



# St Mark's School Newsletter

Term 1 Week 7  
13 March 2019

Kia ora St Mark's family,

As I walk into classrooms - most days - I am struck by how engaged our students are and increasing signs of teachers supporting independent thinking in students learning - with great guidance. We have an increasing number of students innovating and seeking passion projects.

## Climate Change

This morning our Year 8 students heard from Lucy Grey and Mia - organisers of the "School Strike for Climate Change" on Friday. Whilst we are not taking students to this "strike", we are using the opportunity to highlight the issues for students on Friday afternoon. It is **Mufti Day this Friday 15th** with an animal theme. (All proceeds from the gold coin donation goes to the SPCA). This is a great segway to discussing the plight of endangered animals in significantly changing environments. Students will gather in houses in the afternoon to learn together.

## Swimming

Yesterday we gathered at Christ's College for the annual swimming sports. Whilst the lack of time was regrettable, I do thank **Mrs Maree Bigelow** for bringing this together under enormous time pressure and lack of access to council pools. For the most part, the day was successful, and we are already negotiating with Christ's College to make this our venue in future - a whole day will be set aside to make this a day for whānau and celebrate all swimmers.

## Term dates 2020!

**Term 1 - 27th and 28th January Parent/Teacher/Child conferences. Wednesday 29th first full day of term.**

**Term 1 - Monday 27th January - Thursday 9th April**

**Term 2 - Tuesday 28th April - Friday 3rd July.**

**Teacher only day - Tuesday 2nd June**

**Term 3 - Monday 20th July - Friday 25th September**

**Term 4 - Monday 12th October - Friday 11th December**

**Teacher only day - Tuesday 27th October**

## New Family

We welcome the following new family to our school and pray they find a turangawaewae in this place with us:

Marnie C and parents Emmy and Rob

## Communication

Last year we trialled **Seesaw** - a program of "in time" sharing where students can send their learning directly to parents during the school day. This enables parents to be engaged at the time and comment on what their child has achieved. The **free app** allowed parents to receive this information on their mobile device.

**In 2019 as a trial, we will shift the newsletter and other class and team communication to Seesaw** ensuring school information is not buried in your inbox! We will make this shift in **Term 2** giving everyone time to download the app, talk to their class teacher and team leader, and practice using it's features. The newsletter and other communications will be available in print or digital form initially.



## Our values story!

*Through **Grace/Huatau**, we act with compassion and humility to achieve **Excellence/Hiranga** using the potential of our God given talents and gifts. This gives us the **Courage/Māiatanga** to bring about change as we show **Faithfulness/Piriponotanga** to God and others.*

## Mathematics

We are fortunate to be partnering with the University of Canterbury - specifically **Ms Carol Butel** - to enhance our pedagogy in mathematics across the school and raise student achievement. She is joining classes in a co-teaching capacity. We are also working alongside **Mr Brent Langford** to enhance our practice through the use of video of our teaching practice to critically inquire as to those strategies we employ for individuals and groups. This will allow us to build a local curriculum with your input over time.

Blessings  
Averil



*Transforming lives through the St Mark's Story*

# School Notices

## Upcoming Events

8 Mar	Year 4-8 School Swimming Sports
6 Mar	Ash Wednesday
15 Mar	SPCA Mufti Day
	Zone Swimming Sports
18 Mar	Year 3 trip to Travis Wetlands

## Church Certificates

Kererū	Aaish P
Ti Kouka	Pippa F-D
Toetoe	Thomas O
Kāmana	Aria R
Kawau	Charlotte P
Kūtai	Jasmine O
Rimurimu	Torbin C
Toroa	Holly M

## Sports Results

### Miniball

St Mark's Tigers 26 v Hoon Hay Rockets 2

Player of the Day: Catalina M

St Mark's Lions 26 v Stingrays 8

Player of the Day: Finn McW

St Mark's Pumas 2 v Hornby Tornados

Player of the Day: Kali V

### Waterpolo

St Mark's 9 v Heaton Green 3

## School Garden

Does anyone have any spare winter vege plants they could donate to the school vege garden please? The Mokihi gardening group would love to get some veges planted now, so we can harvest them for Matariki at the end of June.



Please contact Emily Wells if you have any to spare.

## 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 15 March. The Gift Function has been turned on in LOOP! This allows parents to place a separate order as a surprise gift for their child. Items marked as a gift will be delivered to school and will be set aside at the school office for parents to collect.

