

St Mary's Catholic School

58 Main Highway, Ellerslie, Auckland

Principal Mrs Saira Boyle



Issue #7 | 23 May 2018

We provide a Catholic education for the whole child

Sustainability

Trash Free Tuesdays

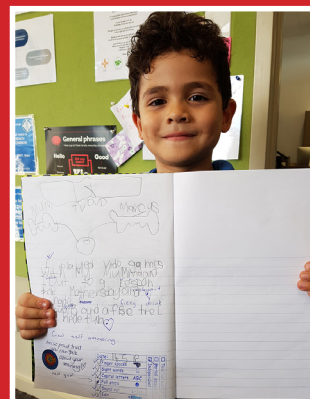
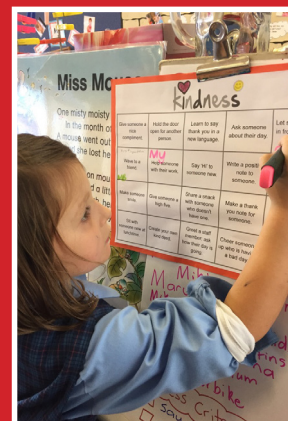
Trash Free Tuesdays are well underway and the learners are doing a fantastic job creating lunches with little waste. One class in the Junior school has a total of only five pieces of rubbish so far. Well done to those who are making a conscious effort to cut down on lunchbox waste.

Beeswax Wrap Workshop

Our Beeswax Wrap Workshop was fantastic. Thank you to those who made the effort to come along and learn a new skill. A huge thank you to Maria Timmermans who ran the workshop and for her openness to share her craft skill set with our St Mary's community.

Trees for Survival

Over the past nine months we have been growing trees for the Trees for Survival initiative in our Sustainable Learning area. In June a group of children will have the privilege of heading out to a farm just outside of Auckland to plant the trees. This has been an amazing program for our school to be a part of and the learning to come out of this has been fundamental along our sustainable journey.



End of Day Pickup - we need your help!

- If you are collecting your child by car please put an A4 size piece of paper, with your child's name printed on it, on your dash, so the duty teacher can see at a distance who you are collecting. This will help to keep our staff safe and also make the process of getting learners into cars more speedy so we can reduce the line of cars on the main road more swiftly
- If you are collecting your child personally, please ensure that they stand with you until you leave the site. Our playground has always been closed at the end of the school day, until the After-School Care staff allow their children to play on it. This is not a new rule and is a matter of Health and Safety for all concerned
- If your child has a scooter or bicycle it is to be walked on and off the school site, again a matter of Health and Safety
- If a teacher needs to remind your child of these expectations, please be supportive and help out as the end of the school day, coordinating close to 400 small people exiting safely from a school, is a pressure point

Parish

Sacramental Programme 2018

Classes are well underway 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. 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!

What an exciting week we had last week, with teachers and leaders alike planning and executing so many fun, authentic and deep learning experiences for our learners to develop in their understanding of what it means to be a good friend, live like Jesus, and in the process, eradicate 'bullying' from our precious school. It brought me great joy to hear the messages being shared and to see most of our learners taking the messages so seriously.

The emphasis on friendliness and kindness was present in each room all week, therefore when there were significant and ongoing issues across the school, such as name calling, breaking the property of others, wilfully vandalising the work of others and refusal to do as requested by staff members, these incidents stood out more than usual. Teachers and leaders have spent time reflecting on the approaches we could take to help all learners not only know and understand the value of self respect and respect for others, but also start to act upon and live this in their everyday lives.



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.

Gospel Reflection for Pentecost, Year B, Sunday 20 May 2018 John 15:26-27

The picture of Pentecost is unity of people who were really diverse and had been in conflict. The apostles had let each other down as well as letting Jesus down. Later, the two families of Jesus – his natural family with Mary his mother and James his cousin, united with the apostles. The Spirit of unity was beginning to unite them, who had often been divided over Jesus, some of his family trying to get him off his preaching mission and return quietly home.

Unity is not easy. Some differences are too much for friendship but we can still value the other and not fight. The past does not disappear. As unity demands tolerance, at times it will encourage us to forgive and work for healing and freedom. At other times if we are to get along side by side it means reconciliation.

The Spirit in each of us can help unity. Think of someone you are at odds with – believe that he or she has the Spirit of God like you, that Jesus died for him or her. It helps!

The unity of the Trinity is rooted in the love of Father and Son, which brings a huge spirit of love. May the Spirit guide us now, and encourage us to be united and call us into the unity of acceptance, forgiveness and reconciliation.

Holy Spirit unite us in family life, helping us care well for each other.

Support Staff Appreciation Day

Last Wednesday St Mary's teachers shared a lovely morning tea to show our appreciation for all that our wonderful support staff do. A big thank you from us all! We love how you are always part of our St Mary's Team.



