

St Mary's Catholic School Ellerslie

We provide a Catholic Education for the whole child.



10 October 2018

Dear Parents, Grandparents and Whanau,

Grandparents' Day: including St Mary's Famous Book Character Parade, Mass and Book Sales
Friday 3 November 9.30am - 1.15pm

We are writing to invite you and your child's tipuna (grandparent) (or significant elder in the life of your child) to our celebratory Grandparents' Day. Each tipuna is unique and irreplaceable. As society changes, the role of grandparents changes. But some things about grandparents are constant. Join us in celebrating the gift they are in our lives! This week is our school Book Week, which culminates in our annual Book Character Parade. The week also ends with All Souls and All Saints Feasts and so we combine the two events for a day of celebration. There will be;

- **Book Character Parade 9.30am-10.30am;** children should come to school dressed in a book character costume of their choice and carrying the book (they may remain in their costume for the day, minus large items, such as boxes!)
- **Children's Morning Tea at 10.30am-11am**
- **Morning Tea for Grandparents in the Parish Hall 10.30am;** during this time you are welcome to visit the library with your mokopuna (grandchild) to purchase a book from the book fair.
- **Grandparents' Mass 11.30am;** all seated by 11.20am
- **Lunchtime 12:30pm-1:15pm;** feel free to spend time with the tamariki children (library open)

Note:

- **All week;** library is open for book browsing and purchasing Tues - Fri: 8.30am-8.50am; 2.50pm-3.10pm (not Friday pm); also Friday 10.30am-11.00am and 12.30-1pm (a great time to look for Christmas gifts)
- **Sustainable Learning Koha** (donation); we are in the process of building an outdoor Sustainable Learning Classroom for our ākongā (learners). We ask that each family who attends the celebrations of the day please consider **gifting the school one of the plants (on the rear of this letter)** to help us to establish the native plants in this area. If you would like to see the progress of our space please ask your children to take you.
- Parish Mass is still taking place at 9am. We need to be respectful of the need for quiet until 9.30am.

IMPORTANT

- **Car parking should not be an expectation.** Last year we saw the largest number of families attend, which was fantastic, however it is sad to note that despite the best efforts of one of our PTA members to coordinate traffic, some guests were challenging, which resulted in unsafe circumstances, a tainted event and its purpose. As a parish school we are lucky to have limited car park spaces and for this year, the use of our courts. Demand does outweigh supply on large events such as this. We will have personnel in high visibility jackets directing traffic flow;
 - **Arrive in good time** for the start of the parade. **Expect either a wait** to be parked, or to **allow time for parking elsewhere and walking**
 - When the space we have allocated is full, you will need to **drop your Grandparent/elder and then park and walk**
 - We advise families to **carpool** as much as possible please
 - **Smile and live the values of the Gospel**

As a Christian Catholic community our purpose is to build, evangelise and grow community and this is a two way thing. We always aim to do the best we have within our resources and skills. Please come along, enjoy the day and remember to see Christ in the hearts and minds of all with whom you interact on this special celebration of learning and life.

Blessings
Saira Boyle
Principal

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