

# St Mary's Catholic School

58 Main Highway, Ellerslie, Auckland

Principal Mrs Saira Boyle



Issue #10 | 4 July 2018

We provide a Catholic education for the whole child

## Learner Agency

Over the last few months our learners have increased in their agency. We are starting to hear children talk about their learning goals and the way in which they have self and peer assessed to improve their learning. When children understand what they are learning, why they are learning it and how they know they have been successful it increases their self belief and their engagement in learning!

## 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](mailto:saira@stmary.school.nz).

## 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 5th 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.

## Parish

### 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.

### World Youth Day

14-15th July #WYDAK18

### Children and Junior Youth Mass

29th July

### Parish School Family Mass

5th August

### Parish Food Festival

26 August at 10am - More information will follow closer to this date.

### Anointing Mass

15th September - 9am



## 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!

Over the last few months I have been considering ways in which to beautify our external school environment and also ensure our facilities are developed in such a way that supports our long term school vision. At the heart of these dreams and prayers is always the needs of our learners. I am passionate about ensuring the experience of education all of our learners receive here at St Mary's is of excellent quality, which encompasses being safe, happy, developed and grown. Our school mission is to Provide a Catholic Education for the Whole Child and two weeks ago I feel like we may have been presented with an opportunity which is an answer to some of these prayers.

We were gifted a significant amount of money (\$100,000) from a most generous, loyal and supportive member of our parent community, which will enable the school to provide a multi purpose sports area for our learners. As a school community we can not express our gratitude enough for this amazing opportunity.



## 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.

### Year B, Mark 5:21-43

*'If only I could touch the garment'.* This was a dream of the woman who was ill. Ill for many years and laughed at a bit by other women. Her dream activated her to go to Jesus with her illness, her hopes and her faith. Her faith opened Jesus' power to heal.

We bring much to prayer for healing and for strength. The peace and calm of some summer days can encourage us to hope for strength in life and strength in faith. We can find a way to join with others and faith is touched by the faith of others. A journey to some holy place. These are today like the hems of the garment, where we make prayerful contact with the healing Jesus.

The other reality is that we touch the hem of the garment where we are touched by the help and support of others. The ordinary kindnesses in life, the listening ear which consoles, the time given to the sick, our care for the poor, are ways of bringing this touch of the Lord to others.

When the woman touched his garment, she knew something good had happened. We can be people through whom others know that good things happen. May the love of my heart, Lord, bring your love alive in the world.

## Principal's Post continued

We are looking to use space effectively by astroturfing an area of the school to provide hockey, netball, running tracks and some games for our learners. The plan is for the environment to be a vibrant, colourful space to stimulate learners whilst providing them with the facilities which they deserve for sports education. An upgrade of sports facilities for St Mary's also ensures our children are able to train and develop their individual and team skills in a manner which promotes their competitive passion when playing against teams from other schools. Our children and parents give so much to our teams, this will be amazing to help lift their performance out on the field!

We do, however need your support to help us finalise this as we are keen to commit around \$25,000 to this project. Contributing to the Property Fund as part of the school donations will all go towards this project. Also, if you are aware of any businesses or people linked to our community who you feel would be in a position to support us with this, it would be greatly appreciated. As a parish school, we aim to work in partnership with our parish to ensure this plan can be of benefit to us all.

As a parish school, pastoral care is of great significance to our community. It has been heartening of late to see the way in which the Caring Committee arm of our amazing PTA have stepped into action on several occasions to support members of the community and their families in need. Thank you to all involved with this. This culture of care has also been reflected with our learners this week. All children are coming to the close of their Inquiry Learning around the concept of being a good friend and reduce bullying and the school is a hub of excited energy and creativity as classes are working collaboratively to 'make' an outcome to beautify the environment and remind us of our promise to live our values. Hopefully their creations will be installed over the term break so be sure to look out for them at the start of Term 3. The first half of our year has been a positive and exciting time of learning, with all learners making shifts in their academic progress.

