

St Mary's Catholic School

58 Main Highway, Ellerslie, Auckland

Principal Mrs Saira Boyle



Issue #14 | 8 November 2017

We provide a Catholic education for the whole child

A Catholic education for the whole child

Sports Awards Evening

Our very first Sports Awards Evening was a successful occasion. Our school community was able to share in the successes of all our St Mary's students' sporting endeavours. Thank you Father Joy for allowing us to use the Church for this wonderful event.

We are so proud of our St Mary's students whom always represent our school with great sportsmanship and pride.

We then joined together for some food and drink in the school hall, thank you to everyone who brought kai for us to share.

All children were awarded with certificates of participation with zeal, and the coaches/team then chose three children from each team who were deserving of the following awards:

- Sportsperson and Positivity
- Overall Outstanding Performance
- Excellent Growth and Development

It was lovely to see so many families support our students at the Sports Awards Evening, which we are sure will now be a regular fixture to the St Mary's calendar.



Parish

MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil	5.30pm
Sunday	9am
Syro Malabar Com	(Sun) 5pm
Vietnamese	(Sun) 11am
Monday	8am (Liturgy of the Word & Communion)
Tuesday to Thursday	8am
Friday	9am
Saturday	9am
Public Holidays	9am

SACRAMENTS / DEVOTIONS

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:

Friday & Saturday 8.00 – 9.00am

Rosary:

Tuesday 7.40am & Saturday 8.45am

Novena - Our Lady of Perpetual Help: Saturday 9.20am

Divine Mercy Prayer: Friday 8.30am

Confession/Reconciliation: Saturday 9.35am

Confraternity: Prayers of Devotion after 9.00am Mass (Third Sunday of the month)

Principal's Post

Nau mai haere mai – Greetings – Tena Koutou – Kamusta – Malo e Lelei – Talofa Lava – Namaste – Ni Hao – Hallo – Kia Orana – Bula – Fakaalofa Atu

Dear Parents and Whanau, Kia Ora!

We have certainly demonstrated over the first few weeks of Term 4 that St Mary's is a unique and special community, of which, we all play an integral part. The community support for our school, our teachers and most importantly our learners continues to overwhelm me.

The attendance, camaraderie and positivity at the recent marathon event was fantastic. The sun came out and our children did us proud as they ran with the spirit we love and know is what makes us unique.

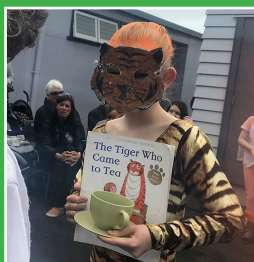


Learning with Digital Technology

KRACK attack

The Krack vulnerability (aka "KRACK attack") has been identified as a potential security threat to devices using Wi-Fi. The vulnerability potentially allows a hacker to "eavesdrop" on Wi-Fi traffic if they are within range of the Wi-Fi router.

The best way to protect yourself is to have the latest software updates installed on your devices and have two-factor authentication on your online accounts. For more information visit the CERT NZ website (cert.govt.nz) to read their advisory.



Principal's Post continued

Our inaugural Sports Awards Evening was also another reminder of the support of our community. The church was full and the energy tangible as we came together to acknowledge the work of the parents, coaches, managers and children in representing our school in sports.

It was overwhelming to see the hall so full as we shared food and drinks at the end of the evening.

Most recently, the example of our unique community was during the book parade and Grandparent's Mass day. Wow! Whilst this has always been a popular day, we have never had such a huge turnout of families including grandparents.

As I write this, we have our national finalists Future Problem Solving Group away at Carey Park Christian Camp, representing our school in the Future Problem Solving national competition.

What strikes me on each occasion that we come together like this is our unique sense of connection, collaboration, faith and love which makes each event such a wonderful place to be. Each time, I reflect on the work that our founding order put into establishing our school over 100 years ago and contemplate on the successes of today, which still hold true to their original vision.

