



ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Community Newsletter

1 FEBRUARY 2017



Welcome Back Everyone!

A **special** welcome to the following new pupils, and their families: Mahalia Lord, Quinn Routhan, Cruze Wilson, Garima Shah, Ella Stanton, Vincent Glass, Charlotte O'Reilly, Caelan Bond, Rhys Simpson and Georgia Carter. It is lovely to have you all at St Mary's.

Also a **special** welcome to Hokitika and St Mary's School, Nigel Tyer our Deputy Principal and Room 8 teacher. It is great to have you join us Nigel.

We also welcome back our staff:

Mrs Stephanie Nilson	School /BOT Secretary
Mrs Noeline Minehan	Librarian and Teacher Aide
Ms Sandra Singer	Teacher Aide
Mrs Michelle Thomson	Teacher Aide
Mrs Joanne Hamilton	Teacher Aide
Ms Faye Laphorne	Cleaner
Mrs Karen Payne	Principal
Mr Nigel Tyer	Deputy Principal/Room 8 teacher
Miss Sue Pomare	Assistant Principal/ Director of Religious Studies & Room 2 teacher
Mrs Toni Graham	Room 3 teacher
Mrs Sharon McLeay-McNish	Room 4 teacher & Reading Recovery Teacher
Ms Casi Agnew	Part-time teacher Room 4
Ms Kate Veale	Room 5 teacher
Mrs Liz Beaumont	Room 6 teacher
Mrs Karen Gwaliasi	Room 7 teacher
Mrs Leanne McDonnell	Specialist Support Teacher (part-time)

Room 1 will remain as a teaching space in the hall for testing and meetings with visiting resource teachers.

Welcome back to our Board of Trustees members: Darrell Grosser Chairperson, Father Lito, Maria Lockington, Marie-Louise Tacon, Philip Barker, Gareth Fryer, Sarah Nixon, Steph Nilson, Karen Payne and Nigel Tyer.

Virtue The virtue for the start of Term 1 is "Respect/Reverence"

Respect: Respect is an attitude of caring about people and treating them with dignity. Respect is valuing ourselves and others. We show respect by speaking and acting with courtesy. When we are respectful we treat others as we want to be treated. Respect includes honoring the rules of our family or school, which make life more orderly and peaceful. It is knowing that every man, woman and child deserves respect, including you.



Reverence: Reverence is behaving with an awareness that you are always in the



presence of the Creator and that all life is precious. Reverence can be experienced in moments of prayer or reflection. It is treating holy books and other sacred things as very special. Reverence is showing respect. It is being careful to honor the gifts of life, including other people. Whether you are in a place of worship or spending time in a place of beauty, reverence is being still and allowing the wonder you feel to shine through.

Important Information The following information is also available on our school website:

<http://www.stmarysschool.co.nz>

School Hours Students are allowed in the classrooms at 8.30am. If they need to be dropped at school earlier, please arrange with the teacher or office. We encourage children to be early enough to get organised before school begins. They need to arrive at least 10 minutes before the bell to prepare for the day. **If your child is going to be absent please call the school office before 9.15 am as all absent children are followed up by a phone call if we have not been notified.** We have an answer phone if you wish to ring and leave a message the night before or early in the morning.

Classrooms open	8.30 am
School Starts	8.55 am
Morning Break	10.40 am
School Resumes	11.00 am
Lunch Break	12.30 pm
School Resumes	1.25 pm
School Finishes	3.00 pm –all children line up and are then dismissed by the Duty Teacher. If waiting to be picked up, children must wait by the bike shed. Teachers often have meetings or courses after school and are unable to supervise children in the classrooms. An adult needs to be supervising after school if playing in the playground. If you know you will be late picking up your children, please ring the office and we can assist with arrangements.

Stationery Students will receive their stationery on the first day of school, the cost will be invoiced to parents/ caregiver's school account.

Some additional stationery may be needed, a list will be sent home as soon as possible with your children if necessary. Children can purchase some incidental items of stationery at the school office throughout the year.

Swimming Please ensure that your child brings their swimming togs and towel on your child's classes designated day as swimming is part of the curriculum. Please also name all of their clothing as this makes it easy when clothes get accidentally mixed up. Generally, Rooms 2,3 &4 swim on a Tuesday afternoon and Rooms 5,6,7 & 8 swim on a Wednesday afternoon. Swimming will start **next Tuesday afternoon for Rooms 2,3&4**

New Entrants/Enrolments If you have a pre-school child and have not yet enrolled them, please contact the school office for the appropriate forms. It is very helpful for our future roll projections to have this information.

Calendar of Events 2017

School Liturgy Each Monday 9am Please join us if you can each Monday morning for a school liturgy. They usually take between 20 and 25 minutes. Classes take turns to prepare for these.

