



# St Mark's School Newsletter

Term 1 Week 3  
12 February 2020

Kia ora St Mark's Whānau,

This week I have spent valuable time at the year 6 and 7, and year 8 camps. Without parent help these camps cannot happen and we are so grateful to all those family members who gave up their time to support their child and the Outdoor Education Programs offered. I am also grateful to teachers who spend time away from their families managing activities that have high Health and Safety needs and boundaries, but that research shows are so beneficial to wellbeing.

## ST MARK'S SCHOOL APP

Please find details of how to download this app in this newsletter. From **Term 2** we will be using this app for **ALL** formal communications to the school community including **EMERGENCY** notifications such as lockdown. Seesaw will remain a communication from children to whānau about their learning **ONLY**. **PLEASE** download this app and start using it immediately. We have strong positive parental feedback about its ease of use!

## PA - our wonderful Parent Association!!

This Friday the PA welcome the whole school to the Back to School BBQ. This is an opportunity to connect with other school family members, enjoy some stunning salads (please bring your fave!) and share fellowship as a whole school. Staff will join in the fun although I will likely have to apologise for my absence. I am on the Anglican Schools Board of NZ, and have a Board meeting in Auckland that day.

**PA AGM** - I want to commend this meeting to you all. The PA have fun, and work hard to raise funds for crucial developments in our school. Following camps and swimming programs, work will begin on developing our school playgrounds. Vital to this is student voice - **Andrew G** has begun this drive and I look forward to consulting with our students!

The PA raised significant funds last year - and we are grateful and excited.

Please consider getting involved.

*Ehara taku toa i te toa*

*Takitahi engari he toa takimano*

*My strength is not that of an individual but that of the collective.*

## Special Character Review

The draft report has been written and under discussion by our school Boards. A final report will be prepared within weeks, and be made available to the whānau of our school community.

## Recent Government Initiatives

After a conversation with 2 parents I thought I would use this space to briefly highlight the following.

When the government announced new initiatives to support schools it was met with great enthusiasm. Schools across NZ in 2020 (in excess of 1,500, will work to understand the impact on their schools of the scheme for decile 1 - 7 school of \$150.00 per child in lieu of donations, and a bulk grant of \$400 million dollars to approximately 2050 schools for property and maintenance. Whilst we are thankful for these initiatives for our colleagues, St Mark's School as a decile 10, and state-integrated school **does not** qualify for either of these initiatives. The **Association of Proprietors of Integrated Schools (APIS) and the Association of Integrated Schools (AIS)** continue to lobby on behalf of integrated schools for a resolution for this disparity. Integrated schools across NZ contain approximately 11% of all students. We are thankful for the work of these organisations!!

## Fees, charges and donations | Education in New Zealand

This link is here for transparency. St Mark's School complies with all government regulations and legal positions on the provision of donations and the delivery of the NZ Curriculum.

This week our St Mark's family lost a dear member. Mrs Diane Selwood (Connor, her wonderful son was Head boy/Student Leader in 2016) passed away after a brave battle. We pray for her family as they journey in grief for her beautiful life lived so well.

*Heavenly Father, We pray that Diane finds peace, perfect peace in your arms free of pain and full of joy in your presence. We pray for her family that they may be sustained by your loving embrace, the love of family and friends, and memories of a truly lovely soul. Āmine.*

Blessings everyone, Averil



*Transforming lives through the St Mark's Story*

## Upcoming Events

10-21 Feb	Y0-3 Swimming Pioneer Pool
11-14 Feb	Year 8 Hanmer Leadership Camp
14 Feb	Parents' Association Community BBQ - 5pm
18 Feb	Parents' Association AGM - 7pm
24 Feb - 6 Mar	Year 4-8 Swimming - Waltham
5 Mar	Swimming Sports - Christ's College - 9.30am - 2.30pm

## 2020 Term Dates

Term 1 - Monday 27 January - Thursday 9 April
Term 2 - Tuesday 28 April - Friday 3rd July.
Teacher only day - Tuesday 2 June
Term 3 - Monday 20 July - Friday 25 September
Term 4 - Monday 12 October - Friday 11 December
Teacher only day - Tuesday 27 October

## Church Certificates

Kōura	Felix A
Pūtakitaki	Matteo L
Tuaki	Aaish P
Karoro	Phoebe M
Pīngao	Charlotte P
Kāmana	Hannah T
Kahawai	Jack O
Karengo	Summer B
Toroa	Kaelan G

## Back to School BBQ

A long time tradition at St Mark's, the PA warmly invite ALL families to join us for a bit of community socializing on Fri 14<sup>th</sup> Feb from 5pm-7pm on the school field. We'll provide the sausages, you bring a Salad for the communal Salad Bar. We look forward to catching up with many of you at that time....



