



St Mark's School Newsletter

Term 2 Week 1
6 May 2021

Kia ora Te Kura o Hato Māka whānau,

It's great to be back in Term 2 - a term that gets gradually colder but definitely not in terms of learning!!

Winter Sport: Year 5 - 8

As indicated in earlier communications, we are excited to shift our Thursday sports program to competitions with schools in our local area. We are confident that similar levels of competition will be found in hockey, football and netball against Hillview Christian School, Rudolf Steiner School, Beckenham School, and St Martins School. As indicated, **Mr Dan Clarkson** has spearheaded these changes and we are grateful. Further details of organisation will follow. Please direct all communications re Thursday sport to d.clarkson@saintmarks.school.nz

Teacher Only Day

Monday this week was spent on key aspects of outworking the Board of Trustees Strategic Plan. This involved giving life to all features of our special character, as articulated by the Board of Proprietors, in relation to the development of our local curriculum. We have already spent time with hui and surveys hearing the voices of our parents, students and wider communities.

The next stage is documenting the content, coherent learning pathways and pedagogy that ensures all aspects of teaching and learning in the context of our special character are captured. It is mahi that is vital in any school and in ours transformational.

We had two accredited providers on Monday working with two groups of staff - one on learning pathways for specialist subjects, and the other working on pedagogy and documenting assessment protocols. We were grateful for this time to work together.

Junior Production - Wake up Bear

It is very exciting to watch the rehearsals for this production scheduled for week 3. We are enormously grateful for the gifts and talent of **Ms Adrienne Hale, along with other staff** in bringing this junior production to us all. Every student is involved and every whānau member is welcome to share this special event in our calendar.

Cross Country Year 4 - 8

Our annual Cross Country is scheduled for **Thursday 13th May** at Hansen Park (save day Friday 14th May). We would love to see family there to support runners.

Christchurch Aunties - a message

Our annual Undie Run and Coat Collection calls out for NEW socks and undies (with tags) for women and children, and new or second hand winter jackets and coats for everyone.

This is a cause for Women's Refuge which the staff is supporting, and if anyone in our community would like to donate these goods please drop items off at the office and we will add them to our school contribution.

Mathematics

Recent media coverage of achievement in mathematics in New Zealand, as documented in international tests, has dominated debate in the education sector for several months.

Mathematics and achievement and progress is a priority area for teaching and learning at St Mark's School. Nationally there are concerns.

Whilst the newsletter is not the forum for debate, we will continue to run parent/community hui as our local curriculum develops and mathematics will be part of this conversation. I am however very keen to hear your thoughts and welcome and need your opinions.

Achievement and progress in mathematics at primary school is reliant on high quality teaching. This relates to both content knowledge and pedagogy - how to teach it, assess for learning and work in partnership with parents/whānau.

The panel was in agreement on these things on the Q and A program TV1 last Sunday morning.

In my life as a teacher there have been 5 "programs" of mathematics teaching I have personally known. What do you think makes and ensures great mathematics teaching?

Me te aroha nui.
Averil



Upcoming Event

13 May	Year 4-8 Cross Country
14 May	Year 4-8 Cross Country postponement
15 May	Quiz Night
17 May	Zone Cross Country
18 May	Sports/Cultural Photos
20 May	Mokihi Production - 2pm and 6pm
21 May	Open Day

Term Dates

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

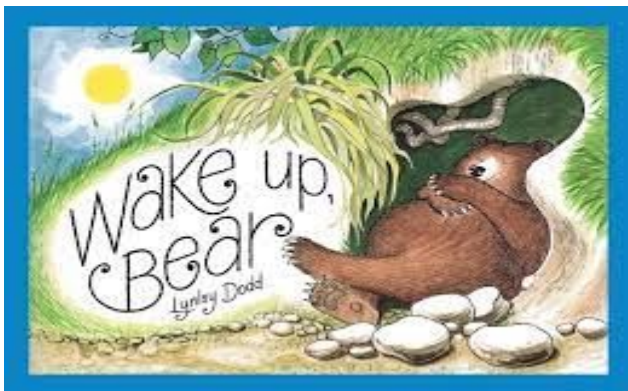
Monday 7th June - Queens Birthday - school CLOSED)

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)



Mōkihi Production

"Wake Up Bear" - Based on the story by Lynley Dodd presented by Mōkihi.

Thursday 20th May at 2pm and 6pm. (approx 30 mins). St Mark's School Hall

No tickets required. All welcome.

Student Success

Olive H won the short story ANZAC competition, which was run by the Air Force Museum. She had to write a story about a hero in her life. She wrote about an event which her Nan and 'dadda' had been through.



Sienna G competed in two competitions in Christchurch and Nelson during the school holidays. She came away with 2nd overall silver medals. She also won 4 gold medals and a silver for apparatus placings on floor, beam and bar. Their team won a gold and bronze medal.



