

# St Mary's Catholic School

58 Main Highway, Ellerslie, Auckland

Principal Mrs Saira Boyle



Issue #5 | 11 April 2018

We provide a Catholic education for the whole child

## Student Wellbeing

### STUDENT WELLBEING SURVEY RESULTS

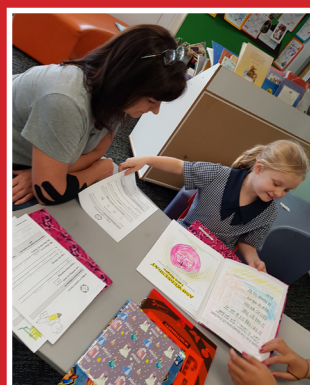
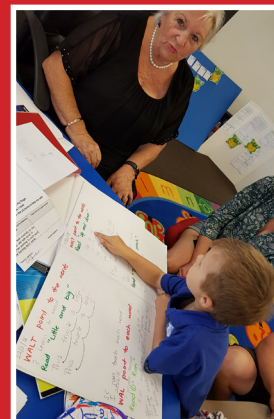
At St Mary's School we used the Wellbeing@School Student Survey to collect data from our year 5 and 6 students. The survey was anonymous and was conducted in November 2017. The students were asked questions about their views of school and the strategies they and their school already use to promote caring and safe behaviours. The survey also collected data on students' experiences of different types of behaviours.

We have analysed the data collected and have found that St Mary's results mostly follow national norms. We were able to see that two main aspects needing attention in our school are School Wide Climate and Practices and Prosocial Student Culture and Strategies. Using the scale descriptors we have been able to identify 5 areas of wellbeing concern for our students. These are:

- Some children are not feeling respected in words and actions
- Some children feel they are isolated and left out
- Some children are scared or feel unable to stand up for one another
- Some children are unaware of how to ask a teacher for help
- Some children are unable to express their feelings

These results have helped shape our inquiry concept of Collaborative Relationships for Term 1 and 2. The children have been inquiring about small actions and words and their effects, bullying, cyber bullying and exclusion.

The survey will be repeated next week, where the baseline data collected last year will be compared with Term 1. We hope to see a shift in these areas.



## Carpark Access from Main Highway

Parents and caregivers, when picking up your children after school, please avoid turning right into the carpark. The Auckland City Council will soon be making this a **No Right Turn** area. It would be great for all of us to start making this a habit to free up the traffic turning into our school.



## Parish

### SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME 2018

Classes have started and the candidates are looking forward to receiving their First Holy Communion and Confirmation on 17 June 2018 at 1 pm. Please bless and keep them in your prayers as they go through this journey. Thank you, Lisa Moor.

## 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 come to the end of a very busy first term of the year and I know both teachers and students are looking forward to a most well deserved break. I'd like to personally offer gratitude to our hardworking teachers and amazing support staff for your total commitment and dedication to the learning of our akonga and progress of our learning community.

Thank you to our whanau for being so supportive of the early closure of the school recently and your subsequent excellent attendance at our Three Way Conferences. It was wonderful to see our students taking the lead and sharing their learning goals with their whanau. It is really important that students are given opportunities to talk about and share what they are learning. I was heartened to hear rich learning conversations taking place. Last week I spent time in each classroom, watching teachers teach their target groups and then invited the students to my office to ask them; What are you learning? Why are you learning this? How will you know when you are successful?



## 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.

**2nd Sunday of Easter, Year B, April 8th 2018**  
**John 20:19-31**

Many of us call Thomas one of our favourite gospel people! He was a man who did not 'mess about' with his faith. He found faith in the risen Lord hard to take and let others know. He had often been a bit doubtful earlier – his solution to the prophecy of Jesus' death was that he should go and die and get it done with!

I like him too because he did not get it right always! While his doubting is understandable, he also messed things up. He thought he could go it alone! He left the group and so missed the appearance of the risen Lord.

