



# St Mark's School Newsletter

Term 3 Week 1  
20 July 2023

Kia ora St Mark's whānau,

Term 3 has arrived!!! How did that happen so quickly? It is the term of the Senior Production Moana, and guaranteed warming of our days!

## Matariki

When the Matariki cluster of stars reappear in our night sky, this is the signal of Māori New Year. This cluster of stars is recognised in other parts of the world. In English the use of the Greek work Pleiades is used, or the Seven Sisters, in Hawaiian culture the stars are known as Makali'i and in Japan Subaru "gathered together". The presence of Matariki in the early morning sky signals what is at the heart of the celebrations - Mātauranga Māori (wisdom and knowledge) and that means it is a time for remembering, giving thanks for the present and looking to the future together. Crucial plantings, sharing kai and karakia are evident.

In addition the presence of stars for wayfinding and navigating the vast waters of the Pacific, ensures we can be thankful to God for creation, and how the joining of our families and homes sustain our faith and hope.

What a wonderful evening of community last night amidst our annual Matariki celebrations. Mrs Emily Wells, with support from staff and community members, planned and facilitated an evening of prayer, stories and fellowship. Grateful thanks to Gabby Aberhart for all her work. The stones from Birdlings Flat were included because of the story of Matariki written by Television presenter Miriama Kamo from her childhood memories. It is clear that after the forced separation and isolation of Covid-19, our school community craves opportunities to come together in friendship and fellowship.

## Siblings 2024 - urgent reminder!

If your child at school has a sibling turning 4 this year - **turning 5 next year!!** - it is crucial that an application is made **before 31st August 2023**. It is vital for our planning and roll projection - siblings are automatically included in the roll.

## Playground

It has been exciting to see the completion of our Senior Playground (please see the plans in the foyer) in recent weeks. While the grass has been slow to germinate, we have been watching how the young plantings have taken to the environment, and are beginning to thrive. Both the Board of Trustees and the Board of Proprietors are committed to ensuring the playground is ready for an official opening, and have commissioned an audit and then minor ameliorations before this happens. Once a compliance certificate is available we will post this on the notice board and begin the process of launching its use!!

## Teacher-Only Day/Staff Curriculum Implementation Day

St Mark's School will have a second Teacher Only Day on Monday 20th November - school will be closed for students on this day. This is now in the calendar.

This will mean the school will be closed:

- Friday 17th November - Canterbury Anniversary Day
- Monday 20th November - Teacher Only Day - Curriculum Implementation Professional Learning Day



*Transforming lives through the St Mark's Story*

### **BOT Policy Review**

A reminder that the school has a policy review programme where all parents are invited to review and comment on the policy statements that regulate school operations. It is important to have your say!

Please see the flyer attached to this newsletter.

### **Calendar 2024**

In order to offer some surety about term dates for 2024 they are published in this newsletter. The full calendar of school events will be published after further confirmations.

We are yet to have confirmation from the Ministry of Education as to the placement of two Teacher Only Days in 2024, which are to be dedicated to implementing the new National Curriculum. As soon as these are confirmed our school community will be informed.

St Mark's school is closed on **ALL** Public Holidays.

### **School Term Dates 2024**

#### **Term One**

**Number of weeks:** 11

**Term start and end dates:** Wednesday 31st January - Friday 12th April

**Public Holidays:** Waitangi Day - 6th February,

Easter: Good Friday-29th March, Easter Monday- 1st April, Easter Tuesday-2nd April

