



St Mary's
Catholic School
Tauranga

newsletter

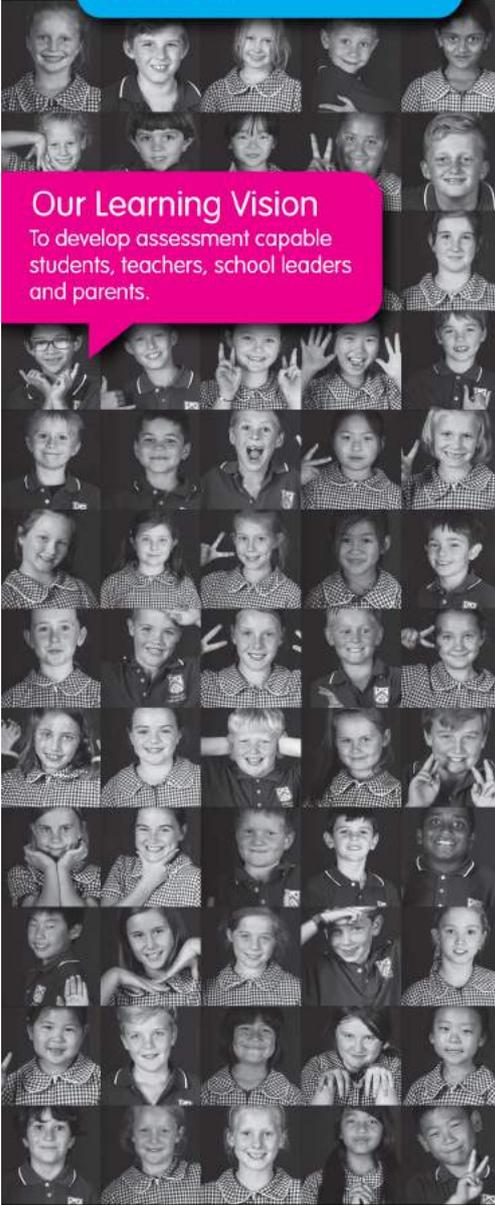
ISSUE 10: 17 August 2018

Our Vision

At St Mary's we aim to be Christ-like through prayerful hearts and willing hands. With reflective and creative minds we challenge ourselves to be the difference.

Our Learning Vision

To develop assessment capable students, teachers, school leaders and parents.



Our People Our Place

be. informed

oxforddictionaries.com / informed.

adj: having or showing knowledge of a subject or situation.

Message from the Principal

Kia ora koutou katoa, Talofa Lava, Malo e lelei, Ni Hao, Anyoung haseyo, Magandang umaga, Konnichi wa, Guten tag, Bonjour, Ola, hello to our whole school community. A special welcome to Jessica Radley and Isabelle Reeve who started in our new entrant class.

I can't believe how fast this term is flying by already and when each fortnight comes around for me to write my piece I feel like I've only just finished the last one!

As I walk around the school and visit the classrooms it is so great to see the children so enthusiastic about practising their poems and speeches in preparation for presenting to their peers. I've seen many of our Tika students showing innovation and creativity with their costumes to support their poem. We are all looking forward to the finals in Week 6.

PTA

On Tuesday night I attended the PTA Annual General Meeting. On behalf of the staff, students and the wider community I would like to thank the PTA for the awesome amount of effort they put in to supporting our school. Listening to the annual reports from the Chairperson Ana MacFarlane and the Treasurer, Tracey Phizacklea it is quite impressive to hear just what has been accomplished over the last year. The PTA is incremental in providing support physically for events e.g. Discos, Quiz Night, Adventure Day. They also provide monetary support for those extra projects that may not be afforded otherwise, the Junior Sandpit is a great example. Thank you to the PTA, we could not survive without your huge input.

Industrial Action

Thank you to all of our parents for being so supportive and understanding when the teachers went on strike this Wednesday.

We are hoping that our action sent a strong message to our government that we believe they are not valuing our profession or the importance of teachers. The current offer on the table is not addressing the key issues of the teacher shortage, challenges teachers have in the classroom with workload, and the lack of funding for children with special needs. This is not just a claim for extra pay as has been reported in the media; it is a campaign for the changes we see as essential to providing the best education possible for your children.

Key Competencies

At St Mary's we understand the importance of the Key Competencies. Over the next term, through the newsletter, I will be looking more in depth at each key competency. So far I have covered Managing Self and Relating to Others. This week I am focusing on 'Participating and Contributing'.

