

St Mary's Catholic School

58 Main Highway, Ellerslie, Auckland

Principal Mrs Saira Boyle



Issue #4 | 28 March 2018

We provide a Catholic education for the whole child

Te Ao Maori

Te Ao Maori at St Mary's School

This week was our first week having Matua Edwards in our school to teach Te Ao Maori, he will be at St Mary's every Wednesday. He has now visited and taught in all classrooms, as well as leading our first Kapa Haka lesson too. Students in classrooms have so far learnt some new words in te reo, how to read a karakia and have sung new waiata. Students and teachers are so enthusiastic to learn more!

Kapa Haka

We are going through a process of transition as we work to bring our plan to make Kapa Haka at St Mary's a sustainable, long term investment, and fully integrated part of our whole school culture. Our aim is to create a situation where the group is fully inclusive across the whole school, which includes upskilling staff also. Our Kapa Haka group will become a prestigious group who will lead celebrations and occasions independently and the senior students in this group will be able to develop and train the younger ones in tikanga and protocol in a tuakana teina relationship. In order to begin this long term process we made a decision to begin with all Year 5 and Maori learners. This in time will spread through the school.

Gossip THINK

Over the last two weeks I have been informed that some parents have heard things that are happening in school between children other than their own, from their children or other parents. One or two parents have decided to take matters into their own hands and approach the other parents directly, in some cases causing distress. In some cases the parent has approached the other child and in some cases the parent has gone between several teachers informing them of things they have heard about particular children. If you hear something from your own child about a matter that has happened at school, in the first instance please check your child witnessed the incident first hand. If this is the case please go directly to the classroom teacher or Team Leader. Please do not approach the parents of other children about matters that take place in school. This can unknowingly put pressure on friendships (parents and children). If it is an in-school matter we need to know first hand so we can take all of the evidence and big picture (and past history) into account and work to rectify any issues.

On a day to day basis there are many little (and sometimes big) incidents and events that happen between students and as a staff we make informed decisions whether parents need to be contacted at each stage. We appreciate in many cases this was done with a helpful intent, however, it often creates a series of events that Senior Leaders then need to unravel and use valuable time to put right.

before you speak

THINK

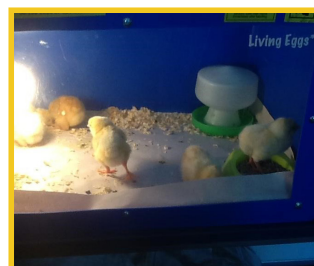
- T** Is it true?
- H** Is it helpful?
- I** Is it inspiring?
- N** Is it necessary?
- K** Is it kind?

LIVING EGGS

We have been so very lucky to have the Living Eggs program in Room 10 for the whole school to enjoy over the past week. We have watched as the eggs hatched and baby chicks emerged. This has been great learning for us to see where our school chooks came from. As part of this program, we are allowed to keep the baby chicks if we wish, or they can be adopted out.

With the nature of our older chooks, we are unable to introduce baby chicks into our established coop as our older chooks are territorial. If we have someone who would like to look after our chicks and care for them until they are old enough to be introduced into our coop, we would be able to keep them in our St Mary's family.

If you have any questions or are able to help don't hesitate to contact Mrs Samuelu on sarahj@stmary.school.nz.



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!

Big thank you to all of the parents who attended the recent Parent Partnership Hui. This was a well attended event and we began the process of developing a shared vision for our school. This year we are due to undertake in-depth community consultation as part of our Charter Review and developing a school vision to which we have all contributed is essential. We aim to go from strength to strength in developing the partnership between home and school in order to support student learning.

On April 10 we have invited John Cowan from the Parenting Place to come in and present on Raising Resilient and Confident Children. This presentation includes: *Resilient, confident children deflect trouble, resist pressure, handle stress and recover from setbacks and trauma.* All children can be helped to tackle life's ups and downs so they can grow with a 'can-do' attitude. Discover the key ingredients required to help children develop these sought-after qualities. Tickets will be limited and cost \$16, to be paid at the school office, with sales opening on Wednesday 28 March.