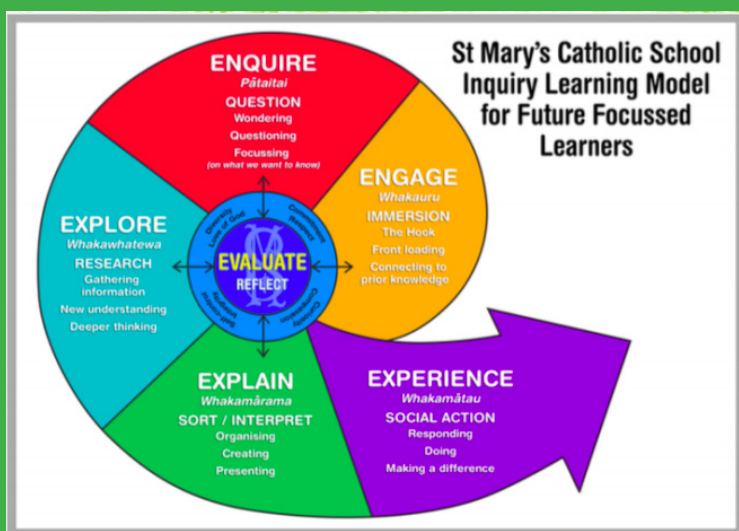
I wish you all a safe, peaceful and warm break and look forward to working alongside you once again in a few weeks.

*Yours in God's Love*  
Saira Boyle  
Principal

## Inquiry Learning

Our Inquiry Concept of 'Me and My Relationships' has been so successful. Our learners followed the process of our St Mary's Catholic School Inquiry Learning Model which included:

- **Engage:** We had a fantastic immersion day where we had the police on site, police dogs, watched videos about how to treat others, shared thoughts on bullying and much more. This allowed us to truly immerse our learners into different experiences about how children treat others and how others feel when they have not been treated kindly.
- **Enquire:** Our learners questioned and shared their wonderings about how they should treat others and how to build positive relationships with their friends.
- **Explore:** Our learners then researched and gathering information to inform their inquiry by asking questions to their peers around school about how they treat others and how their peers have been treated by others too.
- **Explain:** Learners then discussed and looked into all of the information they gathered from their peers and thought about how they could use this research to create some Social Action.
- **Experience:** We are now finishing up our Social Action! We have used all of our planning and information gained from 'Explore and Explain' to then share our ideas moving forward to promote positive relationships at school via Social Action. You will start to see some school beautification around the school as a result from some classes Inquiry Learning.



## Board of Trustees

At our recent BOT meeting we heard of the way in which our leadership team and teachers meet fortnightly in their learning teams. These meetings are Case Management Meetings where individual learners are discussed, their learning progress analysed and the teams work together to develop strategies to support the teacher to help the child make further progress. We saw a sample of work from a child at the start of the year, mid way through and recently and we were blown away by the progress made.

In light of National Standards being no longer used, we feel comfortable that with this level of monitoring and tracking our children's progress and achievement is in good hands. Please click the links below for a fact sheet that explains more about this. In the meanwhile the reporting for 2018 will inform you of your child's achievement against the expected curriculum level for their age.

*Roger Shearer*  
BOT Chair

Te Reo Maori version: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B-lhbCdz6WyNeW1SMFBEEVlQenFZeDhoRjN6UDFSZVRONkN3>

English version: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B-lhbCdz6WyNc09KUUXUR01pd2ZGQm5GQ092YIBlcE1xeXFN>

## Special Catholic Character

*from the Director of Religious Studies*

We are now nearing the end of the term, the middle of the academic year and the winter months. It is quite obvious that the students are getting tired and that many people are struggling with the bugs that come with the drop in temperature too. At this time, it is especially important to look after ourselves and that care starts from the inside out. Meditation is one way, we teach the students to stop, take a moment away from the busyness of the school day and to grow their relationship with God. This reinforces the teaching we deliver about prayer, (karakia) that "God is everywhere, so you can pray anywhere" – or indeed at anytime. As we move into the last week of our Church Strand, the learners are being reminded of this message too – that the Church is more than just a building. It is the people; US and our relationship with God and each other that makes 'The Church'. As a Mission school, prayer, 'Contemplation' is one of our key values.

