



# St Mark's School Newsletter

Term 2 Week 4  
26 May 2022

## **Kia ora Te Kura o Hato Māka whānau**

At the time of writing the school cross country is happening in wonderful conditions. It is Thursday and one day before our last Friday service at school. What a significant day in the life of our school - a full 11 years since we have been able to worship at St Mark's Church on Ōpawa Road. Love and prayers to the parish of Ōpawa-St Martins as they prepare for the reconsecration of the beautiful church.

Like the parish, the school waka has been on a journey of worshipping in different places and circling back to the church and back to our starting place is being marked in classes across the school. Jesus did not need one place to speak of God's love for all. That the parish and school have been worshipping in the school hall since 2020 speaks of the deep embrace we have found together as one of being light in the world. History will record this coming together united in strength and hope of God's love

Please join us if you are able this Friday for our last service in the school hall and from **Friday 3rd June at 9.15am at St Mark's Church on Ōpawa Road.**

## **Managing ākonga and kaiako health**

This week I have had an opportunity to speak directly with whānau about our ongoing commitment to keeping our physical environment safe, particularly with the ongoing challenges of the pandemic. Staff remain committed to our protocols and thank you all for timely notifications which enable the school and families to continue to be vigilant

## **Comings and Goings**

This week Angela Booth began her tenure as PA President and both the Board of Trustees and Board of Proprietors look forward to working with her and her team as we seek to add value to all our programs for ākonga/students.

With additional changes the PA said goodbye to three talented and wonderful givers in our school - **Marina Rennie, Tash Northcott and Gary Miller**. Whilst the school made a gesture to thank these whānau, I wanted to publicly recognise their incredible contributions to the life of our school. The volunteer hours, meetings/hui, whanaungatanga/close connection between people and service has been so appreciated and valued. You have shared your gifts with our school on the PA and we are grateful.

## **Calendar Update**

Last week many dates were published in this newsletter for your diary. These dates appear in the school calendar which is located on our school app and we ask that you check the calendar regularly because we sometimes make changes.

## **Walk with a Purpose**

Our annual fundraiser for the Fountain of Peace is scheduled for **Friday June 17th** and with this newsletter is a separate communication from Tania Sharr the coordinator for our school. It is an opportunity for our community to walk to school from home - some from very far away - and comprehend the plight of our brothers and sisters in Uganda and the challenges the children face often walking 10K to and from school.

## **Questions**

Any questions or concerns about learning or any aspect of life at St Mark's School please contact your teacher in the first instance. Team leaders and senior staff can then be available.

Take care everyone  
Averil and Staff



*Transforming lives through the St Mark's Story*



## ST MARK'S SCHOOL

### FOUNTAIN OF PEACE NZ – WALK WITH A PURPOSE

#### Information Sheet

We would like to extend a warm invitation to the St Mark's School community to join our Fountain of Peace NZ – Walk with a Purpose fundraising event on Friday the 17th of June, to help raise funds for Fountain of Peace Children's Foundation NZ. Fountain of Peace NZ is working in Western Uganda, creating family-based homes within a village community, for orphaned and abandoned children, as well as working to provide clean water, education, health care and sustainable projects for the whole community.

At present funds are being raised towards the construction of a new family-based home, for eight orphaned and abandoned children who have been rescued into the care of Fountain of Peace. This home is to be named Canterbury House. The funds raised by our St Mark's School community will be going towards the furnishings of this family home. This includes furnishing the bedrooms, kitchen, bathrooms, living and dining area.

For students and family members wanting to take part in this uplifting event they can either walk from their home taking their own route, or join one of the four different walking routes coming from Westmorland, Mt Pleasant, Lyttleton, or the Christchurch Transitional Cathedral. Walking route maps will be sent via the St Mark's School App once they have been finalised. Students should aim to arrive at school around 8.30am. The wonderful St Mark's School Parents Association will be providing a hot drink and snack for walkers when they arrive at school. The significance of walking to school is that many children in Uganda have to walk up to 10 km to and from school each day, often on an empty tummy. It helps our students in further developing their sense of empathy and thoughtfulness towards those less fortunate.

Students taking part in this Fountain of Peace NZ – Walk with a Purpose can wear mufti for the walk and for the entire school day. Please pack extra snacks for your child and ensure they have a water bottle and any personal medication which may be required for the walk (i.e. asthma inhaler). Students can either carry their school bag or you could drop it to school at around 8.30am when they arrive.

If your child would like to join this fundraising walk, please complete the sign-up/waiver form before Friday 10th June. This will also be sent on the School App and will include an event waiver for parents/caregivers who would like to participate. We will require one adult for every five students participating in this event, who will be designated to be responsible for these children from the start to the finish of the walk. We will be setting up whatsapp groups for communication leading up to the event and for communication on the day.

Please feel free to share the following link with any friends or family who may wish to sponsor your child –  
<https://givealittle.co.nz/fundraiser/st-marks-school-fountain-of-peace-nz-walk>

If you have any questions please contact  
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