGARET'S  
COLLEGE**

**Wednesday 4 April, 7.30pm at the Christ's College  
Auditorium.**

**Free admission. No booking required**



**TRIPLE THREAT ACADEMY NZ**  
**MUSICAL THEATRE WORKSHOP – CHRISTCHURCH**

[triplethreatacademynz@gmail.com](mailto:triplethreatacademynz@gmail.com)  
[www.triplethreatacademynz.co.nz](http://www.triplethreatacademynz.co.nz)

**Showbiz Christchurch**  
**APRIL – 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>**  
**AGES 7 to 18**