Gospel Reflection

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

Passion (Palm) Sunday – 25 March 2018
The Holy Gospel according to Mark 14:1-15:47

Central to the passion account is the Last Supper; it is the meal of friendship and the way to remember Jesus forever. With sin, betrayal, injustice, and in the middle of it all is love. The total and compassionate love of the Father.

The passion often presented too graphically. All on Jesus' mind when he was suffering was us and love. The events we have heard are pictures of love in the middle of betrayal and injustice: a mixture of people who want his death – but nobody seems to think he is guilty. Jesus was the innocent one – everyone in the gospels said that — the thief, the centurion, Pilate and Herod. But they were caught in trying to save their own skin and their institutions. People still suffer because people are looking after themselves only, ignoring the suffering of others.

It still goes on. Jesus still being betrayed in the starvation of the children; in the torture of the brave who fight for the poor; in the violence and abuse in home, school or church; in all suffering, Jesus still suffers in his compassion. We are invited here to consider this compassion and the love behind every moment of the passion – the love of God. We are invited to soften our judgements and give the second chance as Jesus did. Nobody is ever written off by Jesus. Love for all.

The gospel today gives us more questions than answers, but gives a meaning, direction and hope to everything we suffer, ponder and struggle within our lives. In the washing of the feet, Jesus offers his life for the 'life of the world'. Lord, by your cross and resurrection, you are the saviour of the world.

Remuera Zone Swimming

The Remuera Swimming Zones were contested by some of the best swimmers Auckland has. Our little team did an amazing job with some great swims. Mila Nelisi managed to make the final in the Year 5 Girls 25m freestyle which was a huge effort.

All our children competed with zeal and smiled the day away. It was great watching the relays and seeing how close all the teams were at the finish line.

Well done St Mary's Swimming team. Once again you've done yourselves proud.



Principal's Post continued

"Then the crowds who went ahead of him and those who followed shouted: Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

- Matthew 21:9 CSB

And with those words...Holy Week began. As we began Holy Week on Sunday and head toward Easter Sunday at the end of this week, let's remember the events leading to Christ's crucifixion and resurrection and acknowledge their meaning. On the Sunday before His crucifixion (Palm Sunday), Jesus was welcomed into Jerusalem with coats and branches laid at His feet and people praising Him. Those shouting Hosanna, or "save us," were looking for an earthly warrior to rescue them from the harsh Roman rule.

The Thursday after Palm Sunday (or Maundy Thursday), Jesus and His disciples met in the upper room to observe the Passover, now known as "The Last Supper." After washing His disciples' feet, Jesus held communion with them. He charged His disciples to eat the bread while thinking of His broken body and to drink the wine while thinking of His blood (Luke 22:19-20). Imagine how mystified they must have been until the events of the next day unfolded.

After praying passionately in the Garden of Gethsemane in the late hours of Thursday night into Friday morning, Jesus was then betrayed by Judas and arrested. Over the next few hours, He was abandoned, falsely accused, beaten, mocked and condemned to death; and those who just a few days earlier were hailing Him as their King were suddenly yelling, "Crucify Him!" How many of us have just given up after experiencing only a fraction of the hatred and opposition He endured? Yet knowing what lay ahead of Him, He stood there silently and humbly.

Wearing nothing but a crown of thorns, Christ was hoisted up on a cross to hang in humiliation and endure an excruciatingly painful death. He was the Lamb of God, the ultimate sacrifice for the sins of the world. "He made the one who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." - 2 Corinthians 5:21. How great His love for each of us must truly be to have taken the punishment we deserve upon Himself! We're like tiny grasshoppers compared to Him (Isaiah 40:22), yet He cared enough to do all that for us. This is why we must never forget how awesome His love is!

At 3pm on Good Friday, Jesus breathed His last and died. He was placed in a tomb, which was sealed shut with a large stone and guarded by Roman soldiers.

Although Holy Week ends on Saturday, praise God the story doesn't end there! On Easter Sunday morning, the stone that sealed the tomb was rolled away, and Jesus was resurrected (John 20). He overcame death so that those who trust in Him could also overcome death and one day live with Him in Heaven for all eternity.

Holy Week is about remembering the only One who is truly holy – Jesus Christ. This week, let's take time to gratefully remember and keep alive in our hearts what Jesus, the perfect Lamb and the risen Savior, did for us years ago. He came. He died. And He rose again, so we could live in eternity with a loving God who gave His life for us in the greatest way possible.

