



St Mark's School Newsletter

Issue 11
11 April 2018

Kia ora St Mark's family and whanau,

I want to thank the whole community for the support of staff and students as Term 1 draws to a close. There is no doubt it has been a busy term but in a dynamic environment like a school, whenever people gather for a common purpose, there is activity! I want to thank those families who have contacted staff when things have become challenging - open honest dialogue when you are sharing that common purpose is the only way I know to find shared understandings. In doing so we strengthen our relationships with one another.

Me mahi tahi tātou mō te oranga o te katoa

We should work together for the wellbeing of everyone.

I do want to say "thank you" to the volunteers who went on trips, to those who have helped with sport, to those of you who have been able to join us for church services and for the many ways you support classroom programs in your homes.

For communication purposes there are a number of notices that I list here in no particular order.

Music Festival

Notices have been circulated regarding special groups for this year Christchurch Music Festival scheduled for Term 4. Applications close this **Friday, 13th April**.

St Mark's School staff have agreed to include year 6 and 7 in this year's festival massed choir. This fits within our integrated music program and will happen in alternate years to the local music festival attended by the Performance Choir last year. Even years for Christchurch Music Festival, odd years for local music festival.

Ngāi Tahu Mātauranga

Please find attached to this newsletter details for Tahu Stanley - Kaitoko Mātauranga, Ngāi Tūāhuriri. This outlines support for Ngāi Tahu whanau. We are happy to host hui or meetings for whanau at school - just let me know or contact Tahu directly.

Open Day 24th May 10.00am - 2.00pm

An advertisement has been crafted for this day and will appear in local papers shortly. It will be a usual school day for the school and it is never easy to predict the number of visitors we may have. I have made it clear on the advertisement that there are limited places for 2019. It is such a wonderful positive position to be in, but I wanted to be open and honest in this communication regarding friends and family who you may be talking to.

Junior Hockey Program

In Terms 2 and 3 I am thrilled to announce that **Mr George Carnoutsos** will join us again to run a Junior Hockey program for year 0 - 4, and some specialist training for our Senior Hockey players. George is an old boy of the school, father of 2 daughters who attended and current grandfather of the next generation at St Mark's School. This is a gift to our students and we look forward to welcoming him again.



Transforming lives through the St Mark's Story

Lunches

As we seek to secure our status as an Enviro School there are number of areas where you as parents and whanau can assist. As the assessment of our school in this area involves staff, I am thrilled to inform you all that staff have moved to recycling food for the worm farm, that composting of food in the school will start in Term 2 and that ways of reducing our landfill contributions are being explored. Lunches available for purchase within our school offer smart alternatives to plastic and our objectives to care and love our environment.

Moving to less plastic wrapping in student lunch boxes is a good step to aim for in Term 2. There are number of alternatives to plastic wrapping/bags - some very good ideas offered at the Year 4 / 5 Environment Expo included Beeswax Wrappers that are reusable.

These concepts fit with our Special Character and the **Five Marks of Mission**. What better example to our tamariki than ***“to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth”***. This is number 5 and a worldwide conversation going on right now! As a community we can lead in this area - we have the mandate and responsibility.

Curriculum - Assessment

A number of whanau have responded positively to an earlier communication regarding the “what” post National Standards. Staff at St Mark’s School have been having this conversation since before they were removed, because the question of “What is the purpose of Assessment?” has always been part of best teaching and learning practice. Embedded in our New Zealand Curriculum are Learning Progressions and a Framework to understand what is expected at each year level/age. Reporting this to parents/whanau is key to partnerships where there is shared understanding of where the child is at and what needs to happen next.

Staff have already begun the job of adapting formal reporting forms, grouping the standardised tests that give us summative information and delving into their own practice to understand the needs of individuals. Coupled with student voice and other formative information we can seek consistency and clarity across the school.

National Standards were an add on to this in my opinion and created an unnecessary bias to three areas of the curriculum, with little regard for the impact a Broad Curriculum could make on a child’s development. The relationship between mathematics and music and achievement for example is well researched. Conversations about assessment have a natural consequence - curriculum review and we staff have set this as part of professional development this year and community input is key - there will be space for that! Such has been the work of staff, St Mark’s School has been invited to run a workshop at the Christchurch Seminar run by the New Zealand Assessment Institute on ***“Rethinking Assessment in Aotearoa/New Zealand”***. Myself and at least 2 staff will share our professional journey so far and run discussions with colleagues from around the South Island. This will prepare us for a presentation to our school community in Term 2!

Staffing

It is with great pleasure I announce to the school community those staff who will join us from Term 2.