Principal's Post continued

One thing we have reflected on is that whilst these negative incidents are still occurring, the learners who are responsible for these are certainly in the minority and we will continue to work with our learners to teach them how to put knowledge into action. Staff have been working hard on a consistent approach to high expectations of learner behaviour in assemblies, Mass and end of the day procedures and we have seen some improvements of late. We know all of our learners are amazing and we have decided as a staff that our learners are worth so much to us, that mediocre is not good enough. High expectations, communicated clearly and supported from home help everyone to rise to the occasion.

We often hear in the media, criticism of young people and their sense of entitlement and unrealistic expectations of self. Research has shown that this sense of unrealistic self entitlement can lead to our young people suffering from chronic disappointment. It also found that at some level parents and schools are at fault for resisting constructive feedback for fear of upsetting the young person. The long-term effect of this is that the young person lacks the necessary resilience skills to cope when inevitable disappointment comes their way.

Boundaries are important to our learners because they give clear messages about what's expected. Every day young people face many options and choices. Without boundaries to guide them, they may feel unsure and confused and make unhealthy decisions. With boundaries, they have the supports that help them choose wisely and grow up healthy.

Expectations also make a difference in children's lives. Having teachers and parents who expect them to do their best is important for children. For example, research shows that regardless of ability level, young people's scholastic achievement tends to be higher in classes where teachers have high expectations. When parents and teachers set high, yet realistic, expectations, children strive to do well.

What we need to always remember is that ultimately our young people are guided by our own actions and our attitudes. It is the job of all the role models in our community to ensure that our young people stay grounded, respect themselves and respect one another

Yours in God's Love
Saira Boyle, Principal

6 Key Areas of Boundaries and Expectations

Search Institute researchers have identified six assets in the area of boundaries and expectations that are crucial for helping young people grow up healthy. Check your family's areas of strength:

- ◇ **Family boundaries** – family has clear rules and consequences, and monitors the young person's whereabouts
- ◇ **School boundaries** – School provides clear rules and consequences
- ◇ **Neighbourhood boundaries** – Neighbours take responsibility for monitoring young people's behaviour
- ◇ **Positive peer influence** – Young person's best friends model responsible behaviour
- ◇ **High expectations** – Both parent(s) and teachers encourage the young person to do well

The 4 Cs of Boundaries and Expectations



Clear– Everyone should know what to expect

Consistent– Standards are more likely to be honoured when you uphold them

Creative– Kids respond better when boundaries are clever and creative

Confident– Expectations empower when you say "I know you can do this"



Board of Trustees

Senior Leaders have been working on collecting information from all stakeholders so that we can create a shared vision for our school.

Roger Shearer, BOT Chair

Lucky Book Club

Thank you to all of our wonderful families for supporting the Lucky Book Club. For every order that is made for a student at St Mary's, our school earns rewards, which we get to use towards new books in our library. New catalogues come home either once or twice a term, and we have our Book Fair in term 4 which is a big hit for

everyone.

As many of you are aware we are only doing online ordering now, which can be done through www.mybookclub.scholastic.co.nz and our school is listed as 'St Mary's Convent'. Ordering online has gone well so far and again thank you to everyone for your wonderful support.



Key dates * all welcome to attend

21 May	Art Ellerslie Red Mufti – Pentecost Celebration
22 May	Parent Partnership Hui (RE/Maths*)
23 May	Newsletter published
24 May	BOT meeting (7pm)
25 May	Fun-a-thon 1.30-2.30pm*
27 May	Family Parish Mass 9am* (St Mary House)
28 May	Samoan language week
30 May	Sausage sizzle
31 May	Feast of the Visitation - School Feast Day
4 Jun	Queens Birthday - school closed
5 Jun	Evacuation Drill
6 Jun	Newsletter published
7 Jun	Puberty Talks Y6
14 Jun	Puberty Talks Y6
15 Jun	Class Mass (Rm 7, 15 & 16) 9am*
19 Jun	Parenting Place John Cowan Evening
20 Jun	Newsletter published Paid Union Meeting
22 Jun	School Disco Class Mass (Rm 6, 8, 13 & 14) 9am*
25 Jun	Life Education Caravan
3 Jul	Y6 Parent Camp Meeting

Special Catholic Character from the Director of Religious Studies

"Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves, is a child of God and knows God." (1John: 4-7)

As I write this newsletter item, we are coming to the end of NZ Bully Free Week. It has been wonderful to see the growth in the understanding of our learners, in developing successful and nurturing relationships with those around them. Throughout the last few weeks, I have come across many resources in this area that in a non-secular way, rephrase and reinforce the wisdom and guidance of the Scriptures. As a teacher, it is exciting to share with learners, the treasure found within the words of the Bible. Personally, I have found the Book of Proverbs most enlightening. The messages within it are as valid today as they were thousands of years ago and reinforce the sacredness of each human being and the dignity with which each of us should be held. These are good lessons to discuss with your children.

