

St Mary's Catholic School

58 Main Highway, Ellerslie, Auckland

Principal Mrs Saira Boyle



Issue #9 | 20 June 2018

We provide a Catholic education for the whole child

Assessment for Learning

Teachers are busy working on the progress reports for your children's learning. As part of report writing we ask each learner to reflect on what they have learnt and this is also included in their report. We are trying to include learner voice into as much as possible. Please try to ask your children what they are learning, why they are learning it and how they will know if they have been successful in Reading, Writing and Maths.

When learners can start to answer these questions we know they are growing in learning agency.

Catholic Convention

St Mary's Presentation

St Mary's Leadership Team were chosen to present to delegates at the convention this year. We were pretty nervous and also very proud to be able to share the journey of our school over the last 18 months. We had 70 people in our audience (and thank goodness for us we didn't realise till afterwards, some pretty big names in Catholic Education).

The feedback at the end of the presentation was overwhelmingly positive. Several Principals and leaders from schools across New Zealand came to ask questions about our initiatives and achievements and some even wish to visit and keep in touch for further information and advice about our developments and our change process. We returned and on Monday we shared this with the staff and then we offered up the praise received to each and every staff member in school, and now to you, our community, for without your support this would not have been possible.

IMPORTANT INVITATION

We invite all parents of children who have not yet received the Sacrament of Baptism, into the Catholic Church, to contact our Principal, Saira Boyle. As a faith based community, evangelisation is an essential part of what we do. We hope that by the time each and every child graduates from our school, that they have received the Sacrament of Baptism and we are here to extend the invitation to be able to support you and your child on this journey. Please contact Saira directly on saira@stmary.school.nz.

Parish

Father Joy

Welcome back from St Mary's Fr Joy. We are all so pleased to have you back and pleased to hear your travels were safe and peaceful.

Parish Pot Luck Dinner: Saturday 7 July after 5:30pm Mass

All are invited and welcome! Entertainment provided and fun guaranteed! Please bring a plate.

Parish Food Festival: 26 August – 10am

More information will follow closer to this date.



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!

Matariki began last Friday and Matariki is the Māori name for the cluster of stars, also known as the Pleiades. It rises in mid-winter and for many Māori, it heralds the start of a new year. Matariki literally means the 'eyes of god' (mata ariki) or 'little eyes' (mata riki).

I was blessed to attend the triennial Catholic Convention in Wellington last week, where we were fortunate to hear some powerful and energetic speakers. Matua Pat spoke about matariki and the sparkle in the stars. He likened them to our tamariki - no two stars are the same but collectively they are a beautiful blanket in our night sky. He called us to bring out the sparkle in every student, and to do this by using the light of Christ as Mata ariki and be the eyes of God here on earth. Matua Pat reminded us that each star has its time, and even little stars show their worth.

The beauty of a star is twofold. It has a distinct shape and glow, and our job as educators and parents, as we are chosen to model, is to bring out the sparkle in every child; to educate them to believe they



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.

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Mark 4:26-34

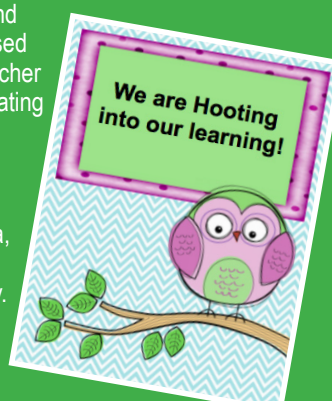
Very often we notice the ordinariness of Jesus. No big discourse on the kingdom of God. He just looks around him and says it's like seeds growing and you can't see them growing. People knew what he was talking about – seeds growing down in the ground and you can do little about it! You just wait. They had little of the modern quick ways even of sowing. All life was slow and that's often the way. Like tiny beginnings of a baby. All through life some of the best things are under our eyes and we do not see them. Coming to death there is a slow journey often and it's like growth is happening under the ground. We are being grown by God always if only we would let him do it.

We can help others grow. You may not know the faith that grows in your children. Faith is different for all of us in practice and specifics. Or the way children are taught to love and it comes out in the next generation: seeing love in a marriage and learning from example to forgive, to live in peace with each other. Seeds are sown and grow – how to love and forgive, how to share with our neighbour, how to face death. When we remember our dead, what comes to mind is what they taught us about life. A lot of the best in life is waiting. Important moments come at God's time. So much of life is on trust. Have a look this week at something small that will grow big, and be amazed! Heart of God, heart of Jesus, we place our trust in you.

Room 15

Room 15 is a newly established Year One class made up of learners from Room 14 and 16. They are all busy creating a learner focused relationship in their classroom, by discussing what learning might look like, sound like and feel like. A 'Learner Focused Relationship' is one where the teacher and learners are committed in creating a classroom that is focused on learning.

Room 15 have chosen to be Owls who Hoot into their learning. Olivia, Shamika and Mack have created artwork for their classroom display.



