



# St Mark's School Newsletter

Issue 6  
7 March 2018

Kia ora everyone,

Since 2010, schools have provided data relating to National Standards to the Ministry of Education as accountability against the goals set for their community. Much work was done to work with parents to understand what these standards meant and what the partnership between home and school could do to raise achievement for every child. With the removal of National Standards from 2018, schools and Boards of Trustees in particular have begun the work of understanding what “replaces” them.

For staff the word “replacement” is an interesting one, because it implies someone else is responsible for telling us how to best understand progress and achievement. Compliance issues aside, staff at St Mark's School, are imminently capable of judging where a child is in relation to their expected age level and curriculum level - and this work has always gone on alongside National Standards reporting.

In early 2017 staff initiated a plan to strengthen this knowledge (before there was a hint that National Standards would be removed!) as we saw this as the soundest way to describe not only student progress and achievement, but crucial in evaluating and reflecting on teaching and learning best practice. This was an acknowledgement of an unrelenting shift in focus on teaching and learning, rather than a rejection of the blunt instrument called National Standards.

Later in the term, we will hold a forum to which you will be invited to understand some of this progress and what that means for your child and family. In the meantime any questions can be asked of your class teacher.

## CURRICULUM AREA - BIG IDEA - TRANSFORMATION

Each term or spanning a number of terms, staff generate a “Big Idea” from which a range of learning stems. This year (for at least Terms 1 and 2) this idea is **transformation**. As you will know this word is central to our school byline : Transforming Lives through the St Mark's Story. The links to our journeys of faith is an easy one to identify, however in all aspects of learning transformation takes place. We are transformed by our experiences as we are transformers of creation and our world as we act in it. Ask your child how this word is impacting on their learning in their room.

Just a taste of how varied and dynamic this looks in classrooms is evidenced in the pictures below.



*Transforming lives through the St Mark's Story*



### Ethel and Bethel

What a wonderful night we all shared on Saturday. An enormous thanks to all those Parents' Association members who brought this to life for the benefit of all our students and family. It was so much fun and we do appreciate all efforts to raise money for our school and combine it with a community event.

### Swimming

What an excellent day of achievement in swimming and sportsmanship/sportswomanship Friday was. We are grateful to **Mrs Maree Bigelow** who leads us in all things sporting for her excellent organisation skills ensuring all students participated well. Thank you to all staff who ensured the day was successful and a special mention to the new star of the staff swimming team - **Rev. Ben Truman**. We hope to publish the full set of swimming champions in next week's newsletter.

### New family

This week we welcome **Judah C** and his parents **Rob and Emmy**. Welcome to the St Mark's family! May you find God's love here and a turangawaewae for your extended family.

### A huge note of thanks

To **Mrs Rachel Stracy and Emmy Carson** for covering our 2 new sets of dictionaries. We are so grateful for your work here! They are now resident in Waka Puhara and Waka Hourua and form a valuable resource for students.

### Look what has been happening or about to happen!

- Softball coaching continues over the next 2 weeks
- Year 3 class trips - Casting Magic of Worms!
- Year 4 / 5 Environment Expo - Friday this week
- Netball "Have a go" day Tuesday next week
- Gemma McCaw - Olympic Ambassador with Year 4 and 5 on Monday
- Year 6 / 7 trip to Ferrymead - Tuesday

### Omission

Last week in the blurb about music I omitted **Mrs Alison Waghorn** from those seen in the photograph archives of the school. My apologies.

### Five Marks of Mission - The 5th! (Not Beethoven)

I have started at the end! This is because the work this week on **Transformation** links so well to the fifth mark which is: "To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth". The Five Marks of Mission are often reduced to 5 words starting with "T" and the fifth mark has the word **Treasure** assigned to it. To treasure creation seems not only a spiritual undertaking but certainly dominates the media in such things as climate change, endangered animals and caring for the environment. As Christians we can lead here and in teaching and learning in 2018 we can follow what it says in the bible to "work and care for creation" - Gen. 2:15

Blessings

Averil

# School Notices

## Upcoming Events

13 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

## Church Certificates

Inaka	Sofia S
Kereru	Alexandra H
Ti Kouka	Lucas C
Kamana	Ben A
ToeToe	Max V
Kotuku	Olivia M
Paua	Saffron D
Mako	Ruby-Grace M
Wheke	Emily M
Toroa	Samantha P

## Student Success

Congratulations to Solomon S, Bede H, Vivek L and Raj R who have been participating in the Canterbury Junior Cricket Year 7 development and emerging teams tournament over three Sundays.

# 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@saintmarks.school.nz](mailto:uniformshop@saintmarks.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



# ETHEL AND BETHEL

Wow what a fantastic night on Saturday night. It was a huge success for the PA in that we have raised a really great amount of money for school furniture and sporting equipment, had a lot of fun, and come together as a community.

We have a list of sponsors below who we couldn't have done without. Thanks very much to all of you, especially those who are always so good humored when repeatedly approached.

I would also like to thank the members of the PA who put in a mammoth amount of effort for the night; Sarah for all your voucher hunting, organisational skills and constant encouragement.

Gary for your voucher donations/purchases, energy behind the bar and ongoing support.

Fiona for your outstanding catering, so much better than pizza, and your enthusiasm to get the night off the ground.

Tash for your raffle selling skills, and massive work output as always.

