

St Mary's
School



Kōrero

A Bulletin for the St Mary's School Community

A Message from the Principal

Kia ora, talofa lava, malo e lelei, bula, mabuhay, greetings to you all.

You will have received a letter over the last two days, informing you of the upcoming paid union meetings, where all primary teachers who are union members will be off-site to discuss the latest offer from the government in relation to their collective agreement. This is not a strike, but is a very important part of the collective bargaining process. We are very grateful to you for your support as this process unfurls. We apologise for having to suspend normal lessons for the afternoon of the 21st March 2019. We do ask that you pick your child/ren up at 12.45pm if you are able because there will be a minimal staff presence on site while the meetings are taking place.

This year at school, we are focusing on a 'learning without walls' curriculum, where we are trying to take our children out of school for more outdoor experiences, as well as give them increased access to experts out in the community. This week, our Year 5 learners are visiting the Chelsea Sugar Factory - by all accounts a very engaging visit! Last week, the Auckland Museum visited C3 for a day and the children learned about the geography of our Auckland isthmus. We even sent two of our teachers to professional learning where they learned about ways in which outdoor education can support our children to learn effectively. This included the teachers being put into the position of being students for the day and learning a number of outdoor skills. If you would like to see more about the learning that is happening in and around our school, please like and follow our Facebook page [link](#) and that of our parent support group [link](#).

We have our second whole-school assembly on Friday at 10am. You are most welcome to come along and share in the children's learning with them.

Friday is also our school muffin day in aid of the Child Cancer Foundation. Children are asked to bring a gold coin as a donation to this worthwhile cause. This will cover both the muffin and Ice Block Friday.

With God's blessings.

Mā te Atua koe e tiaki.

Michelle Holly
Tumuaki/ Principal



C3 having a great time during their 'Learning Without Walls' activity on Tuesday morning.



Miss Chapman and Miss Winspear attending their Outdoor Education Professional learning last weekend.

Student Writing

Driving to Wellington

Not very often, but now and then, my alarm screeches at me to slump into a messy car and drive to Wellington. I loathe these trips and always try to come up with some crazy excuse that might stop me from going.

The minute I stop groaning Dad slams on the accelerator and we zoom off. The sun makes sure we suffer its wrath. It's a ball of fire as it thumps burning heat on our scorched bodies. The packets of sweets we so desperately devour lie crumpled in a corner of the prehistoric car. The sound of my brother's ogre-like snores are only just muffled as the sound of the engine drones on loudly, thirsty for oil. The depressing buzz of dying flies echoes around the walls. The only thing that keeps me going is the thought of my aunt Julia's welcoming macarons.

by Grace L, Yr 5

A Cold Rainy Morning

Now and then, not very often, I get out of bed on a freezing morning to go to school.

I put on my fluffy dressing gown, wrapping me in its warmth, though my legs, face and hands are still covered in goosebumps. I go to the kitchen - it's the coldest place in the house. I dread going in, shivering like a penguin in winter. As I look out the window, it is raining cats and dogs.

I eat breakfast and still I am a freezing snowball. But getting changed is the worst. Feeling sorry for myself, I take off my cosy dressing gown. It's like wearing a t-shirt on a mountain without any ski clothes. The only thing that helps is the warmth of the fire hugging me.

by Lily G, Yr 5

A note from the DRS

We have now entered the second week of Lent. As a part of Catholic tradition we are asked to give up something that is hard to do without. We can see this as carrying a cross and walking alongside Jesus, as he walks towards his crucifixion. We suffer, but are asked to do so with a smile, and not to draw people's attention to it. We may fail, just as Jesus did with the Cross, but we pick ourselves up again and carry on. It never hurts, to put ourselves in Jesus' shoes in a small way because it helps us grow closer to him.

The Stations of the Cross are also a good way to pray during Lent. Again, we walk alongside Jesus as he takes our sins to the Cross. We are asked to set time aside for prayer, whether it be to sit quietly with God, or to make an effort to reach out to someone we would not necessarily have time for.

Though Lent is seen as a sombre time for us to reflect on the people we are becoming, it is also a joyous time; a time we spend with God, getting to know Him better. Below I have included some suggestions about how we can make Lent more meaningful. I encourage you to use this lenten season to stop, to grow and to rest awhile with our Creator. Please follow [this link](#) to a site with some creative ways to practise Lent.

Have a Blessed Lent!

Congratulations

Congratulations to the following students who were awarded 'Great Learner' certificates in **Week 5 Term 1**:

C1 Dominic L, C1 Grace L, C1 Neve H, C2 Max W, C2 Yesaya M, C3 Faith T, C3 Brydon M, C3 Lanah Y, C4 Alexis B, C4 Joel P, D2 Anastasja M, D3 Jonathan K, D4 Tilly R, D5 Grace S, D5 Charlotte W

Important Notices

Learning Progress Conversations

Please keep an eye out for an email in the next few days sharing information about our Term 1 learning progress conversations on Tuesday 26th and Wednesday 27th March, taking place both before and after school. The teachers look forward to sharing information with you about your child/ren's learning and progress over Term 1.

Whole School, Class and Individual Photos

Date: Thursday 28 March 2019 - Class / Individual / Sibling photos will be taken
Friday 29 March 2019 - Whole School portrait

Information on how to order portraits will be coming home with your child(ren) soon, please check their bags. For sibling pictures please complete and return to the school office asap. Spare forms are also available at the school office. Preschool and sibling pictures will be taken before school in the hall from 8am.

- On both photo days, please make sure your child/ren arrives at school wearing the correct uniform and shoes and not mufti shoes!

Scholastic Lucky Book Club

Your child/(ren) will come home with book club brochure over the next few days. The preferred method of ordering and paying for your order is directly with Scholastic, details are on the order form.

To ensure orders are delivered to the school before the end of term 1, orders close Thursday 21st March 2019.

Beginning and End of the Day

It is lovely that our whanau come along to class at the beginning and end of the day. We do ask however, that should you come into classrooms, you are mindful that lessons are underway. Please do not distract the learners or talk to each other. For reasons of privacy, please do not take photos.

Dress Up Clothes

The year one and two teachers are setting up learning through play to enhance their literacy programme. They have asked that families donate any old dress up clothes they may have to be used as authentic learning equipment. Please make any donations to the school office and ensure clothing is washed. Thank you for your support.

2019 key dates

Please [click here](#).

Community Notices - check out what is happening in our community

Please [click here](#)

Sports and Students Activities

Please [click here](#).
