



# St Mark's School Newsletter

Term 2 Week 6  
6 June 2018

Kia ora St Mark's School family,

Due to a short week we have a brief newsletter! Please find below a calendar of events for the near future and some key dates for your diaries. Just a reminder that the dates of key events are all on the school calendar online that you all have access to.

## **NZEI Paid Union Meeting afternoon of Tuesday 26th June**

Please see the flyer attached to this newsletter, already sent as part of a previous communication. This flyer contains vital information regarding the legal entitlement of staff to attend this paid meeting and the operational changes for our school on this day.

## **AIS NZ Conference - 12th and 13th June**

On these dates Rev. Ben and I will attend this annual conference which promises to have topics of great relevance to our school. Speakers covering special character, governance, a model for developing exemplary teaching and learning, the digital technology curriculum and how a review of Tomorrow's Schools might impact on State-Integrated schools.

## **CURRICULUM AREA: Mathematics**

This was the focus of our Teacher Only Day yesterday and timely given the recent press and scholarly articles pointing to a "crisis" in mathematics in our country and disengagement of students. Staff had an opportunity to view the Learning Progressions Framework in its entirety and where all students fit within the aspects of it. It is a framework and as such is not all encompassing as a program - in fact the New Zealand Curriculum while robust allows much room for "local flavour curricula" to flourish! SO the task ahead of staff is to develop in the ensuing months - with your help - a program of mathematics across the school that is sound in its foundational skills and content, with innovation to engage and prepare students to think critically and mathematically. Mathematics is more interdisciplinary than it ever has been and being able to complete complex mathematical tasks with a range of data requires high expectations. Memorisation is no longer enough, there has to be reasoning built into programs that foster engagement and doing maths "well".

Blessings everyone  
Averil

## **Upcoming Events**

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| 11-22 June    | Y0-3 Swimming - Pioneer  |
| 12-15 June    | Year 8 Camp  |
| 17 June       | Mokihi Service - St Mark's/St Anne's Church - 10am             |
| 20 June       | Community E-Learning Event                                     |
| 21 June       | Sport/Cultural Photographs                                     |
| 25,26,28 June | Whanau/Teacher Interviews <b>(please note change of dates)</b> |
| 29 June       | Book Character Day   |
| 6 July        | End of Term Service - 2.30pm                                   |
| 19-20 Sept    | Wearable Arts Show   |



*Transforming lives through the St Mark's Story*



## St Mark's School

*Transforming lives through the St Mark's Story*

You are invited to a community e-learning event...

### Ōmoho

### Wednesday 20 June

8:30am - 9:30am

2:30pm - 4:00pm

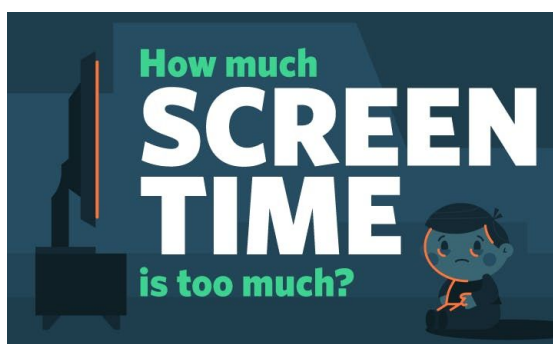


Please [share any questions](#) you have about e-learning at St Mark's School, or digital citizenship in general. This will help us to prepare for our upcoming community e-learning event. Thank you!

- How much screen time is too much?
- What is Seesaw and how might it enhance learning at our school?
- How is the Bring Your Own Chromebook (BYOC) programme going?

Averil Worner, Principal    Cristy Yonetani, E-Learning Lead Teacher    Tom Sevier, Cyclone Expert

We are keen to respond to your feedback by providing guidance on screen time and digital citizenship at home. We would also love to share our e-learning progress and offer everyone the chance to learn more about our year 6-8 Bring Your Own Chromebook programme.





### Letter to send to parents

Dear Parents,

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

While there are many more children coming into the school system, there are not enough new teachers being trained. Urgent and significant changes are needed to ensure that the teaching profession can attract the people it needs and to ensure class sizes do not start to increase.

On **Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> June**, the teachers from this school will be attending a NZEI Te Riu Roa paid union meeting regarding the *Kua Tae Te Wā* - It's Time campaign. The campaign aims to free teachers to teach and principals to lead, by getting the additional support and staff that schools need. The meetings will allow our teachers to discuss how the Ministry of Education has responded to changes that the union is seeking.

Our teaching staff are members of NZEI and legally entitled to attend this meeting. The teachers will be leaving school on **Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> June at 1.30pm** to attend their paid union meeting which starts at **2.00pm**.

I strongly encourage parents to make arrangements to pick your children up from school by 1.30pm on **Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> June**. If you are unable to pick your children up then, please advise us so that your children can be supervised until **3.00pm**.

I appreciate that this creates some inconvenience for families. However, I encourage you to support your teachers as they strive to achieve the changes which will safeguard quality education for all children and ensure we make teaching an attractive profession for graduates.

Anyone who may need help with arrangements should contact the office.

Sincerely

Averil Worner