A central theme of our faith is community; our faith, while deeply personal, is not private. We worship together and celebrate our Christian feasts together as we have gathered together for the vigil and the Eucharist at Easter. Without the shared faith of family, parish, friends, and others, our Christ remains dry and historic.

He messed it up in another way – he looked for touchable proof. He would not only sense the wounds of Christ but would touch them. Jesus took him at his word and said, 'touch my wounds, Thomas'. Nowhere in the gospel of today does it say Thomas did in fact touch Jesus' wounds. Our faith in Jesus is deeper than touch and all he said on meeting the Lord was, 'my Lord and my God'. Our faith, our doubts and our hopes can be put in perspective by Thomas.

My Lord and My God.

## New Parent Hui

On Friday last week, St Mary's community welcomed many new students and families to our learning community as we ran a New Parents Hui as part of the induction process for the students joining our school in Term 2 this year.

We are excited to welcome new families and students into our family, and look forward to nurturing our school, family and parish connections.



## Principal's Post continued

I was astounded at the way our younger learners are really showing their ability to know, talk about and explain their learning. This is evidence that our teacher Professional Learning to develop more explicit pedagogy is starting to make an impact. We will continue on our journey to support staff and students to become more assessment capable as we know this approach to learning is most effective.

By now you may have noticed Nikki Smith, our new Principal's PA/ School Administrator, in the office. Nikki has made an excellent start to her new role. Her key responsibilities are Payroll, Finance and Administration, Human Resources, Policy Review and Principal's PA. Kate's key responsibilities as School Secretary are Reception/ Secretarial, Enrolments, Staff/Student Services, Banking and Receipting, Principal Support, Trips and all related to students and families. They are working wonderfully together and provide school administration which is complementary and highly supportive of our learning focused approach. Positive and productive school administration is essential to an effective environment.

At the end of this week we farewell Elizabeth Philippsen, Room 5's teacher who has been with us for a year now. Elizabeth was presented with a life changing opportunity to sail around Europe on a yacht. We offer thanks to Elizabeth for her work and wish her many blessings on her adventure.

May you all have a most peaceful and safe term break and return to us safely in Term 2.

*Yours in God's Love*  
*Saira Boyle, Principal*



## Sustainable Learning

At St Mary's we have been busy working on our sustainable footprint. The following is an update on what we have been doing.

- Mrs Hill's PIPs group have been collecting our milk straws and are planning on making some art for our playground
- Our baby chicks have now gone to a temporary home where they will be looked after until they are big enough to join our other St Mary's chooks. A big thank you to the Koenig's for caring for them
- We have noticed some rubbish floating around our learning environment and have started a school-wide clean up roster

Room 2 are wanting to create some art pieces using recycled materials that will be hung around our school. We are looking for plastic bottle tops. Please send any that you have to Room 2.

We hope this will encourage children to take responsibility for the environment. Over the term break Mrs Samuelu and Miss Sharp (our Sustainable Learning Activators) will be meeting to formulate a three year plan for Sustainable Learning at St Mary's.



## Board of Trustees

### BOT FOCUS 2018

As we draw to the end of the first term of the new year we would like to inform you that we believe the school is off to a great start. We have submitted our Charter and 2017 achievement data to the Ministry of Education and have received comprehensive reports from the leadership team which assure us, as a BOT, that work is well underway to achieve our 2018 targets.

Alongside the Principal, the BOT will be gathering a range of community and student voice this year to enable us to effectively review and develop our existing strategic goals as part of our three year consultation process. It was positive to hear how many parents and caregivers attended the recent Parent Partnership Hui and contributed to the visioning process a few weeks ago. The BOT have also contributed to this. Student voice will be collected this week and then data collated and shaped into our School Vision, with the support of volunteers from our community.

