



St Mark's School Newsletter

Term 1 Week 5
26 February 2020

Kia ora St Mark's Whānau,

ST MARK'S SCHOOL APP - Number one item this week!!!

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!

Christchurch Music Festival

It is now time for our wonderful musicians and singers to apply to audition for the special groups of the festival - junior and senior choirs, orchestra and concert band. Please follow the link below to locate an application form and fly!!

[Festival website here.](#)

Teacher Only Days

As you may be aware the Ministry of Education, as part of negotiations with NZEI members in 2019, offered an additional 8 days over 3 years (the period of current contracts). St Mark's School staff have decided in 2020 that Teacher Only days will be:

Tuesday 28th April - Teacher Only Day: Kahui Ako Kaiako day.

Tuesday 2nd June - Teacher Only Day - Curriculum (Tuesday after Queens Birthday Weekend).

Tuesday 27th October - Teacher Only Day - Teaching and Learning Teams (Tuesday after Labour Weekend).

These days are **always** used to benefit our practice and aspects of teaching and learning.

ICAS Exams

For many years St Mark's School has offered ICAS competitions as an extension opportunity. Whilst they have been popular, schools and teachers have always been aware that coming from the University of New South Wales, they are based on the Australian Curriculum so learning from our classrooms is not aligned to them.

That being said, the sitting of an external exam under exam conditions can be beneficial over time.

In 2019 there were major changes to how ICAS exams were designed, structured, priced and administered. This prompted myself and senior management to look at alternatives. The question was always for us "If not ICAS then what?"

The Centre for Evaluation and Monitoring (CEM) at the University of Canterbury have developed external assessments in English, Science, Mathematics and Spelling. These assessments are skills based, based on the New Zealand Curriculum (NZC) and have been written by NZ teachers. Like ICAS the same grades are given, with Distinction awards reserved for the top 1% of students. All exams are 50 minutes long and take place in Term 2 - the cost is currently \$9.00.

Last year Miss Yonetani trialled the Spelling Exam to ensure we had a window on their quality. She was impressed and those that participated achieved results closely matched to her overall teacher judgements.

It is our view that the CEM competitions, because of their alignment to NZC, their use by over 350 schools nationwide (including St Margaret's College in Christchurch, and Wakatipu High who use them to assess eligibility for extension and Gifted and Talented programs) offer the best alternative for St Mark's School going forward.

Details about how to enrol your child will be announced soon.

Walk with a Purpose

In the calendar for the **12th of June 2020**. Details to follow.

Ngāi Tahu

Yesterday Emily Wells and I engaged in korero with Dianne Robinson to build relationship and capacity around the further development of our cultural narrative. In 2020 staff will be attending workshops at Tuahiwi marae, a marae of Ngāi Tahu and it's Te Ngāi o Tūāhuriri Rūnanga branch.

The special place of our school along the Ōpāwaho or Heathcote River, and proximity to sites of significance to Māori in this area encourages further excitement for our 100 years celebration.

Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday

Our calendar includes these important pre Easter services. Revisiting pancake Tuesday and the imposition of ashes mark the beginning of Lent and the outward recognition of our need for forgiveness and mortality.

Ehara taku toa i te toa

Takitahi engari he toa takimano

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

Blessings everyone, Averil



Transforming lives through the St Mark's Story

Upcoming Events

24 Feb - 6 Mar	Year 4-8 Swimming - Waltham
5 Mar	Swimming Sports - Christ's College - 9.30am - 2.30pm
9 Mar	Independent Swimming Zones
6-8 Apr	Holy Week Service - 9.00am

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

Inaka	Lachlan S
Pūtakitaki	Samuel P
Kōura	Alexander S
Tuaki	Jackson O'D
Pīngao	Case W
Karoro	Islah S
Kāmana	Laurika de L
Karengo	Jasmine O
Kahawai	Olive A-C
Toroa	Liam S

Board of Proprietors and Board of Trustees Payments

Please ensure when you pay the Attendance Dues invoice you deposit into the St Mark's School Board of Proprietors account.

BNZ account number: 02-0800- 0014224 00

When paying for camps, trips etc please deposit in the St Mark's School Board of Trustees account.

Westpac account number: 03-1599-0032504-00

Please use your family name as a reference.

Sport Results

Miniball

St Mark's Tigers 32 v Sacred Heart 8

POD: Holly R - great energy, looking for space, great passing and hoops, well done!

Mr Clarkson - thanks for coming down and supporting our school, the kids loved having you watching the game.

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 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'

Grow Ō Tautahi 2020 Garden Show 20-22 March

Free entry into the Christchurch Botanic Gardens

At St Mark's School we are very excited to be part of this show which celebrates gardening and growth by presenting a school entry that showcases the history of our school community. The students will have contributed to the school creation either with their care of the gardens, garden design and artwork.

Last year there was a group of parents who have indicated that they would like to be a part of this competition. Are there any people who would also like to assist with either donations of plants or planting materials, building construction of the garden entry structure before the show or with painting materials.

Please email Liz Coster: l.coster@saintmarks.school.nz.