We want our children to be active participants. This includes being involved in local communities like

family, whanau, school, our Catholic Parish, sports groups and cultural groups. This can spread much wider to being involved in national and global initiatives. "This competency includes a capacity to contribute appropriately as a group member, to make connections with others, and to create opportunities for others in the group. Students who participate and contribute in communities have a sense of belonging and the confidence to participate within new contexts. They understand the importance of balancing rights, roles, and responsibilities and of contributing to the quality and sustainability of social, cultural, physical, and economic environments." TKI Online

As teachers and parents we need to provide purposeful learning experiences that give our students opportunities for this involvement. We need to give them experiences that develop their knowledge of what is possible and what it means to be a productive member of a community or group.

Have a great couple of weeks, no doubt Week 6 will be here before we know it!

Reminder about Absence and Lateness

It is a concern for us that several students have high absences from school and many students arrive late to school on a regular basis. Children who are not at school or are regularly late do not learn as easily or with the same rate of progress as other children. Staff, parents, children and the community have responsibilities in this area. Ayn Harris and I will be contacting parents early next term if we are concerned about your child's absence or lateness.

Children are considered to have unsatisfactory attendance at school over the course of the year if they miss 16 days of school or 8% of their time at school. This means that if a child has had 4 days off school in a term the school is concerned.

It is interesting and alarming to note that 10% of a child's time at our school (Year 1 – Year 6) is 32 weeks (3 terms), and 20% is 64 weeks (6 terms).

"If students experienced more than a day between one opportunity to interact with a new idea and a subsequent opportunity to interact with the new idea, then forgetting occurred and instructional opportunity was wasted"

(Alton-Lee, 2003, p.50).

Fa'amanuia le Atua (God bless)

Anna MacKinnon
Acting Principal

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2018 Term Dates

Monday 20 August to 24 August

Foodbank Appeal

Thursday 23 August

Class Mass Whanau Mayall

Tuesday 28 August

Board of Trustee Meeting

Wednesday 29 August

School Speech Finals

Thursday 30 August

Sursum Corda Mass

Monday 3 September

Tongan Language Week

Thursday 6 September

Class Mass Whanau Robbie

Sunday 9 September

Parish / School Mass 10.30am

Monday 10 September

• **Maori Language Week**

• **Social Justice Week**

Thursday 20 September

Korean Martyrs Mass 9am - Exposition / Benediction

Thursday 27 September

• **Class Mass Whanau Broadmore**

• **Sports Exchange**

Friday 28 September

Term 3 Ends

Monday 15 October

• **Term 4 starts**

• **Aroha Camp**

Thursday 18 October

• **Class Mass Whanau Tanner**

• **NZ Shake Out Day 9am**

Monday 22 October

Labour Day - school is closed

Wednesday 24 October

• **Pasifika Festival**

• **International Families Afternoon Tea**

Thursday 25 October

Class Mass 9am TBA

Friday 26 October

School Photos

Saturday 27 October

Jump Jam Championships

Tuesday 30 October

Board of Trustee Meeting 6pm

2019 Term Dates

Term 1

Monday 4 February - Friday 12 April

Term 2

Monday 29 April - Friday 5 July

Term 3

Monday 22 July - Friday 27 September

Term 4

Monday 14 October - Thursday 19

December (end date to be confirmed)

be.
Christ-like

be.
reflective

be.
creative

SPECIAL CHARACTER

Foodbank Appeal

In the last year the Tauranga Foodbank issued 5,569 food parcels helping more than 16,000 people in our community with food. More than 10,000 of these were children. Next week **from 20th to 24th August** we are supporting the Foodbank by running our Schools Appeal and need your help!!

These are some items that are in short supply.

Tinned Soup, Packets of Soup, Cocoa, Baking Powder, Icing Sugar, Pasta Sauce, Precooked servings of rice/pasta, Tinned Fish, Laundry Powder, Tinned Tomatoes, Creamed Corn, School lunch supplies. The people in our community who get support from our Foodbank are so very grateful for your generosity!!!

Welcome Father Rico

We would like to welcome Father Rico to our school community. He was officially welcomed at our New Families liturgy. We look forward to getting to know Father Rico.

Service

Well done to the Young Vinnies who carry out Service. They have been visiting local Rest Homes, playing games, doing yoga, performing magic tricks and performing musical and dance items.

Monday 6th August - Hodgson House Rest Home.

Monday 13th August - Cedar Manor Retirement and Care.

They plan to visit - Fraser Manor Retirement Home and another Home this term.



Sacrament of Baptism

If anyone would like to find out more about having their children Baptised please contact Margie at the Church office **578 6209**. Or you can email Teresa Rush trush@stmarystga.school.nz for further information.



Yeva was confirmed at our Whanau Mass last week. We wish her all strength in the Holy Spirit.