Serena for your happy smiling face, Facebook updates and bar work.

Vicky our treasurer, your money skills are irreplaceable!

Jill and Beata for your massive efforts on dishes and supper prep.

To everyone who purchased tickets in the school community thanks very much!

## THANK YOU

Get me Fitter gym – Roddy Frost and Ashleigh Wendt

Averil Worner – Principal for the day

KiwiRail Scenic – John Mills

Aquagym

Smith's City – Roy Campbell

The Warehouse Eastgate

Bunnings

Forge Jewellery – Jennie Downs

Entertainment Book

Gary Miller

Team Event

Ivyblu – Bianca Astle

Universo – Tony Astle

Mitchelli's

Factory Shoe Shop Garlands Rd

Portstone Nursery

Eatright Nutrition – Anita Roy-Chaudhuri

Glamour Cake

Gourmet Hamper – Aimee Davey

Dressmart – Angela Booth

Aria Rogers

Susan Bain

PA President





## 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, its 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

## **Kids triathlon and duathlon coming up!**



On the back of a very successful Weetbix Tryathlon we would like to share the next exciting event on the Canterbury calendar, the **Sea2Sky Challenge** on **Sunday 18th March**.

Held at the beautiful Scarborough Beach we have both Duathlon and Triathlon events for all ages and abilities. We encourage children from 9 years to have a go and to bring Mum, Dad and the rest of the family to race too or to share in the day.

Please go on to our website and have a look at the different races available:

[www.sea2skychallenge.com](http://www.sea2skychallenge.com)

We hope to see many of Canterbury's children and families there.

## **HIGHLAND DANCING CLASSES**

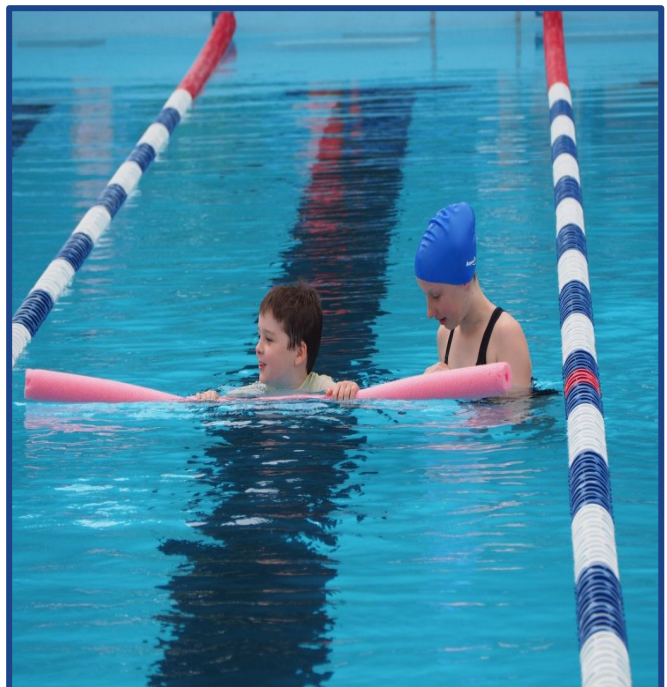
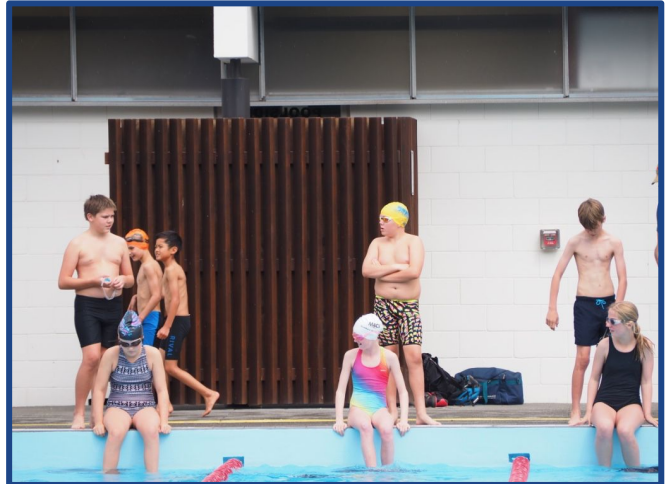
Highland Dancing classes for Boys and Girls are held at the Caledonian Hall, 5 Michelle Road, Wigram from 9.30am to 10.30am commencing on Saturday, the 7th April. All new entrants should be at the hall by 9.15am for a starting time of 9.30am. Boys and Girls from Age 5 years upwards will be very welcome. The learning of Highland Dancing contributes to children's bodily strength, musical appreciation and co-ordination, as well as providing the opportunity to socialise with their peers. Highland Dancing can become a life-time interest. All information on our classes can be obtained by emailing [caleyhighland@gmail.com](mailto:caleyhighland@gmail.com) or [colleenscole38@gmail.com](mailto:colleenscole38@gmail.com) or visiting our facebook page – Canterbury Caledonian Society Highland Dancing or the Canterbury Caledonian Society website – Highland Dancing. For telephone enquiries please contact Colleen Cole on 3288694 or Rosemary Armstrong on 033122579. Our Caledonian Society Classes are kept at a minimal cost to accommodate family budgets. All enquiries will be welcomed.



**HIGHLAND DANCING IS FUN**



# SWIMMING SPORTS





# TRANSFORMATIONS





# 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.