



St Mark's School Newsletter

Term 1 Week 8
18 March 2020

Kia ora St Mark's Whānau,

ST MARK'S SCHOOL APP

This APP is now being used by 196 of our school community. If your family are not using it please download the APP at your earliest convenience. In the current climate this will be our most secure way of communication if we are working away from school online.

Christchurch Music Festival

It is now time for our wonderful musicians and singers to apply to audition for the special groups of the festival - junior and senior choirs, orchestra and concert band. Please follow the link below to locate an application form and fly!!

[Festival website here.](#)

Covid- 19

Please see separate communication.

Staff news

This week we congratulated **Mr Dan Clarkson** on achieving his full registration as a teacher. Dan is an outstanding addition to our teaching team (although a Highlanders supporter!) and this is a milestone in his career.

Grow Ō Tautahi

St Mark's School were to be part of this huge event to happen in the Botanical Gardens. Because of the numbers expected this event has sadly been cancelled. **Mrs Liz Coster**, along with students and families have spent hours attending to this exhibition and creating a vision for expressing the life of our school in structures and plants. We were so looking forward to sharing this with a wide audience and showcasing our special character.

Liz and I made a decision on Monday that we would erect and create the exhibition at school. The vision and contribution of our student garden creators - **Ruby - Grace M and Ariya S** - and our Enviro Leaders - **Joseph M and Laura v d K- H** and the contributions **Lucy C, Tessa C, Alex N, Michael C, Genevieve N and Isaac W.**

I want to publicly thank Liz for her outstanding commitment to this project and the opportunity it has afforded us to work with whānau and students.

Wrapped around this exhibition is our Cultural Narrative - featured on the Grow Waitaha Website - [Grow Waitaha!](#) and on our own website for your access.

We warmly invite all St Mark's School family members to the hall from **1.00pm - 4.00pm On Friday 20th March** to view this exhibition, interact with the students and the stories and interact with the cultural narrative of our school - it is your story too!!

In the midst of it all!

Some of our Zone Swimmers!



Church and the story of the Woman (or vicar!) at the well



And gorgeous student prayers

Staff continue to pray every Thursday morning for our school community - Let us know if you have a prayer need. Every blessing to you all. Averil



Transforming lives through the St Mark's Story

Upcoming Events

20 Mar Mufti Day
6-8 Apr Holy Week Service - 9.00am

2020 Term Dates

Term 1 - Monday 27 January - Thursday 9 April
Teacher only day - Tuesday 28 April
Term 2 - Wednesday 29 April - Friday 3rd July.
Teacher only day - Tuesday 2 June
Term 3 - Monday 20 July - Friday 25 September
Term 4 - Monday 12 October - Friday 11 December
Teacher only day - Tuesday 27 October

Church Certificates

Inaka	Toby H
Pūtakitaki	Dean C
Tuaki	Sofia S
Karoro	Lincoln C
Kāmana	Tiffany C
Pingao	Tessa C
Karengo	Ruby H
Kahawai	Julia McC/Samuel T/Ioli K
Toroa	Torbin C

Sport Results

Miniball

St Mark's Tigers 27 v Cathedral Grammar Monkeys 1
POD: Zara P - fantastic hoops, strong defence, looking for passes, great attack work and energy, well done!

University of Canterbury Kiwi Competitions

Dear Parents/ Caregivers,
We are pleased to be able to offer students in year 5-8 the opportunity to participate in University of Canterbury Kiwi Competitions. This programme replaces the ICAS tests. Further information is available in the school office.
Friday 27 March is the last day to register your interest.
Regards
Adrian Rennie
Deputy Principal

Scholastic Book Club

Order forms for Scholastic Books have been sent home. Orders may be placed direct with Scholastic at www.mybookclub.scholastic.nz. An easy way to order online yourself and will be delivered direct to school. Orders close on **Friday 20 March**. The Gift Function has been turned on in LOOP! This allows parents to place a separate order as a surprise gift for their child. Items marked as a gift will be delivered to school and will be set aside at the school office for parents to collect.

The Board Of Proprietors Seek Your Help!

The BoP has Trustee positions vacant which we are looking to fill. By Deed these positions cannot be filled by parents, so we seek your help to find people from our wider community.

Do you know anyone keen to give back in this rewarding voluntary position? Some experience with legal and/or accounting jargon would be beneficial but not necessary.

Please drop us an email at chairperson@saintmarks.bop.nz or contact Raylene on 021 300 686

St Mark's Board of Proprietors' *Holding the vision of St Mark's School, protecting and enhancing the Special Character*

Student News

Olivia S was placed first in the 8 year old division of the XRACE. We congratulate her on this wonderful achievement and our other students who also competed.
Olivia we are proud of you.



Dear St Mark's whānau

St Mark's School

Re: Covid-19 and Pandemic Planning Measures

The necessary government response to the virus in Aotearoa means we are in uncertain times and as a school we are strictly following the guidelines and official advice of health experts.

