



St Mary's  
Catholic School  
Tauranga

## newsletter

Our People Our Place

# be. informed

oxforddictionaries.com / informed.

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

## Message from the Principal

**Tena Koutou Katoa - Haere mai Nau mai haere mai**

Greetings and welcome to our new school year.

To all returning families it is great to see you and your children back at St Mary's in 2019. To those new to our community, you and your children are now on a journey with us and I therefore give my absolute best wishes and commitment to ensuring your time at St Mary's is beneficial and prosperous for you and your children. To ensure this happens I encourage you to be active within our community, support where able and get involved in as many of our community and school based activities as possible or able.

I have been impressed with the start our teachers and students have made to our new school year. It is great to see the enthusiasm of teachers transpire into engagement of learning within the classroom environment. Please keep in touch with your child's teacher with any questions and please connect with your children regularly in regard to the learning experiences they are benefitting from.

### Ra Whanau Mai

Starting the year coming together, meeting your child's teacher, being able to talk about strengths and ambitions of and for your child has helped make for the positive start we have all experienced. The objectives of the day were to give your child the best possible start as a learner and to provide opportunity to come together as a community. The weather definitely played its part meaning the pool was well utilised; Mr Veitch, Mrs Harris and I dished up about 300 sausages and the coffee cart had plenty of customers. It definitely made for a calm start to our formal instruction on Tuesday, especially for new students who had already met their teacher and knew where their classroom was.

As always we are interested to see how if we met the above objectives in our communities eyes so invite you to provide comments through this link <https://goo.gl/forms/pV0iLt0p1b5DPJ22>.

Also check out pictures from the day on our FB page.

### Summer Weather

As I communicated earlier, heat is a factor in Tauranga this time of year. We will therefore implement the following during February.

1. Children who have one, can wear their physical education uniform. This is black shorts and the green St Mary's PE T Shirt. Both items are available from NZ Uniforms.
2. Year 1 students (rooms 1-5) unfortunately

occupy older classrooms that are not well equipped when it comes to ventilation. Those year 1 parents who may be concerned that the afternoons will get too hot for their children are welcome to collect them at lunch time on extremely hot days. This will be an individual parent decision with those children remaining cared for within their classrooms.

3. Sunblock, all classrooms are equipped with sun block and children are encouraged to self manage the application of this. If your child is more susceptible to the effects of the sun please ensure you apply sunscreen before you drop them to school.
4. Hydration, most important and can be easily achieved with access to a water bottle during the day.

### School Buses

I am aware, as many are, of some of the teething problems currently being experienced as a result of our recent change of bus routes and city provider. I take child safety seriously and so have offered to work with Bay of Plenty Regional Council Transport Operations Officer to ensure current issues are resolved and the efficient service we all hope for is gained in the near future. Please if you have any issues with the bus service, especially if student safety is compromised, get in contact with either myself or Theresa in our office.

### Communication

We still do the majority of our communication through email and will continue to do so but will also ensure the same communication is given through our FB page. I am aware that the majority of our community is among our 500 followers, but for new parents or those still new to the social media game the link is below.

### St Mary's Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/stmarystga/>

### St Mary's Website

[www.stmarystga.school.nz](http://www.stmarystga.school.nz)

### School App

Download our app for free on iPhone or Android. Search 'St Mary's Catholic School' in the app store or use this link <http://is.gd/8stOcd>. The app is used to send reminder alerts, it has the complete school calendar, notices, the school newsletter and all staff email addresses. You can also use it to text in school absentee messages.

