



St Mark's School Newsletter

Term 4 Week 4
8 November 2021

Kia ora Te Kura o Hato Māka whānau,

IT'S PRODUCTION WEEK!!!!

This communication comes to you packed full of news, dates and details for the rest of this term. It is intended to cover a wide range of topics of interest to many.

PRODUCTION!!!

It is a great source of joy that our parent community and our staff have been so committed to pushing ahead with "Mary Poppins".

In a year where much has been cancelled, postponed and changed due to the pandemic, there has been a strong sense across the school family that "the show must go on".

Whilst I appreciate that many will remain disappointed that the performances are without audiences, I can assure you that the incredible energy and sheer delight in our rehearsals last week show undiminished happiness in the cast.

THANKS - WHEN WORDS ARE NOT ENOUGH!

Our heartfelt thanks go to the army of parents and whānau who have been instrumental in creating absolutely stunning **costumes and props**, outstanding **painted scenery and set construction**, **prop donation and other acts of kindness**.

Mr Tom Gordon has been unwavering in his drive and expertise, leading students and staff in difficult circumstances.

It is going to be wonderful - our students are at the centre, and their God given gifts and talents given great expression.

A separate communication from Mr Gordon regarding arrangements for the purchase of USB's containing the show will be sent this week.

Just a reminder that we ask that students arrive at school with shorts and a t-shirt and a layer of foundation on their faces.

**Practically perfect in every way!!
Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious**

MANDATED VACCINATIONS

Many of you will be aware that the Covid-19 Vaccination Order came into effect on 25th October.

This order made Covid-19 vaccinations **mandatory** for anyone working in schools who may come into contact with students.

This order applies to:

- All school staff (teachers, support and administration staff)
- Contractors
- Volunteers
- Anyone else engaged to provide onsite services.

The first vaccination is due by 15th November and the staff and all those above must be fully vaccinated by January 1, 2022.

This notice is to advise the community that St Mark's School Board of Trustees have communicated in writing to all those immediately affected by this order and with ongoing governance of this order, and **full compliance in ALL operational aspects of the school.**

Although all schools are awaiting final compliance details of the order beyond 15th November, this order has implications for school trips, school camps, all programs involving volunteers and any future outside agents completing work for the school.

As principal I accept the sensitive nature of this order, however I want to offer you my own assurance of my commitment to full compliance of the order, as directed by the Board of Trustees.

GATHERING RULES

I want to thank you all for your ongoing support for "drop offs" and "pick ups" at the Locarno St and Cholmondeley Ave gates.

Along with other schools this practice means we are complying with the gathering rules of Alert Level 2 and we are grateful.

I have been challenged on this, however I am in constant contact with other principals and colleagues, and it is consistent with the practice of other schools. It is most definitely a Health and Safety measure of our school.



Transforming lives through the St Mark's Story

OUR CALENDAR

It has been a really difficult year adjusting the calendar to the changing pandemic conditions, two significant ones in particular.

It was heartbreaking to postpone the Centennial not once but twice, however our community understood and as it transpired the best decision on both occasions.

The Parents' Association made the only decision possible to postpone the School Fair until 2022 - unprecedented.

And now I find myself writing to you all with further changes.

NOTHING is more important than the Health and Safety of everyone in our community.

While I realise further changes can be unsettling, staff have made decisions in time to make alternative arrangements where possible.

1. **Year 4 - 8 Athletic Sports** - our school Athletic Sports will now be held in week 5 AT SCHOOL over 2/3 days WITHOUT parents on site. There will be NO Independent Zone Athletic Sports and NO Canterbury Athletic Sports
2. **Itinerant Music Evening** - has been cancelled for 2021
3. **Music Singing Cup Thursday 2nd December**- will be held WITHOUT a parent audience. Students will provide the audience for finalists. Staff will explore livestream options.
4. **Year 7 Leadership Camp Thursday 18th - Friday 19th November** - will go ahead as planned with strict adherence to the Covid-19 Vaccination Order.
5. **The New Parents Evening** - has been cancelled in 2021. A new date in February 2022 is to be confirmed.
6. **Year 4 - 5 Woodend Camp Wednesday 24th - Friday 26th November** will go ahead as planned with strict adherence to the Covid-19 Vaccination Order.
7. **Year 0-3 Swim Week Monday 29th November - Friday 3rd December** - we will only go ahead with this program once all data relating to the Covid- 19 Vaccination Order is in front of staff.

8. **Year 8 Leavers and their Whānau Dinner Wednesday 1 December** - this event is currently under review.
9. **Year 0 - 3 Sports Day Monday 6th December** - this will be run at school WITHOUT parents onsite.
10. **Internal Prize Giving Tuesday 7th December** - this event will go ahead without a parent audience. Staff will look at a livestream option.
11. **Advent Carol Service Thursday - 9th December** - After discussion with Rev. Ben Truman this significant family service has been cancelled for 2021. We are looking to hold a school carol service for students only, during the day before the term ends.
12. **St Mark's School Prize Giving** - this will be An internal ceremony, held during the day on **Monday 13th December**. If current Alert Level 2 gathering rules apply there will be no parent/whānau audience. Staff will explore livestream options.

As you can see we are committed to those events in Term 4 that mark an honouring of all students and their achievements in 2021. A pragmatic approach to this season of our lives has meant the inclusion of as many end of year events as possible.

We love our school family sharing these events however this year our world is a little different.

We are working hard to have you there virtually!

This week I opened an old card from a christian friend in a box of 'stuff'. Inside the card was a quote from Helen Keller:

"When we do the best that we can, we never know what miracle is wrought in our life, or in the life of another".

Faith, Hope and Love and the greatest of these is Love.

Thank you for the miracle of a fabulous community surrounded by God's love.

Averil

Church Certificates

Raupo	Nina G Beau W
Īnaka	Sienna E Mila L
Pūtakitaki	Archer W Max C B Imogen B
Kōura	Lucy O'Dea Trinni F Clair G
Kāmana	Lucy C/Jackson O'D Matai D/Lakshmi Leo G/Louisa T
Pingao	Samuel B/Isabella D S Indie L/Harry S Zara P
Kawau	Indi J Zaia O Dean C
Kahawai	Morgan del N Milli L/Monty S Ruby H
Karengo	Cruze S Charlotte P/Shree L Lincoln S/Felicity W
Toroa	Rafi W-S Aurora C-L

Inter- Regional Cross Country Championships held in Timaru

On 30 September Zara P and Pippa W competed as part of the Canterbury Cross Country Team. Zara placed 3rd in Canterbury and Pippa 10th for the Year 5 girls.

Overall, Zara placed 13th and Pippa 24th in the Year 5 Inter-Regional Race, which included teams from Wellington, Nelson, South Canterbury and Dunedin.

In the Teams Event, Zara received a Bronze medal for placing in the top 4 Canterbury runners for the Year 5 girls.

Congratulations to them both on an amazing achievement.

Year 5 Basketball

The Year 5 Lions basketball team made the Finals of the Upper Middle section of the B grade last week. They versed Thorrington Wildcats and won. Final score was St Marks 10 vs Thorrington Wildcats 6. An amazing effort by The Lions to come 1st out of 8 teams in their section. Players of the day: Zach - great energy, positive attitude and being a fantastic team player. And Zara - never giving up, battling away for possession and great hoops.



Student Success

Teddie and Lemarle have both received awards for most dedicated players of the year for Halswell Rugby League