The Rt Hon Mr Chris Hipkins, the Minister of Education, has publicly stated that currently schools are very very safe places for children to be, however we need to stay vigilant and support each other with the best research and evidence at hand.

There is information for students, staff and whānau on the Ministry of Education's website [here](#).

We have taken several operational steps this week. Please note:

- Staff are washing all surfaces, benchtops, door handles and other high contact areas including shared devices.
- All students are required to have a drink bottle at school - there is no access to drinking fountains.
- We have asked that all students with runny noses, a cough or temperature remain at home. If symptoms develop at school we will call family members to pick the child up. If that is not possible they are kept in the sickbay (or Principal's office away from their peers until this is possible).
- From today - **18th March 2020** - there will be no unnecessary visitors to the school during school hours e.g. prospective parents, Kahui Ako meetings, teacher trainees or interns, or any commercial travellers.
- All Canterbury Sport is cancelled. This includes Canterbury Championship Swimming scheduled for April 2nd. We have been asked to enter Winter Sports teams but this is likely to also be affected in Term 2.
- Rev. Ben Truman and I are meeting today to discuss our school church services and other gatherings - I will provide an update after the meeting.
- Students and staff have been informed that there is to be NO hugging, touching and skin to skin contact with others. We ask that our parent/whānau body observe the same protocols.
- There is to be no sharing of stationery - particularly pens and pencils.

Currently the biggest risk to any community in New Zealand is contact with someone recently returned from overseas. This is a risk we can mitigate immediately with strict adherence to self-isolation protocols.

The Board of Trustees have endorsed the schools pandemic planning measures, and will follow the directives from officials.

Sincerely
Averil



Term 1 Update – Board of Trustees

Tena Koutou Katoa!

It's hard to believe we are already in week eight of Term 1.

Firstly a huge welcome to all the new students and families who have joined our school in 2020. We hope that you feel part of our school community and that your children will thrive at our wonderful little school.

Secondly a huge welcome to our new teaching staff Mr Ben Davis and Mrs Megan Campbell. Thank you for the gifts and talents you bring with you that will directly benefit the students – we are excited at the year that lies ahead for you both.

In 2020 the Board of Trustees funded an additional teaching position in the school. This is unusual and very rare for a school of our size. It has resulted in some fantastic opportunities, and is based on the data we receive as a board informing where the need is.

These opportunities are exceptional, and I am incredibly proud of the work that Averil and Adrian in particular have undertaken which has meant significant cost savings and resulted in this significant opportunity of the 2020 year for the students at St Marks.

I thought I would use this update to provide you with some information about the differences between the Board of Trustees, Board of Proprietors and Parents' Association. Essentially

- Proprietors govern the special character and the property
- Trustees govern the teaching, learning and operation of the school
- The PA govern community-led contributions to the school.

Board of Proprietors – Chairperson Raylene McEwan

The Proprietor supervises the maintenance and preservation of the education with a Special Character provided by the school. It sets out what the Special Character is in the integration deed which is an agreement with the Crown.

In addition the Proprietor owns the school property plans and pays for improvements to the school buildings and associated facilities.

The Proprietor is able to set and receive school fees in order to assist them to achieve the above.

Parents' Association – Chairperson Gary Miller

This is the fundraising and event co-ordination heart of our school.

This group is completely reliant on volunteers, and on whānau participation in and support of events and fundraising initiatives.

As Gary has said on multiple occasions everything they do, and every cent raised directly benefits our students – for example the purchase of the mini-vans, and the plans to upgrade the playground. The Parents' Association also paid for the large majority of the furniture that is in the library and your children's classrooms. Without fundraising many of the things that your kids benefit from on a day to day basis could not occur.

Board of Trustees – Chairperson Lauren Ball

The core role of a Board of Trustees is to govern its school. This includes planning and reporting, and employing staff who manage and run the school. Schools help students achieve and succeed to the best of their ability, and Boards have specific responsibilities under the Education Act 1989 to help them do this. We set the overall strategic direction for the school, and develop the relevant policies both of which are then the principal's role to implement and deliver on (alongside the staff).

This term for example we will be revisiting our planning for pandemic responses. I would encourage you all as parents to please familiarise yourself with relevant school policies as set out in school docs (login and password was provided last school newsletter and several times per year). If you want to know what the school's policy is on a wide range of matters – this is the place to find them!

Boards of Trustees of a state integrated school have special responsibilities related to protecting the special character of their school. In a state integrated school, the proprietor, who has an agreement with the Government through an integration agreement, determines that special character. A state integrated school's Board of Trustees can have up to 4 proprietor's representatives. This ensures all members of the Board share a common understanding of the special character and its application on the operations/policy of the school.

Additionally it is the Board of Trustees role to ensure that the Buildings (which are owned by the Proprietor) are maintained. We need to create a plan to ensure that the painting and maintenance are kept up to date, and set aside a budget to ensure these things are carried out.

The Board of Trustees receives an Operating Grant from the Ministry of Education which is based on the number of students at the school, and the Ministry of Education also pays for the salaries of teachers.