Marcellin College Visit for Y5/6 Learners

A cultural performance group and the DP from Marcellin College will be coming to our school on Thursday 5 July at 2pm.

Our learners will get an insight into what attending Marcellin College would be like and will have the opportunity to ask questions too.

We look forward to having Marcellin College visit.

Principal's Post continued

can be hope for humanity. As a faith based community we must look to the past and then also predict and create a vision for the future, a vision for hope. It is our hope that our school will sparkle and shine with the light of Jesus by holding ourselves in dignity and emulate Christ's work, to love, to be, to do. This is not without challenge and as part of a community we must remember there will be times we struggle with this, but to trust and to hope is ever important.

Another memorable thing I heard was to not be discouraged by examples of holiness that appear unobtainable. Pope Francis' primary homily is about joy. Joy begins with a penitential rite and the enemy of joy is to take oneself too seriously. The theme of the Convention was Te karanga ta te Karaiti: kia arohaina, kia ora, kia tina- Christ's call: to love, to be, to do. So it was wonderful to return to our school community and see this in action at the weekend.

On Sunday my family and I attended the beautiful ceremony where many of our learners received the Sacrament of Confirmation and Holy Communion. Confirmation builds on what was begun in Baptism and then is nourished in Holy Communion. This ceremony was filled with hope, and enthusiasm and true and pure joy! It completed the process of initiation into the Catholic community, and it matures the soul for the work ahead for our young people. We find when fishing boats in are in distress, they send up a flare into the darkness. This can be likened to the light of Christ's love which shines in our darkest places, our most profound divisions, and invites us to follow him in manifesting the love of God for the world.

I want to thank you for making St Mary's a little reminder of hope in our world. Every prayer, every encouraging email, and every kind and supportive word makes possible the manifestation of the hope and light of Christ in our school and further on into our world. I will leave you with a question posed by Bishop Charles. *What is it that enlightens in you the wonders of being part of a faith community?*

Yours in God's Love
Saira Boyle
Principal

Visit from Josephine Bartley

The Student Council were very excited to welcome Councillor Josephine Bartley into our school for a visit with our learners on the Student Council.

A big thank you to Dixie for organising this, our Student Council were very lucky to be able to learn some great leadership tips from Josephine.



Board of Trustees

As we approach the midpoint of 2018, the Board wishes to thank all of the families who have paid their contributions thus far. The Diocese of Auckland has been in contact to ask to remind families of this obligation when part of a Catholic School community. All payments for Term 1 and 2 are due to be paid by 30 June 2018.

At the moment the Board are looking over the Risk Assessment Management forms for the upcoming Year 6 school camp, which takes place next term, to ensure this is well planned and a safe experience for all. Last year the learners had a fantastic time and we are sure this will be a repeat.

We are also looking for ways to support the school to develop the outdoor court area, with a possibility of artificial turf to make this into a multi use area, improve the aesthetic and also provide a stimulating environment for our learners. If you are aware of any businesses or past students whom you feel maybe in a position to support this project financially we ask you to request they contact our Principal on saira@stmary.school.nz.

We are working on a property plan and will share the overall aspirations with the community shortly.

We also acknowledge that after years of dedicated service to St Mary's, Justine Lawlor, Rm 3 teacher, resigned from her employment to pursue other opportunities. Justine has been a valued member of staff and on behalf of St Mary's Catholic School, we would like to thank her for her service to the school and wish her all the very best for what the future holds.

Roger Shearer
BOT Chair

Key dates * all welcome to attend

20 Jun	Newsletter published Paid Union Meeting
22 Jun	Class Mass (Rm 6, 8, 13 & 14) 9am* Learners Assembly (Rm 11 host)* School Disco
25 Jun– 6 Jul	Life Education Caravan
27 Jun	Sausage sizzle* Water Robots (Ormiston, Y5-6)
28 Jun	BOT meeting
29 Jun	Learners Assembly (Rm 2 host)*
3 Jul	Y6 Parent Camp Meeting
4 Jul	APPA rehearsal Newsletter published
5 Jul	Marcellin College visit (Yr 5-6)
9–20 Jul	School Holidays
TERM 3	
23 Jul– 24 Sep	Footsteps Dance every Monday (Yr 3-6)
30 Jul– 1 Aug	Dental Van
31 Jul	PTA meeting*
1 Aug	Newsletter published
8 Aug	Kids Lit Quiz (Yr 5-6)
14 Aug	Lockdown drill
15 Aug	Newsletter published

Bikes in Schools

'Bikes in Schools' is a registered charity whose main aim is to enable as many children as possible to ride bikes on a regular basis at schools. With their help to

apply to many other grant organisations, we have now officially been granted over \$50,000!

