

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.**

**A very warm welcome to Mr Miles Palmer, who has recently taken up the position of teacher aide at St Mary's. He will work across a number of support programmes and will provide lunchtime activities for our children.**

Last Wednesday, we had a very busy evening. Our junior teachers held parent workshops about the learning that happens in the junior school and Mrs Morkos and Miss O'Brien shared plans for our first Year 5 overnight camp which will take place in Term One next year.

We were delighted with the turn out to the junior workshops, and parent feedback about these was very positive indeed. The planning for the Year 5 camp was also received very positively by the current Year 4 parents and we are excited to be taking the children to Te Hana Te Ao Marama Marae, an educational marae, just north of Wellsford, where our children will learn about the tikanga that sits around visiting and staying overnight on a marae, as well as much more about Māori traditions and world view. This learning is an essential part of a New Zealand education and is knowledge that is critical for all new Zealanders, as we seek to understand the special place of Māori in our bicultural nation.

We are beginning the appointment process for teachers for 2020. As we are a Catholic school, this process is a little different from that of state schools. By law, we have to try to appoint at least 60% of our teachers to tagged positions. The teachers in tagged positions must be practising Catholics and as such, acceptable by the Bishop to teach in Catholic schools. When we are unable to employ Catholic teachers, we can only appoint teachers into fixed-term positions. As such, some of our existing teachers who are not Catholic have to reapply for positions at our school and we re-advertise each year for tagged teachers.

Mrs Maria Matthews, our DRS, has resigned from her position effective from the end of this year, as it is time for her to retire from full-time teaching and to spend more time with her family. Whilst we are sad to lose Maria, who has done outstanding work as our DRS, we are delighted to announce that Mrs Kristen Vodanovich has been appointed to the position from 2020. Kristen has had a long association with St Mary's, both as a parent of the school and latterly as a teacher. She is currently Assistant DRS and acted in the position of DRS when Mrs Matthews was overseas last year. We are very pleased to see her grow into this key senior leadership role.

We have also been advertising for a Director of Teaching and Learning, another key senior leadership role, and are delighted to announce that Miss Rachel Chapman has been appointed to this position. Rachel has worked at St Mary's for almost two years and has made her mark in the junior school, where she has led a number of significant projects - transition, the introduction of an effective phonics programme and the implementation of our authentic learning project. It is wonderful to see Rachel move into our senior leadership team and we are excited about the skills she brings to the position.

Over the next few weeks your children will come home with stickers, letting you know that they have uploaded learning to the Spotlight parent app. We would like all parents to access this app and view and comment on their child's learning. All children will be uploading at least one piece of learning each

week and in the senior school, several pieces of learning will be uploaded. We have had a number of schools from across Auckland come to visit us to see what we are doing in relation to Spotlight and it is gratifying to hear that they leave us with a clearer understanding of the positives of Spotlight, keen to implement this in their schools. We understand that Spotlight is a departure from traditional models of reporting to parents and have read with interest, the feedback some of you provided about this. We have made some adjustments to the system for the end of year reports in order to respond to your very helpful suggestions for improving the system.

Last Friday, we were visited by a verifier from the Ministry of Education, as part of a three-yearly audit of the work we do to support our English language learners (all children who speak English as a second or other language) at St Mary's. The verifier gave some initial feedback to the senior leadership and ESOL (English as a Second or Other Language) teams. She was very impressed by the work that is being done at school and we are looking forward to receiving her report in the next few weeks. Thank you to Amany Morkos and Laine Katzin for their work in preparing for this important audit, and to Laine for the excellent learning she provides for our children. Laine is one of a number of teacher aides who work in our school; each of them has significant strengths that they bring in supporting children's learning and we feel very privileged to have them work with us.

With God's blessings.  
Mā te Atua koe e tiaki.

Michelle Holly  
Tumuaki/ Principal

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## Congratulations

Congratulations to the following students who were awarded 'Great Learner' certificates in

### Week 6 Term 3:

C1 Clyde L, C1 Jiho L, C1 Jelwynne C, C2 Damian W, C2 Nicola O, C3 Cruz W, C3 Iris R, C3 Joseph B, C4 Francesca W, C4 Alma L, D1 Ophelia N, D2 Alice P, D3 Marcell W, D4 Billy W, D5 Mackenzie P, D5 Roman B, D6 Emma F

### Week 7 Term 3:

C1 Kayla T, C1 Thomas O, C1 Meadhbh O, C2 Keira S, C2 Sam MJ, C3 Alayna V, C3 Alexandria C, C3 Sophie C, C4 Amelia U, C4 Zander M, D1 Jeanluca T, D2 Ela D, D3 Emily Y, D4 Matilda R, D5 Charlie W, D5 Alexa M, D6 Imogen M

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## In and around our school in pictures



Students are enjoying the fruit provided by Countdown Northcote. Thank you for your support.



