



St Mark's School Newsletter

Issue 31
26 September 2017

Kia ora everyone,

What a terrific Term 3 we have all been part of. The Productions were a highlight. The inclusion of every child is to be celebrated and the opportunity for sharing the joy of the unique gifts and talents on display signalled a school in wonderful heart. Whilst a Christian school can easily have visible signs of its purpose, it is in the authentic outworking of the hope of the gospel that signals our centre and reason for being.

I formally thanked those in our community who gave enormously to the success of the productions. The minute you list people you can be in danger of missing individuals out. Please forgive me if that happens but I do commend the brilliant work of **Peter Harrison, Lee Morris, Paul Griffin, Rachael Okey, Anna Penman, Nicky Lyons, Sarah Rea, Jane Shayler, Bridget Sullivan, Heather Tiso, Dion Wellbourn and PA members who supplied refreshments.** Thank you so much for your skill, expertise and volunteer hours. You have been part of a growing momentum of positivity, community and partnership in this great school.

Staff worked tirelessly so that our Performing Arts program could grow fresh wings, yet the true reward of their skills and talents has been a strengthening of teamwork, collaboration and a shared purpose. Teachers are lifelong learners too! Thank you staff!!

We are working to collate the official photographs from the productions - details to follow.
(PS Mr Gordon and I are already in discussion about 2019!)

Kapa Haka

In spite of tiredness, 60 students from St Mark's school competed in the Tuhono Kapa Haka Festival at Hillview Christian School on Friday 22nd September. They were competing against five other experienced schools and are the first Kapa Haka group to represent the school in its 96 year history. They were not placed first in any category but were placed third in the song/waiata section. Thank you to the great group of parents who supported them. We were so proud and Matua Steve Reid informed us that they have made progress that some schools take 5 years to achieve! This is appropriate recognition - and a life lesson that tangible rewards are not always reflective of success.

ICAS English

On Monday we congratulated a significant number of students who achieved great success in the recent ICAS English test. I am thrilled to announce that **Sophia G, Millie T, Inaki I-B and Lucy N** received Distinction, **Lilah J, Hannah W, Anna R, Minnie E and Peter S** achieved Credit, while **Oliver C, Ana S, Hannah A, Michael C** achieved Merit. **Congratulations!!!**

Whilst this is a one off test not directly related to the NZ Curriculum, it's independence provides useful information in support of our programs.



Transforming lives through the St Mark's Story

2018 Staffing and Placements

Conversations for staff continue around the makeup of Base Groups for 2018 as we continue to build our collaborative practice with the flexibility of single cell rooms and shared spaces. In recent weeks I have shown a number of educators through our school and acknowledged their comments that our spaces are both innovative and different. The physical nature of our new campus opens up possibilities for teaching and learning areas, but more importantly what happens inside them.

As we continue to refine our practice, discussions for staff have centred on the social emotional needs of children. This is an often forgotten area for some educators, whose focus can remain on academic achievement alone. Research (e.g. *How Children Succeed by Paul Tough*), continues to support the notion that social emotional development is the robust indicator of academic success and that the relationship between the teacher and child is two times greater than any protective factor - including physical environment and class size.

With this in mind we have identified two areas in our school community where social emotional development is a key factor in transition. Year 8 students for example, looking to transition to secondary environments have specific and subtle needs for preparation, for teaching and learning and for the development of identity and independence. Year 3 students in our Waka Puhara area similarly make the transition from Mokihi or Junior School, to an environment where their social emotional needs require specific support. For example Year 3 students can have excellent academic skills, however careful scaffolding of friendships and attention to emotional development is warranted.

Catering for these two year levels in a single class may support these needs well, while still having the flexibility for students to work across ages as we currently do. In other words two mixed classes of year 4/5 with a single year 3 class, and two mixed classes of year 6/7 with a single year 8 class would not be a barrier to supporting learning across the learning teams groups, but rather allow us the flexibility to differentiate as required.

