



# St Mark's School Newsletter

Term 3 Week 6  
29 August 2018

Kia ora everyone,

Week 6 brings more wonderful opportunities in our learning community. These include cricket sessions, the Year 3 trip to the Museum, the delivery of the new junior singing cups and drama and chess clubs operating.

## Waka Puhara at St Anne's

Thank you so much to all those in our community who attended this service last Sunday. The school were welcomed so warmly by the parishioners and we were so proud of our readers and singers. During **Rev. Ben's** sermon **Mr Pippin Wright-Stow** acted as the model to support his message. The photos below show how creative our wonderful Rev. Ben is, how brave Mr Wright-Stow was but how strong the message to arm yourself with God's love and forgiveness is.

Following Ephesians 6:10-20 we put on

- Belt of truth (or girding loins with undies of truth!)
- Body armour of God's Righteousness (high-vis vest)
- Shoes of peace that come from the Good News (knitted slippers)
- Shield of faith
- Helmet of salvation (Centurion's helmet)
- Sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God



*Transforming lives through the St Mark's Story*

## Screen Time

I have received many communications since raising this issue in the newsletter last week, with most indicating certain measures that are taken by parents in our community to control what their children are accessing online. In addition to this others are unsure of what can be done. Additional concerns centre around the types of games that a number of our students are playing and the time that this takes.

The timing of a Television story outlining research in Australia linking games like Fortnite and it's iterations to addictive behaviour and gambling, reminds us of the challenging environment we are parenting in. The same story recommended a program called Family Zone as tool to consider, with Screentime (<https://screentimelabs.com/>) mentioned by two St Mark's families. The senior staff are considering the timing of a student and parent forum with an expert to bring this conversation closer to us all.

## Restorative Practice

Whilst I have talked about this before, I have been reminded this week that our work to repair relationships as a result of playground challenges may be misunderstood. Building, enhancing and restoring relationships in our school builds empathy, resilience and conditions of care.

This is in opposition to a more punitive approach which focuses on rule breaking and punishment. Often there this is a disconnect between the punishment and the behaviour, and this approach often supports a blame and shame culture that is rarely linked to long term, positive change.

In meeting the relational needs of young people we want to establish lasting ways to deal with conflict, the ability to identify who has been affected by our actions, and be supportive of the voice of victims.

Of course this works so brilliantly alongside our fourth mark of mission: ***"to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation"***.

When teachers (in pairs) connect two children together: (this may be in the playground or a discrete part of a learning space, we are seeking to find out what has happened, who has been affected and what needs to be done to put things right - this makes students accountable and restores broken relationships. Research tells us this approach is more likely to contribute to a community of openness and care.

In our Christian walk we are called to forgive, but of course forgiveness comes with an implicit message that our students, particularly our younger students are learning to use well- ***"I accept your apology, but please don't do that again"***.

This is the duty of care we show to each other every day- including adults!!!

## Sport

2018 saw St Mark's school enter the Canterbury Schools competitions for all year 5 - 8 students. It has been a huge success. We have achieved this with dedicated staff and parents including **Mr Nick Tabak, Mr Hamish Cuthbert, Mrs Karina Rose, Mrs Charlotte Cooper, Mrs Bridget Sullivan, Mrs Victoria Joseph, Mrs Tanya McWhirter, Mrs Anna Penman, Mr Prishil Lallu, Mr George Carnoutsos, Mrs Sally O'Brien and Mrs Victoria Whitta.**

The full placings will be published next week.

However on Thursday our Year 5 and 6 "A" Football team represented the Independent School Zone at the Canterbury Championships and WON!! They are Canterbury Champions!! This team consisted of **Michael C, Sullivan H, Torbin C, Ioli K, Isaac W, Theo Y, Rafi W-S, Louis T, Leo-Sebastian M and Mason W.** Congratulations to these players and **Mrs Maree Bigelow** who is guiding our sports programs in new and exciting directions.