Euphrasie Barbier is the founder of The Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions, and she held close to her heart the virtues of Mission, Contemplation, Communion and Zeal. Recently, we as a staff, considered how each of these are still alive and active in our school and we are working on ways to enrich and grow these further.

In the meanwhile, our staff are working diligently to prepare for the end of year events and occasions such as our Christmas Concert and Leavers' Mass and I am sure that these will also be supported and bring us together once more in communion.

At the same time, Senior Leadership are starting to prepare for 2018, with consideration of annual goals, curriculum, resourcing, staffing, class placements and so on. We are looking forward to meeting with as many of you as possible to hear your ideas on these matters on Thursday this week. We will also send out a Google Survey, for those of you who are unable to attend so we can hear your voice too. Thank you for your continued support and positive partnership.

Yours in God's Love
Saira Boyle, Principal

Gospel Reflection

Taking your children to Mass, especially on Sunday is a rich and faith nurturing activity for families. It is a special time to support your child's faith development and nourish your own spirituality. When children are of primary school age it is something they are more willing to do and this is a great time to connect.

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time - 5 November 2017 The Holy Gospel according to Matthew 23:1-2

It is often said that actions speak louder than words. These words of Jesus above contain this truth. In the verses following this passage, Jesus goes on to give various examples of how the Pharisees act in hypocritical ways. Furthermore, Jesus points out that "All their works are performed to be seen" (Matthew 23:5).

What's most interesting about this passage is not so much the harsh criticism of the hypocrisy and pride of the Pharisees. Rather, it's that Jesus tells His disciples to "do and observe all things whatsoever they tell you..." The truth is that not even the greatest saint can preach the Gospel fully by their actions. This is because the Gospel is perfect, and human beings are not. We will never be perfect instruments of the Son of God. But the good news is that Jesus wants to use us anyway. We are called to witness with our actions. When we fail in our actions we are also called to preach with our words.

This statement from Jesus should help us be more receptive to the Word of God as it is preached by His ministers. If Jesus wanted His disciples to listen even to the words of truth spoken by the hypocritical Pharisees, then He will certainly want us all to listen to His Word as it is preached by the ministers of His Church, regardless of their sanctity.

No minister is perfect, but they do have the mission of proclaiming the Gospel. If we fail to receive the Gospel from them, then it is as much our own sin as it is theirs.

Reflect, today, upon this command from our Lord and allow it to also apply to you as a command to listen to the Gospel spoken by those in the Church. When their example also supports their words, rejoice in that fact. When it does not, be merciful and seek to hear our Lord speak through them anyway. Jesus has much to say through them if you will listen.

Auckland Marathon

This year we had over 40 children running at the Auckland Marathon. Prior to this event the children ran twice a week running 2km each time. It was so rewarding seeing the progress they made from these runs. On the day the children had the opportunity to run through the finish chute with the marathon runners...and they did it at an astounding pace.

Thank you to Vicki Hyland for all your time organising and training the children for this wonderful event.



Bringing literacy learning to life!

Book Week and Book Fair Parade

Thank you to all our wonderful Grandparents and whanau who attended our Book Character Parade. This must have been one of the most well attended parades in our history of Book Fair weeks. Our students (and parents) went all out to create wonderful costumes for the occasion. The judges had a very difficult job choosing the winners for each category.

The winners were:

- Year 5/6** 1st: Richard Board – Cosmic Kid
2nd: Zhen Ng – Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs
- Year 3/4** 1st: Zanda Timmermans Friskney – Plane
2nd: Athira Siarot – Tin Man
- Year 0/1/2** 1st: Harriet Teviotdale – Horton the Elephant
2nd: Cooper Timmermans Friskney – Dusty the Plane

Overall Winner: Sophie de Ville – Maddison Moon

Best Teacher: Ilse Lock – Pippi Longstockings

We had yet another successful Book Fair, selling over \$5,500 of Scholastic Books. From these sales we are able to purchase about \$1,600 new books for our library. Thank you again St Mary's community for your generosity by supporting this very special event.



