



# St Mark's School Newsletter

Term 1 Week 4  
22 February 2023

Dear St Mark's Whānau,

We have watched Cyclone Gabrielle ravage large parts of the North Island from wet, but relatively safe, Christchurch. It is heartbreaking to see the levels of destruction that our fellow New Zealanders are experiencing. As kiwis we always come together in times of hardship and this time it's no different. We are having a special **mufti day on Friday 3 March** in support of the Anglican Missions charity. Students can dress in mufti and bring a gold coin donation (or more) to show our support.

I have to congratulate Mr Clarkson, Mrs Bigelow and Sinead Bigelow for running an outstanding Year 8 camp in Hanmer Springs last week. I had the pleasure of attending for two days and saw a precious group of students coming together as a great leadership team and really enjoying themselves!

Reverend Ben once again took a lead role in guiding the school into one of the most important season in the church calendar, Lent. Shrove Tuesday was great fun with students flipping pancakes and racing. Ash Wednesday saw the whole school take part in a beautiful service.

Please watch the school app for more information regarding upcoming events. I would encourage families to take advantage of the Te Ari Ora events on Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd of March. My thanks to Ms Bryant for her great organisation.

As staff and students start to get to grips with the serious business of learning, I have been thinking about the importance of the partnerships between home and school. I am just so proud of our teaching staff, their professionalism and hard work, but most of all the love and care they show for every child, every day. I would like to encourage all families to keep those connections strong. We are a team supporting and encouraging our young people to succeed.

## **Ephesians 4:2**

2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love,

Blessings,  
Adrian



*Transforming lives through the St Mark's Story*

# Upcoming Events and Important Dates

Friday 24 February	House Fun Day ( <b>dress in house colours</b> )
Monday 27 February	School Swimming Sports - Years 4-8
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
Monday 6 March	School Swimming Sports Postponement 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

## Church Certificates

Īnaka	Maysie B
Pūtakitaki	Isaac N/Hazel E
Kōura	Bowie S/Julius C-T
Kawau	Mitchell S/Alexandra K
Kāmana	Madison A/Lachlan S
Pīngao	Harry O/Taylor M
Wheke	Louisa T
Kahawai	Zachary O/Harry S/Angel S
Hāpuka	Isabelle C/Finn B

## Uniform Shop

<https://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz>  
event code n39nu

## Iwin D-J receiving his Welcome Certificate



## Lions Miniball First Game



On Tuesday our Student Leaders, Deputy Student Leaders and Sport Leaders spent the day at a PALS workshop run by Sport Canterbury. They had a fun filled day of learning about leadership and how they can run events back at school for our students.

They have a plan in place and look forward to providing lots of fun games and activities for the whole school. Watch this space!!

Dan Clarkson



## Student Success

Congratulations to Tyronne N and Darcy Q who competed at the Southern Region Surf Life Saving Championships held at Warrington, Dunedin recently. Conditions were perfect. Both did extremely well and should be proud of their achievements.

### Tryonne N

1st - Surf Race (Swim)  
1st - Board Race  
1st - Run-Swim-Run  
1st - Diamond  
(combination of one lap of each Surf and Board Race)  
6th - 50m Sprint  
1st - U10 Top Overall Male



### Darcy Q

5th - Sprint  
3rd - Run-Swim-Run  
5th - Board Relay - team event



## Shrove Tuesday

All students took part in Pancake Races.



## Stunning Artwork by Tiffany C of Lyttelton Harbour in Charcoal





**School lunch programme**

**Tuesday**

To place an order for your child, simply visit [www.subway.co.nzschools](http://www.subway.co.nzschools), log on, select SUBWAY School Lunch Programme – Ferrymead Branch and follow the instructions to place an order before 9am each Tuesday. Please note that you can order days beforehand if you wish.



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 CUNNIFFE  
DIRECTOR  
TE AHI ORA

PROUD TO BE  
SUPPORTED BY:



Ministry  
for Culture  
& Heritage



ARTS COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND TOI AOTEAROA