Tena Koutou Katoa

We have been advised by the NZEI that there will be a paid union meeting for teachers on the afternoon of Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March.

Due to being unable to provide the required levels of supervision the Board of Trustees has made the decision that

**the school will be closed for instruction/classes/teaching/supervision of students from 1:30pm on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March.**

We appreciate that this may cause some disruptions for families which is why the Board wishes to give parents advance notice so that they can make suitable arrangements for the pickup and supervision of their children on this date.

There will not be any ability for students to remain onsite at the school after 1:30pm.

## St Mark's School Board of Trustees

Dear staff and families at St Mark's.

I wanted to take a moment to thank you all for the love and support you have given Nariah, Tyree, Ted and myself over the last month with the passing of my father. I will forever remember the hugs, the meals, the flowers, the beautiful handmade cards, the offers of pick ups and playdates and just overall kindness and support everyone has given us without hesitation. Also a special thank you to the parents who last minute changed plans to attend school camp. We appreciate the beautiful friendships the boys have made at St Mark's and love being a part of the St Mark's family. From the bottom of my heart, Thank you. Jess Devere



Subway can be ordered for lunch every Tuesday. To place an online order, visit [www.subway.co.nz/schools](http://www.subway.co.nz/schools) and follow the instructions to place your order by 9am each Subway day. Alternatively, envelopes are in the office and you can either pay with the correct cash or credit card.

# Animal

# Mufti Day

## Friday 15th March

Dress up as  
any animal!

Gold coin  
donations  
will go to  
the SPCA.



House points for best  
costumes!



Congratulations to these students who will represent St Mark's  
 School at the Independent Schools Swimming Zones  
 Friday 15 March at Wharenuui Pool

YEAR 5	YEAR 6	YEAR 7	YEAR 8	
Meg W Miriam N Ruby T	Olivia M Amelia H Julia McC Harriet P	Olivia C Olivia Y Sophie F-D	Minnie E Sophia W Holly M	GIRLS
Casper T Monty S Matthew C Tommy P	Max P Ioli K	Torbin C Isaac W Jackson P Liam S	Bede H Jeremy H Vivek L Inaki B	BOYS

# Canterbury

District Health Board

Te Poari Hauora o Waitaha

## **Primary school and above – measles information for school newsletters/email from the Canterbury District Health Board**

March 6 2019

Since 26 February 2019, the number of cases in the latest Canterbury measles outbreak has been steadily climbing and as at 5 March we have had ten confirmed cases, with more likely to be confirmed over the next days and weeks. Some are children who have yet to complete their MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) vaccinations, but four are adults aged between 27 and 50 who have had only one measles vaccination, which was standard practice between 1969 and 1990. Cases have now spread throughout Christchurch.

Measles is a serious and highly contagious, viral disease where up to 30 percent of those who catch it will develop complications – usually children under 5 and adults over the age of 20. Measles during pregnancy increases the risk of miscarriage, premature labour and low birth-weight in babies. Measles is spread through droplets in the air and through contact, so that anyone unprotected who has been in the same room as someone with measles will likely get it.

The surest protection is for people to have had both of their MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) vaccinations, scheduled to be given to children at 15 months and at four years. As long as children of school age are up-to-date with their vaccinations they should be protected against measles. People vaccinated between 1969 and 1990 should contact their GP team who will provide a booster vaccination. People born before 1969 will have been exposed to measles and will be immune.

Family members who aren't sure if they have been immunised with two doses of MMR vaccine should talk to their GP team who will be able to provide a vaccination if they need it. An extra vaccination will not cause any harm.

Measles symptoms include:

- o A respiratory type of illness with dry cough, runny nose, headache
- o Temperature over 38.5 C and feeling very unwell
- o A red blotchy rash starts on day 4-5 of the illness usually on the face and moves to the chest and arms.

More information about measles is available at <http://www.immune.org.nz>

If you think a child at your school has measles, keep them away from other children until they can be collected and taken home. If they are already sick they should stay home for at least five days after symptoms such as a rash appeared. Once measles has been in your school, parents of any children who are not fully immune (2 doses of MMR) are advised to keep them home for 14 days from the likely date of exposure.

# St Mark's School Board of Trustees Communication

Tena Koutou Katoa

Warm greetings as we commence a new school year in the life of St Mark's School. There's already a wonderful hum of productivity around the school with camps, trips out and about already commencing. We hope that if you are a new family to the school this year that you have felt warmly welcomed and we look forward to working alongside you as the years progress.

