

# St Mary's Catholic School

58 Main Highway, Ellerslie, Auckland

Principal Mrs Saira Boyle



Issue #6 | 9 May 2018

We provide a Catholic education for the whole child

## Trash Free Tuesdays!

Our sustainable goal St Mary's is to be trash free. To start this journey we are going to be trialling 'Trash-Free Tuesdays!', where learners are encouraged to bring a lunchbox with as little trash as possible. Anything that can't be composted or recycled will be sent back home. We ask if you could support this by:

**Pack** food in reusable containers / wrap or use lunchboxes that have separate food compartments.

**Avoid** food packed in plastic bags, glad wrap or foil.

To encourage and support our families we will be offering a 'Beeswax Wrap' workshop early in Term 2. Keep an eye out on Facebook for more information.

Trash-free Tuesdays! will begin Tues 8 May, week 2 of Term 2.



**Sustainability Leaders showing the results of one week of plastic waste from our lunch boxes.**

## Winter Sniffles

As the winter coughs, colds and runny noses begin, any donations of boxes of tissues would be appreciated. If each learner brings one box it would keep the school/classroom well stocked through the winter term.

## Parish

### DATES TO REMEMBER

<b>13 May</b>	The Ascension of the Lord
<b>27 May</b>	Parish School Family Mass
<b>09 June</b>	Anointing Mass
<b>17 June 1pm</b>	Confirmation and First Holy Communion
<b>24 June</b>	AGM after the 9am mass



## 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!

Welcome back to Term 2 and a special welcome to all of our new families who join our school whanau in this winter term. The weather has certainly taken a colder turn recently and it is great to see so many of our learners in their winter uniform. The new navy blue socks look so smart and practical too. Please note that the girls navy blue socks are knee length and not the ankle sock or mid calf length option.

We met with members of our Samoan community last night and it was a productive occasion as we planned some exciting events that will take place in our Samoan Language week, which starts on May 28 this year. As part of our Strategic Plan we have made a commitment to improve our cultural responsiveness. We hope to work together with different members of our community who represent a range of cultures through 2018. As teachers and leaders we want to learn more about each of you and in turn we would like you to support us to share the cultural diversity of our learners and your whanau.



## 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.

### SUNDAY 6 MAY 2018

**Sixth Sunday of Easter, John 15:9-17 - Jesus commands his disciples to love one another.**

In family life and in school life, we have many opportunities to show love in action. Each time we postpone a task to tend to the needs of another, we show ourselves to be on the path to following the example of love shown to us by Jesus. Sometimes the sacrifices we are called upon to make for others are small. But these small choices to love and to serve others prepare us for the larger choices and sacrifices that we may be called upon to make. If we are people who have practiced showing our love for others with generosity, we will also be people who are willing to lay down our lives for those we love.

As we gather as a school whanau, we should talk about the meaning of the word generosity. Ask the person next to you to describe an action that shows generosity. To be generous is to give freely to others without counting the cost. Recall that generosity is one of the Fruits of the Holy Spirit. Jesus taught us to be generous in showing our love for one another. Jesus helps us to show this kind of love to others. In yesterday's Gospel, Jesus promised that God will give us whatever we ask for. One of the things we can ask for from God is a generous spirit so that we can love others as Jesus did.

### *Principal's Post continued*

If you are invited to one of our evenings to share about your culture we ask you please take the time to come along and share so we can learn from you. We want each of our learners to feel proud of who they are, their heritage, their language, traditions, beliefs and customs. Passing the stories and the rituals from generation to generation and sharing with those of different cultures is an important way to do this. As a school we see ourselves as an important vehicle to be able to support with this in a positive and collaborative way.

Cultural diversity is one of eight principles in The New Zealand Curriculum that provide a foundation for schools' decision making. The principle of cultural diversity calls for schools and teachers to affirm students' different cultural identities, and incorporate their cultural contexts into teaching and learning programmes.

A 2012 report by the Education Review Office notes a close link between the cultural diversity principle and the inclusion principle. The report states that both of these principles require teachers to value students as individuals and celebrate the diversity that they bring. We aim to develop our inclusive practices, including valuing the cultural diversity of all individual learners and would love to do this in close partnership with you all.

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

### Mass Attendance

We have a the Mary House Mass coming up on May 27. As a Catholic School we expect attendance at these events and look forward to seeing increased numbers next time.

## Learning Support Procedure

At St Mary's learning is at the heart of all we do. It is our priority to ensure all learners, especially those who experience challenges are given the individual and personalised support they need.

If you have any concerns about the progress and achievement of your child's learning:

- In the first instance please contact the classroom teacher
- The classroom teacher will liaise closely with our Special

Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO) to ensure each learner's needs are being catered for

- Should this be ongoing and you feel your child needs further support you are asked to contact our SENCO directly, Mrs Varoy

Should you, as some parents choose to do, engage an external body to assess your child's learning needs, you are to share results directly with the Principal, SENCO and classroom.



