



St Mark's School Newsletter

Term 1 Week 2
7 February 2024

Kia ora St Mark's Whānau,

It has been great to see the students so excited and eager to get back to school. Perhaps almost as eager as parents have been for the start of the school year?!

This term is a busy one with lots of great events for students including two camps, some great learning, a major fundraising event by the PA and Swimming Sports, all leading up to Holy Week at Easter, one of the most important times in the church calendar.

We will be welcoming and praying for all of our new students this Friday at church (9:15am at St Mark's Church). All are welcome.

Conferences

Staff have reported to me the wonderful insights they have gained by meeting all families at conferences last week. It certainly is a great way to start the year and to create 'calm spots' where there is a focus on individual children. Open and honest communication about students and their needs makes for a great start to the year.

Community Survey

The Board of Trustees is formulating a new strategic plan for the school. Part of that process is to seek guidance and reassurance from the school community. Your participation in this survey is a key element in setting a strategic direction for the school that reflects the needs, wants and aspirations of our School Family. Watch your email inbox for details as this survey goes live on the 7th February.

Community BBQ

All are welcome to attend the community BBQ on Friday 9 February 5pm-7pm. Thanks to the Parents' Association for organising.

Special Services

Whānau are invited to join us in worship at two important services next week.

Ash Wednesday Service, Wednesday 14th February at 1:45pm at St Mark's Church.

Eucharist Service, Friday 16th February from 9:15am at St Mark's Church.

Bishop Peter has kindly offered to join us for these services.

Leadership Badges

We are proud to acknowledge the leadership our Year 8 students are providing in our school family. Parents of Year 8's are invited to join us for church on Monday 12 February from 9am in the school hall where their badges will be awarded.

Colour Run

The PA is running this very fun event early in the term and by all accounts it is an absolute winner with students! More details will come via the school app.

BAYLEYS Partnership

We are delighted to announce that our partnership with Bayleys Real Estate has resulted in a significant donation to the school. Sophie Everson and Sonia Cameron (whānau of St Mark's students) have committed to supporting St Mark's whenever a property sale is made when there is a referral or connection with the school community. Thanks, Bayleys!



Transforming lives through the St Mark's Story

Start Of Year

The start of the school year is always a financial burden for families as we all navigate new uniforms, fees and stationery packs etc. Please be aware that we hold a lot of spare uniform pieces in the office that are available if families need support in that area. Don't be shy to ask!

In the same vein, don't be shy to ask Louise about options available for other school costs.

Attendance

The start of the school year is a great time to discuss student attendance. The Ministry Of Education has shared with schools their intent to boost attendance through their **Every Day Matters** initiative. Learning for students is cumulative. When students miss "the odd day" what they are really missing is vital steps in a learning journey that can greatly impede their progress.

If a student misses one day of school every two weeks, they miss a whole year of school by 16 years of age! As a parent or caregiver, you, alongside our school, play a key role in building strong habits of regular attendance.

All students are legally required to attend school every day and it is a shared responsibility to make sure students attend and engage in learning from when they first start school. You must inform the school of any absences and include the reason for the absence. The school applies special codes to different kinds of absences and that data is collected and reviewed by the Ministry of Education.

If you are struggling at home with getting your child to school, talk to us! We are committed to supporting your child and your family. Open and honest communication will solve most problems.

Library / Ōmoho

Work is underway to load every book in our library onto a new database. Please return any stray library books you may have at home to the school office.

2024 Term 1 School Events

9 February	Community BBQ 5pm-7pm
14 February	Ash Wednesday Service 1.45pm - all welcome
14-16 February	Year 8 Camp at Hanmer Springs
15 February	Year 5 Beach Education
16 February	Eucharist Service with Bishop Peter - all welcome
21 February	Parents' Association AGM
21 February	School Swimming Sports Year 4-8 9:30-11:30am Waltham Pool
26-28 February	Year 6/7 Camp
6 March	Zone Swimming Event
25 March	Easter Service
26 March	Easter Service
27 March	Easter Service
28 March	Easter Service
29 March	Good Friday - School Closed
1 April	Easter Monday - School Closed
2 April	Easter Tuesday - School Closed
12 April	End Of Term Service 2pm

Galatians 5:22-23

"But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law."