Meditation comes in many forms, including one form known as "Mindfulness". The important difference between mindfulness and other forms of meditation is the element of prayer. In mindfulness, people practise emptying their minds, whereas with prayer meditation, we call upon God to be with us in the stillness of the moment. It is a skill that needs practice, requiring the learners to sit and breathe in a particular way, (as taught to teachers and learners by Sister Anne Skelars last year) in order to allow the Lord to enter and 'be' with us.

At St Mary's, we wanted to acknowledge the importance of prayer in everyday life and the need to intertwine it in our daily routine; so each day at 12:10pm, the whole school stops and observes 5-10 mins, (depending on age) of prayer meditation. The students really enjoy this time and we are now beginning to witness some beautiful, deep and powerful connections being made. It would be lovely if you as parents and whanau, korero (talk) to your children about their prayer meditation and ask them to share their prayer meditation practice/skills with you. You don't need anything to do this – just time and a quiet space. It would be a wonderful family tradition to foster and a gift to give to your children and your family as a whole.

Blessings

*Rachael Hill*



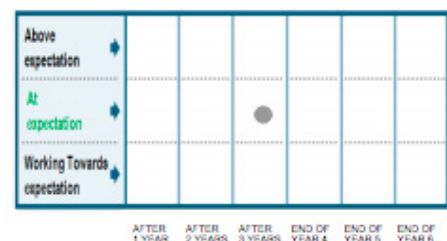
## Key dates \* all welcome to attend

4–6 Jul	Life Education Caravan
4 Jul	APPA rehearsal Newsletter published
5 Jul	Marcellin College visit (Yr 5-6)
6 Jul	Singing Assembly 10.30am*
9–20 Jul	<b>School Holidays</b>
<b>TERM 3</b>	
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
3 Aug	Class Mass (Rm 2, 4, 5, 10) 9am* Singing Assembly 10.30am*
8 Aug	Kids Lit Quiz (Yr 5-6)
10 Aug	Singing Assembly 10.30am* Whole School Assembly (Rm1 lead) 2pm*
14 Aug	Lockdown drill Cross Country*
15 Aug	Newsletter published

## Assessment learning

For our learners who are receiving their 80 (after two years) or 120 week (after three year) summative reports at the end of this term, there will be no previous overall judgment shown on their report. This has occurred as National Standards have been removed in assessment and reporting, nationally. St Mary's are assessing children on curriculum expectation levels which are shown on the report.

If you have any questions or queries regarding this change please do not hesitate to contact our Director of Assessment, Gail Christie on [gail@stmary.school.nz](mailto:gail@stmary.school.nz).



## 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."*



## Parent connections A is for Attendance

Attendance is a critical factor in any child's school success. Children should attend school every day, except in cases of illness or emergency. It is impossible to replace the learning that happens on any school day with make-up work. Regular attendance and promptness are good habits that are expected and appreciated at all levels of schooling and in the workplace.

Make school a priority in your household. Commit to excellence in attendance. Your child's future depends on it!



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## Wellbeing

### The Daily Mile

Next term we are going to be starting The Daily Mile with our learners. This is an initiative that was started in the UK and is fast catching on worldwide.

The aim of The Daily Mile is to improve the physical, social, emotional and mental health, and wellbeing of our children – regardless of age, ability or personal circumstances. It is a profoundly simple but effective concept, which any school can implement completely free of charge and without the need for staff training. Its impact can be transformational – improving not only the children's fitness, but also their attainment, mood, behaviour and general wellbeing.

The Daily Mile is not sport or PE, but health and wellbeing through daily physical activity. Children are encouraged to jog or run outside for 15 minutes every day at a time of their teacher's choosing.

In this time, most children will average a mile or more distance (1.6km) – and so, The Daily Mile is born!

The Daily Mile helps to make children fitter, healthier and happier and has a positive impact on their behaviour and concentration levels. It is simple and effective, enabling every child, including those with special needs, to be active every day. It's free to implement, takes just 15 minutes per day, and the children love it.

### Flippa Ball

St Mary's have been lucky enough to enter a team as a trial into the local Flippa Ball Term 2 competition. This has been a huge success and as a result we are looking at entering more teams next term. Games are on Sunday between 12-5pm at Diocesan or St Cuthberts. Teams consist of 9 players and the cost is \$500 per team. All teams will need a coach.