**RayWhite**

Ray White Ellerslie - Kyp Michailidis | 027 574 4947  
kyp.michailidis@raywhite.com

## THINKING OF SELLING YOUR HOME?

Or just simply you would like to know the value of your property in the current market? For a free property appraisal please call me today. For all property listings that result in a sale, I will personally donate \$600 to St Marys Primary School. Please mention this advert upon making contact with me.



## Board of Trustees

We would like to offer thanks to those of you who have made prompt and generous payments and donations. We pride ourselves on offering the richest learning experiences to our learners and without the generosity and support of our community this would not be possible. This year we will be focusing on drawing up an aspirational property and grounds development plan and working closely with the Catholic Diocese of Auckland so that our school has the facilities to support learning.

*Roger Shearer*  
BOT Chair

## Key dates \* all welcome to attend

8 May	Samoan Community Fono
9 May	Newsletter Published NYLD Y6
11 May	Mother's Mass 11.30am*
14-18 May	NZ National Bullying Free Week
15 May	Lock Down Drill
18 May	Pink Shirt Day
21 May	Art Ellerslie Red Mufti – Pentecost Celebration
22 May	Fun-a-thon Parent Partnership Hui (Maths*)
23 May	Newsletter Published
27 May	Mary House Mass 9am*
28 May	Samoan language week
4 Jun	Queens Birthday - school closed
5 Jun	Evacuation Drill
7 Jun	Puberty Talks Y6
11 Jun	Newsletter Published
14 Jun	Puberty Talks Y6
15 Jun	Class Mass (Rm 7, 15 & 16) 9am*
20 Jun	Newsletter Published Paid Union Meeting
22 Jun	School Disco Class Mass (Rm 6, 8, 13 & 14) 9am*

## Beesmax Wrap Workshop

To kickstart litterless lunches at St Mary's we have decided to offer a beeswax wrap-making workshop one afternoon early in the term. If you would be interested in attending please email Sarah Jane Samuelu on [sarahj@stmary.school.nz](mailto:sarahj@stmary.school.nz) so we are able to order enough product for us all. Keep an eye out for further information.



## Special Catholic Character from the Director of Religious Studies

### The Month of Mary

*"Mary, give me your heart: so beautiful, so pure so immaculate; your Heart so full of love and humility that I May be able to receive Jesus in the Bread of Life and love Him as you love Him and serve Him in the distressing guise of the poor."*

During the month of May we, as Catholics are encouraged to spend some time each day in prayer, praying through Our Lady to Our Lord, Jesus Christ. A traditional prayer to say at this time is 'The Angelus'. At school, we support the growth of a relationship with Mother Mary by praying the Hail Mary during class prayer time. A special way to help foster this, would be to ask your children to lead you in this prayer during family prayers in the evening. There are some beautiful prayer videos with The Angelus on Youtube. The DeLaSalle and Marist Messenger also have some useful links so you can pray these special traditional prayers with your children. <http://www.delasalle.org.nz/> and <https://www.maristmessenger.co.nz/>.

### Our School Values - COMMUNION

Hopefully, you have had your children coming home and sharing with you, elements of our school values, through our school 'Virtues Vouchers' incentive. Our school values, CONTEMPLATION, COMMUNION, MISSION and ZEAL come from the Gospel values of our founding order, The Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions. In an effort to grow the learners understanding of these values and how we can live these in our everyday lives, we have decided to focus on a value each term. The classes in charge of assemblies for that term will incorporate the values into their celebration of learning. This term's value is **Communion**.

Communion represents not only our shared Eucharistic meal during mass and the union it provides for us with Christ but it also means 'Community' and so reminds us of the importance of developing quality relationships with one another and with God.

As a Catholic school, it is our mission to provide the children with a Catholic Worldview through everything we do. Therefore, we have threaded our inquiry this term and last through this concept too – 'Myself and Others' – relating to others via the Anti-bullying unit that classes are currently exploring. We are helping the learners to understand that Jesus is our first friend and a model of friendship to others. Through the scriptures we have our guide to developing successful relationships with God and all those around us.

May God continue to bless you and your families.

Hei te mau haamaitairaa a te Atua ki a koutou, me koutou whānau.

*Rachael Hill*



## Paperless for the Environment

In alignment with moving towards being a sustainable school, this will be the last paper Newsletter that comes home. You will find a link to the Newsletter on our school Facebook Page, emailed as a link or through the School App.

## Student Wellbeing

### Inflatable soccer

St Mary's learners have been lucky enough to take part in an Inflatable soccer taster session through The Football For Children Academy. The academy is offering a lunchtime programme that will focus on skills and games inside inflatable fields. Children from Year 0/1-6 are welcome to do the programme. It is a six week programme taking place on Tuesday lunchtimes. The cost is \$59. If you are interested sign up and pay online at [ffcacademy.co.nz](http://ffcacademy.co.nz).

