

St Mary's Catholic School

58 Main Highway, Ellerslie, Auckland

Principal Mrs Saira Boyle



Issue #3 | 14 March 2018

We provide a Catholic education for the whole child

Cyber Safety

Digital Technologies

The 'ICT/Digital Technology Responsible Use Agreement for students' was sent home on Monday 12 March. Please read with your child and discuss the content and conditions of this agreement to back us up from home. In our current times, and considering the rate with which technology is becoming an integral part of our lives, educating our young people on digital citizenship or safety is so important. This document offers our children a great learning opportunity as well as teaching them their own responsibilities when using technology. Once it is signed please return to the classroom teacher to be filed in the school office.

Photo/Image Permission

As part of e-learning in the digital age we do take pictures of our students and some students make videos to demonstrate their learning. We use images in a responsible manner on our promotional and informative material. If this is something you do not wish to happen for your child please put it in writing to the principal.



Walking School Bus

This week is 'walking school bus week' nationally and is an opportunity for those currently walking on the three St Mary's buses to have a little fun whilst showing others in the school that walking to/from school is also fun.

There are various activities that each days group of walkers can do and then enter competitions. On Friday morning, Delia from Auckland Transport has arranged for Auckland Blues team members to walk to school with the Rockfield Road bus!

We want to encourage more students in the school to try the walking school buses, for more information, parents can contact one of the following co-ordinators:

Ellerslie Square: Anita Hanna
(021 907 311)

Rockfield Road: Julia Sekula
(0210 274 6814) or Lana Bennett (0210 242 5005) or
stmarysrockfieldroadwsb@gmail.com

Morrin Street:
Kathleen Lonergan
(0211 060 513)



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!

Over the last few years my eldest child, my son, Saul, has found school a real struggle. Not because he isn't capable of learning, more due to feeling the frustrations of the rules, regulations, structures and constraints of school as an institution (some may call him naughty!). Consequently, over the years I have become used to the idea that he would be an unlikely candidate for University study. He is now in Year 13 and after much work, time, guidance from school and home, he is looking into the possibility of moving away to study in another city! While I am proud and happy of how far he has come and the fact he is planning for a positive future, a little piece of my heart felt that feeling I am sure most parents feel when their children decide to 'leave'. This feeling was overcome with the reassurance that his plans meant he had developed competencies of risk taking, confidence, problem solving and responsibility.

My personal experiences are interrelated with my professional thinking as I am determined to lead a school where learner wellbeing, in terms of development of the whole child (resilience, persistence, empathy and more), academic excellence and learnacy (the ability to know HOW to learn, as the WHAT in learning becomes more and more irrelevant with the rapid development in technology) are at the core of all our work.

Parish

Choral Mass in Celebration of St Patrick's Day

At the Cathedral of St Patrick & St Joseph 7.30 pm
Saturday 17 March, 43 Wyndham Street. With the Cathedral Vocal Ensemble directed by James Tibbles. Validated parking will be available at the Wilson's car parks on Hobson St & Durham Lane.



Gospel Reflection

Thank you to those parents who bring their children to Mass on Sundays. It's a real sign of community.

4th Sunday in Lent – 11 March 2018 The Holy Gospel according to John 3:14-21

We need images that lift us up! In times of feeling down we need an uplift. Climbing a mountain the rain is eased by a break in the clouds, and our eyes are lifted to the summit. Jesus spoke in the Gospel on Sunday that when he is lifted up, we will be drawn towards him.

The lifting up he refers to is the lifting up on the cross. This sign of shame and torture can lift our hearts. The uplift of the cross is to draw us to him in faith. It is also to be lifted up to the greatest love ever lived, and that 'God so loved us as to give us himself'.

We need images and stories that lift the heart. What are our uplifts? Humour, friendship, trust in each other, prayer. Family memories of love and sacrifice. Courageous deeds which changed the world. Many like this are signs of the life of God. All are part of Jesus' action of drawing us to himself.

Our Lenten prayer and sacrifice is to lift our sights to what is eternal. At Mass each day we are invited to lift our hearts, and we promise to raise them to the love of God. We believe and know that the death of Jesus is not final, but brings new life. We allow these weeks to deepen this faith and hope in ourselves.