## Strum, Strike, Blow

Our best wishes to Miss Y, Ms Hale and our ukulele club who will be representing our school tonight at this annual event. I am looking forward to supporting them and enjoying this musical experience.

## Selwyn Centre

On Monday I joined the folk gathered at the St Mark's Church Hall for morning tea with gorgeous scones and banana cake, to share a little of St Mark's School with them and establish fellowship opportunities with our school. It was a privilege and joy to be part of the conversations - they asked some very challenging questions about school in the 21st century!

Blessings everyone

Averil

# School Notices

## Upcoming Events

29 Aug	Strum, Strike, Blow for Ukulele Club
31 Aug	Year 3 Museum visit
6 Sept	Y4-8 Singing Cup
11 Sept	Y5-6 Mt Hutt Ski Trip
17 Sept	Y7-8 Mt Hutt Ski Trip
19-20 Sept	Wearable Arts Show
21 Sept	Kapahaka Tuhono Festival
26 Sept	Itinerant Music Evening
28 Sept	End of Term Service

## Church Certificates

Raupo	Louis B
Inaka	Tyronne N
Kereru	Pippa W
Ti Kouka	Zara P
Kamana	Charlotte P
ToeToe	Theo A-C
Kotuku	Lily B
Paua	Theo Y
Mako	Ana S

## Sports Results

### Basketball

St Mark's Titans 15 v Christchurch South Steelers 22  
Player of the Day: Max W

## Student Success

The Canterbury Hockey Association has named Ella T (Y8) in the Primary Girls Development Squad to represent Canterbury at the South Island Festival of Hockey, a 3-day tournament in Cromwell during the next school holidays. Congratulations!

## Scholastic Book Club

Order forms for Scholastic Books have been sent home. Orders may be placed direct with Scholastic at [www.mybookclub.scholastic.nz](http://www.mybookclub.scholastic.nz). An easy way to order online yourself and will be delivered direct to school. Orders close on **Friday 31 August**.

## Fair News

LOOK out for the black goodie bags coming home with your child in the next few days.

**TIME FOR TENNIS!:** Love Tennis Open Day at **OPAWA TENNIS CLUB**, Cholmondeley Ave, **SAT 8th Sept & SUN 9th Sept 1-4pm**. A chance to check out your local tennis club and for returning members to re-register. Come along and join the fun: racquets available, have a hit or a sausage from the BBQ and talk to the people in the know. Junior annual registration fees \$150-\$200.00. **Hot Shot sessions:** Mini Stars (5-7yrs): Sat 8.30-9.15am. Junior Stars (7yrs+): Sat 9.15-10.15am or Junior Stars (8yrs+) Mon 3.30-4.30pm. **Interclub:** Includes weekly coaching session and play on Sat. Contact Andrea [ja.opawatennis@gmail.com/text](mailto:ja.opawatennis@gmail.com/text) 0212327141 or see you on the day!





## Strum Strike Blow

This morning our ukulele club went to the Strum, Strike, Blow rehearsal. Strum, Strike, Blow is a musical event where hundreds of primary school students play ukulele, marimba, and recorder together.

We had to listen carefully to the professional conductors. It isn't easy to get hundreds of musicians playing in time. We especially enjoyed helping our new ukulele club members. For most of us, it's our first big concert!

We started rehearsal with the massed items, Sakura, and Mission Impossible. Then we practiced our ukulele songs. There were some amazing guest musicians and vocalists! Our favorite song is Take It Easy. We are looking forward to the concert tonight!

By Samantha P and Sophia S



## Our Winning Year 5/6 Football Team





## Year 3-4 Netball

Congratulations to the Year 3 and 4 Netball team who have just completed their first season playing Netball. All the girls have had no previous tournament experience, and it was awesome to see them turn up each week eager and determined to give it their all. A special mention to old girl Lilly Okey who was a fantastic support to the Year 4 team on game nights.

