



# St Mark's School Newsletter

Term 1 Week 5  
1 March 2023

Dear St Mark's Whānau,

I have to congratulate Mrs Bigelow and all staff involved for running an outstanding School Swimming Sports earlier this week. It was wonderful to see students competing hard against each other while respecting each other and appreciating the individual efforts of others. This year we were able to include non competitive events for less confident swimmers. My personal thanks go to Kristy Wright, Craig Stracey and Sophia Goodrick who all volunteered their time to contribute to a brilliant school event. As usual, it was good to see the adults dominate the students in the annual adults vs student relay!

One thing we are very grateful for is a great start to the school year largely unaffected by health restrictions. Our Year 8 leaders have been outstanding in supporting school operations, church services, looking after resources and running clubs. They also ran a fantastic House Fun Day for the whole school on Friday last week and children did not let the rain dampen their enthusiasm.

I have been thinking about the amount of time our young people spend on devices or viewing screens. It can become routine for families to allow their children to spend quite a lot of time on devices. I have become aware recently of several instances where parents simply did not know what kind of content their children were consuming online. I would like to encourage everyone to know... to take an interest and know what children are doing online. Keeping them safe is of the greatest importance. A quick search revealed some great ways to reduce screen time:

- Eliminate background TV.
- Keep TVs, smartphones and computers out of the bedroom.
- Eat as a family with screens off.

#### **A reminder from our Public Health Nurse:**

"Epipens are now fully funded under a Special Authority criteria for use in New Zealand. We encourage patients to get in touch with their doctor to determine if they qualify for funded supply of Epipens."

Please watch the school app for more information regarding upcoming events.

*1 John 4:7: Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.*

Blessings,  
Adrian



*Transforming lives through the St Mark's Story*

## Upcoming Events and Important Dates

Thursday 2 March	Union Meeting ( <b>pick students up by 1.30pm</b> )
Thursday 2-3 March	Te Ari Ora
Friday 3 March	Gold coin mufti day
Tuesday 7 March	Zone Swimming Sports
Friday 31 March	NZ Opera performance
Sunday 2 April	Waka Hourua Church Service - 10am
Monday 3-5 April	Easter church services
Thursday 6 April	End of Term Service 2pm and last day of Term 1

### Term 2

Monday 24 April	Teacher Only Day - no school.
Tuesday 25 April	ANZAC Day
Wednesday 26 April	First day of Term 2 ANZAC Day Service

## Church Certificates

Īnaka	Wolf P
Pūtakitaki	Alex R
Kōura	Rosie A
Kawau	Christopher A
Kāmana	Max C-B
Pīngao	Leo D
Wheke	Darcy Q
Kahawai	Lucy H
Hāpuka	Aayush K



## Uniform Shop

<https://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz>

event code n39nu

Kia ora, Parents of St Mark's School!

We are thrilled to announce that Te Ahi Ora will be coming back to Canterbury this year. We deliver free performing arts lessons to schools, followed by free evening fire performances and lessons for your community.

Fire Performance is a new community activity that is rapidly spreading across the country. This exciting discipline engages the mind, activates the body, and is incredibly fun and stimulating.

The last few years have been rather difficult for schools, students, and families, and we aim to re-ignite the passion for learning and community in a fun and highly engaging setting.

Te Ahi Ora has 5 goals:

- Encourage students to participate in physically challenging and satisfying activities
- Boost self-confidence, encourage experimentation and foster creativity
- Provide opportunities for personal growth and development
- Build a sense of community through shared celebration and performance
- Counter the negative effects of excessive screen time and digital addiction

We will be working with St Mark's School on March 2nd & 3rd, teaching non-fire lessons to students during the days. In the evenings, from 6-8pm we will be performing and teaching with fire at the school field. Our tutors demonstrate the top level of skill for the first 15 minutes, and the rest of the time will be spent teaching your community how to perform with fire. All school students, staff, and families are invited to watch and participate in all of the evenings, but students & staff who trained that day will have priority in the line to try.

Although Fire Performance may sound dangerous at first, with the right safety procedures and protocols in place, it is just as safe as any contemporary sport (and in some cases, even safer). Thanks to these stringent health and safety systems, we are proud to maintain a fantastic safety record. We require parents to contribute to the safety of the evening by following 2 simple rules:

1. Please do not wear clothing that is loose or made from synthetic/plastic fabrics. No onesies, tutus, wigs, skirts, dresses, etc. Please wear pants. Cotton and denim are perfect. If you or your child are dressed in dangerous/synthetic clothing, you will not be allowed to perform with fire. Clothing may accumulate small amounts of black soot, so don't wear brand new or dear clothing.

2. If your child has long/fluffy hair, please bring a hair tie or hat.

We recommend bringing foldout camping chairs, water bottles, and blankets (if cold). You are welcome to take photos and videos during the evening. If you post them on Instagram, Facebook, or Tiktok, please follow and tag us.

After we work with your community, we will send out a Participant Survey through the school, to be filled out by parents and students. Participants that complete the survey will go into the draw to win \$150 at the end of the term.

At the end of the survey there will be an option to upload pictures or videos you have taken (only of you/your child or our tutors - not of other peoples children). The three best pieces of media at the end of each term will each win \$50. We are often far too busy to get good videos or photos, so very much appreciate your assistance.

Thank you for your time and attention. We are incredibly excited to be coming to work with the St Mark's School community, and look forward to meeting and performing with all of you.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Ngā mihi nui.



LEVI CUNIFFE  
DIRECTOR  
TE AHI ORA

PROUD TO BE  
SUPPORTED BY:



Ministry  
for Culture  
& Heritage



ARTS COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND TOI AOTEAROA



ST MARK'S ANGLICAN CHURCH FUNDRAISER

# *HOT CROSS BUNS*

\$5 FOR 1/2 DOZEN

TRADITIONAL OR CHOCOLATE

ORDER BY 26 MARCH

Contact Nicola to order:  
[nicolagoodman@hotmail.com](mailto:nicolagoodman@hotmail.com)