



# St Mark's School Newsletter

Term 3 Week 5  
16 August 2023

Kia ora St Mark's whānau,

## **NASA Scientist visit Friday 18th August**

On Friday we will be hosting Dr Tim Atkins, a NASA scientist and part of their space exploration team. We have included his blurb below and are very excited for this opportunity for students! Dr Atkins will present to a range of students in our school and we are thankful to Aunty Polly - **Alice and Rupert A** - for this connection!

Please see his blurb below for further details.

### ***Artemis: The Future of Deep Space Exploration***

*Artemis was the mythical twin sister of Apollo, and goddess of the Moon. Now she personifies our path to the Moon as the name of NASA's Program to return astronauts to the lunar surface - including the first woman. When they land, they will be where no one has gone before: the Moon's South Pole. Working with U.S. and international partners, the Artemis Program will establish a sustainable human presence on the Moon to uncover new scientific discoveries, demonstrate new technologies, and lay the foundation for a lunar economy. NASA's further goals include exploration of Mars and other Deep Space destinations; Artemis is the first step in this new era of human exploration.*

*Tim Atkins manages avionics requirements, testing, and analyses for key components of the Artemis Programs, at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center: the Space Launch System and Human Lander. He holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Engineering and Operations Research from the University of Central Florida, with decades of experience in software development, electronics integration, and rocket science. He and his wife have six children and six grandchildren. He enjoys home-construction projects, helping low-income communities, and hiking.*

## **Raising concerns**

From time to time your whānau may have concerns about any aspect of school life. Our school values firstly, along with Board of Trustees policies have an expectation and imperative that in the first instance these are raised with the class teacher. Team leaders can be contacted, followed by Assistant, Deputy and Principal(s). As a staff we view these as opportunities to strengthen partnerships and relationships while clarifying any misunderstandings or charting new pathways. Although conversations might be challenging, our special character enables us to do so in love and grace. Our school prayer starts "Grant oh Lord that our school may be a Christian School, not in name only but in deed and truth". As a school community our top priority is the holistic wellbeing of all ākonga/students with a strong commitment to restoring relationships that are fractured.

## **Playground - oh so close to opening!!**

The anticipation is growing for the opening of our new playground! The Board of Proprietors, Parents' Association and Board of Trustees have worked tirelessly to bring this project to a conclusion. Mitigations on the build are almost complete as we work towards a compliance certificate against the Act. Once we have this certificate we will be able to have an opening ceremony to mark this momentous time and begin the process of opening all parts to students/ākonga. The students/ākonga have shown remarkable resilience in a reduced playground, with our senior students/ākonga leading the way in our PALS program (Peer Assisted Learning) and alternative outdoor programs. The impact of this aspect of our leadership program is not to be underestimated.



*Transforming lives through the St Mark's Story*

### **MOANA - speaking of excitement!!!!**

Today attached to this email are our advertising posters for this significant event in the life of our school. Mr Tom Gordon's passion and expertise as he leads staff and students in this production shows an expert teacher at work. Tom's gifts and talents are so valued and his vision is now coming to fruition. Special mention today of **Ngaere Dawson** who has created costumes, headgear and props with incredible grace and speed! **Ngaere**, we thank you sincerely for this contribution to the life of our school - the power of grandparents!!

We have deliberately limited tickets in week 6 (next week) to ensure all families have 4 tickets to one show. Experience has taught us this works, however from weeks 7 - 9 you will be able to purchase tickets at your leisure.

The list of main cast members is on the hall notice board should you want to double check the teams in *Alpha and Omega*.

All students, year 3 - 8 will be involved in the four nights. To facilitate tiredness etc we are happy for students to arrive at school a little late each morning of week 9. If your child is going to be late we do ask that you communicate this to the office **with urgency**. We do not underestimate this commitment for whānau and thank you in advance.

Whether your child is a main character, a coconut, the sea, an ancestor, working as a whole school family is so rewarding - there will be many proud whānau moments to capture!