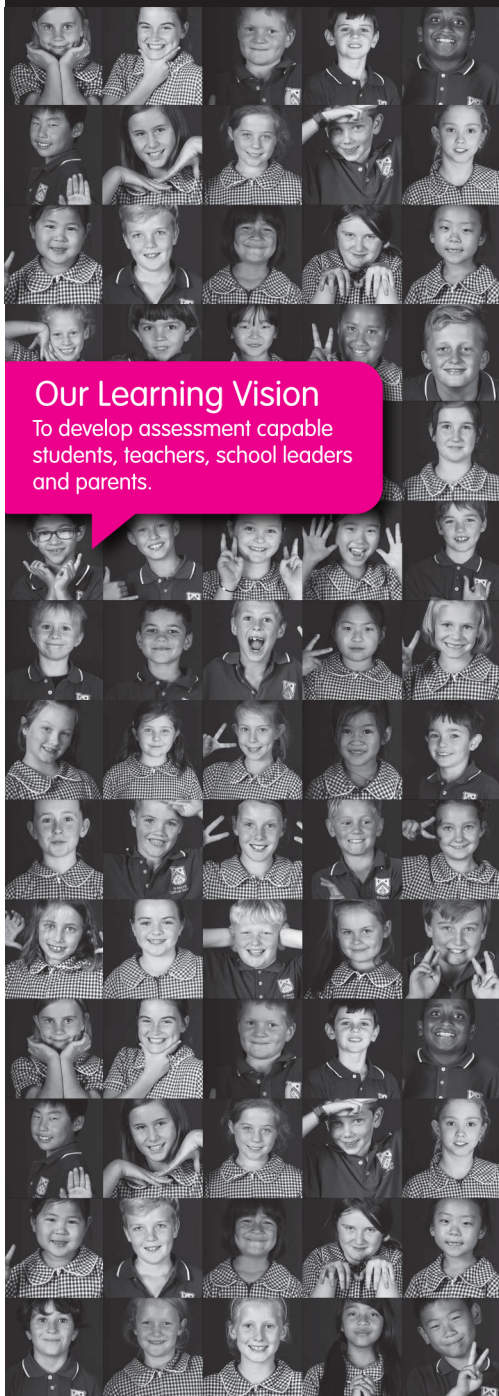
**Nga mihi nui**  
**Ben Fuller**  
**Principal**

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## 2019 Term Dates

Thursday 14 February

Senior Leaders Mass 9am

Friday 15 February

Principal's Assembly 11.30am

Tuesday 19 February

Aroha Swimming Sports Y5 & 6 9am - 1pm

Thursday 21 February

- Class Mass Whanau Akkerman 9am

- Aroha Swimming Sports postponement date

- Tika Team Whanau Picnic 5.30-6.30pm

Friday 22 February

Whakapono Kayaking 9am-12.30pm

Sunday 24 February

Sacrament Programme enrolment day

Tuesday 26 February

- Welcome to new students and new families liturgy BAMJC 10am

- Board of Trustee Meeting

Thursday 28 February

Class Mass Whanau Robbie

Friday 1 March

Principal's Assembly 11.30am

Wednesday 6 March

Ash Wednesday liturgy BAMJC 10am

Thursday 7 March

Class Mass Whanau Mayall

Friday 8 March

Outdoor Adventure Day has moved to 15 March

Sunday 10 March

Parish School Mass and Commissioning of Catechists 10.30am

Tuesday 12 March

- South Cluster Swimming Sports 9am-1pm

- PTA Meeting 7pm

Thursday 14 March

- Class Mass Whanau Rush 9am

- New Entrant Meeting 3.15pm

Friday 15 March

PTA Outdoor Adventure Day 11am-2.30pm

Friday 22 March

School Mass - St Joseph 9.30am at church

Tuesday 26 March

Board of Trustee Meeting 6pm

### Welcome Liturgy

Tuesday 26 February 10am

All families are invited to join us in welcoming our new children and new families at a Welcome Liturgy on Tuesday 26 February at 10am in the BAMJC.