*Roger Shearer*

BOT Chair

## Key dates \* all welcome to attend

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| 9-13 Apr  | Dental Van in School   |
| 9 Apr     | Student Council Fundraiser (for sound system)  |
| 10 Apr    | Y5 and Y6 Wellbeing Surveys<br>Rippa Rugby Taster Y0-2<br>Parenting Place Presentation 7pm |
| 11 Apr    | Newsletter published   |
| 13 Apr    | Class Mass (Rm 7,16,15) 9am*<br><b>Last Day of School Term 1</b>                           |
| 25 Apr    | ANZAC DAY  |
| 30 Apr    | <b>Day 1 Term 2 School Opens</b>   |
| 1 May     | Soccer Fun Day   |
| 9 May     | Newsletter published<br>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    | A-thon (details to come)<br>Newsletter published   |
| 22 Jun    | School Disco   |

## Special Catholic Character

*from the Director of Religious Studies*

### Easter Reflection

The Easter season for us as Catholics, is the most significant of all the seasons in our liturgical calendar. Why is it so important to us? The Easter Triduum memorialises the suffering, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The Easter Triduum is the three 24-hour periods of the triduum which includes the major feasts for all four days at the heart of the Easter celebration: the evening feast of Holy Thursday (also called Maundy Thursday), Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter Sunday.

While the events of the Triduum are truly significant and upon which we base our faith, it is also the days which followed the resurrection that are equally important to us as Christians – as followers of Christ. We can look to the disciples to see how they, the friends and followers of Jesus, those who knew him in person here on earth, reacted upon hearing about his resurrection and upon meeting him, the risen Lord. It gives us some understanding as to both how Jesus was received and how we may have behaved if we too had been disciples or followers of Jesus at the time.

### The Road to Emmaus / Modern Emmaus Story

Luke's gospel (24, 13-35) tells the story of the events in the first few days after the resurrection. The road to Emmaus is symbolic in many ways – it is the first occasion that the disciples encounter Jesus. It also illustrates how some disciples believed instantly and others needed convincing – like many followers of Christ throughout history. It also takes us on a journey from pure sadness at the loss of a beloved friend to the realisation of the true gift of the resurrection. Just as we journey from repentant Lent into the glory of Easter – from purple into gold. Death to New Life.

The questions we need to ask ourselves upon listening to this story are, "How would we behave now if Jesus was amongst us in a room? What if we don't 'see' Him, just as the first disciples did not recognise Him?" And what does that teach us about the encounters we might have with Jesus every day through our daily experiences and encounters with others?

The following is a thought provoking video clip which triggers questions such as this. I urge you to watch it so you too can reflect on the meaning of Easter and its significance in our daily lives as Christians and in its revelation of God's true and deep love for us.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V16y87M0wqY>

Blessings

*Rachael Hill*



## Sports

### Rippa Rugby

The year 0-2 students have taken part in Rippa Rugby sessions with Hamish from Marist Rugby. All students participated with enjoyment with many hoping to join a Marist team this season. See the Marist Rugby Club website for more information.

### Netball and Hockey

A huge thank you to everyone involved in trialling and organising teams. The teams have been finalised and we look forward to the start of these winter sports next term. We request family support, with positive encouragement for students, support and patience with our volunteer coaches and managers and being mindful that this is children's development level sport.

## New Entrants Transition to Year 1

Each year when new students are welcomed into our school at the beginning of the year, they transition into Year 1 students and move into a new classroom to make way for new enrolments. Over the next few months we will be pleased to see several of our existing New Entrants move into a new classroom, with Mrs Koyande and further their learning as Year 1 learners.

## Parent connections U is for unique

It sounds cliché but it's true - your child is unique, unlike anyone else!

- Oprah once mentioned that parents should "light up" when their child walks into a room. How special is that?
- Let your child know what you appreciate about them. Point out his or her special accomplishments and talents
- Nurture your child's special interests by providing related experiences and books
- Spend time with others who share your appreciation of your child's uniqueness



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

### New Parents Morning tea

Thank you to all of you who provided morning tea for our New Parents Hui on Friday 7 April. Thanks to Brenda Clews who organises this on behalf of the PTA.