Key dates

8-15 November	Stepping out Year 1-2
9 November	Community Consultation 6pm*
10 November	Whole School Assembly* (Rm6 Lead)
16 November	BYOD Info Evening (Year 3-6)*
18 November	Christmas Craft Market*
20 November	Sports Team Photos
21 November	APPA Choir rehearsal
24 November	Whole School Assembly* (Rm5 Lead)
28 November	Zone Athletics
1 December	Class Mass (Tika Team)*
3 December	Ellerslie Santa Parade 11am*
6 December	Leavers' Mass 6.30pm
7 December	BOT Meeting 6pm
8 December	Whole School Assembly* (Rm3 Lead)
14 December	Christmas Concert*
20 December	Last day of term

* all welcome to attend

Special Catholic Character from the Director of Religious Studies

We have had a wonderful response from parents and care givers, to our Annual Special Character Review, Community Survey. This year our area of review is Pastoral Care and the comments and feedback that you have provided have been collated, analysed and a goal has been formulated to ensure that the Pastoral Care at St Mary's Catholic School is mapped, and formal systems put in place in order to enrich the experience and support we offer to our children and families.

The children are now all learning from the Saint Strand in Religious Education. Please ask your children about their learning in Religious Education and encourage them to show you their learning journal. This will be the last Strand studied this year before we begin to learn about the beautiful season of Advent.

We sell the Family/Whanau book at the office. This is an excellent resource to help you to support your child throughout their Year 1 – 8 Religious Education journey. Please speak to either myself or Mrs Rogers at the office should you wish to purchase this. It is also available in pdf format on our school website.

Our Grandparent's Mass last week was so well attended and we wish to thank you all for your support in enriching the prayer and worship of our students by coming and being part of this.

We acknowledge that due to the larger numbers in attendance, we will be looking more closely at our parking to ensure that when grandparents attend we are able to assist to make the parking more efficient and convenient for you all.

God's blessings with you always

Rachael Hill



Trees for Survival

We have joined the Trees for Survival programme and the equipment is being installed into our Sustainable Learning area.

Trees for Survival is an environmental education programme which involves young people growing and planting native trees to restore natural habitats by helping landowners revegetate erosion prone land, improve streamflow and water quality and increase biodiversity.

The Trees for Survival programme creates community partnerships by engaging schools, their community, local businesses and Councils all working together to restore our natural heritage.



Message from the BOT

Thank you to the families who have completed student fee and donation payments for 2017, or to those who are making regular payments. This makes school functioning so much easier. Term 4 payments should now be made please. This is a gentle reminder that this is a condition of enrolment that attendance dues are paid. The school collects this on behalf of the Auckland Diocese who will now be contacting families who are yet to complete Attendance Dues payments. If you need any support to meet your financial obligations please contact the Principal in confidence, for assistance in this area.

Parent connections N is for nothing

Was "nothing" your child's response to the question "What did you do at school today?"

- Instead of asking about the day as a whole, ask about maths or lunchtime or recess or...
- Don't ask yes or no questions. Ask "What did you think...?" or "How did you decide...?"
- At dinnertime, ask each member of the family to tell the best and worst thing that happened that day. That opens the door to conversation, sharing experiences and tips for handling frustration and emphasising that something good happens every day.



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From your PTA *Fun and social, caring and capable!*

Grandparents Day

Thank you once again to all our families and grandparents that came out and supported this day. Thank you to the families who provided baking for the morning tea and all the helpers in the kitchen afterwards.

Euphrasie House Mass this coming Sunday 12 November

If you are able to assist with some baking or helping the PTA provide the morning tea after Mass this coming Sunday 12 November, we would very much appreciate it. Baking can be dropped off on Sunday morning at the Parish hall from 8.30am onwards.

Ellerslie Christmas Parade - Sunday 3 December

Forms have gone home this week for interest in the St Mary's float in the Ellerslie Christmas parade on December 3rd. If your child is interested in taking part, please return permission slip to the school office by Fri 17 Nov or get in touch with Rebecca Schollum at rebecca.schollum@hotmail.co.nz.