Assemblies Each Friday at 2:30pm. These assemblies are an opportunity to discuss our weekly and term theme, and to celebrate achievement. These assemblies are also a time when individual students, small groups or even class groups can showcase some of their work.

We welcome all parents/caregivers/grandparents etc at these weekly assemblies. These are scheduled for each Friday. *See you there!*

Mass dates for Term 1 A whole school Mass is held approximately once a fortnight. Please feel welcome to join us. The dates for term 1 are in the calendar and have been scheduled for us to attend Mass. At times these may change but we will endeavor to let parents know if this is the case.

Uniform A reminder that sun hats are needed at school every day. Please ensure children wear sunblock as well. If you have a spare hat, it can be left at school. Please check the uniform list for footwear - jandals and 'crocs' are **not** to be worn. If you are in doubt, please check with the school before purchasing shoes. Please remember to name/label all clothing. A reminder that hair if dyed has to be a natural colour. For full uniform details, see our information book or look on our school website. The sports tops are available at Red Streetwear.

Complaints & Concerns In order for your concerns to be dealt with quickly and appropriately we ask that all parents/caregivers follow the procedures set out in our school policy. A copy available from the office and is also on our website. (www.stmarysschool.co.nz)

School Accounts

St Mary's Parish Accounts

All Catholic Schools charge Attendance Dues which are a legally binding charge on parents and caregivers who enrol their children at a Catholic School.

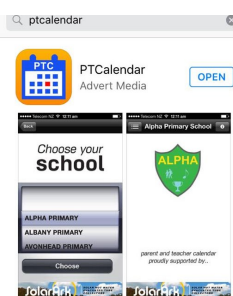
Attendance Dues are authorised under the Private Schools Conditional Integrated Act and are used to pay for costs associated with the land and buildings for the Catholic Primary Schools. There is also a contribution for Religious Education Costs. This account is sent each term from the St Mary's Parish office and no money is received directly by the school.

St Mary's School Accounts

There is one main account sent home from school for the year which *may* include; School Donation to assist the school with additional resources and activities for the children, RE digital resource, home reading log, and stationery. This account will be sent home during Term 1. You are welcome to make part payments.

PT Calendar by Advert Media

We now have a parent calendar app. You can also txt your absences in using it. Download PT calendar in the app or play store. It looks like this and it is free to download and use. This allows notifications for up-to-date messages coming from school. As you will see we have a busy term ahead, please note



We will notify you if any of the following dates change

February 3rd Assembly 2.30pm
 February 6th Waitangi Day –school closed
 February 7th Room 2,3 &4 swimming pm
 February 8th Rooms 5,6,7&8 swimming pm
 February 8th Meet the Teacher evening 5.30pm *It is important that all parents take this opportunity to come along and meet their child's teacher and to find out their expectations for their class. We will all meet in the hall at 5.30 pm for a brief staff introduction and instructions on how the evening will progress will be given. Parents will meet with each teacher for approx 10-15 minutes. **Students do not need to attend.***

February 10th Mass 9.30am *all welcome*
 February 14th Room 2,3 &4 swimming pm
 February 15th Rooms 5,6,7&8 swimming pm
 February 17th St Mary's Family Fete
 February 21st Room 2,3 &4 swimming pm
 February 22nd Rooms 5,6,7&8 swimming pm
 February 28th Shrove Tuesday
 Room 2,3 &4 swimming pm
 March 1st Ash Wednesday Mass 9.30am *all welcome*
 Rooms 5-8 swimming pm
 March 7th Junior Swimming Demonstration
 March 8th St Mary's Senior Swimming Sports (10.00am—2:00pm)
 March 15th Hokitika District Swimming Sports
 March 17th Mass 9.30am *all welcome*
 March 22nd West Coast Swimming Sports - Westport
 March 31st Mass 9.30am *all welcome*
 April 6th Canterbury Primary School Swimming Sports
 April 11th Stations of the Cross
 April 13th Holy Thursday
 March 25th Good Friday (School closed)
 Last day of Term 1

Term Dates for 2017:

Term 1 Wednesday 1 Feb—Thursday 13th April
Term 2 Monday 1 May—Friday 7 July
Term 3 Monday 24 July—Friday 29 Sept
Term 4 Monday 16 Oct— Monday 18 Dec

Schools must be closed in 2017 on Saturdays and Sundays, and on these days:

- Waitangi Day Holiday - 6 February
- Good Friday - 14th April
- Queen's Birthday - 5 June (Monday)
- Labour Day - 23 October (Monday)
- Westland Anniversary Day Monday 4 December
- Christmas Day - 25 December
- Boxing Day - 26 December

Girl Guides: On Monday 13th February Girl Guides will be at the scout hall (in Hall street) from 5.30pm –7.30pm. New comers are very welcome! Please ring Karen Jordan on 7558801 for further information.



A reminder all students must wear sunhats