For some of you this may sound a little Piagetian, a little bit like Bronfenbrenner or even Vygotsky. I make no apologies for that! Please email me with your thoughts. This is an ongoing staff discussion with the personalised learning needs of every child as our focus.

E-Learning Day!! Tomorrow 12.00pm - 7.00pm.

Please make time to join Ms Yonetani, myself and our expert partners Cyclone during this time to learn about e-learning at St Mark's School, the implications for Bring Your Own Chromebook programme at St Mark's School and the cyber safety measures we take to protect our whole community.

Year 4 and 5 Choir

Today Mr Paul Ellis began in earnest with a wonderful group of children - nearly 30! We are grateful for his initiative here and the support of the Board of Proprietors. This choir will gather **every Wednesday at 8.30am** in Term 4.

Lunchboxes!!!

Have you seen how much plastic in the form of lunchboxes are left around our school? It is now very disappointing. Please collect all those items that belong to you and your child before the end of term.

Staffing

A separate announcement regarding staffing for Term 4 and 2018 will be made on Friday.

I am on leave for the first two weeks of Term 4. I return Monday 30th of October. Please direct all questions or concerns to your class teacher in the first instance, and Mr Adrian Rennie who will be acting principal in my absence. I am taking dragon from Mokihi with me and look forward to his company!!

I wish you all refreshing holidays, with some family time and time for yourselves.

Blessings everyone
Averil

School Notices

Upcoming Events

28 September E-learning Day - 12.00pm-7.00pm
29 September End of Term Service - 2.15pm
19 October Athletics Day - Y3-8
20 October Athletics Postponement Date Y3-8
24 October Teacher Only Day

Church Certificates

| | |
|----------|------------------|
| Inaka | Thomas O |
| Raupo | Caeli M |
| Kereru | Jesse S |
| Kotuku | Lily B |
| Paua | London V/Emily D |
| ToeToe | Harriet P |
| Rimurimu | Charlotte P |

Term Dates 2017

Term 3 - Monday 24 July to Friday 29 September
Term 4 - Monday 16 October to Friday 15 December

Term Dates 2018

Term 1 - Monday 29 January to Friday 13 April
Term 2 - Monday 30 April to Friday 6 July
Term 3 - Monday 23 July to Friday 28 September
Term 4 - Monday 15 October to (to be confirmed)

Term 4 School wide focus

To respond to human need by loving service.



This is the third mark of mission and each team will outwork this mark across all teaching programmes. This is a great topic at this time of the year particularly as seniors consider their leadership roles within the school.

Student Achievements



Charlotte Panckhurst passed grade 4 ABRSM Violin with Merit.

Growing seedlings for the school fair!



A couple of families from school are currently in the process of getting some organic seeds growing at home, to sell at our fundraising school fair. If anyone in our school community would like to help us out with this, please contact Tania before the end of the week. She can deliver organic potting mix and seeds to you at school. This may be a fun little project for you and your children over the school holidays!!

Phone 021 380 559

Email tania.sharr@hotmail.com

Garden to Table

If anyone has any New World seedlings that they are not needing, we would love for you to drop them into the school office for the children's school garden.

Thank you so much!

PA News

Uniform shop

Coming to the end of Term 3 just a reminder that Term 4 is summer uniform so make sure you have the items required. The uniform shop will be open 2nd week of the school holidays Wednesday 11th October 1-3pm for last minute items.

Any inquiries please be directed to uniformshop@saintmarks.school.nz

Otherwise shop hours are Tuesday 8.30-9.30am and Thursday 2.30-3.30pm.

To stay up to date with specials and incoming stock join the Facebook page 'st marks uniform shop'

St Mark's School Fair 2017

Yesterday we sent home a Newsletter with students outlining all the many varied ways in which you can contribute and help to the success of this year's School Fair. Please check with your children for this. Thank you to everyone who has responded to the Fair Goodies Bag drive so far. If you haven't had a chance to drop one off yet we will gladly accept any in the early part of term 4. Thanks & Regards - The Fair Team.