### Netball and Hockey

Netball and hockey begin this week. All netball teams compete on a Thursday and Hockey teams on a Saturday. Keep an eye out on Facebook and Twitter for our teams in action!

## Parent connections V is for VIPs

Who are some of the Very Important People in our school? Our teachers, of course! Teachers plan interesting lessons, assess reading levels, grade assignments, answer questions, lead discussions, guide activities, solve problems and settle debates. Teachers watch the playground, tie shoes, button coats, dry tears... Most of all, teachers care about kids. Take a little time in the week ahead to remember and thank your favourite teachers. A little encouragement can make a big difference!



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

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

### End of Term Raffles

Thank you for supporting the Term 1 raffles, either by donating prizes or buying tickets. A total of \$299.80 was raised.

### Iceblocks

With the end of summer, comes the end of morning tea ice blocks! Thank you for your support of this initiative, you helped raise a huge \$1,938.70 this summer.

### Fun-a-thon – Tuesday 22 May (PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE)

Sponsorship forms went out at the end of Term 1, if your child didn't receive one please email us to request a copy.

### School Disco – Friday 22 June in the Parish Hall Years 0 to 2: 5-6.15pm, Years 3 to 6: 6.30-8pm

The theme for the school disco is OLD SCHOOL! Thanks to the Student Council for surveying the students to come up with the theme. Tickets will go on sale before school Mon 18-Fri 22 June and are \$5 per student (\$10 for two or more siblings). Chips, lollies, drinks and glow sticks will be for sale, all \$1 each. Please email [stmaryspta@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryspta@gmail.com) if you can help out on the night. We need carpark attendants as well as people inside the hall. Reminder that Year 6 parents are asked to help with cleanup at 8pm.

### Secondhand Uniform Boutique – open Fridays 2.15-3.15pm

Please note that only 2nd hand items of uniform are available. All new uniform items are stocked at the School Uniform Centre on Remuera Road.

We have winter jackets (\$20) and sweatshirts (\$15) which may be worn for the rest of this school year. Also a stock of brand new umbrellas for just \$10 each.

Donations of clean, tidy uniform including shoes and sandals are gratefully accepted anytime and may be left in the School Office. We also welcome any soon to be deleted uniform which will be recycled in a sustainable way. Payment may be made online into the PTA bank account or by cash. Thanks for your great support. Any queries to Cathy on [grotto@orcon.co.nz](mailto:grotto@orcon.co.nz).

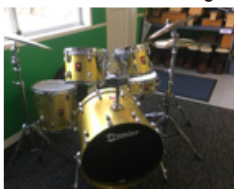
### Caring Committee

A big thank you to all those kind families who have returned completed forms to join/continue as part of our School/PTA Caring Committee helping out school families and community in times of need. We are in the process of updating this now and will be in touch with members shortly with further details. If you are interested in signing up please ask for a form at the School Office. All help is very much appreciated.



## Music News

Our new acoustic drumkit has finally arrived! We got an excellent deal on a Premier drumkit with Stagg cymbals through MusicPlanet. It is beautiful! We have started using it in in Worship Band and are looking forward to using it in the senior classes. This will complement the electric drumkit we already have so we can have two drummers practising at the same time. We also have a new portable bass amplifier arriving.



### Ukulele Group

The Ukulele group started this Wednesday lunchtime in the Music Room (12.40-1.15pm). This is for Yr 3-6 students. Anyone wanting to learn how to play or increase their skills in Ukulele at any level is welcome to join.

### Allcomers Choir

This choir meets after Morning Tea play on Thursdays in the Music room. We have been working on vocal techniques, our singing posture and having some fun learning rounds and songs. We are hoping to perform in an assembly this term!

### APPA Choir

This choir meets with the Allcomers choir as well as every second Thursday lunchtime in the Music room. Our first combined rehearsal with other schools is coming up fast on May 24th. We are hosting it so it is at St Mary's in the hall.

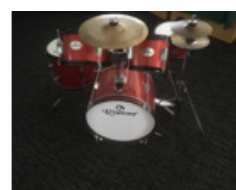
Auditions for this choir finished last term and students were informed. Students in APPA choir must attend Allcomers Choir as this is where we do most of the vocal training. As well as this time, APPA choir members must attend an additional practice every second Thursday lunchtime. Thursday lunchtime practices will start Week 2.

### Worship Band

The Worship Band meets after school on Wednesdays in the Music room from 2.45 – 3.30pm. We have been learning some new songs as well as polishing up some of the songs we already know.

### For Sale: Children's Drumkit/s

We have two children's drumkits in the Music room that we no longer need. They are fairly old but could be useful for a younger child who shows an interest in drumming. One is a full workable set.



The other is a full kit but will need a bit of love to put together. \$50 for the red kit, \$25 for the black kit or \$70 for both. (You

could use the black kit for spare parts). Please enquire at the office about them.