Blessings to all,
Adrian



ST MARK'S SCHOOL PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

PARTICIPATION!

We plan and hold fun events for the whole school - discos, Back to School BBQ, Whanau Day, fundraisers and the School Fair.

COMMUNITY!

It's not just about the school - we want to bring the whole community together! The PA includes family, teachers and our Principal.

WE HAVE FUN!

Being a part of the PA is a great way to meet other parents! We want everyone who volunteers to have a stress-free and fun time and the more helpers we have - the better!

IT'S FLEXIBLE!

We know that your time is valuable so we will do what works for you! Any time you are willing to give is greatly appreciated!

GET IN TOUCH!

We are more than happy to answer any questions you have! Come along to our AGM on 21st February 2024 at 7pm to talk to current members and find out how you can be involved! Alternatively you can contact us on pa@saintmarks.school.nz

BACK TO SCHOOL BBQ



**Come along to our annual
Back to School BBQ on Friday
9th February 2024!**

**It's heaps of fun for the whole
family and a great way to meet
other families at the school -
there will be crazy bikes for
the kids and a lolly scramble!**

BBQ starts at 5pm

**Please bring a salad to share
(including a serving spoon),
plates and utensils for
yourselves and something to
drink**



Tuning in to Kids + Tuning Into Teens

Emotionally Intelligent Parenting – Term 1 2024 dates

A six-session programme for parents/caregivers of children aged 5-12 years
Tuning Into TEENS is an option for parents/caregivers of tamariki in school years 6-8 (10-13yrs)

TIK and TINT are evidence-based programmes designed to teach parents & caregivers:

- Awareness and regulation of their own and their children's emotions
- To use children's emotional experiences as an opportunity for closeness and teaching
- Skills in assisting children to verbally label and manage their emotions
- Skills in assisting children to problem solve, and guide children's behaviour with appropriate limits

Sessions include:

- Watching video material
- Group discussions and exercises
- Role plays
- Home activities to practice different ways of responding to your child's emotions
- Participants sharing their own experiences within the group

See below for courses running in Term 1 2024. It is free to attend, you must attend all 6 sessions. To sign up for a group please email the course facilitator. Please note: Tuning Into TEENS option is specifically tailored towards parents of children aged 10-13yrs

Start date	Day/Time	Location	Facilitator contact
Tuesday 20 th Feb Tuning Into TEENS	Tuesdays 7pm- 9pm	Zoom - ONLINE	Becky Voisey & Suzi Lammers beckyw@mmsi.org.nz
Monday 4 th March Tuning Into TEENS	Mondays 7pm - 9pm	Youth Alive Trust 71 Beresford St New Brighton	Kim Button & Rachel Dawson kim.button@yat.org.nz
Wednesday 14 th Feb Tuning Into Kids	Wednesdays 9:30am - 11:30am	Waipuna, SJOG 349 Woodham Road Linwood	Liz Riley & Suzi Lammers liz.Riley@sjog.org.nz
Tuesday 20 th Feb Tuning Into Kids	Tuesdays 12:30pm- 2:30pm	St Joseph's School, Papanui	Heather Robb & Jan Nicholson heatherr@mmsi.org.nz
Thursday 15 th Feb Tuning Into Kids	Thursdays 9:30am - 11:30am	Knights Stream School, Halswell	Jonathan Crosby & Becky Voisey Jonathan@mmsi.org.nz
Wednesday 21 st Feb Tuning Into Kids	Wednesdays 7-9pm	Zoom - Online	Lucy Hobbs & Jan Campbell lucy.mana.ake@wellbeingnc.org.nz

SUPPORTING ST MARK'S SCHOOL



Part of the St Mark's School Family

For every home referred and sold or listed and sold with us within the school family, we will donate \$1000 to St. Marks School.*

With Sonia being a past parent, now grandparent, and Sophie a current parent at St Mark's, we are proudly involved with the school community and look forward to giving back.

**Supporting St Mark's school,
now and for its future**

*Terms and conditions apply.

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