Lord, may your will be done on earth as in heaven.

Principal's Post continued

Over the last few weeks the staff have been working, with focus, to ensure we are bringing to life a school where wellbeing is explicitly planned for and experienced, where learning achievement is tracked, inquired about and monitored and where children are given the opportunity to make choices about their own learning because we have shared with them HOW to learn and helped them understand why they are learning it. What is focused on flourishes and we are focusing on learning in a healthy environment whilst developing a relationship with Jesus.

Teachers have been making Learning Progression boards / wall displays for their rooms to use with the students during Reading, Writing and Mathematics. These boards help to make the learning visible as the Literacy Progressions and the Numeracy Progressions are displayed in 'kid speak' so children can see what they are learning and what they need to do to move to the next stage.

On Monday we launched our new Concept of 'Me and my Relationships'. All students will learn about forming positive relationships with others, healthy friendships, collaboration and anti-bullying and wellbeing.

Over the last few weeks students have been assessed and teachers will share this data with students to help them to formulate learning goals. Your children will share these goals with you on March 28, when the school closes at 12pm and you are able to meet with your child's teacher for a ten minute three way conference.

What is focused on flourishes and we are focusing on learning in a healthy environment whilst developing a relationship with Jesus.

Yours in God's Love
Saira Boyle, Principal

AN IMPORTANT REMINDER FOR PARENTS:

Easter is outside of the school holidays this year. All schools are closed on Tuesday 3 April as well as Good Friday (30 March) and Easter Monday (2 April).

Student Wellbeing

There have been lots of things going on at St Mary's to promote student wellbeing, see below!

GIRLS CRICKET TOURNAMENT.

On Thursday 1 March, 60 year 3-6 girls took part in a girls Cricket tournament organised by Ellerslie cricket club. It was an excellent day with all our teams doing very well! A huge thank-you to Ellerslie cricket club, the teachers and parents who helped out.

TOP SCHOOLS

The Rotary Top Schools event also took place on Sunday. What a great turnout from St Mary's. We had 6 teams entered and as you can see from the photographs on Facebook we had so much fun!

YUMMY SPORTS GEAR

Sports gear from the yummy stickers has been distributed to all the classrooms and it is fantastic to see the children using this equipment during their break times.

NETBALL, HOCKEY AND SOCCER

The Netball and Hockey seasons begin early next term.

At St Mary's the children are able to play netball from year 1-6. These games are on Thursdays after school. Trials will take place of the year 5 and 6 teams.

Hockey is offered for year 3-6 with games taking place on Saturday mornings. We are very lucky to have Mrs Hill and Miss Sharpe organising lunchtime soccer for Year 3-6. Information will come out shortly about signing up for these winter sports.

PEER MEDIATORS

Our schools Peer Mediators have taken part in training last Friday. These children are trained to deal with small conflicts and problems that happen in the playground. Keep an eye out for them in their green vests in the playground!

ZONE SWIMMING TEAM

Congratulations to our swimmers who will represent St Mary's at the Remuera Zone Swimming competition on March 20.

Year 5 girls:
Sienna Pinfold
Mila Nelisi
Scarlett Davies
Madison Little

Year 6 girls:
Lexi Hyland
Venetia Hickey
Kate Monro
Meg Endacott



Year 5 boys:
Harrison Chapman
James Costello
Ethan Kempson
Tai Chen

Year 6 boys:
Fraser Donaldson
Jack Riordan
Juyuan Chen
Kaleb Rawiri

Board of Trustees

Thank you to those families who have paid or are starting to pay the school fees and donations already. This makes a huge difference to the way in which we can govern the school and the wide range of activities and enrichment experiences we are able to offer.

We recently sent home a letter setting out the fees and donations for St Mary's school. We would like to point out that as well as including a contribution for a property works account (to develop the school grounds), we have also changed the BOT Contribution, which was previously a rate for the first child and then discounted for subsequent children. We have made this a flat rate for each child, with an increase from \$75 to \$90 per child, per term.