Where as a Board we strategically decide that we require additional resourcing or support to achieve our teaching and learning goals there is no additional money – this means that it is only through incredible financial stewardship of our leadership team that we are able to achieve many of the 'extras' your children benefit from.

Finally, I would just like to thank all those people that volunteer their time on the three above groups. A lot of the work that goes on behind the scenes is significant, and for many it is in addition to full time work and family commitments.

Thank you for the contribution you make to St Mark's School, thank you for the legacy you are laying the foundations for, and for the future generations that will benefit from it.

In Term 2 I'll provide you with more of an overview of the Boards work plan for the year.

Lauren Ball

Chairperson



An Update from the Board of Trustees Review Committee



WE NEED YOUR INPUT PLEASE

2020 Term 1 – Policy Reviews:

This term we are reviewing the following policy and invite your feedback, anonymously if desired, as part of our three-year review cycle.

- Recognition of Cultural Diversity

It is from this policy that procedures are developed in relation to the way our school approaches these things operationally. For this reason, we want to encourage parents to become familiar with our policies and recommend any changes that might be required.

The cut off for feedback is the last day of Term 1 – **Thursday 9th April 2020**.

Giving feedback on the policy it's as easy as 1,2,3!

1. Go to www.schooldocs.co.nz and click on search for your school.
2. Type "St Marks School"
3. Pick "St Marks School"
4. Enter the following

Username: stmarks

Password: saint

5. Find the policy that's up for review, read it, click on the red bubble in the top right-hand corner of the policy and enter your feedback. (if there is no red option, pick the green speech bubble instead).

2020 Term 1 - Assurance:

In addition to reviewing policy, it's also the role of the Board to gain **ASSURANCE** that the operational policy and procedures are being operationalised in the school.

This term we will undertake assurance on a variety of areas including

<u>Employer responsibility</u>	<u>Finance and property management</u>	<u>Health, Safety and Welfare</u>	<u>Legislation and administration</u>
- EEO Policy - Police Vetting for Non-Teachers	- 10 Year Property Plan (10 YPP)	- Medicines, Minor/Moderate Injury or Illness - Risk Management	- Length of School Year

Corona Virus Information

Hello everyone,

As you will all be aware there is heightened awareness currently within NZ and in all communities regarding the potential spread of the Corona Virus (COVID19).

If you have any queries we are referring everyone to the Ministry of Health website for the latest information and advice

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov> as this will provide the most current and up to date information and resources. If there are any queries locally you can also make contact with your MOE office or advisor.

Further to this please see below the link to a great little Comic explaining the Corona Virus and how we can keep ourselves healthy and to try and reduce the anxiety that some children will also be experiencing as they are exposed to all this information in the media and at home. This Comic is useful in explaining the current situation in a child friendly manner so they have a better understanding of what it is all about. This Comic can be printed and makes a small booklet.

<https://www.nzherald.co.nz/sections/goatsandsoda/2020/02/28/809580453/and-for-kids-a-comic-explaining-the-novel-coronavirus/>

Please also see attached the Handwashing poster as this is one of the best ways minimise spread of any virus along with good coughing and sneezing etiquette and staying at home if unwell.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any further queries.

Nga Mihi,

Anna Marshall

Public Health Nursing Service

Burwood Hospital

Ph +3 3836877 Ext 99612

Cell 0274336529. Days of work : Mon/Tues/Wed

anna.marshall@cdhb.health.nz

Website: www.cdhb.health.nz/phns





Book SALE

SATURDAY, 21 March 2020

St Mark's Anglican Church
101 Opawa Road

9:00AM - 1:00PM

Cash only.

For more information, please contact the
Office (03) 980-9983.



What's new?

We are truly blessed to have such an engaged and supportive community. Thank you for your feedback in 2019. We hear you loud and clear! While we love Seesaw as a tool for sharing learning, it didn't turn out to be the best fit as a communication platform for our St Mark's School Family. There is *so much going on* in our St Mark's School Family, the information overload was simply impractical (especially for families with siblings at school). Subsequently, we are keeping Seesaw as a learning journal and launching our own School App for communication.



If you are already on Seesaw, you don't need to do anything. You will continue to receive updates from your child and their teacher, celebrating learning. Please remember that Seesaw is a learning journal and not a publishing portfolio. Mistakes are a part of learning. You will gain insight into your child's learning journey and have the opportunity to encourage them, every step of the way.

Each child's learning journey is unique. **Seesaw comments will be private within families.** Every day, we are showcasing learning, sharing in class, and utilising peer feedback to deepen learning. We know that home-school partnerships are key to quality learning, so Seesaw will be a special link between you and your child.



With our St Mark's School App, communication is simple and clear. Please feel free to download SchoolAppsNZ from the App Store or Google Play. For term one, communication will be via email, in addition to our St Mark's School App. This will ensure that key information is available for everyone. From term two onwards, our St Mark's School App will be the primary communication platform for our school.

Once again, thank you for your support and engagement. Please feel free to share your questions or feedback:

Cristy Yonetani

E-Learning Lead Teacher

c.yonetani@saintmarks.school.nz