Following the liturgy you are very welcome to join us for morning tea.

be.  
Christ-like

be.  
reflective

be.  
creative

### Introducing Anthony Mills

My name is Anthony Mills and I am very excited about my new position as Assistant Principal at St Mary's Catholic School. I have previously been teaching at St Thomas More Catholic School in Mount Maunganui and prior to that I taught at Tamahere School in Hamilton. I live in Papamoa with my wife Amie-Lee and our four daughters Talia (18), Sienna (8), Geneva (5) and Havana (1). We are also having another baby due in April and we are very excited as we just found out it is a boy! When I'm not at school I enjoy spending time with my whanau at the beach. I also love most sports especially surfing, snowboarding, rugby, touch rugby and football. I am a keen musician and enjoy singing, playing the guitar and drums. I am also passionate about Visual Arts and enjoy sketching and painting.

I am an experienced teacher and educational leader and have a passion for a creative curriculum and integrating Visual Art and Music into the learning program.

I also have extensive experience with the Science Curriculum and knowledge of how to effectively implement programs which engage scientific thinking and learning for students. As part of my role at St Mary's I will also be teaching 3 days a week in the Aroha Team covering teacher release time. I look forward to getting to know the students, whanau and community at St Mary's over the coming weeks and contributing positively to the school in my new leadership role.



### SPECIAL CHARACTER

E te whanau, tena koutou katoa.

Welcome back, we hope you all had a blessed Christmas season. The weather has been fantastic and it is great to have students back to school.

In the first few weeks students will focus on understanding our new school vision:

*With God, we strive to Be our best, Be prepared for the world;*

*And Be true to our Catholic faith, to others and to ourselves.*

### Sacramental Programme 2019

For our baptised young people Year 5 and above. Enrolment Sunday 24th February, at the Parish/ Aquinas College family Mass, 10.30 at Aquinas College. Online enrolments are now available on the Parish website, go to: Sacramental Life, Sacramental Programme 2019. The final date for enrolments will be Friday 1st March. Current information will be available on the Parish website. Any queries please contact the Parish office. Full details and online enrolment follow this link: <http://taurangamoanacatholic.nz/sacramental-life/sacramental-programme-2019/>

All lessons (Reconciliation, Confirmation and Eucharist) are held on MONDAY afternoons, 4pm to 5.30pm at St Mary Immaculate Church.

If your child has not been baptised and you would like to find out more please contact Margie at the Parish Office. (07) 578 6209.

### Sacramental Programme Catechists

Thank you to those who have offered to assist with the teaching of the programme, we are very grateful. A few more willingly volunteers would be welcomed to spread the load. Please contact the Parish office. Thank you.

### Invitation from The Bishop

Commissioning Mass to Bless the New School Year. Celebrated by Bishop Steve. We invite the Board of Trustees and our school community to join the staff at the Mass held at St Mary's Rotorua:

Thursday 28th February - 6pm.

Teresa Rush  
DRS





## Nuts & Bolts



### Sign in and out

In case of an emergency and for Health and Safety reasons we need to know who is on the school grounds. We therefore ask that you use the tablet at the school reception desk to sign in and out.



Reasons you need to use the tablet;

- Child late. **Sign in.**
- Child leaving school for an appointment, or because he / she became sick during school time. **Sign out.**
- Parent / friend / family member is helping during school hours or attending a class Mass or school event. **Sign in and out.**
- Child returning from an appointment. **Sign in.**

### Absences

If your child is absent from school, please notify by phone or text, the school office before 9.00am on the morning of the absence. When a child returns to school after an absence he/she should bring a written explanation from his/her parents or caregivers.

The absentee text number is **021 2969437**.

### Accidents and Illness at School

Three teachers are on duty at all times during the morning and lunchtime breaks.

Accidents of a minor nature are treated at school in the medical room. Parents, or a nominated adult are contacted if an accident is of a serious nature. If parents are not able to be contacted, the school will use discretion in obtaining medical aid.

Parents will be notified if their child becomes ill and needs care at home.

### Parking

**The safety of our students is paramount.**

We request that all parents take due care and diligence in respect to parking around the school.