Student News

In assembly we congratulated Ariki on his medal achieved for Jujitsu in Australia. It was great to learn more about Ariki and his God given gifts and talents. Congratulations!



PANCAKE DAY



Seaweek 2020

Seaweek – *Kaupapa Moana* is New Zealand's annual national week celebrating the sea which takes place from Saturday 29 February to Sunday 8 March 2020.

Hosted by the [NZ Association for Environmental Education](#) (NZAEE), Seaweek focuses on learning about the ocean because it is so important to all our lives, no matter how far you are from it! This is not just for children or those involved with formal education – it's a time for all of us to get to know our ocean, its habitats, characteristics and inhabitants better.

The 2020 theme is **Connecting With Our Seas** and whakatauki:

Ko au te moana, ko te moana ko au – I am the sea, the sea is me

This is to highlight the diverse connections and interactions we have with the sea which makes our lives so intertwined with the health of our ocean environment.

Christchurch Seaweek 2020 Events:

[Ephemeral Art Competition](#) – Open to entries until Tuesday, 10 March 2020

[VIP Penguin Backstage Pass](#) – Saturday 29 February to 8 March

[Conservation of Penguins – Education Tour](#) 9.00am – 11.30am during Seaweek

[Hirepool Big Clean Christchurch: Love Your Coast](#) – Saturday 29 February 1:30 – 4:30

[Dog's Day Out](#) – Saturday 29 February

[Seaweek themed Children's Clay Workshop](#) – Saturday 29 February from 10-11:30 am

[Know your big blue back yard](#) – Saturday 29 February – 7 PM

[Tuhaitara Coastal Park Bike Ride](#) – Sunday 1 March 3.30-6.30pm

[Ephemeral Art Competition – Creation Day](#) – Sunday 1 March 3- 5 PM

[For the Love of Sharks](#) – Tuesday, 3 March 4:00 – 5:00 PM

[RRR -React to Plastic](#) Tuesday 3 March 7-9 pm

[Ocean Life Presentation](#) – Wednesday, 4 March 7:00 – 8.30 PM

[Is there a case for deep sea mining? A Youth Open Space Workshop](#) – Thursday 5 March 4-6pm

[Sea Week Quiz Night](#) – Thursday 5 March 6:30 pm

[Twilight Beach Walk](#) – Thursday 5 March 6:30pm

[What happens to plastic in the ocean?](#) – Friday, 6 March 11:30-12:30 AM

[Estuary Edge Clean-up](#) – Saturday, 7 March 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM

[Children's Workshop: Make a Migratory Fish Puppet](#) – 7 March 1.30-4.30 PM

[Farewell to Godwits](#) – Sunday, March 8 at 6:00 PM

[Ride the Coastal Pathway Ferrymead to Sumner](#) – Sunday 8 March 10.30-12:30 PM

[Wetland Detective Walk](#) – Sunday, 15 March 2:00 – 3:00 PM

Check out the competitions and other events at: <https://www.seaweek.org.nz/>

St Mark's School Parents' Association Newsletter

School is well underway now and so great to see all of our tamariki settled into their daily routines.

Whenever I pop into school it never ceases to amaze me just how much our children are enjoying the challenges of everyday school life from our very youngest learners in New Entrants all the way through to our seasoned veterans in class 8, the learning that goes on is just amazing and the enjoyment it brings is very heartwarming to see and hear.

Thank you to all that attended our Welcome Back BBQ it really was great to catch up with so many people.

The P.A. have had their first meeting of the year and we are well underway to creating some FUN opportunities for students AND parents alike and in doing so continuing our fundraising efforts that bring great benefit to our school and the children of our school.

This year we have decided to continue supporting our schools desire to revamp the playgrounds, we realize that to bring a truly spectacular playground to life it is going to take a mammoth effort and amount of dollars. Over the past five years through your generosity and support we have equipped our newly built or refurbished classrooms, the library, purchased two brand new minibuses and also supported numerous smaller projects along the way, new sports equipment, assistance for sports teams to travel, so with all of the school's most pressing needs having been met, (for now) we have decided to really reach for the stars and aim to have the BEST school playground around.

You will have noticed an 'Ideas Board' in the foyer, this is for the students to get creative and imaginative and to let us know just what they would like to see in the playground, no idea is too big or too small. Averil is assembling a focus group of students to visit other school's playgrounds to see what works well in other places. Once all the ideas have been amassed, that's when the design experts will be called in to help bring together the students' ideas and then a schedule of works will be developed to get this underway. It is envisaged this project being completed in segments over the next 2 – 3 years.

Our first FUNraiser is already underway, with our Chocolate Fundraiser – we have gone with Whittaker's as they are a New Zealand Company, their product is ethically sourced and has a lesser impact on the environment than other well-known brands who use palm oil. We appreciate that some will not wish to participate in this type of initiative for various reasons. We respect that, we just ask that you complete the opt out form and hand into the office by Friday so we can ensure only those who wish to participate receive product.

The **School Fair will be on Saturday 7th November** this year and we shall be looking to assemble a committee of eager parents to help organize this in the very near future.

Ngā mihi nui

Gary Miller
Chairperson
St Mark's School PA

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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