



# St Mark's School Newsletter

Term 4 Week 9  
14 December 2021

**Kia ora Te Kura o Hato Māka whānau,**

## **AS WE GO!!**

Thank you everyone for your love, grace and patience in a year that has proven more challenging than we imagined but rich in blessings from each other.

To our Year 8 students and their families thank you for the privilege of sharing your lives, your comings and goings. You have blessed us and this school - our prayer is that you have a gentle landing in new places where your gifts and talents continue to shine.

To other students and their families who are leaving, you go with our love and a prayer for safe landings in new places. May people in these places love you well as we have.

To those students and families who join us next year - we are so looking forward to you being part of the St Mark's School family.

To Mr Gordon - you remain a taonga of our school - practically perfect in every way. May you fly into new places with your fist holding tight to the string of your kite and you never know when the wind might change!!

To our wonderful staff - what resilience, extra love and resourcefulness you have had to draw on this year. Your professionalism, collegiality and strengths are valued and appreciated.

## **AS WE TURN TO 2022:**

**A. Term One Dates: Wednesday 2nd February to Thursday 14th April.**

**B. Whānau/Teacher/Child Conferences - 31st January and 1st February.**

*Please sign up for these conferences. They will go "live" today (14th December) at 3pm.*

**C. Wednesday 2nd February** - first full day St Mark's School

**D. Monday 7th February - SCHOOL CLOSED** - Waitangi day observed.

**E. Year 8 Camp - Hanmer Springs** - 8th - 11th February.

**F. Year 6 and 7 Camp - Waipara** - 9th, 10th and 11th February.

## **ALUMNI NEWS**

It is always wonderful to hear of past student success. This year there have been some outstanding achievements and I wanted to share them with you.

**Reuben Clarkson (Year 8 2016) DUX of Cashmere High School 2021**

**Mackenzie Johnson (Year 8 2017) - PTA Grace Award - Marian College 2021**

**Zoe Rea (Year 8 2020) Overall Top Scholar Cup for Academic Excellence in Year 9 - St Margaret's College.**

**Sophie Watson - Head Girl Te Aratai/Linwood College 2022.**

## **SURVEY**

Please ensure you complete the Board of Trustees survey regarding our operations in 2022.

***The Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and for evermore. Psalm 121 1-8***

My grateful thanks to you all - see you in 2022!

Averil



*Transforming lives through the St Mark's Story*

## Student Successes

Eli N passed his BAL beginners tap exam ( which had to be videoed and sent away for judging due to covid) and gained a highly commended in his American jazz dance introductory level 2.



Seth K has had successful few weeks passing his grade two abrsn piano exam, his grade one trinity bass exam with distinction, placing 1st in his grade at the Southern short track ice speed skating championships in Dunedin and qualifying for inline speed nationals at Southern inline speed championships in Timaru.



Alexandra took part in the CSG Christmas Competition 2021, between gymnasts of stage 3, and received awards. She was graded 3 stars for vault and floor and 2 stars for beam and bar



The Rockets won 31 -3 against the Somerfield Kiwis.

The players of the day were:

Leo. For having his best game ever. Very impressive. You should be so proud of yourself

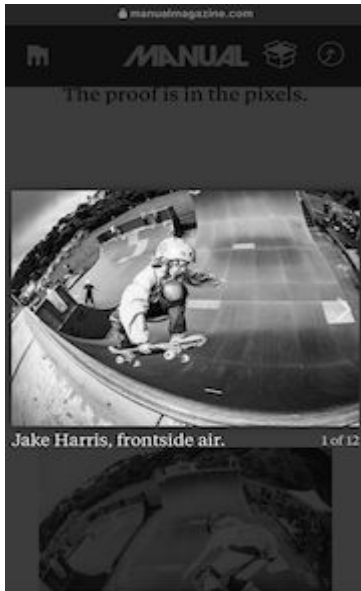
Eli: For being on the ball at all times, fantastic defense work. 100% focused. You are a star.



Hannah Penman gained Very Highly Commended for both her Contemporary Level 2, and Jazz Grade 5 NZAMD exams

Jake H came 2nd in the Duck Brew Groms Competition here in Christchurch in the Under 13 yrs category Then on Saturday at the Welly Ramp Riot he came 3rd in the Under 16's division. As one of the youngest in both he did so well!

The skating photo is from Manual Magazine of him doing a backside air at the top of a 11ft vert ramp!!



Tyronne N was placed 3rd place in the 50m backstroke against Auckland Swimmers at Timaru Swim Club.

Matthew C won Player of the year for Waimak 11th Grade Football



Ariya S was awarded Flow Dance Academy for Dancer of the Year.

Darcy Q was awarded the Christchurch School of Gymnastics trophy for Attitude to training.



## ST MARK'S SCHOOL - WALK WITH A PURPOSE

On the 25th of June this year the St Mark's School community held their third annual *Fountain of Peace NZ - Walk with a Purpose* fundraising event. Approximately 150 St Mark's School students along with family members and school staff, left their homes early in the morning to walk up to 10 km to get to school by 8.30 am. This is the distance that many students from our Fountain of Peace established school in Uganda (Rwenjaza Hillside School), walk to and from school each day, often on an empty tummy.



We at Fountain of Peace NZ were so blessed by the incredible amount raised from the walk. A total of \$5566.00.

These funds were designated for our school feeding programme at Rwenjaza Hillside School and would have fed 150 of the 500 students a bowl of porridge each school day for a whole year. However, following the walk, strict lockdown restrictions continued in Uganda, due to COVID-19, and the reopening of schools was put on hold. In fact, students have now been unable to attend school for almost two years due to these lockdown measures.

A decision was made by Fountain of Peace that with the severe hardships being faced by the school students' families and other vulnerable families in the Rwenjaza community, that it was essential to get food parcels distributed to them. 250 food parcels made up of 10 kg of cornmeal and 10 kg of beans (beans were added to the food parcels to help add protein to their diets) were needed to be distributed.

We are so thankful that due to the funds raised by your Walk with a Purpose and your willingness to the slight change of direction for the funds, the cost of 200 of these lifesaving parcels was covered. Not only have these food parcels saved lives but they have also provided an incredible sense of hope and intense relief as burdens have been lifted and bellies filled.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the St Mark's School community for the incredible support in making this happen.

Canterbury lawyer Nalini made the following comment - "Seeing the St Mark's School walking and raising funds has filled my heart and gives me so much hope for our collective future with the next generation and the change makers they are".

Pictured below: All smiles from one of the Rwenjaza Hillside School students receiving a food parcel, all thanks to the generosity and kindness of the St Mark's School community.



With heartfelt gratitude,  
Tania Sharr  
Canterbury Coordinator  
Fountain of Peace Children's Foundation NZ