



# St Mary's School

## Te Kura o Hato Mere

### Newsletter: Term 3 Week 5

### Thursday 20 August 2020



#### Principal's View

Tena koutou, kumusta, talofa lava

Life is certainly not dull at the moment. Just when we were thinking that COVID-19 was not such a big deal for our country anymore, we were given a reminder that we are dealing with a very difficult and complex virus. Our move to Alert Level 2 has changed the way we do things again and has reminded us all that nothing is to be taken for granted in our fight to minimise and eradicate the virus from our country.

My thanks go to all of you for either using the NZ COVID tracer app or our school app when you enter the school grounds. Whilst this is a bit of an inconvenience we all realise that if there was an outbreak in Christchurch we would quickly be able to track and trace people who may have been exposed to someone with the virus.

I have been in touch with some of my principal colleagues and they have spoken about some anxiety from students in their schools around COVID-19. I have been fortunate to report that at St Mary's our students, on the whole, are very happy and seem quite resilient so far. Many studies have shown that children will often take their lead from significant adults in their lives. At school I feel blessed to have a team of teachers and support staff that are very calm, experienced and reassuring. They work hard each day to ensure that our students feel safe and happy whilst learning. Together we will get through this difficult time and look forward to getting back to normal soon.

Mā te Atua koe e manaaki, e tiaki  
*May God bless you and protect you*

David O'Neill  
 Principal

#### Principal's Awards 10 Aug



Ivana,  
 Penitito, Rachel,  
 Venus, Kacey  
 & Jesse

#### Principal's Awards 17 Aug



Ruby, Lexie, Colin,  
 Mathea &  
 Ian

## Upcoming Events

**Fri 4 Sept**

**No School - Teacher Only Day**

**Wed 9 Sept**

**Library Van**

**Fri 25 Sept**

**Last Day of Term 3**

## Reminders

**- Teacher Only Day Friday 4 September: NO SCHOOL**

## Birthdays

21/08 Friday  
ELISHVA Rm1

28/08 Friday  
GABRIEL Rm4

24/08 Monday  
NOAH Rm2

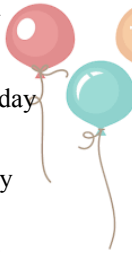
29/08 Saturday  
OLIVIA Rm4

26/08 Wednesday  
JESSE Rm4

30/08 Sunday  
MASON Rm5

27/08 Thursday  
ETHAN Rm4  
HONOR Rm1

03/09 Thursday  
MADDIE Rm1  
KWYNKY Rm1



### Teacher Only Day - Fri 4 Sept

There will be no school on Friday 4 September due to a teacher only day. Please ensure you do not send your child to school that day as the school will be closed.

### Sacrament of Confirmation

Year 8 students please mark the 31st October on your calendar for Confirmation. Details for the programme will be out soon. The programme will involve a retreat day and 2 evenings for students and 2 parent sessions.

### Dancing Like the Stars - Yr 5&6

Can all parents whose children are involved in Dancing Like the Stars please make sure you have returned the notice that was sent home earlier in the week to Miss Francis - thank you.

### Closing of School Gate

Please ensure that when you enter and leave the school grounds you shut the school gate properly after you - thank you. This is to ensure the safety of all of our students.

### Carpark Safety

A reminder to all parents/caregivers to reduce speed in our driveway and carpark areas to ensure the safety of our students as they walk down the drive or across the carpark.

### Swimming

As you are aware due to the us moving into Alert Level 2 we have been unable to attend swimming lessons for the next 2 weeks at Graham Condon Pool. We have rebooked these for weeks 1 & 2 in term 4, Monday 12 October - Friday 23 October.

**There will be no charge for swimming this year.**

### Attendance Dues

A reminder to please pay any outstanding attendance dues as soon as possible. These can be paid via internet banking or to the parish office. The cost per term is \$95 per child, or \$380 per year per child. If you are internet banking please pay into the following bank account number and ensure you use your child's name as a reference.

**Cathedral Parish at St Mary's**  
03-1592-0602201-22

**Parish Office Hours**  
**Mon: 8.30am - 12.00pm**  
**Tues - Fri: 8.30am - 2.00pm**

### Special Choir

Our special choir will be singing at the 9.30am Mass on **Sunday 30 August**. Choir students will be required to be at the church by 9.15am in school uniform. Please text Caitlin to confirm your child's attendance.

Due to COVID-19 Deacon Tang Phan's ordination has been postponed. **Therefore our Special Choir students will no longer be required to sing on Saturday as was previously advertised.**



## Our Mission is:

*To provide a Catholic Education which encourages all students to realise their full potential in the family, community and society.*