We are proud of the range of rich activities we offer at St Mary's and feel confident the fund received are all spent to support the teaching and learning of our children.

Roger Shearer
Board Chair

STAFF WELLBEING

Our staff have been introduced to the The Five Ways to Wellbeing (Connect, Be Active, Take Notice, Keep Learning, and Give). These are simple and proven actions that workplaces can introduce to help their people and balance, build resilience and boost mental health and wellbeing. Staff feedback has been really positive with many staff members taking up the weekly challenges!

SUSTAINABLE LEARNING

Our Sustainability Activators – Mrs Samuelu and Miss Sharp – have been collaborating this week and have some exciting plans for our school, our gardens and our chickens which they can't wait to share with you soon! Watch this space.

Music

WORSHIP BAND

This year the previously named instrumental groups who played at school Masses are now known as the Worship Band. Year 5 and 6 students in this group need to have some skill or prior experience on band instruments such as piano keyboard, guitar, bass guitar, drums. Orchestral instruments are also welcome as part of this group.

Worship Band practices started in February on Wednesdays after school and it has been so exciting to see the enthusiasm from the group. I would love to see a few more Year 5s join the group. If you have a child who learns any of the before mentioned instruments who would like to give Worship Band a try, please get them to come and see me!

ALLCOMERS CHOIR

Meets after morning tea on Thursdays in the Music room. No auditions – any Year 5 or 6s who want to try out singing in a choir are welcome.

APPA CHOIR

If your child is in the Allcomers Choir and wants to sing in the APPA choir, they will need to audition. Auditions for this will begin in Week 7. Practice times for this will be one lunch-time a week which will be decided once the choir is finalised.

Jillian Grainger

NEWS

St Mary's choir made it into the NZ Herald recently when they ran a piece on how the iconic annual APPA music festival has been saved by a private sponsor!



Key dates

* all welcome to attend

13 Mar	Parent Partnership Evening 6.30pm*
14 Mar	Newsletter published
16 Mar	Class Mass (Rm 6, 8, 13) 9am*
28 Mar	Newsletter published Three Way Conferences* School closes at 12pm
29 Mar	Holy Thursday liturgy 1.30pm*
30 Mar	Good Friday (School closed)
2 Apr	Easter Monday (School closed)
3 Apr	Easter Tuesday (School closed)
4 Apr	PTA meeting 7pm*
6 Apr	New Entrant Whanau Morning 9.30am
6 Apr	Whole School Assembly (Rm 8 hosting)*
9-13 Apr	Dental Van in School
10 Apr	Y5 and Y6 Wellbeing Surveys
11 Apr	Newsletter Published
13 Apr	Class Mass (Rm 7,16,15) 9am* Last Day of School Term 1
25 Apr	ANZAC DAY
30 Apr	Day 1 Term 2 School Opens
1 May	Soccer Fun Day
9 May	Newsletter Published NYLD Y6
14-18 May	NZ National Bullying Free Week
15 May	Lock Down Drill

Our New Inquiry Learning Concept

We started the new school year with our Inquiry Learning Concept of 'Ako'. This meant that students were learning about how they learn, who they are as learners and what good learning looks like, feels like and sounds like. All classes have set up their class theme of learning and it's been a brilliant start to inquiry.

Now we move onto our new Concept which is 'Me and my Relationships'. This Concept's overarching theme is 'Collaboration' and will include the concepts of resilience, growth mindset, building healthy relationships, treating others as you'd like to be treated and feeling safe.

To start this Inquiry off we had an immersion day on Monday 12 March. The children were immersed into a day of experiences to get their minds wondering and questioning ideas around what bullying looks like, sounds like and feels like, how to speak up for themselves and how to promote their own and others' wellbeing. A great start to what will be a very purposeful Inquiry Learning.

Parent connections S is for security

More than ever, we need to reassure our children that they are safe and secure. We can do that in many ways:

- Limit exposure to TV, adult conversations
- Give children only the information they need to know
- Help them understand that images on TV are far away events, not impending threats
- Avoid overreacting
- Watch for children's unspoken reactions
- Listen to what our children have to say and reassure them that their feelings are normal



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email stmaryspta@gmail.com

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS

The earlybird promotion is running now until Friday 15 March. You should have received details for this, if not then please contact Lana Bennett for more info: lanabennett@me.com. Just a reminder that the school receives \$14.00 per book, even if you do not wish to have the book, you can still donate the \$14.00 to the school.