- **Mrs Tracey Hastings** joins us again in the second New Entrants class. Tracey worked closely alongside Mrs Delwyn Wright last year as the two New Entrant classes worked in tandem with the ratio of child to teacher optimal for learning. Tracey was here last year at the same class level, is active in her church in children's ministry and prior to being at St Mark's School has enjoyed a successful career most recently at Roydvale School. Welcome Back!!!
- **Mrs Sarah Learman** joins us two days a week in a role supporting learners in enrichment and extension programs. Sarah has relieved for us on a number of occasions and impressed with her enthusiasm, caring and expertise. Sarah is active in her church, is connected to our neighbouring Hillview School and we look forward to what her gifts and talents will bring to our school. Welcome!!
- **Mrs Philippa Tyrrell** joins us again 2 mornings a week supporting literacy and numeracy in Mokihi. Philippa is an experienced practitioner whose expertise was invaluable for our youngest learners in 2017. Welcome Back!!

On behalf of staff and families I want to thank both the Board of Trustees and Board of Proprietors who are so encouraging of our staffing needs, as we outwork our special character nurturing the needs of every child.

Enrichment programs - from Mrs Liz Coster - Assistant Principal

Currently at St Mark's we are in the process of developing enrichment programs in response to our school wide baseline data about the learning needs of individual students. The provision of these enrichment programs ensures that as a school we continue to recognise the potential of individual students and provide them with the opportunities to develop their strengths and passions. Each of the programs target specific abilities and qualities demonstrated by our learners and are being developed in consultation with teaching staff.

Term 2 and 3 will be a time of trialling each of the enrichment programs. Mrs Sarah Learman will be the one of the teachers responsible for the provision of the enrichment programs alongside other staff. Mrs Learman comes to St Mark's with a background in teaching students with a variety of gifts and talents.

Each program is being designed around the specific learning needs of the students and will be modified as needs arise. At various stages there will be consultation and feedback with parents, whanau and the Board of Trustees to ascertain the **effectiveness/success** of each program. There will also be ongoing consultation with the teaching staff and the learners. Towards the end of Term 3 feedback will be provided to the school community about the implementation and progress of the enrichment programs.

This week I attended church in Hanmer Springs and the story of the encounter with Jesus on the road to Emmaus was the topic of the sermon. We were challenged and reminded that we can be blinded at times by our own difficulties and issues, and be prevented from seeing God's hope and redemption in a risen Christ.

As you head into the holidays we wish you all safety, good health and many blessings

Averil

School Notices

Upcoming Events

13 Apr	End of term service - 2.15pm
9 May	Yr 8 Rutherford's Den trip
11 May	School Cross Country - 10am
24 May	Open Day - 10am-2pm
25 May	Make a Wish Mufti Day
29 May	Court Theatre Performance - 2pm

Church Certificates

Kereru	Olivia H
Ti Kouka	Harry S
Kamana	Piper E
ToeToe	Iva F
Kotuku	Summer B
Paua	Nathaniel B
Mako	Leo M
Wheke	Torbin C
Toroa	William M

Anzac Poppies

Poppies will be available in the school foyer on Thursday and Friday. Please bring a gold coin donation.



Library Books

Currently we have 134 library books overdue. Would you please have your child return any books they have before Friday.

Lost Property

Please check for any lost items in your child's area before the end of term.

We would like to rehome this property, can you please have a look and see if any items belong to your family.

Uniform Shop

Next term we start in winter uniform for both boys and girls. To make sure you are prepared for last minute items we will be open 2nd week of the holidays Tuesday 24th April from 1-3pm.

Also for the first time pants are available as a option for the boys for winter for any information please contact us at uniformshop@saintmarks.school.nz or stay up to date by joining the 'st marks uniform shop' on Facebook.



Ngāi Tahu Mātauranga

KAITOKO MĀTAURANGA NGĀI TŪĀHURIRI

WHAT CAN THE KAITOKO MĀTAURANGA DO FOR YOUR WHĀNAU?

Develop individual education plans catered
to specific family needs

Planning with whānau, for whānau

Strengthen Ngāi Tahu & Ngāi Tūāhuriri
identity & culture

*Information on Te Reo and cultural wānanga
including Kia Kūrapa, Kura Reo Kāi Tahu, Kura
Reo Itakatahi and more*

Access to Māori leadership opportunities

*Manawa Hou, Te Ara Whakatipu, Holiday
Programmes and more*

Connect with scholarships and resources

*Tāhira Taunaki, Kā Pūtea, Yamada O'Regan,
Kā Manukura & more*



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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 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 – 13th 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