"Friends always show their love." (Proverbs 17:17)

"My command is this: Love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this; to lay down one's life for one's friends." (John 15:12-13)

We are now half way through our Holy Spirit Strand and are about to celebrate several important Church feast days – The Holy Trinity, Pentecost and the Feast of the Visitation. The beauty of covering this Strand at this time, is that it is an easy link into our 'Relationships' focus for Inquiry Learning. In times of struggle, whether it be within our relationships or other life events, it is reassuring to know that we can call on the spiritual guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is comforting knowledge for those children, (and adults) who may battle with loneliness too, that we are never really alone. *"I will be with you all, until the end of time."* (Matthew 28: 16-20).

As a school community, we will be celebrating the Feast of the Visitation, (Thursday 31 May) with a fun day at school, centring around the story of Mary's visit to Elizabeth. The staff are looking forward to starting the day, by holding our traditional staff, "Breakfast Feast" with the sisters from The Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions – our neighbours! The children will be taking part in many hands on activities so if you are free, please chat to your child's teacher, as I'm sure they would be pleased to have a few more helping hands that day.

Prior to that, we are also celebrating the St Mary House school and parish mass on Sunday 27 May at 9am mass. The St Mary House learners have received notices from their teachers and are being asked to contribute to the food collection and morning tea afterwards. There is a growing need in our wider community for assistance with "care parcels" so the food buckets will be out in front of Room 13 all week leading up to the mass and we would be grateful for any donations to help out with this cause.

Blessings

Rachael Hill



Student Wellbeing

Netball and Hockey

Netball and Hockey are now in full swing at St Mary's. It is lovely to see the sideline enthusiasm and passion from all of our netballers, coaches, managers and whanau supporters. If you have any queries please speak to your team's coach/manager in the first instance. The coach/manager will then contact the school or association and get back to you.



Bully Free Week NZ

This week our learners have been learning about ways to reduce bullying from our school, through promoting positive and respectful friendships. On Friday the whole school was 'pinked out', to show support for Bully Free Week NZ. St Mary's learners donated a gold coin to programmes that support youth healthy self-esteem. Check out our school Facebook page to see more.



Parent connections W is for Wisdom

Wisdom is learning born from experiences, both positive and negative. You can develop wisdom in your child by:

- Allowing him or her to make choices and know the consequences of the choices
- Encouraging children to reflect on what they learn through their experiences. Would he do it again? Would she do it differently?
- Helping children recognise the effects their actions have on people and situations
- Observing and pointing out the actions and consequences of others' behaviours



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

email: stmaryspta@gmail.com

Fun-a-thon – Friday 25 May (PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE)

We still need parents to help supervise the 10 stations of fun! If you can be at school this Friday from 1.15-2.30pm please contact Kathleen on 0211 060 513. Students do not need to bring a change of clothes, they can complete the Fun-a-thon in their uniforms.

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

The PTA will need helpers on the night. Please note for all parents we ask that unless you are staying to help at the disco, please do drop your child off and then leave. It makes it easier on the carpark and reduces congestion inside the hall.

If you are able to help on the night please contact the PTA directly at stmaryspta@gmail.com. Jobs include running the carpark/directing traffic, selling food and drinks in the hall and taking tickets at the front doors. If you are a first aider/nurse/doctor please consider being a

helper on the night. A reminder that Year 6 parents are asked to help with cleanup at 8pm.

Sausage Sizzle – Wednesday 30 May

\$2.00 per sausage. If anyone is able to help please contact Nicholas Temm on 027 231 3233.

The Grand PTA Quiz Nite is back!

The rumours are true.... The Grand PTA Quiz Nite is back!! So **SAVE THE DATE** – Saturday 1 September 2018. You do not want to miss out on what will be a grand affair!

Next PTA Meeting

Will be held on Wednesday 6 June, 7pm with wine and drinks, meeting starts at 7.30pm. All our welcome to attend, held in the staff room at school.

Curriculum

Personal Interest Programmes (PiPs)

We have now started our second round of PiPs for the year and our learners are very excited. This time, we have decided to provide our learners more options and they now are choosing different interests school wide, instead of just within their learning team. We look forward to another exciting round of learning during our next PiPs rotation.

Samoan Language Week 2018

This will take place in Week 5 of this term. We had a brilliant and productive Samoan Fono with our Samoan families earlier in the term and we are looking forward to collaborating to provide an exciting week of learning to celebrate the Samoan language and culture.

Assessment for Learning

Some of your children might be talking about the assessment they are doing this term.

Years 0-2 are engaged in JAM and PM reading and a sample writing for their Progress and anniversary reporting. Years 3-6 target children are engaged in e-asTTle reading, writing and mathematics assessment. They are also being assessed in GLOSS.

Please talk to your children about these assessments as they should be able to share their assessment story with you.

Parent Portal

Each parent has been given access to our Student Management System Parent Portal. Your login details were sent out on paper and via email some time ago. Please keep these safe as these will remain the same through your child's journey with us. You should use this online portal to access your statements and account details regularly. You will also be able to view your child's assessment data, attendance and other information.



RayWhite

Ray White Ellerslie - Kyp Michailidis | 027 574 4947
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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.