There are so many messages we can learn from the events of this week in the modern day. As we move through Holy Week, please take time to stop and reflect on what we have learnt and how we can apply this to our own challenges.

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).

Board of Trustees

IRD Donation Claims

We would like to thank all of you who have paid the donations part of our fees (Board/Parent Contribution and Special Character Donations) and remind you that you are entitled to claim a tax credit (refund) of one third of the amount you have paid. To claim this, you'll need to fill in an IR526, which can be downloaded from the IRD website. It is a very straight forward process, with full instructions on the form.

If you don't already have one, you'll need to obtain a receipt from our office. (We are in the process of trying to get these receipts to be available on the Parent Portal.) The link to the form for the year ended 31 March 2017 is <http://www.ird.govt.nz/forms-guides/number/forms-500-599/ir526-tax-credit-claim-form-2017.html>

Forms for the year ended 2018 will be available from IRD in April 2018, and can be found by searching IR526 on the IRD website (ird.govt.nz).

If you have not claimed for previous years, you can claim for the last four years. If you need any help with this process, please feel free to contact me.

Roger Shearer

BOT Chair

Special Catholic Character

from the Director of Religious Studies

We are currently learning from Jesus Strand of the curriculum with many of the classes now celebrating things such as shared Jesus' lunches, invitational shared meals and making unleavened bread – all fun activities which lead us into the Easter story of the Passover supper.

The school is also busy preparing for our Easter Liturgy which takes place on Holy Thursday at 1.30pm (all welcome although please be aware seating will be tight). The students always enjoy acting out the Holy Week story and whilst it is a big task to coordinate all parts of the school to create one whole story, it always comes together in the end with a delightful result. Please take the time to chat to your children about this special time of year and remind them about the true significance of this Easter story. There are so many wonderful books about Easter available and it is always a story the children love to hear over and over so please share it with them.

Many of our St Mary's learners are now taking part in the parish's Sacramental programme. They will be receiving their first reconciliation in mid May, followed by the Sacraments of the Eucharist and Confirmation in June where Monsignor Bernard Kiely will be the celebrant. It is a very special part of our faith journey as Catholics so we ask both our school and parish communities to keep these candidates in your prayers.

If you have been in our playground this past week, you will have witnessed the wonderful work that Room 4 have been doing to raise money for Caritas. After seeing the news about the devastating toll that Cyclone Gail took in Tonga, the students of Room 4 decided to write to the Bishop and Caritas to ask if their Lenten fundraising could go to the people of Tonga so that they may receive the help they need. We are all very proud of the efforts that this very selfless and dedicated group of students are putting in to raise funds for this worthy cause.

On Friday 16 March, the school grounds and classrooms were a sea of green as the children and teachers donned emerald, "Kelly Green" and every shade in between attire in St Patrick's honour. The gold coin donation that was collected went to the Caritas Timor-Leste appeal. This appeal runs until Easter so the funds are still being counted up. It is at times like this, that we as teachers are often very moved by the generosity of our students, many of whom donate their own pocket money to help those less fortunate than themselves.

God's blessings with you always.

Rachael Hill



Key dates * all welcome to attend

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 Whole School Assembly (Rm 8 hosting)* Fire Drill Practise
9-13 Apr	Dental Van in School
9 Apr	Student Council Fundraiser (for sound system)
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
18 May	Pink Shirt Day
21 May	Art Ellerslie
23 May	Newsletter published

Staffing

We are very pleased to announce the appointment of two new teachers.

We welcome Rikki Chaitanya who will be teaching in Room 5 from Week 2 Term 2 and Reshma Koyande who joined us this week and will be opening the new Year 1 class from Week 4 Term 2.

We are looking forward to the positive relationships and contributions they will bring to our school.

PiPs Learning

If you have checked out our Twitter feed this week you will see that PiPs (Personal Interest Programmes) are well underway.

We have a range of exciting learning experiences going on across the school from cushion making, food technology, science concepts, gardening, art, recyclable art and engineering!

Feedback from our learners is that this is one of their weekly highlights. Providing authentic learning experiences where students are 'doing' and are genuinely interested increases engagement!