A notice has been sent home to interested Year 3-6 students, can these please be returned to school by Thursday so we can gauge interest and see how many teams we can enter.

## Sustainability



### Oete Goat Farm

On Tuesday the 19th of June the sustainable council went to the Oete Goat Farm to plant over 300 native trees that we began to grow at our school last year, as part of Trees for Survival programme.

We got morning tea. We had biscuits and fruit then we got to go and see the goats there were more than 2500 goats. They looked goofy.

After that we got shown how to plant a tree.

#### How to plant a tree

*Step 1: dig a hole the size of your tree*

*Step 2: put the plant in then cover it in dirt.*

*Step 3: push the dirt down hard then do the pukeko test because there are lots of pukekos around the farm. What you do is give the plant a tug and if you can't pull it out then a pukeko can't either.*

There were so many trees that we planted these include Manuka, Kanuka, cabbage and flax.

*By Milla and Yasmine.*

### Trees for Survival

On Tuesday the 19th of June the sustainable council went to Otete Goat Farm to plant some trees. We did this to help the environment by planting all the trees from the sustainable area in our school.

We left early in the morning because it was a 45 minute drive to get there. When we got there we met the staff and they gave us a tour of the place. While we were having morning tea Sue explained all the rules to us so we could stay safe because there were tractors around.

After that we went to a truck loaded up with spades. There wasn't enough for everyone to have their own so we got buddied up. Sue showed us how to dig up holes and put the plant in.

When we started I found it pretty hot and the dirt where Cami and I were digging was quite hard to dig up, but we managed to do it. It was super fun!

Once we finished planting the trees we got to hold some baby goats! They were so cute and fluffy, we also went over to the goat den to make some new friends. (AKA the goats.) It was such an experience and I had so much fun!

*By Kate Munro*



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

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

## DISCO

A great 'old school' night was had by all at the disco on 22 June. Thanks to the organising committee of Emma Arthurs, Paula Bridge, Jo Chilvers, Kathleen Lonergan, Gillian Moore and Barb Williamson; the volunteers inside and outside the hall on the night; and those who helped setup on Friday afternoon. Emily Heyworth of Hey Sugar Styling created the amazing balloon entrance display and our DJ Alf Aholelei kept the tunes up all night! A huge thank you to all the Year 6 families who stayed for cleanup. Finally a special mention to the children who all behaved exceptionally well and got into the spirit of things with their sensational costumes. A total of \$2,700 was raised so thank you again for your support.

## FUN-A-THON

Congratulations to Elijah Fotofili who raised \$250 and Vitalina Iloilo who raised \$200 – you were the highest individual fundraisers for last month's fun-a-thon! Special mention to Jackson Douglas (\$120), Annelise Clarke (\$100), Jack Weedon (\$100), Rory Weedon (\$100), Miriama Watene (\$90), Jack Delahunty (\$90), Imogen Howie (\$85) and Fletcher Howie (\$85). You all contributed to the grand total of \$3,200 so you should be very proud of yourselves. Thank you to all our families for supporting this fun event.

## SAUSAGE SIZZLE

Thank you to Nicholas Temm and his team for today's sausage sizzle. Your organisation of these lunches twice a term is appreciated.

## END OF TERM RAFFLES

Tickets are on sale all this week before school. Great prizes to be had and you've got to be in it to win it! Thanks to Lana Bennett and Jennifer Tseng for co-ordinating the raffles, their team of helpers and all families who have donated prizes.

## SPORTS/CASUAL WEAR HOODIES

Thank you to everyone for supporting our recent successful fundraiser. Our new school hoodies are being worn with pride by many including some teachers and coaches of the winter sports teams as well as many of our students. We have a small number of limited sizes available for sale in the Uniform Boutique. Open on Fridays 2.15-3.15pm or by appointment ([grotto@orcon.co.nz](mailto:grotto@orcon.co.nz)).

We are considering running another order at the beginning of Term 3 if you missed out. This would include all sizes from child size 6 through to adult XXL. Please contact us at [stmaryspta@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryspta@gmail.com) if you would be interested in placing an order.