We will be using this money to build a bike track around the field, purchase a fleet of 50 bikes at a range of sizes (with helmets), a storage container to store the bikes, training for teachers and our learners and much more. We count ourselves as being very fortunate. Work on the bike track will begin later in the year when the wet weather dries up. A huge thank you to Toni Dale from 'Bikes in Schools' as well as the following charities for granting us money:

- Trillian Trust
- Bike on NZ Charitable Trust
- Auckland Transport
- Four Winds Foundation
- Blue Waters Community Trust
- Lion Foundation
- Mt Wellington Foundation
- Maungakiekie Tamaki Local Board

Special Catholic Character *from the Director of Religious Studies*

Last week the Senior Leadership Team, (SLT) attended the New Zealand Catholic Education Convention in Wellington. It was a fantastic gathering of all connected to Catholic education, from pre-school through to tertiary level, from every corner of New Zealand. Besides presenting a workshop ourselves on the first day of the convention, we were treated to a number of talented and inspiring speakers from as far afield as the United States of America and England.

It was obvious from the three days, that we are in a state of change and reinvigoration in our faith education and the Church as a whole. A strong message delivered to us by both Brother David Hall and Father Daniel Horan, comes originally from Pope Francis, who challenges us to change the way we look at ourselves as followers of Christ, at one another as humans created in God's image and also calls for us to 'Care for our Common Home', (Laudato Si) truly living these values in our everyday lives.

The development of a new curriculum for our schools acknowledges the rapid rate of change in our world and how we as members of the Church and educators of the faith, must adapt in order to stay relevant and in tune with our learners, reflecting today's multi-faceted Church community and most importantly, the face of Jesus Christ.

It begins to address the worrying statistics about the retention of practising Catholics, particularly young Catholics, and the need for evangelisation so that our students may experience real and meaningful encounters with Christ. Referred to throughout many of the presentations, the Religious Education Bridging Document, (REBD) can be seen as a positive action we, as Catholic educators, are making to address these issues facing us today, highlighting challenges we face as a collective but also with a message of hope. The final curriculum document is presently at the consultation stage of collecting student, parent, teacher and parish community voice. The process is a long and well thought out one, as they intend the document to be as enduring as the previous one (20 years). It is anticipated that the final draft will be ready for schools by 2021.

Blessings

Rachael Hill



Parent connections Y is for Yesterday

How can you nurture your child's interest in the past?

- You and your child can learn about your family's history by creating a family tree
- Share what life was like when you were a child. Interview grandparents about what life was like when they were children
- Create a scrapbook or photo album and fill it with old family pictures and mementoes
- Preserve tomorrow's memories by journalling or creating a time capsule of the present. Your grandchildren will thank you!



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email: stmaryspta@gmail.com

SECONDHAND UNIFORM BOUTIQUE

The Secondhand Uniform Boutique is open each Friday 2.30-3.30pm. Payment may be by cash or online banking. We also have new children's umbrellas available from both the Boutique and School Office anytime at \$10 each.

A BIG thank you to everyone for supporting our recent Sports Hoodie fundraiser. We are really looking forward to seeing some of the children and staff members wearing these soon! We expect delivery on Friday 22 June.

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

Dress up theme is Old School and tickets are being sold every day this week before school starts. A reminder that Year 6 parents are asked to help with cleanup at 8pm.

QUIZ NITE – Saturday 1 September

HELP... We need YOU! Did you know this September is the St Mary's Quiz Night? Our quiz night is open for all, a wonderful opportunity to meet others in our community and have fun. This is also our MAJOR PTA FUNDRAISER for this year, so we need EVERYONE'S help by attending, donating prizes or do you have contacts who could help?

Through this event we will raise funds which support the school to provide enriched learning experiences for our children at St Mary's, so we need great prizes and people to attend for a successful night. If you can help please contact Brenda: mrsclw@stmarys.school.nz or Meredith: mere46@hotmail.com.



Sustainability

St Mary's sustainable activators went to Oete Goat Farm on Tuesday to plant the native trees we have been growing since last year. St Mary's is part of the trees for survival programme. By planting these native trees we are helping the environment restore its natural habitats by helping landowners revegetate erosion prone land, improve stream flow and water quality and increase biodiversity.



Digital

Do you have a school student using an Apple device for their learning?

Apple Computers are now offering 24/7 support with their devices for students in state and state integrated school.

NOW YOU CAN CALL APPLE 24/7 FOR SUPPORT!

- ✓ Hardware support
- ✓ Operating system support
- ✓ Support with all Apple authored apps

Thanks to a new supply agreement between the Ministry of Education, Cyclone and Apple, teachers and each of their students in every NZ state and integrated school, are now able to have 24/7 direct access to Apple support.

Hard to believe? Try it!

Step 1: Phone 0800 387 931

Step 2: Enter the access code: 2923

Step 3: Answer the question with: Ministry of Education

Marcellin

Marcellin College is now enrolling for 2019.

A co-educational school founded by the Marist Brothers in Royal Oak. We are a high achieving school. Come and see the difference.

For an enrolment pack or individual tour during the school day, phone our enrolments officer Peyton on 625 6509 ext 701.

"Brothers and Sisters achieving together."

