



St Mark's School Newsletter

Term 1 Week 5
29 February 2024

Kia ora St Mark's Whānau,

Community Survey

It was wonderful to get such good feedback from everyone in our school family. I have read every single sentence written by every person who responded and it was heartwarming to read so many supportive and affirming comments. The respect and love you all have for our hard working teachers was a feature that I have shared with them. I also want to thank you for the constructive feedback you gave us and how you think the school could be improved. Your ideas will form the school strategic plan for the next two years. The Board of Trustees have asked me to share the results with you early next week.

NZEI Union Meeting

The Board of Trustees would like to inform the community that the NZEI, teachers union, has advised their intention to hold a union meeting for members on Thursday 21 March, 2024. Most staff will be attending this meeting. School will remain open for that afternoon, but for supervision only. Regular classes will not take place. **There will be a skeleton staff available to supervise any students who cannot be collected by parents between 12:30pm and 1:00pm.**

Playground Update

Our two school boards have been very proactive around replacing the junior playground. As reported to the community last year, a comprehensive safety report on the junior playground highlighted that it was definitely in the last 15% of its useful lifetime. I made the difficult decision to close the playground when it became clear that elements of it were unsafe and causing injuries to students.

Almost immediately, the Board of Proprietors, in consultation with the Board of Trustees, sought quotes for a new playground, consulted with staff and placed an order. The playground is being built now and the Boards are hopeful it will be in place by May. Unfortunately, we are bound by construction delays and ever present supply issues.

In the meantime, we are keen to create an area for students to play that allows them to make forts, have tea parties and generally let their imaginations flourish! We are calling on the community to help us make an area that has things like planks of wood, tyres, wooden boxes, anything that is safe, low to the ground and is suitable for a playground.

If you have things you could donate please let us know. We will ask for photos of the equipment and have a conversation around suitability. Please email office@saintmarks.co.nz with your offer. Thank you!

Swimming Sports

Many thanks to Mrs Bigelow for her organisation of this event. It is great to have this opportunity for students to realise their special God given talents and gifts.

Being the swimming season, I have fielded a couple of questions from parents around the role swimming plays in our physical education curriculum at St Mark's and I would like us all to be well informed.

From level 3 of the Health and Physical Education Curriculum:



Transforming lives through the St Mark's Story

Students will:

B2 Positive attitudes

- *Develop movement skills in challenging situations and describe how these challenges impact on themselves and others.*

Senior staff reviewed our curriculum in 2023. Historically, St Mark's has offered a swimming programme over a two week block that focussed on swimming skills. The negative impact these programmes had on the teaching of other core curriculum areas, the ever increasing cost of transport and the cost of the lessons themselves prompted a review as the programmes were not sustainable.

Below is a revised schedule of **water safety programmes** that students now engage in. You will notice that beach and river safety features and that our students will get a chance to learn the skills they need to survive in water if needed (hopefully never!).

St Mark's School Water Safety Programmes

Even Years 2024	Odd Years 2025
Year 3/4 water safety lessons at Waltham Pool.	Year 1/2 water safety lessons at Pioneer Pool.
Year 5 Beach Education	Year 5 Beach Education
Year 6/7 river safety at camp	Year 6/7 river safety at camp
Year 4-8 swimming sports	Year 4-8 swimming sports
	Year 6/7 water safety at Waltham Pool
Year 8 sailing	Year 8 sailing

Lost Property

Mrs Elliott reports to me that there is a mountain of lost property on the bench in the school entrance way. If you are missing any items please take the time to check. We would love to reunite lost and expensive clothing items with owners!

Colour Run

Friday 8 March is set aside for our first ever fundraising colour run. Keep up the good work in finding sponsors.

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 home to the school office. Ms Bryant informs us she will be able to open the library within the next two weeks.

Mā te huruhuru ka rere te manu

Adorn the bird with feathers so it may soar.

Blessings to all,
Adrian

2024 Term 1 School Events

6 March	Zone Swimming Event
8 March	Colour Run
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

Church Certificates

Pūtakitaki	Hannah O'C
Harakeke	George C
Kawau	Teddie D-A
Kāmana	Khelan L
Pīngao	Eleanor P
Wheke	Indigo J
Mako	Josiah N
Toroa	Ahri L
Hāpuka	Lola F/Lucas C B

Principal's Award for amazing artwork by Chelsea S and Beau W



Recent Church Services and Awards



Year 6/7 Camp at Waipara



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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