### Iceblock Friday

Iceblocks will be on sale on Friday 13 April, last day of Term 1. This will be the last of the sales until Term 4 later in the year. A huge thank you to Gillian Moore for coordinating this on behalf of the PTA.

### Entertainment Books

Pre-orders for the 2018/19 Entertainment Books (digital and physical book) are available online at <https://www.entertainmentbook.co.nz/orderbooks/953a59>. If you have not opted out, books will be sent home on 1 May, which is the first week of Term 2. Remember that \$14 from the sale of every Book is given to the PTA, and is used for essential things like funding the buses for swimming.

### End of Term Raffles

Tickets for our end of term will be on sale from Wed 11 to Fri 13 April in the morning before school starts outside Room 13. Tickets are \$1 each and there are great prizes to be won. Thanks to Lana Bennett, Nicholas Temm and the team of helpers for co-ordinating this.

### Dates for the diary

**Wednesday 23 May: A-thon.** The original plan for a skip-a-thon has to change due to a lack of skipping ropes. But we'll still have a fun activity planned and sponsorship forms with more details will be sent home this week.

**Friday 22 June: School Disco.** Student Council will be surveying the students for theme ideas, more info to come early in Term 3.

### Secondhand Uniform Boutique

The Boutique will be open on Friday 13 April 2.30-3.30 pm. We have winter uniforms for sale including girls and boys black school shoes in great condition. Secondhand items may be paid for by cash or online into the PTA bank account. **All new uniform items are only available at the School Uniform Centre on Remeura Road.**

Your donations of clean and tidy uniforms are always gratefully received and may be left at the School Office anytime. Also feel free to leave any soon to be deleted uniforms so we may recycle these in a sustainable way on your behalf. Feel free to contact Cathy on [grotto@orcon.co.nz](mailto:grotto@orcon.co.nz) with any queries.

### Caring Committee

Thank you to those who have returned forms to sign up/continue as part of our School/PTA Caring Committee helping out school families and community in times of need. Please ask at the Office if a form did not make it home. We will be updating our database over the school holidays so it's not too late to join us! All help is so much appreciated.

A big thanks too to the kind families who dropped off snacks for our PTA Emergency Lunches initiative. We are now well supplied with healthy and nutritious lunches thanks to your generosity.

*Thanks for all your support in Term 1, we wish all the families and community of St Mary's a safe and happy holiday season and look forward to seeing you all in Term 2.*

email: [stmaryspta@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryspta@gmail.com)

## Digital Technologies

Gail Christie

Most people want to share their special moments with others. Whenever we share things online it's important to think about what we're sharing and who we're sharing with. This is especially important when children are involved. Netsafe has provided advice about "sharenting" (sharing photos safely). They provide great tips on things to consider when sharing photos of young people and children. Please visit their webpage for their advice: [www.netsafe.org/sharenting](http://www.netsafe.org/sharenting)

## Student voice

We are continuing to develop student and teacher capability in 'Learnacy'. This is the ability to understand the process of learning. Through our 'Ako' inquiry concept at the beginning of the year, students have learnt about what learning looks like, sounds like and feels like and are learning to take ownership of their own learning. Our students and teachers are starting to develop this in the classroom and our some of our students are becoming more able to explicitly explain what they are learning, and what their next steps are.

Here are some examples of our students being agents of their own learning:

"What does it mean if you have a wish/goal in your learning?"

*"It means that you need to work on it" - Natasha Rm 7*

"How can you improve in your reading?"

*"By knowing all of the letters to get better at reading" - Marley Rose Rm 13*

"What level do you want to get to next in reading?"

*"Level 20!" - James Rm 13*

"What is inferencing?"

*"Inferencing is reading between the lines!" - Mathea Rm 7*

"Why was your learning important today?"

*"Because I was learning about bigger and better words" - Nicole Rm 3*

What were you learning in that lesson?"

*"Sounding out tricky words" - Shaun Rm 11*

"Why are you good at sounding out words?"

*"Because I sounded them out right now and practised!" - River Rm 11*