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.

## The Board Of Proprietors Seek Your Help!

The BoP has Trustee positions vacant which we are looking to fill.

By Deed these positions cannot be filled by parents, so we seek your help to find people from our wider community.

Do you know anyone keen to give back in this rewarding voluntary position?

Some experience with legal and/or accounting jargon would be beneficial but not necessary.

Please drop us an email at [chairperson@saintmarks.bop.nz](mailto:chairperson@saintmarks.bop.nz) or contact Raylene on 021 300 686

St Marks Board of Proprietors

*'Holding the vision of St Marks School, protecting and enhancing the Special Character'*

## St Mark's School Staff

### Mōkihi

**Mrs Delwyn Wright** - New Entrants

**Mrs Emily Wells** - Year 1 and 2

**Mrs Lorraine Brereton** - Year 1 and 2 and Team Leader

**Mrs Philippa Tyrrell** - Teacher, Wednesday and Thursday mornings

**Miss Sinead Bigelow** - Teacher Aide

### Waka Puhara

**Mr Dan Clarkson** - Year 3

**Miss May Bryant** - Year 4

**Mr Ben Davis** - Year 5

**Mrs Liz Coster** - Year 5 and Team Leader

**Mrs Sarah Learman** - Wednesdays and Thursdays.

**Mrs Sue Shea** - Teacher Aide, Monday - Thursday mornings

### Waka Hourua

**Mr Tom Gordon** - Year 6 and 7

**Mrs Marēe Bigelow** - Year 6 and 7

**Miss Cristy Yonetani** - Year 8

**Mrs Megan Campbell** - Year 6, 7 and 8

**Mr Adrian Rennie** - Team Leader and Year 6,7 and 8

**Ms Sandy van den Berg** - Teacher Aide

**Mrs Teena Wellbourn** - Full-time Learning Support Facilitator - Year 1 - 8.

**Ms Adrienne Hale** - Specialist teacher and Music Specialist - Monday, Thursday and Friday

**Mrs Louise Elliott** - Office Manager

**Mrs Christine Fairchild** - Office Assistant

**Mr Kevin McKinnel** - Caretaker

# YEAR 6, 7 AND 8 CAMPS



# What's new?

We are truly blessed to have such an engaged and supportive community. Thank you for your feedback in 2019. We hear you loud and clear! While we love Seesaw as a tool for sharing learning, it didn't turn out to be the best fit as a communication platform for our St Mark's School Family. There is *so much going on* in our St Mark's School Family, the information overload was simply impractical (especially for families with siblings at school). Subsequently, we are keeping Seesaw as a learning journal and launching our own School App for communication.



If you are already on Seesaw, you don't need to do anything. You will continue to receive updates from your child and their teacher, celebrating learning. Please remember that Seesaw is a learning journal and not a publishing portfolio. Mistakes are a part of learning. You will gain insight into your child's learning journey and have the opportunity to encourage them, every step of the way.

Each child's learning journey is unique. **Seesaw comments will be private within families.** Every day, we are showcasing learning, sharing in class, and utilising peer feedback to deepen learning. We know that home-school partnerships are key to quality learning, so Seesaw will be a special link between you and your child.



With our St Mark's School App, communication is simple and clear. Please feel free to download SchoolAppsNZ from the App Store or Google Play. For term one, communication will be via email, in addition to our St Mark's School App. This will ensure that key information is available for everyone. From term two onwards, our St Mark's School App will be the primary communication platform for our school.

Once again, thank you for your support and engagement. Please feel free to share your questions or feedback:

Cristy Yonetani

E-Learning Lead Teacher

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