Gifted Education Update

Kia ora Te Kura O Hato Māka Whānau,

A big thank you to everyone who has been involved in the ongoing development of our gifted education programme. To the families have been directly involved: Thank you for the opportunity to work with your children and your invaluable feedback, which is shaping our programme. To the families who have been waiting to be involved: Thank you for your patience as we cast our net wide and give students opportunities to let their giftedness shine. To our entire St Mark's School Family, thank you for your support. I am so grateful to be part of a community that celebrates learning and aspires to meet the learning needs of every child.

As we enter the next phase of our Modified One Day School (MODS) pilot, please be aware that different students may be taking part and some students who participated in term one won't be participating this term. This is because:

1. As we develop our specialist teaching model, we are meeting more students' learning needs through extension/enrichment groups in specific subjects, like mathematics and English, and differentiation within our hāpori.
2. As we work towards co-creating a school-based definition of giftedness, we need to explore more stringent criteria in some areas.
3. An evidence-based approach requires us to trial different strategies as we gather our own data and find what works best for our school.
4. Evidence strongly supports keeping groups small and this means that limited places are available.
5. Because of number 4, different students will be included in the next tranche - as this is a pilot, it is essential that our data set is complete along a number of variables without bias or prejudice e.g. age, areas of giftedness, developmental strengths.
6. Parent/whānau voice and consultation is essential and indicated in research - this is our ongoing commitment to document evidence of our work in this area with a range of different data.

To be clear: MODS is not a 'smart kids club'. We have so many students who are academically advanced or highly creative, who do not *need* to be in MODS to have their learning or social and emotional needs met at school. Our provisional rationale states:

Within our St Mark's School Family, Modified One Day School (MODS) is part of our provision for neurodiverse, gifted learners. MODS offers one-day or half-day small groups with specialist teaching to meet cognitive, social, and emotional needs, creating opportunities for fellowship and learning beyond the regular curriculum, using the potential of our God given talents and gifts.

We are committed to transparency and community involvement, so if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me: c.yonetani@saintmarks.school.nz. (I am doing my best to communicate directly with every family, but if you're expecting to hear from me and haven't yet, please let me know!)

Ngā mihi nui,
Nā Cristy Yonetani



Parents Association



May 2021

Dear St Mark's Whanau and Caregivers,

Welcome back to term 2. A busy term with lots of activity taking place around the school campus. The junior school production is rapidly approaching. On the social front this term we have our Parent's Night Quiz night next Saturday (15th May) so if you haven't already got a team together there are some spaces still available. On June 18th we shall be hosting the School Disco for both Junior and Senior students, Junior Disco is for New Entrants to Class 4 and Senior Disco is for Class 5 – 8 students.

As part of our fundraising efforts for our new school playground, we're trying something a little different this term with a fantastic **ecostore** 'good soap' fundraiser.

Selling for **\$2.50** each, the 80g **ecostore** soaps are excellent value and all proceeds from each soap will go towards our Playground Fund

If you haven't tried **ecostore** soaps before, they are chemical and cruelty free, plant based for sensitive skins and are great for our environment.

At the end of next week each family will receive a carry case containing **24** mixed soaps in Lemongrass, and Grapefruit + Mint. We would love you to recommend them to your family members, work mates, friends, neighbours, church groups and sports clubs. If every family sells their one box this will help to raise \$5,000 toward our ultimate goal of a new playground. Currently we are halfway to our target of \$100,000.

With Regards

Gary Miller

Chairman

St Mark's Parents Association



TRIVIA

NIGHT

DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BE THE TRIVIA MASTERS?
WINNING TEAM PRIZE - VOUCHER & BRAGGING RIGHTS!
RAFFLE AND SPOT PRIZES ON THE NIGHT - BRING CASH

15
MAY

TEAM OF 6 \$62 + BOOKING FEE
INDIVIDUAL TICKET \$12 + BOOKING FEE

OPTIONAL - THEME YOUR TEAM!

ST MARKS SCHOOL
HALL - 33
CHOLMONDELEY
AVE

NON AND ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE.
NIBBLES PROVIDED. EFTPOS AVAILABLE -NO CASH OUT

PURCHASE TICKETS FROM -

WWW.EVENTFINDA.CO.NZ/2021/TRIVIA-NIGHT-ST-MARKS-SCHOOL-FUNDRAISER/CHRISTCHURCH

DOUBLE FEATURE


the christchurch
AUNTIES

THE UNDIE RUN



STARRING
SOCKS
UNDERWEAR
SANITARY
PRODUCTS
NAPPIES

GUEST FEATURE

WINTER
COATS
KIDS
&
WOMENS



100
Coats