- St Mary's School enjoys good relationships with our neighbours. We ask that you respect their driveways and grass verges and do **NOT** park over them, or on them.
- Please do **NOT** park in the bus bay.
- If you are parked on the opposite side of the road to school, we ask that you meet your child/ren on the school side and escort them over the road.
- The school grounds is for staff parking only. Please do **NOT** park or drive into the school grounds unless permission has been granted by



### Policies

Please visit <http://stmarystga.schooldocs.co.nz> to view all our school policies. Enter the user name (stmarystga) and password (1959).

### PTA

St Mary's PTA can lay claim to a proud record of fundraising, pastoral care and providing a vital link between home and school. There are many facilities and school equipment that have been provided through the hard work of interested parents. A number of social activities are organised so that parents can get to know one another and can work towards a common goal. Any parent who wishes to join the PTA should attend a meeting which is usually held on the second Tuesday of the month. The next meeting is on **Tuesday 12 February**. We would love to see as many new parents as possible.

### Parent Involvement

We encourage and value parental input with many school events which involve pupils, staff and parents. These include assisting the teacher in class, sports days, displays, field trips, fundraising and other activities throughout the year. Assistance with transport requires that the driver has a current full driver's license; the car has a current Warrant of Fitness and Registration and seatbelts for all passengers. On Monday mornings there is a Liturgy and on Thursday mornings there is usually a class Mass. Parents and family members are welcome and are encouraged to attend.

### Swimming

Swimming is a mandatory part of the PE Programme. All children will participate with their class unless a note from parents is provided. Please ensure that all gear is clearly named.



### Lost Property

It is amazing how quickly the lost property box fills up with brand new, unnamed uniforms. Please remember to clearly name all items of clothing. Unclaimed articles of clothing can be found in the box on the deck near the teacher resource room.

### BAMJC

Is our Blessed Anne Marie Javouhey Centre.

### Sun Protection Policy

St Mary's School is a Sun Smart School. In accordance with our Sun Protection Policy, regulation school sun hats are to be worn during interval and lunchtime in Term 1 & 4.

Children without sun hats will be directed to stay in a designated shaded area.



SUNSMART

### No Hat No Play!

We require students to wear the St Mary's School hat whenever they are outside. Children will be asked to go to a designated shaded area in the school if they do not have a school hat during playtime, lunch, lunch-eating and during sports activities. Hats are available from our uniform supplier. Kia koi! Kei were!

Keep your kids safe!

Thank you for your support.



### After School Care

We have our own After School Care. This service operates from 2.55pm to 5.30pm every day of the school week in the Blessed Anne Marie Javouhey Centre. If you wish to find out more information regarding this please contact Shelley on **027 3102090** or email [afterschoolcare@stmarystga.school.nz](mailto:afterschoolcare@stmarystga.school.nz).

### House System

This system offers to all children a teamwork approach to participate in school wide activities. It provides a sense of belonging, interest and intent; it also gives senior students the opportunity to exercise responsible leadership. Students have been divided into four Houses: **Viard (Green), Pompallier (Red), Cluny (Blue), Ryan (Yellow)**. Please contact the school office if you don't know which house your child is in.

### Buy a sushi lunch

Thursday is Sushi day - A selection of very popular sushi rolls, teriyaki chicken on rice and juice is available. Order form envelopes are available from the school office and must be in no later than 9am Wednesday morning. Sushi lunches start this week.

There will be no more lunches on Friday as our supplier was no longer available. Watch this space for new options.

### Bicycles

Children may ride bicycles to school.

A helmet must be worn at all times.

Riding in the school grounds is prohibited.



### School Grounds

These officially open at 8.15am. Parents who bring their children to school before this time do so at their own risk.



### Money

We discourage children bringing money to school outside of small amounts for specific fundraising purposes. Parents are invoiced for all school related activity fees and there are a variety of preferred methods of payment including via internet and automatic payment. We also have an eftpos facility available in our school office.

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