### **Digifest**

Last week and this week staff and students/ākonga attended a Kahui Ako funded learning of the Aotearoa New Zealand Histories Curriculum through Minecraft for Education. It has been both enjoyable and informative for all involved, and we anticipate great sharing of "expertise" in class by students with their friends. This is called a tuakana-teina model - the tuakana (expert) helps and guides a teina (less of an expert).

### **Singing Cup**

We really look forward to this wonderful event in the life of our school. Thank you to Mrs Wells for leading us in this and the tough decisions around audition time. Please make a note in your diary of **Friday 1st September**:

**Years 4 - 8, 9.30am - 10.30am**

**Years 0 - 3, 11.00am - 11.45am**

**N.B - Our Friday Church Service will be at 2pm on this day and will be a Eucharist Service - all whānau welcome to join us.**

### **Chess Cup**

With 88 ākonga in our school chess club, Mr Davis has had to rethink our chess cup! We have decided to run the cup over a whole day - a celebration of all things chess!! Please add **Thursday 21st September** to your diary for this event - I will leave the details for Mr Davis to share at a later date. Ka pai, Mr Davis!!

### **Coming Events**

#### **Term 3**

29 August	Individual Student Chess Competition
1 September	Singing Cup
6 September	PA Meeting
11-15 September	Production Week
14 September	Cashmere High School Testing
19 September	Cashmere High School Testing catch up day
21 September	Chess Cup

#### **Term 4**

10-11 October	Year 6 Cycle Safety (note the change of date)
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## 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**

## Calendar 2024

In order to offer some surety about dates for 2024, the term dates for 2024. 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.

Blessings to all  
Averil and Adrian

## **WAKA PUHARA WHAKATAUKI**

***Kia kotahi te hoe o te waka***

***Let's paddle in unison.***

# **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.

## Church Certificates

Raupō	Abigail B
Īnaka	John H
Pūtakitaki	Sarah F de F/Alex H
Kōura	Veronica R/Theresa J
Kawau	Leo D/Bram C-B
Kāmana	Liam O'C/Henry B
Pīngao	Arlo B
Kahawai	Tiffany C/Isabella S

## School Uniform

**New uniforms** are now available for purchase at Mainland Uniforms in-store at 189 Peterborough St, Christchurch City or online at [mainlanduniforms.nz](http://mainlanduniforms.nz).

### Second-hand uniforms continue to be for sale at school.

The opening hours are changing.

#### Term 3

Thursday 17 August 2.30-3.30pm

Thursday 7 September 2.30-3.30pm

Thursday 14 September 2.30-3.30pm

Thursday 21 September 2.30-3.30pm

#### School Holidays

Wednesday 4 October 9am-11am

Friday 6 October 2pm-4pm

#### Term 4

Every second Friday from 13 October  
2.30-3.30pm

Bookings by appointment via  
[www.schoolinterviews.co.nz/code](http://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz/code)  
Code f3xkd

Email [uniformshop@stmarks.school.nz](mailto:uniformshop@stmarks.school.nz)

Please continue to deliver good quality used uniforms to sell on your behalf or donate. Items must be delivered with a completed seller's form (located outside the uniform shop). Item can be delivered to the second-hand uniform shop during opening hours or to the office any other time



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.





Come lounge with us in our tropical Motunui paradise  
as our Saint Mark's School students present:



**\$15 per ticket!**

**Week 9, September, 6:30pm.**

**See more information below!**

Saint Mark's School  
33 Cholmondeley Avenue  
Opawa, Christchurch

## Things to know

1. The **four** shows are **Monday 11th, Tuesday 12th, Wednesday 13th** and **Thursday 14th September**.
2. **Alpha** cast performs Monday and Tuesday.  
**Omega** cast performs Wednesday and Thursday.  
(Cast lists are on the hall noticeboard).
3. Each show starts at **6:30pm**.
4. Tickets are **\$15 per seat**. They are not numbered.
5. A **maximum** amount of **four** tickets per family will be available in Week 6. More will be available in weeks 7-9.
6. Children under two years old are free.
7. **Purchase tickets at the school office.**





# **WORKING BEE**

**10 AM, UNTIL FINISHED!**  
**19TH AUGUST, SATURDAY**  
**SAINT MARK'S SCHOOL HALL**





### 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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