**School Holidays:** Saturday 13th April - Sunday 28th April (ANZAC day is on 25th April)

**Parent/Whānau Teacher/Kaiako Students/Ākonga conference days:** Monday 29th and Tuesday 30th January

#### **Term Two**

**Number of weeks:** 10

**Term start and end dates:** Monday 29th April - Friday 5th July

**Public Holidays:** King's Birthday - Monday 3rd June, Matariki - Friday 28th June

**School Holidays:** Saturday 6th July - Sunday 21st July

#### **Term Three**

**Number of weeks:** 10

**Term start and end dates:** Monday 22nd July - Friday 27th September

**Public Holidays:** None

**School Holidays:** Saturday 28th September - Sunday 13th October

#### **Term Four**

**Number of weeks:** 10

**Term start and end dates:** Monday 14th October - Tuesday 17th December

**Public Holidays:** Labour Day - Monday 28th October, Canterbury Anniversary - Friday 15th November

**School Holidays:** Start Tuesday 17th December - Date to be advised for 2025.

Blessings to all,  
Averil and Adrian

**WAKA PUHARA WHAKATAUKI**

**Kia kotahi te hoe o te waka**

**Let's paddle in unison.**

## Upcoming Events & Important Dates

### Term 3

Tues 25 July	Open Day 9am - 12pm
Sun 30 July	Mōkihi Church at St Mark's - 10am
Wed 2 August	PA Meeting - 7pm
Fri 11 August	House Fun Day
Thurs 31 August	Singing Cup
11-15th September	Senior School production
Monday 18 Sep	Cycle Safety Week (Year 6)
Tuesday 19 Sep	Cashmere High Testing (Year 8s)

## Church Certificates

Īnaka	Archer C/Loki C
Pūtakitaki	William G/Hannah O'C
Kōura	Aadeah P/Cody M
Kawau	Rosie Q/Elisha R
Kāmana	Archer W/Madison Z
Pīngao	Louis B/Marnie C
Wheke	Aurelia C-T/Hosea F
Kahawai	Jake H/Joseph M
Hāpuka	Lincoln S/Jackson V

### Church Service - 30 June 2023



## Uniform Shop

### For secondhand items

Please make an appointment at the link below

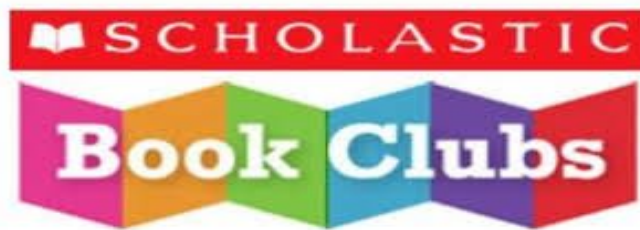
Booking link and code

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

event code f3xkd

### For new items please email

[uniformshop@saintmarks.school.nz](mailto:uniformshop@saintmarks.school.nz)



Explore the range of books in Issue 5 with your child. You can learn a lot about their interests when you discuss their picks with them. Studies show that kids are more likely to read if they choose the book themselves and more likely to finish it as well! Books also allow kids to identify with and connect with the characters which helps them learn more about themselves and those that are different to them.

Order forms for Scholastic Books have been sent home. Orders may be placed direct with Scholastic at [www.mybookclub.scholastic.nz](http://www.mybookclub.scholastic.nz). An easy way to order online yourself and will be delivered direct to school. Orders close on **Friday 28 July**.



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.



### An Update from the Board of Trustees Review Committee



## 2023 Term 3 – Policy Reviews:

As part of St Marks' Policy three-year review cycle, the below policy requires feedback from school parents this term.

- Gifted Learners

Feedback received can be anonymous.



1. Go to [www.schooldocs.co.nz](http://www.schooldocs.co.nz)
2.  "St Marks School".
3. Enter the following username and password
  - a. Username: saintmarks
  - b. Password: saint

Reviews

4. Click on the blue "Reviews" button.
5. To start reviewing, click on a topic name, then click the blue "Start your Review" button.

Start your review



# SUPPORTING ST MARK'S SCHOOL



## Part of the St Mark's School Family

For every home referred and sold or listed and sold with us within the school family, we will donate \$1000 to St. Marks School.\*

With Sonia being a past parent, now grandparent, and Sophie a current parent at St Mark's, we are proudly involved with the school community and look forward to giving back.

**Supporting St Mark's school,  
now and for its future**

\* Terms and conditions apply.

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