Sausage Sizzles

Due to the busyness term 4, the next sausage sizzle will be in the new year.

Secondhand Uniform Boutique

We are open this Friday after school as usual 2.15-3.15pm.

Please continue to donate all pre-loved uniforms which we will be able to sell. As items are deleted during 2018 we will ensure that usable items are donated to needy families in our wider community through a charitable organisation and clothing that is not in good enough condition for this will be recycled through a textile recycling scheme. We hope by taking these steps that none of our uniform ends up discarded in landfill.

Contact Cathy for uniform queries - grotto@orcon.co.nz or 021 616 470

Iceblocks for sale each Friday

Reminder that we sell iceblocks on Friday at morning tea - \$1.00 each. Money is payable to the classroom teacher on Friday mornings.

Christmas Craft Market - Saturday 18 November 11am - 3pm

Less than two weeks to go and we need you!

STALL HELPERS

We still need at least 40 more volunteers to sign up for a one hour shift.

SELL RAFFLE TICKETS

Our raffle and silent auctions team have secured so many fantastic prizes and need some enthusiastic people to help sell tickets on the day.

CARPARK ATTENDEES

We're turning the school field into a carpark and need 2-3 people to help keep it orderly so traffic can get in and out.

SET UP / PACK DOWN CREW

Many hands make light work, if you can come early and help put up gazebos, move tables and products around we'd appreciate as much help as possible. If you can, please lend a hand at the end to pack everything up again.

RUNNERS

You may not want to work on a stall but there are behind the scenes jobs like collecting money from the stalls and bringing it to the office for counting, or working the EFTPOS machine inside.

Come and get involved in the market, it's great fun and your kids love seeing you get behind the school community. We appreciate it's a busy time of year with sport and end of year performances and are grateful for whatever time you can contribute.

To sign up for what suits you best, please contact:

**Jo Lukic 0212 701 112 or Kathleen Lonergan 0211 060 513
or email stmaryschristmasmarket@gmail.com**

Staffing changes

It's that time of year where we begin to farewell those whom have made decisions to move on and welcome those who will join our community and add yet another level of richness.

We farewell the following staff:

- Miss Lock; a fabulous teacher who has made a great difference, accelerating the learning of the children in Rm11. Miss Lock leaves us at the end of this year in order to be closer to her family in Hamilton.
- Mrs Trytsman; a teacher who has shown commitment to the children in Rm2. Mrs Trytsman is moving at the end of this year to take up a permanent position in the school where her young daughter attends.
- Miss Maginley; a dedicated and energetic teacher who has given so much of herself to the children in Rm5, and wider school, through her passion to establish sustainable learning. Miss Maginley leaves us at the end of this year and is returning to America to continue her exciting travel adventures.
- Ms Vervoort (Teacher Aide); it is with regret that Monique has chosen to move from St Mary's. The school wishes to thank her for her commitment and excellent service with our students. We wish her all the best in her future endeavours.

- Miss Clapham; a new teacher, who took up a fixed term position for the latter part of this year has secured a permanent position at a local Catholic school.

We welcome the following in 2018:

- Miss Emily Ayton, who is joining us as a new teacher. Emily has experience with our school and we are looking forward to her energy and enthusiasm next year. (Year 2)
- Miss Esther Tasi, who is joining us as a new teacher. Esther brings with her the ability to form positive relationships and cultural richness that we look forward to tapping into. (Year 2)
- Miss Kate Sharp, who is joining us from St Thomas' School. Kate is an experienced and talented teacher. Kate is a keen sportsperson and is looking forward to supporting our school development. (Year 5/6)
- Mrs Elizabeth Philipsen, who is an experienced teacher and joined us part way through this year, will be staying with us next year. We are looking forward to deepening our relationship. (Year 3/4)
- Mrs Natasha Teviotdale will be joining our team to support with leadership and teacher release for Term 1. She brings amazing energy and enthusiasm