Senior Jesus Strand key teaching and learning

Catholics believe that Jesus Christ is both fully human he tino tangata and divine he tino Atua like God. People come to know Jesus through reading and reflecting on the stories about him in the New Testament. Through the stories people can get a sense of the people, the times and places Jesus lived in that influenced his life and his work.

Each gospel writer records Jesus' life from a different perspective and this enables people to develop a deeper understanding of Jesus' life, his mission and his death and resurrection. Jesus came to make known to people that God is his Abba, Matua. Jesus' life was God's gift of love to the world because God loved people so much. Jesus taught that the Holy Spirit strengthens people to turn away from sin and live as he lived. Jesus lived with faith, hope and love and he invites his followers to do the same. Christians express their faith, hope and love through worshipping God and loving actions.

Teresa Rush
DRS

PTA Meals

The PTA would like to express a huge heartfelt 'Thank You' to Nicky and her team of wonderful helpers for doing another grand effort cook-off!

(66 meals in the freezer)

By providing meals for our school community in times of need due to hardship, illness, stress etc shows it really does take a village to raise children by supporting their families! **The School Community thank Nicky and her team.**

Congratulations Peter Chang

Peter performed in the Tauranga Performing Arts Competition held at Baycourt during the holidays and managed to win most categories.

1st Piano Scholarship own selection and Piano Scholarship under 9 Minutes.

2nd Piano Restricted under 9 yrs and Piano Scholarship Under 9 yrs Solo from Memory.

Peter won the Mrs D Hull Scholarship (Overall Winner), the Morine Cup, and the Oetiker Trophy. Well done Peter!



Thank you to everyone who purchased, or asked family or friends to purchase our yearly Entertainment Book. Your efforts have raised **\$1027** for pastoral care in our school.

What's happening in Aroha



Each Whanau Class in Aroha Team went on a visit to the Tauranga Art Gallery in Week 3. The exhibition we saw was based on textiles (photos below) and showcased various garments and pieces of Art.



Our visits culminated with a hands on session in the classroom at the Art Gallery. Angie the talented Facilitator that works with all schools that visit, took the students through a step by step process of dyeing and screen printing a piece of fabric. The artworks were extremely effective and can now be used back at school for designing into garments or displayed as a finished piece of work.

ART GALLERY VISITS



Reciprocal Visits

As part of working closer with schools in our COL, the Aroha Team Teachers were part of a 3 day reciprocal visit between St Thomas More, Aquinas and St Mary's. During the first hour over 3 days we observed how the other schools taught in various curriculum areas.

At St Mary's, the students from Aroha Team were involved in PE, Art, Coding, Dance, and working in the Maker Space. Our Y5/6 students are usually split between our 5 Teachers and rotate through 5 activities over 3 afternoons. On the day of the reciprocal visit the Teachers from the other schools saw each of our students engaged in learning in one of these areas.

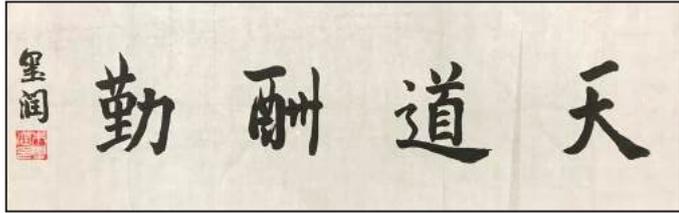
Feedback was favourable with much interest and discussion about our Makerspace.

Visit from Chinese Students

Recently St Mary's students were able to watch some very talented students from a school in China. The students were mainly Intermediate aged students and were in NZ experiencing our culture while being part of Aquinas College for 3 weeks.

They showcased a performance with individual pieces being played on some traditional instruments, while some also sang and reciting poetry. Our students were in awe of how capably they played the piano and some of the instruments they may not have seen played before.

As a gift they presented us with pieces of rice paper cloth (pictured on the right) with messages written in Chinese.



Translation....

If you work hard God will look after you

Positive Behaviour for Learning - PB4L

Be. respectful to self

I wear the correct school uniform when I arrive and leave school.

I wear my school uniform with pride



This is what a boy's school bag should look like so Mr Veitch doesn't have to pick it up

This is what a girl's school bag should look like so Mr Veitch doesn't have to pick it up



I hang my bag on the hook and ensure it is always closed, so I don't get my things lost.

I hang my bag up on the hook before school starts.

After I eat I put my lunch box away I zip up my bag and make sure all my friends bags are nice and tidy like mine.



This is what a girl's uniform should look like



This is what a boy's uniform should look like



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Our People Our Place

be. thankful

oxforddictionaries.com / thankful.
adj: 1. pleased and relieved. 2. expressing gratitude.

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