In week 6 we celebrated student learning in another lovely full school assembly. Congratulations Rihanna for winning a nationwide Year 5 and 6 speech competition for the deaf.



A fantastic turnout at our junior school parent workshops last week.

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## A Message from the DRS

A big thank you to all of those who sent cans to school to support Cans for Christmas. We have received a wide variety of foodstuffs and have sent them off to St Vincent De Paul. The student leaders kept a total for each hub, and then worked out the winning hub on a percentage basis. Congratulations C4, you did an amazing job!

We also have Andrew Chinn, a well known singer/songwriter working with the children this week. We sing many of his songs in Mass and during liturgies, so our children are familiar with his work. He will be teaching them some new music and adding to our repertoire!

As we head to the end of the term we are preparing for the Mission Fair. Children have run small businesses, learned about health and safety, completed market research, kept accounts and produced a product to sell. These will be sold at their stalls during the fair. Please save your change so the children will have something to spend. All proceeds will go to De Paul House. Most years we raise well over \$1,000. This money will help De Paul House cope with the ever increasing demands on their services.

If you can think of ways our children can serve others in our community please feel free to contact me on [mariama@sms.school.nz](mailto:mariama@sms.school.nz).

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## Digital Parent Evening

Please follow this [link](#) to Digital Parent Evening PowerPoint presentation

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# 'Need to know' Information

## Key dates

### 2019

#### Week 8

- ◆ Social Justice week ◆
- 12/9 BoT meeting, 7pm-9pm
- 14/9 Tane's Trail Working Bee, 10am-12:30pm, *Meet on the Tiger Turf with your tools. See you there!*

#### Week 9

- 17/9 Parent Learning Conversations, 3:15pm-7:30pm code d922t
- 18/9 Math-a-thon challenge at St Mary's School
- 19/9 Parent Learning Conversations, 3:15pm-5:30pm code d922t  
Parent Prayer meeting, 8:55am-9:25am, *in the staffroom. Last one for term 3.*
- 20/9 World Car FREE day  
Whole School Assembly, *time to be advised*
- 22/9 Parish and School Mass, 10:30am-11:30am

#### Week 10

- 24/9 Sports/Cultural teams and new students to St Mary's photos
- 25/9 2019 Yr 6 Camp - parent information evening – current Year 6 parents ONLY, 5:30pm-6:30pm

Christmas Market parent meeting, 6:30pm, *in the staffroom*



- 26/9 Mission Fair, 9am-3pm

**27/9 Loud Shirt Day!**  
**End of Term 3, normal school finish 2:55pm**

For the sports key dates, please see the Student Activities Bulletin emailed on odd weeks

## Scratchpad

Bookings made before 15 September 2019 will receive 10% discount!

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## Digital Technologies / Digital Fluency

There has been some exciting digital learning happening around the school. Junior students learned to programme beebots, bee-shaped robots, to go on a mission around a number of different mazes. Children had to construct an algorithm in order to instruct the beebots what direction to move in. They then tested their algorithm to check that it was correct. When the beebots left the maze, students had to fix/ debug their algorithms to keep their beebots on track! What a fantastic way to learn about the Digital Curriculum and [computational thinking](#) (the way computers think). Sunshine was a bonus!



## Auckland Girls' Choir

The Auckland Girls' Choir ("Choir") would like to extend an invitation to girls from St Mary's School (Northcote) school to audition for our 2020 intake.

The Auckland Girls' Choir has a proud tradition spanning more than 20 years, and was established to provide accessible, enriching choral experiences for girls aged 9 to 18 years of age from the greater Auckland region. To date, the choir has attracted girls from over 50 different schools, reflecting the rich ethnic and socio-economic diversity of the greater Auckland region.

As a training choir, The Auckland Girls' Choir is unique. Not only do we focus on healthy vocal production, choral technique, artistry, and performance skills, but all choristers also engage in a leveled musicianship program to enable every girl to be the strongest musician she can be. In the process, confidence, an enhanced sense of self-worth, self-discipline, teamwork, leadership skills, perseverance and the desire for excellence are proactively fostered.

