St Mark's School
Te Kura o Hato Māka

Kia ora St Mark's Whānau,

Term 4 Week 7
19 November 2025

As I write this newsletter our kapa haka team is rehearsing in the hall and they sound amazing! I don't think they have ever been so ready which is great because this year we are competing at the highest level in the primary schools final!

Tūhono Kapa Haka Festival 2025
SUNDAY 30 NOVEMBER 4pm
All whānau are invited to attend. Watch the school app for details on how to purchase tickets.

We have been challenged this week by the MOE announcement of possible asbestos contamination of kinetic sand products.
For your reassurance, we have removed four snap lock boxes of sand from two learning areas. An investigation confirmed that only one box has been used in the last eight to nine months and that was used by a small group of students in a break out space. I have reached out to a registered asbestos testing company to enquire about having our sand tested. It no longer has its original packaging so we are unable to determine whether it is on the official list of unsafe product identified by the ministry.
Student and staff health and safety remain a priority. The small room where the sand was last used will remain sealed off until we are satisfied there is no ongoing risk.

I would like to thank the community for your understanding as we work on these very unusual challenges!

Canterbury Athletics
We sent a large team of St Mark's students to the Independent Schools' Athletic Sports. Students competed well and represented our school so well. Congratulations to these four students who have progressed to the Canterbury event:

Eli M - 60m
Jesse M - highjump
Maia-Rose A - 60m
Christian D - 60m

That's an incredible achievement. The team competes on Wednesday 26 November at Ngā Puna Wai Sports Hub.

All 2nd and 3rd place certificates for our school athletics (year 4-8) will be presented to students in church on Monday 24 November from 9:10am.

Christmas In The Park
This event is a stand out for Christchurch and Canterbury and a St Mark's student is performing. Cleo F will be on stage twice on Saturday 29th. Cleo will perform two solos. (Approx 7:30pm, and 9pm).

TOP TEAM

It was wonderful to be able to host our friends from St Michael's Church School this week for our annual top team competition. Whilst it is called a competition, what it is really all about is our two Anglican schools coming together to make friends, have fun and enjoy some awesome activities.

How wonderful to see students from both schools choosing to eat and hang out together and to make friends (above).

Activities included sack races, memory challenges, water transporting, gumboot throw and dodge ball games. Quite a few people ended up getting quite wet!

It was also lovely to see Mrs Coster back visiting!

Mōkihi Ferrymead Trip

This week all of our Year 0-2 students enjoyed an amazing trip to the historic park where they got to experience first hand what life was like for early European settlers. It was a wonderful day of hands on learning and there were some very tired five and six year olds by the end of the day!

Term 4 Events

Thursday 20 November	Singing Cup - 11am
Tuesday 25 November	Year 8 Leavers Dinner
Thursday 27 November	Year 7 Leadership Camp
Tuesday 2 December	Itinerant Music Night 6.00pm
Thursday 4 December	Advent Service - Transitional Cathedral - 7pm
Thursday 11 December	Prize Giving 1:30pm in the school hall
Friday 12 December	End of Year Service - 1.45pm

As we all work together as a community to foster strong home / school relationships which support our young people…

"I orea te tuatara ka puta ki waho."

A problem is solved by continuing to find solutions.

Blessings to all,
Adrian

Positive Popcorn is back with $2 popcorn on **Wednesdays**. If you'd like to buy some yummy popcorn at lunchtime, please bring a $2 coin. Funds raised support enrichment programmes at St Mark's School.

Canterbury
District Health Board
Te Poari Hauora ō Waitaha

COMMUNITY
dental service

Free Dental Care for Children -
including special information regarding Year 8 students

One of our Community Dental Service vans will be making a visit to your school soon.

- **Only the children who currently require a check-up will be seen at this visit.**
  Please do not be concerned if your child is not called for a check-up this time.

- The dental therapist will provide a regular check-up and preventative care which may include:
  Cleaning/Scaling (to remove plaque from teeth)
  Dental x-rays (to check for decay in teeth, or presence and position of teeth)
  Fluoride Varnish (painted on teeth to help prevent decay)
  Fissure Sealants (coating put on teeth to prevent decay) if required.

- If your child requires any other dental care, they will bring home a 'Care Plan' which will explain what dental care and appointment times are required.

- When you receive the 'Care Plan' please contact our **Call Centre as soon as possible** as you will need to arrange a time to bring your child to one of our Community Clinics for this dental care.

- Please contact our Call Centre if you want further information on the Community Dental Service, to enrol your child or if you have any specific questions about your child's dental care (a dental therapist will call you back)

- **Year 8 students:** all year 8 students enrolled with the Community Dental Service are transferred from the Community Dental Service to a FREE private dentist from year 9 until their 18th birthday. To help with this transition please ensure you have informed your child of their family dentist (not orthodontist). This will enable us to transfer your child onto the correct dentist for year 9 onwards. More information will be sent home after their year 8 check-up.

