



# St Mark's School Newsletter

Term 1 Week 3  
18 February 2021

## Kia ora Te Kura o Hato Māka whānau,

I hope this finds everyone well. What a welcome message from the Prime Minister to shift us back to Alert Level 1. Our thoughts are with our Auckland colleagues, in particular those at Papatoetoe High School.

### 100 Years! - 9th - 11th April 2021

Early registrations for our centennial events are now coming in. A reminder that the weekend is devoted to celebrations - a mixture of formal and informal gatherings, a mixture of free and priced events - all designed to celebrate the breadth and depth of school life at St Mark's School. Details and registration forms can be found via the school website [www.saintmarks.school.nz](http://www.saintmarks.school.nz). The events are open to all who share part of our history. Please contact us if there are any barriers you perceive to your participation in any event [office@saintmarks.school.nz](mailto:office@saintmarks.school.nz)

### Specialist Teachers

The media has been awash with articles relating to education standards in Aotearoa, in particular Mathematics, Reading and Science. Criticism from both the Ministry of Education, Principals, Teachers and Researchers abound on various issues, however most agree that the planning and sequencing of learning and the differentiation of learning to need, are directly linked to the impact of high quality teaching and learning.

Our decision to pilot a specialist teaching model in 2021 was made ahead of these headlines. The decision was based on whānau survey data combined with staff reflective practice that sought options to balance a vibrant local curriculum. Our model seeks evidence of links to wide curriculum coverage across the New Zealand curriculum, a balance of content and competencies, while ensuring the outworking of the Board of Trustees strategic goal of developing future thinkers and learners within the frame of our special character. Even though our achievement data indicates overall our students are achieving highly relative to age expectations, we must always be striving for best practice for all.

The Gifted Education hui facilitated by [Miss Cristy Yonetani on Tuesday](#), is an example of the [ongoing conversation we must have as a school community as we direct resources to curricula and programs with strong evidence of efficacy](#).

### Garden Show - 12th - 14h March

Postponed from last year, St Mark's School will once again prepare a garden representing the values, the special character of our school and life of our school. Expertly led by our **Assistant Principal, Mrs Liz Coster** a team of students have been working on this display. The details of the weekend are in the link below. We thank Portstone Nursery for the support in this venture. More details to follow.

[Christchurch Garden Festival: Grow Ōtautahi](#)

### Calendar

We have worked hard to plan well ahead this year for those school, waka and class events that add to the richness of school life. We ask that you take note of dates in the community calendar.

**Week 4 (Next week): Year 8 camp**

**Week 5:** Swimming Year 4 - 8 and St Mark's School swimming sports, Thursday 4th March at Christs College.

### Locarno St Fence

The Board of Proprietors have confirmed the timeline for the fence replacement:

**Friday 19th March** - a temporary fence will be erected.

**Saturday 20th March** - old concrete posts removed.

**Monday 22nd March** - new fence started.

### Year 8 Leaders

We will commission the Year 8 leaders for their roles for 2021. They have started their mahi so well - they are a stunning year 8 group.

As I will be on Year 8 camp in Hanmer next Tuesday to Friday, please direct any questions or inquiries to **Mr Adrian Rennie Deputy Principal** [a.ennie@saintmarks.school.nz](mailto:a.ennie@saintmarks.school.nz)

A verse for lent: *Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction and faithful in prayer. Romans 12:12*

Blessings everyone, Averil



*Transforming lives through the St Mark's Story*

## Upcoming Events

23-26 February	Year 8 Hanmer Camp
1-5 March	Year 4-8 Swimming
4 March	School Swimming Sports
21 March	PA Family Fun Day at Living Springs
29 March-1 April	Year 6 Cycle Safety
29-31 March	Holy Week Service
1 April	Easter Sunday Service

## Term Dates

TERM 1 - Monday 1st February (TOD school CLOSED) - Friday 16th April.  
(Waitangi Day - Monday 8th February school CLOSED)  
(Easter - Friday 2nd April - Tuesday 6th April with 2nd, 5th and 6th April school CLOSED)

TERM 2 - Monday May 3rd (TOD - school CLOSED) - Friday 9th July  
Monday 7th June - Queens Birthday - school CLOSED)

TERM 3 - Monday 26th July (TOD - school CLOSED) - Friday 1st October.

TERM 4 - Monday 18th October (TOD - school CLOSED) - Tuesday 14th December  
Monday 25th October Labour Day - school CLOSED)  
Friday 12th - November - Show Day - school CLOSED)

## Church Certificates

Inaka	Sienna E
Pūtakitaki	Zara T
Kōura	Toby H
Kāmana	Isla H
Pīngao	Lucy H
Kawau	Genevieve F
Toroa	Andrew G

## Christchurch Schools' Music Festival

Talented Year 5 - 8 singers and musicians from St Mark's School can now apply for an audition to join a Representative Group - Junior & Senior Choir, Concert Band, Orchestra - for the 2021 Music Festival.

Applications are made online on the Festival Website

[Music Festival Representative Groups](#)

Being selected for a Representative Group for the Music Festival is the artistic equivalent of being selected for a Canterbury level sports team. It would be amazing to have our school well represented in these groups.

If you would like further information, please ask Harriet P (Music leader) or Mrs Wells.