PATRICK HOUSE MASS – THIS COMING SUNDAY 18 MARCH

The PTA provides morning tea after each House Mass, so if you are able to lend a hand with helping out on Sunday please email: Nikki Sleeman at: sleemanhouse@icloud.com.

Baking – we will also require anyone available to provide some morning tea after the mass. Please drop any morning tea to the hall by 9am on Sunday morning.

SAUSAGE SIZZLE

We will only be holding one sausage sizzle this term and it will be next week on Wednesday 21 March. \$2.00 per sausage and payable to the classroom teacher on the day. Thanks to Nicholas Temm and his wonderful Dad support crew that volunteer their time for this.

ICEBLOCK FRIDAYS

Iceblocks are sold for \$1 each Friday morning at 11.20am.

NEXT PTA MEETING - WED 4 APRIL

Our next PTA meeting will be held on Wednesday 4 April, 7pm in the staff room at school. Anyone is welcome to attend and we always appreciate a few extra hands to help out with PTA activities throughout the year.

SECONDHAND UNIFORM BOUTIQUE

Open on Fridays this term 2.30-3.30ish. Or for an appointment contact Cathy on grotto@orcon.co.nz. We are selling secondhand winter uniforms and also have the school umbrellas in children's size for just \$10! We are grateful for any donations of clean uniforms to sell. We also accept any soon to be deleted uniform items to donate to needy children in the wider community rather than have it head to landfill. These can be left at the School Office at anytime. Thank you so much for your support.

CARING COMMITTEE

We are looking for donations of suitable snacks that we might add to our Emergency School Lunches scheme please. These are provided by the PTA and are given by a teacher to children who may have forgotten their lunch or been particularly hungry and finished everything in their lunchbox early in the day. Individual packs of non-perishable healthy food items would be ideal and much appreciated. Donations for this could be left at the office. Thank you.

Student Voice in Learning

It was lovely to receive emails from some of our learners in Room 6 this week. They are learning how to write an email and be a safe digital citizen. This is a great authentic experience for Writing!

Hello Mrs Boyle,

Thank you for making us be happy and making it fun at St Mary's. I like all that stuff you did like the Bouncy Castle and upgrading this school. Also thank you for the home work we do. Also, making the students more successful, smarter, loyal, and make us getting a good job.

Bye

Kind Regards,
Justin

Hello Mrs Boyle,
Thank you for being a kind principal to us.
We like to learn in our class because it is fun.
We hope you have a good day.
Kind regards Sean & Liam

To Mrs Boyle,

Hi, how are you? Thank you for the message you sent us, it was really really cool. We have been learning about how to do a play. It was fun.

Thank you for being our principal.

Regards Jackson

Hello Mrs Boyle,

How are you? We saw your message. We like it! We're so lucky to have a teacher like you! Thank you for giving us such great class and a good teacher!

From Isa & Milan!

Hello Miss Boyle,

Thank you for making a happy school and thank you for our best principal ever. And thank you for home works, reading and writing. And the library and thank you for everything.

Regards,
Ethan and Diana

GIRL'S CRICKET RECOUNT by Maggie Sims

On Thursday 1st of March some Years 3-6 girls went for a girls' cricket tournament to Michael's Ave Park. There were three schools there – Stanhope Rd, Ellerslie School and St Mary's. The first thing we did was go around little stations learning how to throw, catch and bat a ball. After that we had lunch and then we played real games. My team played Stanhope Rd, St Mary's, and then another St Mary's team.

In the final we played yet another St Mary's team. Let's just say St Mary's won! (It was my team!) The winning team all got a \$20 voucher to Cricket Express and Te Aria won a signed mini bat for sportsmanship.

After that we got ice blocks and some sausages in bread. They were so yum. Then we got back on the bus and came back to school. We had a fun day.