To contact our Call Centre: phone 0800 846 983 / email commdental@cdhb.health.nz

Our School News

In Full Bloom

With our School app!

Download today to keep up to date with school information. School Alert Groups, Cancellations, Direct Absentees, Contacts, School Events, Daily Notices. Plus Much More!

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Scan the QR code or In Google play & App Store search **'SchoolAppsNZ'** & choose our school once installed.

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Dear parents

I am a teacher at StAC Preparatory School and part of a small voluntary group called 'Project Infinity'. 'Project Infinity' assembles Christmas bags for school children in need, and sometimes their family members also. The schools that we work with are Bromley Primary School and Opawa Primary School. Both schools have many families who are struggling, and we provide a special group of children from each school with a new school bag filled with clean pre-loved clothing, new socks and undies, and a small toy.

Every year the children who receive a Christmas bag are absolutely delighted with their unexpected gift. Bromley Primary School holds a celebration evening for the children who are chosen, and they enjoy the festivities with their families and then take home their special bags!

If you would like to contribute to this Christmas bag project, we would love clean, pre-loved clothing for girls and boys (ages 5-18). Any clothing donation will be gratefully accepted, and the clothes do not need to be designer-made! Clothes can be left at the St Mark's School office and I will collect them from there. (The last day for collection will be Friday 5 December)

Thanks so much for your help!

Leanne Gilray

Anglican Parish of Opawa St Martins
St Mark's Church
23 November 2025
Christ the King

What's on this week?

Sunday 23 November - Christ the King

8.30am	Holy Communion	St Anne's Chapel
10am	Sung Eucharist	St Mark's Church

Monday 24 November

9.30am	Opawa Shells Elder Care	Chapman Lounge
6-7.30pm	Brownies	Wilson Room

Tuesday 25 November

8.30-9.30am	Pastoral Support	St Mark's School Boardroom
1.15-2.45pm	Nurse Maude	Wilson Room
5-9.30pm	Private Booking	Wilson Room

Wednesday 26 November

10am	Holy Communion	St Anne's Chapel
1pm	Archdeaconary Meeting	Chapman Lounge
7-9.30pm	Global Voices	Wilson Room

Thursday 27 November

8.15am	Morning Prayer Online via Zoom	Meeting ID: 878 542 1911 Password: 100100
11am	Kowhai Rest Home Service	
2-3pm	Anabasis Bible Study Group	Chapman Lounge

Friday 28 November

8.15am	Morning Prayer Online via Zoom	Meeting ID: 878 542 1911 Password: 100100
9.15am	St Mark's School Service	St Mark's Church
2pm	Holy Communion	St Anne's Chapel

Saturday 29 November

4-6pm	Newcomers BBQ	Chapman Lounge

Sunday 30 November - Advent

8.30am	Holy Communion	St Anne's Chapel
10am	Sung Eucharist	St Mark's Church

Priest-in-Charge: Rev Simon Green 027 642 1987 osmvicar@gmail.com

Holy Communion
2pm every Friday

Come and be still in God's presence before the busy weekend

30-40 mins long

St Mark's Church

Parish of Opawa St Martins
101 Opawa Road
osmparish.com

ST MARK'S OPAWA

STIR UP SUNDAY

ST MARK'S CHURCH 10AM
23 NOVEMBER 2025

JOIN US FOR "STIR UP SUNDAY"
MAKING A CHRISTMAS CAKE.
IT'S FUN, AND MESSY, AND
EVERYONE GETS TO HAVE A GO
AT STIRRING THE BATTER.
YUMMY!

OPAWA.STMARTINS@GMAIL.COM

YOUR LOCAL SALES CONSULTANT

JULIA DALY

Do you know someone who is looking to sell their property?

Refer them to Julia, and you'll be helping to support us!

Here's how it works:

1. Refer a property listing to Julia.
2. When the property is successfully sold, Julia will donate $1000 to St Marks School.

Your referral not only helps someone find the perfect home it also directly benefits the children at our school.

Spread the word and make a difference today!

For more information, contact
JULIA DALY
022 0305 285 | julia.daly@harcourts.co.nz

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Grenadier Real Estate Ltd. MREINZ Licensed Agent REAA 2008.

Part of the St Mark's School Family

For every home referred and sold or listed and sold with us within the school family, we will donate $1000 to St. Marks School.*

With Sonia being a past parent, now grandparent, and Sophie a current parent at St Mark's, we are proudly involved with the school community and look forward to giving back.

Supporting St Mark's school, now and for its future

*Terms and conditions apply.

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SONIA CAMERON
AND SOPHIE EVERSON
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