For us as a Board of Trustees, as you will be aware from Averils newsletter last week, we commenced with revisiting our strategic goals for the school, which then sets the operational plan developed by the leadership team.

We hope to be able to distribute this to you in early March. In developing these goals, we have incorporated some goals around a number of key themes that emerged from the community consultation last year.

It is important for all members of the school community to feel that you are represented by your board members in our decision making, and as such we have a continued commitment to consultation and engagement. Every term we welcome your feedback on policies that are up for review – as these influence the way school operations are conducted.

## **2019 – Board of Trustee Elections**

This year marks the opportunity for a Board election. We would encourage members of our school community who have knowledge and passion for governance, for financial management, for bi-cultural governance considerations and strategic planning and monitoring to consider running for election this year.

If you would like to chat with a current board member to find out what's involved, or to attend a meeting – please don't hesitate to contact us. As an initial contact please contact Lauren Ball at [laurenloz@xtra.co.nz](mailto:laurenloz@xtra.co.nz).

## **HAVE YOUR SAY IN PROPOSED SCHOOL CHANGES**

This term, we would like to encourage our school community to become informed about the proposed changes to the way schools will be governed and run. One of the proposals includes that school principals may be rotated every few years, and that school Boards of Trustees might be replaced by Boards that oversee many schools. As an integrated school, with a special character there may be implications – so we would encourage you to read the documentation and have your say in the proposed changes. Will will be making a submission as a Board.

The following is the proposed changes to the education model and structure which as a Board we feel could significantly impact on the way St Marks School would be governed and operate in the future.

<https://conversation.education.govt.nz/assets/TSR/Tomorrows-Schools-Review-Report-13Dec2018.PDF>

Ways to have your voice heard are as follows:

- Nationwide public consultation meetings, including one in Timaru on Wednesday, 20 February and two in Christchurch on Thursday, 21 February. The full schedule is now available on our website (venues will be added for meetings as they are confirmed) <https://conversation.education.govt.nz/conversations/tomorrows-schools-review/have-your-say-today/>

Christchurch, Thursday 21 Feb, 4-6pm – venue yet to be confirmed soon

Christchurch, Thursday 21 Feb, 7-9pm – venue yet to be confirmed soon

- An online survey which canvasses opinion on each of the 32 recommendations is now available here <https://consultation.education.govt.nz/tsr/survey2019/>

and will remain open until 31 March 2019.

- Formal written submissions about the report can be sent to: [tomorrows.schools@education.govt.nz](mailto:tomorrows.schools@education.govt.nz)

As parents and caregivers and as a school community, we encourage you to be informed and have a voice in the shape of what education will look like for our students and young people in the future.

St Marks Board of Trustees



## An Update from the Board of Trustees Review Committee

### WE NEED YOUR INPUT PLEASE



### 2019 Term 1 - Policy Reviews:

This term we are reviewing the following policies and invite your feedback as part of our three-year review cycle.

- **Alcohol/Drugs and Other Harmful Substances**

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.

Feedback can be given anonymously if you choose

The cut off for feedback is the last day of Term 1 – **Friday 12th April 2019.**

**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).

### 2019 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

<b>Employer responsibility</b>	<b>Finance and Property Management</b>	<b>Health, Safety and Welfare</b>	<b>Legislation and administration</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- EEO Policy</li> <li>- Police Vetting for Non - Teachers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 10 Year Property Plan (10YPP)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Medicines, Minor/Moderate Injury or Illness</li> <li>- Risk Management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Length of School Year</li> </ul>

# E-Learning Update



**46 new iPads** are on the way for

Waka Pūhara and Mōkihi. These will join our existing iPads to offer e-learning opportunities for year 0-4 students.



**Chromebook**

**Over 90%** of our Waka Hourua students now bring their own Chromebook to school.

Thank you for supporting our BYOC programme!

## Welcome Arnika



Arnika is a Ministry of Education Accredited Facilitator who for the past 5 and a half years has worked with schools around New Zealand to support their understanding of Digital Technologies and Digital Fluency. In 2009 Arnika started her teaching career at Mt Somers Springburn School, where she taught for 5 years.

Arnika loves working with Teachers and students to share her passion and joy for digital technologies. She is an advocate for ensuring technology is used authentically and that students experience a well-rounded classroom program.

Arnika will be working with the staff at St Marks over the course of the year supporting our knowledge around Digital Fluency.