## Coffee Cart

Do you have a spare hour or so on a wednesday at school drop off? Do you like interacting with members of the school community or want to get to know everyone better? Do you like great coffee?

We are looking for a parent helper on the coffee cart, we need you!

Please get in contact with Roz Burke (0212405658) if you are keen to help or want more information.



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.

# Board of Trustees Communication February 2021



Tena Koutou Katoa

It doesn't seem that long ago that we were sat together as a school community in the hall, celebrating student achievements and farewelling a number of students. Here we are now in week 3 of a new school year, with new students and the excitement that comes with different classrooms, teachers and opportunities.

Already there have been camps, assemblies, church services and back to school barbeques – the year is truly already in full swing!

On Sunday night as we entered Level 2, I was reminded of the incredible leadership and planning we have here at St Mark's. You would all have received communications outlining what to expect at this level, and once again staff have worked quickly and with kindness to ensure that our community is safe and flourishing.

As a Board, in 2021 we have reflected on a number of areas where our budget is impacted and for the first time we want to share that with you as a school community, and some of the changes that will be implemented to assist.

As you know, your attendance dues go to the Board of Proprietors, and contribute to the beautiful facilities your children learn in each day. As a Board of Trustees, we receive an operating grant from the Ministry of Education which enables staffing but not many 'extras' – that's why we need our amazing Parents' Association to assist us with fundraising for these.

We have identified as a Board of Trustees two key areas, where if we partner with parents we will be able to redirect some of these funds to enhance teaching and learning outcomes for students.



## Lost Library Books

- Last year over 100 library books were not returned by families. As a school we have a small budget for new library books each year, and the cost to replace these 100 books is far outside of this. What this means, is that we are not able to expand our options, as we have only been able to fund part of what was missing. Obviously this is not sustainable, so effective from 2021 any lost books will incur a \$20 fee which will appear on your invoice. This will mean that the school library will continue to grow each year as any lost books (which we hope will be fewer) will be replaced as well as our small budget able to purchase new and different titles.



## **Transport Fee**

- As many of you will be aware, the Parents' Association generously donated the vans to the school over a year ago. These are a wonderful asset to our school and already have received significant use. They also come with expenses of petrol and insurance, which is not something the BOT receive funding for. This incurs a cost of around \$6,000 per year, so to assist with this cost there will be a transport cost added to trips to assist with a contribution towards this. As you can imagine if we can get some assistance to cover this cost it enables other opportunities for the Board to invest in – whether that be additional teaching hours, professional development for staff – all of which benefit teaching and learning outcomes for students.

We hope that this communication will explain the need and rationale for these changes, however should you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact us. As always, should there be any welfare matters for your whanau related to these changes, please discuss these with the office/principal.

The Board of Trustees are excited at the opportunities that lie ahead in 2021, and as always are committed to working to ensure that every child has the opportunities they need to reach their full potential.

Many Blessings,

**Lauren Ball**

Chairperson, on behalf of the St Marks Board of Trustees

## Cathedral Serving Team (The Cathedral Servers)

*Worship the Lord with gladness. Enter his gates with thanksgiving,  
and his courts with praise. For the Lord is Good, his steadfast love  
endures forever. Psalm 100*



The Transitional Cathedral is blessed by the dedication of our Serving Team (The Cathedral Servers), who form an important and integral part of our public worship. This dynamic and diverse group of young people help to prepare the cathedral for services each Sunday, and on important festivals; they then take on particular roles within the service to ensure that everything runs smoothly.

It is a great place for the group to socialise, meet and make friends and have fun, all while serving God. Outside of the normal round of services, the team also gets together for training events and celebrations. We aim to develop skills in adaptability, teamwork and leadership.

Servers can be aged between year 4 to University, and are part of a rostered weekly team, with a team leader and a number of other servers. Most servers commit to one Sunday per month, although they are welcome to serve more often if they wish.

To be a Cathedral Server means to take up the responsibility of answering the call of the church – the body of believers in Jesus, to fulfill a special function in offering worship and service to God. You play a role in helping others draw closer to God through their worship at the Cathedral, and you meet others and share this ministry within a team environment.

If you are interested you might like to come along a try it out for size once or twice, before committing to go on the roster. We would welcome your interest. If you would like to give serving a go, or if you have questions then please get in touch with the Cathedral's Assistant Priest:

The Rev'd Cameron Pickering  
[assistantpriest@christchurchcathedral.co.nz](mailto:assistantpriest@christchurchcathedral.co.nz) 03 366 0046



We look forward to seeing you on the team.



# Tukuna Kia Rere, Gifted Education Hui



Kia ora Te Kura O Hato Māka Whānau,

Thank you so much for the great turn out and interest in gifted education. The key message in feedback was that we need to get more information out to our St Mark's School Family.

Thanks also for your understanding that our gifted education programme is still under development, in consultation with you.

Ngā mihi nui,

Nā Cristy Yonetani

[c.yonetani@saintmarks.school.nz](mailto:c.yonetani@saintmarks.school.nz)

Specialist Teacher - Gifted

*What did I miss at the hui?*

If you were unable to attend and would like to learn more, please check out our [video of the hui on our St Mark's School website](#).



There was a rich discussion following the presentation with some fantastic questions and parent testimonials. A Q&A summary will be available by the end of the week.