## CARING COMMITTEE

We have been helping out several school families this last fortnight with some support in the form of fresh/frozen meals. If you might be interested in helping out by preparing a meal or some baking please contact Erin Hanley or Cathy Shearer on [stmaryspta@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryspta@gmail.com). Thank you so much.

## NEW PARENTS MORNING TEA

Thank you to Brenda Clews and her team for hosting the new parents morning tea last week.

*Thanks for all your support over Term 2, we wish all the families and community of St Mary's a safe and happy holiday break. We look forward to seeing you all in Term 3.*

## 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: [mrsclaws@gmail.com](mailto:mrsclaws@gmail.com) or Meredith: [mere46@hotmail.com](mailto:mere46@hotmail.com).



**7:30pm Saturday 1st Sept**  
**Royal Oak Bowling Club**  
**Tickets \$35 each      Tables seat 8**  
 (incl bubbles or juice on arrival & 2 raffle tickets)  
 Delicious savoury & sweet platters available for preorder  
 To Book - [jldwhiting@gmail.com](mailto:jldwhiting@gmail.com) (Jeff)  
 To Donate - [mrsclaws@gmail.com](mailto:mrsclaws@gmail.com) (Brenda)  
 Info - [sleemanhouse@icloud.com](mailto:sleemanhouse@icloud.com) (Nikki)



Ray White Ellerslie - Kyp Michailidis | 027 574 4947  
[kyp.michailidis@raywhite.com](mailto: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 Mary's Primary School. Please mention this advert upon making contact with me.



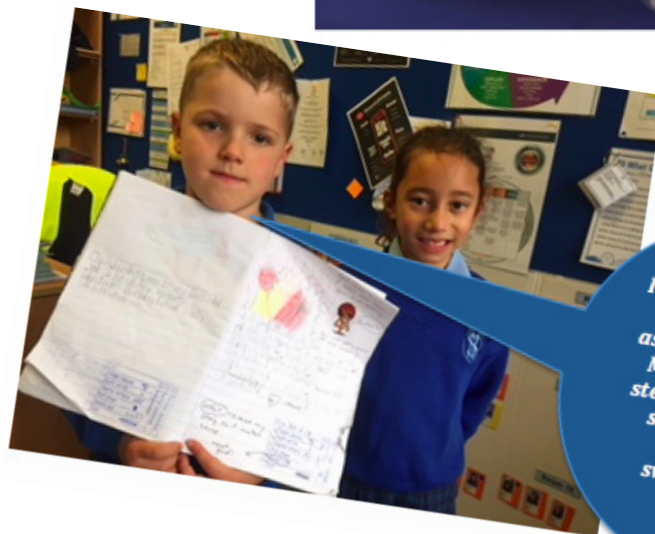
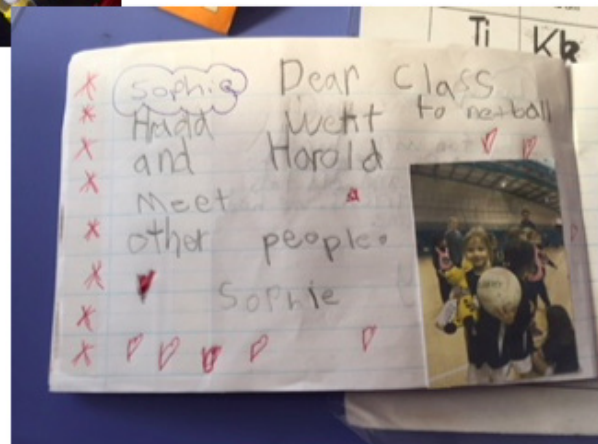


The Life Education Mobile Caravan is currently visiting St Mary's. Life Education is a charity that educates and empowers children to make healthy choices so they can live full and healthy lives.



"We are learning how to be good friends. We can smell the flowers and blow out the candles to help us control our feelings".

"In Room 13 we can take Harold home and write in his diary".



I love writing; I am good at self assessing my work. My next learning step in writing is to sound out hard words like swimming and house!

I have been retelling the story of Matariki. The seven fish were thrown into the sky by the giant and they became the seven stars of Matariki.

