



St Mary's School

Te Kura o Hato Mere

Newsletter: Term 1 Week 5 Thursday 27 February 2020



Principal's View

Tena Koutou, Kumusta, Talofa lava

Over the past week our Arataki Team (Yr 4-8) have been co-constructing learning and behavioural expectations for the year. The students have come up with many ideas and they have really thought hard about how they should behave in their classrooms.

We are working on developing student agency. What is "agency"? It is when students feel in control of things that happen around them; when they feel that they can influence events. This is an important sense for learners to develop. They need to be active participants in their learning. One way of thinking of student agency is when learners have the 'power to act'. When learners move from being passive recipients to being much more active in the learning process, and actively involved in the decisions about the learning, then they have greater agency. Students must develop the capacity to engage strategically in their learning without waiting to be directed. They must take ownership of and responsibility for their learning and possess the skills to learn independently, without heavy dependence on external structures and direction. At St Mary's we believe our students are well on the way to developing 'agency' and the many dispositions and skills required to be an active participant in their learning and to later succeed in their adult life.

Manaaki te Atua (God Bless)

David O'Neill
Principal

Congratulations to the following students who received Principal's Awards:

Principal's Awards 17 Feb



Mason, Noah,
Sasha, Luka &
Eva

Principal's Awards 24 Feb



Emma, Ryan,
Joseph, Stevie
& Erin



Birthdays

25/02 Tuesday JOSEPH Rm3
 26/02 Wednesday RUBY Rm4
 27/02 Thursday * JAIRUS Rm2
 10/03 Tuesday CAMERON Rm4



Upcoming Events

Wed 4 March Marian Community Service
 Sun 15 March School Mass 9am
 Wed 18 March Christchurch Symphony Orchestra Ensemble
 Tues 24 March Breakers Basketball Coaching
 Mon 30 March Yr 8 HPV Vaccinations

Thurs 9 April Last Day of Term 1
 Fri 10 April Good Friday
 Sun 12 April Easter Sunday

Tues 28 April First Day of Term 2



Yesterday was Ash Wednesday which marks the beginning of Lent. We held a service in the learning centre led by Fr Thanh. Every person received a cross of ashes on their forehead which is a very old tradition in the catholic church. Lent is a season of penance, reflection, and fasting which prepares us for Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday. Ashes are a symbol of penance made sacramental by the blessing of the church, and they help us develop a spirit of humility and sacrifice. The ashes are made from the blessed palms used in the Palm Sunday celebration of the previous year. The ashes are blessed with Holy Water.

While the ashes symbolise penance and contrition, they are also a reminder that God is gracious and merciful to those who call with repentant hearts. This mercy is of upmost importance during the season of lent.

Altar Servers

St Mary's Pro Cathedral is looking for children who have made their First Holy Communion to become altar servers to serve at the 5.30pm Mass and the 9am Mass on the 4th Sunday of every month. If this is something your child can assist with please contact Sam on 027 746-3875. Full training will be given.

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Welcome to St Mary's

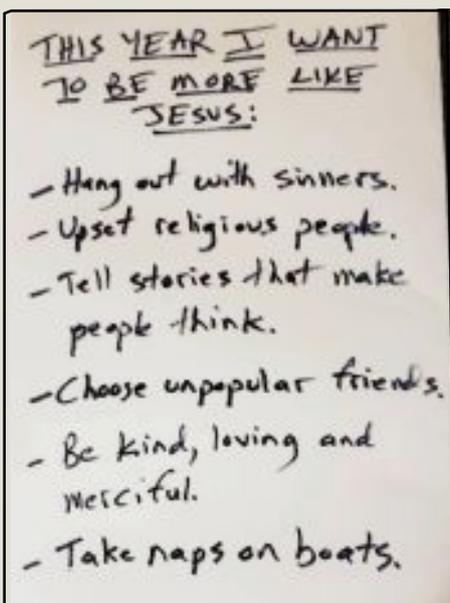
We welcome the following student to St Marys:
 Zeya - R1

Board of Trustees News

Last night at our Board of Trustees meeting Mr Allan Watson was re-elected as our board chair for the 2020 year. The board also approved the purchase of 3 large TVs and trolley units for Rooms 1, 2 & 3 to upgrade the audio visual facilities in these classrooms. Current board members are: Allan Watson, David O'Neill, Murray Debenham, Nicola Martinovich, Manelli Bragat, Mary-Jane Norris, Lusía Amituanai, Carol LaBrooy, Shiny Abraham and Kuda Chinyemba.

Faith Fact

The ONLY Christian church in existence for the first 1,000 years of Christian history was the Roman Catholic Church. All other Christian churches which exist today can trace their lineage back to the Roman Catholic Church. Most non-Catholic churches which exist today are less than a century or two old by comparison.



Our Mission is:

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