Parent connections T is for testing

We all know test results are important. They are important because they help us measure the impact of our instruction. To encourage kids to do their best on a test, we can:

- Encourage a positive attitude: *It may be tough, but you can do it!*
- Be sure they eat a good breakfast. Kids think better on a full stomach
- Tell them not to worry if a question seems tricky: *Reread it. Answer the best you can*
- Remind them to go back to make sure they didn't make careless mistakes



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

email: stmaryspta@gmail.com

Thank you

Thank you to all the families that brought a plate for morning tea for St Patrick's House Mass recently. It was a beautiful morning, lovely mass, with plenty of food. Thank you for your support in this way.

Sausage Sizzle

Thank you to our wonderful dads: Roger Shearer, Rob Bratton, Nicholas Temm, and a couple of our school mums: Paula and Anita who helped with the sausage sizzle last Wednesday. A great effort by all and a total of \$580 was raised from the sausage sizzle. A big thank you to the Catering Committee students that also helped out on the day. Our next sausage sizzle will be held in Term 2.

Iceblocks

Given that school will finish on Thursday 29 March for Easter break, no iceblock sales for this week, we will resume these again on Friday 6 April. Thanks to Gillian Moore who organises this for the PTA and apparently has a new name now – 'Iceblock Lady'.

Entertainment Books

Thanks to Lana Bennett who has been organising this on behalf of the PTA. This fundraiser has raised around \$1200 so thanks for your support in getting behind these.

PTA Meeting

Next PTA meeting will be held on Wednesday 4 April and there will be wine and cheese served. This is held in the staff room at 7pm, a short meeting and then time for mix and mingling. If you'd like any other information please contact the committee on the above email address. All welcome!

Exciting Events coming up

We have some exciting events planned for the rest of the year including a Skip-a-thon in May and the ever popular School Disco in June. We will be communicating more details after the Easter Break so you can plan well in advance.

Digital Technologies

With technology developing so fast, our education system needs to adapt and New Zealand is leading the way. The Digital Technologies and Hangarau Matihiko curriculum is in the process of being rolled out across all New Zealand schools. It aims to equip all school students to participate, create, and thrive in this fast-evolving digital world. This new curriculum explores how technology works, teaching how to use that knowledge to solve problems.

Check out the link for more information. <http://education.govt.nz/ministry-of-education/specific-initiatives/equipping-students-with-skills-for-digital-technologies-and-hangarau-matihiko-learning/>

Gail Christie

Athletic Sports

Impressive to see so many of our younger learners from Ellerslie Athletics Club, so keen to share their success in school last week. Developing our God given talents is so important.



Student wellbeing

St Mary's has been buzzing with the excitement of the upcoming winter sports seasons. Letters have gone home last week about signing up for Netball and Hockey. At St Mary's children are able to play netball from year 1-6. Hockey is available for years 3-6. We have had a great start to our Y5 and Y6 Netball trials last week. We are very lucky to have such experienced people conducting our netball trials to ensure the process is efficient and fair.

We are blessed to have Becky who plays for Team 1 Northcote and has coached a Premier Team at College level, Nikki who plays for Waiuku Premis and has coached primary school level and Craig who is currently coaching Melons Bay Senior A Team, HPNC Under 15 Reps and Sancta Maria College Prem team.

Craig has also previously coached Y7, 8, 9 and U15 Reps, and as well at sitting the Coaching Modules he has coached and trained Future Ferns at Baverstock Oaks, Mission Heights, Sancta Maria Catholic Primary, Riverhills and Elm Park schools. He has won the Community Coaching award and has played an integral role in the Performance Coaching Programme Netball NZ.

The Junior school are looking forward to some taster Rippa rugby sessions in the last week of term with Hamish from Marist Rugby club. Keep an eye out on Twitter to see them in action!

Learning Corner

Inquiry Learning Concept Learning 'Me and my Relationships'

It was great to see Room 4 demonstrating their learning around this concept at our recent assembly.

Students are learning that certain behaviours and actions can have grave consequences on the wellbeing of others. As a staff we need to find ways to support our learners to put these new learnings into action now.

Student voice

'I have learnt bullies can look like you and me'

'I have learnt that words can hurt as much as sticks and stones'