Girls in the Choir also develop a strong sense of commitment to community service via performances in various civic and community events throughout Auckland each year. These civic performances not only provide the opportunity to perform, but also highlight the importance of giving back to the community, healthy respect for community leaders, and valuing the contributions and sacrifices that many have made to create Auckland into the city it is today.

Membership in The Auckland Girls' Choir is via an audition where vocal fluency, musicianship, and overall potential will be assessed. If accepted into the Choir, girls are expected to attend weekly choir rehearsals that span the regular school year. Attendance at a separate weekend workshop in each of the four school terms is also required, as well as full commitment to all performance engagements.

There is a limited number of need and merit based scholarships available for the 2020 intake, supported and sponsored by the Friends of the Auckland Girls' Choir to increase the accessibility and opportunities for talented girls to join the Choir.

The first round of auditions for our 2020 intake are:

- Saturday, September 14, 9am to 4pm
- Saturday, September 21, 1pm to 4pm
- Saturday, September 28, 9am to 12.30pm

We warmly welcome girls from your school interested in becoming a member of The Auckland Girls' Choir to audition.

[www.akgirlschoir.co.nz/auditions](http://www.akgirlschoir.co.nz/auditions)  
Email: [agcinfo@akgirlschoir.co.nz](mailto:agcinfo@akgirlschoir.co.nz)

[Application Form](#)   [Audition Information](#)

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## Thank you for your support

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- Supporting the children, families and community of St Mary's School

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## Important Notices

### Learning Conversations

Learning conversations will take place on Tuesday 17th and Thursday 19th September 2019. These conversations are a further opportunity for parents or caregivers to meet with teacher/s regarding their child's learning progress and next steps.

The bookings are now live for you to book a time with your child's teacher/s. Please go to [www.schoolinterviews.co.nz](http://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz) and enter the event code **d922t**. Please then follow the online instructions to make your preferred booking.

### Loud Shirt Day

On Friday 27 September, students can wear their loudest outfit and make a donation to The Hearing House.

Loud Shirt Day is an annual event held every September, and is all about getting loud and raising funds to help deaf children learn to listen and speak.

Thank you for your support in this important fundraiser.

### Parking

Snap Fitness on Onewa Road have raised concerns about St Mary's School parents and caregivers parking in customer car parks. A reminder to please not use the car parks of businesses surrounding our school when dropping off or collecting your children at the beginning or end of the day.

As we have also asked on many occasions, for reasons of safety, please do not use the church car park or the staff car park at any time. Thank you for your support in these matters.

### Measles Outbreak

As of 7 September 2019, there have been over 880 confirmed measles cases in Auckland.

Measles is a highly infectious viral illness that can be very serious. You can find information in this [link](#) on what symptoms to look out for, how to best protect yourself and others, as well as what actions to take if you've been in contact with someone with measles.

If you are concerned about measles call Healthline on 0800 611 116 or all your GP. Please do not just turn up to your GP, after hours or emergency department as you could potentially infect others.

### Ezlunch

Ezlunch deliver lunches to school each week on Tuesday (sushi) and Friday (pita pit). Please follow the [link](#) to see how to make your order. Menu is [here](#)

### School Prayer Group

Our Lord is a God who loves us, and is always waiting for us to come to him with our needs and thanks. All are welcome to join our school prayer group. We meet briefly around drop off a few times each term to pray together for the school, be with each other in prayer, and bring the school and community to Jesus.

Our last meeting this term, in the school staffroom is at 8.55am on Thursday 19 September 2019. All welcome including preschoolers, babies, extended family.

Contact Sarah 021 106 1943, Louise 021 590 271 or Summer 021 701 014



Like us on [Facebook](#) and keep up to date with our school community!



Connect with us, we have joined the community of [Twitter!](#)



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### Term 3 Mass Roster

Please [click here](#)

### 2019 Term dates

See [link](#) for more information

### Community Notices

Please [click here](#)

### **Flexibuzz app**

If you haven't already downloaded the Flexibuzz app please follow this [link](#). It is another useful communications tool we use.

### **Second Hand Uniform Shop**

To make an appointment to visit the shop please contact Glenda, [office@sms.school.nz](mailto:office@sms.school.nz).  
Our preferred time and day is Tuesdays, 2.30pm-3pm

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