



St Mark's School Newsletter

Term 1 Week 8
24 March 2022

Kia ora Te Kura o Hato Māka whānau

As we near the end of week 8, I along with staff continue to be grateful for your support of our school programs which are now operating both on and offsite. Our "Hybrid Learning" intentionally provides opportunities for ākonga/students to learn both onsite and from home with smooth transitions between both, and for those at home to connect with those onsite - please contact your teacher for details. Being responsive to needs is key to navigating this season - and we know that can require individual and personal attention.

Managing ākonga health

A huge thank you to our whānau/family community. We have been managing ākonga/student health at school with rigour and following clear public health guidelines for hygiene to protect us all. We have the ability to isolate a child onsite followed by a clean of that space.

For reassurance and to answer some questions I have had, it is important the community knows that the school is cleaned every night, all common surfaces (door handles, desk tops, benches etc) are cleaned with bleach at the end of the day and all staff and students from year 4 wear masks, We use hand sanitizer at the school gates and during the day before and after breaks.

As ākonga and whanau return to school these protocols remain in place.

School organisation.

We continue to work as waka, separated in learning and play. This has served us well and this arrangement will continue in the coming days.

You may be aware of the changes within the Red setting of the Covid Protection Framework we continue to operate under. The major operational changes appear at first glance to influence gathering numbers both inside and outside.

These changes will need to be evaluated by staff for any operational changes in the short term, and the Board of Trustees for any governance implications. We look ahead to the review of the framework on April 4 when further changes to guidance are expected. However, given the unknown "peak" of the pandemic in our city, it is my recommendation that current operational protocols are maintained. I will communicate further once Ministry of Education advice is received.

And in other news...!! (more popular than anticipated - thank you for your feedback)

- A fallen branch expertly extracted yesterday was a great novelty and story starter.
- Year 6, 7 and 8 discovered the miraculous design of the bombardier beetle and its "rear guard" defence!
- Mr Rennie wears his mask on his head like a unicorn when he is taking a break outside!
- Mrs Elliott is leading the way in our school values of caring for creation - she is an e-bike whizz!
- Miss Y bakes the best shortbread - possibly in the world!
- Rev. Ben is our local TV star - we hope you are enjoying his services online!!

Dates for your calendar - a reminder

- The last day of Term 1 is **Thursday 14th April**.
- Teacher only day **Monday 2nd May**
- **Tuesday 3rd May** - students return to school for Term 2

Averil and Staff



Transforming lives through the St Mark's Story

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION AGM

On Tuesday 10th May at 7.00pm in the School Hall

Due to the Covid Protection Framework (Traffic Light System) we were unable to start the school year as we normally do with our annual Welcome Back BBQ and then the P.A. AGM the following week.

Now that restrictions on gatherings, meetings are being relaxed we are confident to be able hold our annual AGM early in term 2.

All families of St Mark's School are automatically members of the St Mark's School Parents' Association. The P.A. is administered by a Board (committee) of parents who hold various positions and responsibilities to ensure the effective and efficient running of the communities' social activities, such as the Welcome Back BBQ, School Disco, Grandparents Day, New Entrants Evening, Year 8 Leavers Dinner. Parents also volunteer and donate their time on the Coffee Cart and the Uniform Shop.

The Parents' Association is A GREAT way to get involved in helping to organize the social aspects of school life and to assist with our FUNraising efforts that help to provide the nice to have extras for our children at St Mark's School.

We invite new parents to come along and see how you can get involved. This year we are especially seeking someone to take on the role of Treasurer, someone who knows their way around Xero and can maintain our accounts payments, tracking and books, please feel free to contact me to discuss if this is something you can help/contribute too within the school community.

The Board consist of a Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer (these 3 positions are nominated by the parent community and voted upon by the members present at the AGM) there is a Teachers Representative, The Principal and then eight other members who are nominated by the parent community (voting for committee places only takes place if there are more nominees than places available)

Nomination forms for positions for this year's P.A. Board will be circulated to all families next week with a return date no later than April 12th. (Prior to the term break)

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on May 10th.

Gary Miller
Chairman
St Mark's Parents' Association



Nurturing our kiwi

Mufti day raised \$278.00, this was donated to the NZ Conservation Trust



New Zealand Conservation Trust