Message from Revd. Helen

Dear St. Mark's school whanau,

As I conclude 22 months of ministry with the school, I have a great deal to be thankful for. It has been quite a journey as the school progressively rebuilt and renovated, with Morning Prayers, RE and Friday services held in a number of venues over that time. Serving on the Board of Proprietors and involvement in developing the school charter has been a privilege and I've learned plenty along the way. I feel particularly blessed to have been able to accompany the shift from Commissioner-led school with Christine Nijdam and Acting Principal Trevor Beaton, to welcoming new Principal Averil Worner and a new BOT. It was a delight to share in the school reopening celebrations this year and to have enjoyed the school productions and Kapa Haka performances – superb! My time with both staff and students at school, and our shared worship with school families at St. Anne's, have been a highlight of my ministry in Opawa-St. Martins – you truly are Taonga. Many hearts make a school, and St. Mark's has a big heart! Thank-you for being who you are. Please know that I will continue to take great interest in the school and you will remain in my prayers.

God Bless and Keep You all.
Arohanui,

Revd. Helen

Community Dental Service

Re: Access to School Dental Services over the school holiday period

The Community Dental Service has a contract to provide an emergency dental service for pre-schoolers and primary school children over the school holiday period. The service is limited to the relief of acute pain only and will operate from 8:45am until 12:30pm from the Hillmorton Community Clinic, Sylvan Street, Christchurch for the following times:

Tuesday, 3rd October to Friday, 6th October 2017 (excluding weekends)
and
Monday, 9th October to Friday, 13th October 2017 (excluding weekends)

Routine treatment will **not** be offered/available over the holidays and any accident related issues will be referred to Community Dentists as per usual practise.

Community News

Stoked Surf School enrolling Now!

- All ages welcome
- learn new surf and water safety skills
- After School Surf lesson Term 4
- Saturday and Sunday morning surf lessons
- from \$26 per student inclusive of Board and Wetsuit

Email donna.chchsos@gmail.com for more info and registrations



BAKE SALE!

Everything Under
\$5

Jelly
Lolly Cake
Sherbet
Fudge
Brownie
Cookies
Popcorn
Cake

SEPTEMBER 29: 12:30-1:15

HELP OUR ST MARKS SCHOOL
WATERPOLO TEAM GET TO DUNEDIN
FOR THE SOUTH ISLAND
TOURNAMENT





E-Learning

E-Learning Day Thursday 28 September

Ōmoho

12pm-7pm

How will BYOC enhance learning for students?

How will teachers be prepared for BYOC?

How will we make our online environment as safe as possible?

We are exploring starting a Bring Your Own Chromebook (BYOC) programme for year 6-8 students in term one 2018. This is an opportunity to learn about how BYOC might look at St Mark's School. Our experts from Cyclone will be available to help answer questions, along with our principal, Averil Worner, and our e-learning coordinator, Cristy Yonetani.

We look forward to seeing you there.



There is still time to complete our [e-learning survey](#). We are keen to hear your questions and concerns. Please take five minutes to complete this survey and share your views.

Thank you to the 60+ people who have responded so far!

St Mark's School Blogs

Please visit our blogs to see some of the teaching and learning happening in our St Mark's School family. There are also extra learning opportunities online for students.

We welcome your comments!

Mōkihi

Aukaha kia kaha.

Strengthen the bindings.



<http://stmarksmokihi.blogspot.co.nz/>

Waka Pūhara

Kia kotahi te hoe o te waka.

Let's paddle in unison.



<http://stmarkswakapuhara.blogspot.co.nz/>

Waka Hourua

He moana pukepuke ka ekengia e te waka.

A choppy sea can be navigated.



<http://stmarkswakahourua.blogspot.co.nz/>