

# St Mark's School

## Te Kura o Hato Māka

***"Living Out Our Faith And Pursuing Excellence Together"***

Term 4 Week 7
25 November, 2026

Kia ora St Mark's Whānau,

This week I have announced to the community the resignation of Maree Bigelow and Sinead Bigelow. Maree has been on leave this year and has made the tough decision to explore her career as a learning support expert. We wish her well for her next phase. Sinead has been a much loved teacher aide at St Mark's for nine years. She leaves us to begin teacher training in 2027. It's about time! Sinead will make a fantastic teacher in the future.

It is my pleasure to introduce Miss Felicity Mills to our school family. Felicity will teach our Year 4 class in 2027. She is a young teacher with lots of specialised skills to offer and she is excited to join us next year.

It was a pleasure to host a new event at school last Sunday. Folk from the church parish and school families came together in worship at a combined service in the school hall. It was a lovely event punctuated by some wonderful leadership from our Year 7 students who assisted with readings, tech support and as servers.

This week we are building up to a major school event. This Sunday our kapa haka team compete at the Tūhono Festival at the town hall. Matua Steve, Mrs Morgan and other staff have been working very hard with students to shape a polished performance to try to defend our title! We are deploying the largest kapa haka team we have ever had with over 60 students competing. Good luck, team!

This week the Kids Online video features a special app designed for sports teams to communicate safely.
The Go To App for Kids and Teen Sport
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pEzfuR_0NSg

Blessings to all,
Adrian



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## Coming Events 2026 and 2027

**Term 4 2026**

| | |
|---|---|
| Thursday 26 November | Year 7 Leadership Camp |
| Friday 27 November | Year 7 Leadership Camp |
| Saturday 28 November | Christmas in the Park - Cleo F performing |
| Thursday 30 November | Year 5 Beach Education |
| Wednesday 2 December | Year 8 Leavers Dinner 6pm |
| Thursday 3 December | Advent Service 7.00pm |
| Tuesday 15 December | Prize Giving 1:30pm |
| Wednesday 16 December | End of Year Service and Last Day 1:30pm |

Parents and whānau are always welcome to attend all events.
Details of events are always shared via the school app.

**Term 1 2027**

| | |
|---|---|
| Thursday 28 January | Whānau Conferences |
| Friday 29 January | Whānau Conferences |
| Monday 1 February | Teacher Professional Development Day |
| **Tuesday 2 February** | **Students start school** |
| Monday 8 February | Waitangi Day observed |
| 10 - 12 February | Year 8 Camp |
| Friday 12 February | Back To School BBQ |
| Friday 5 March | Year 4-8 Swimming Sports |
| Friday 19 March | Colour Run Fundraiser |
| Thursday 25 March | Teacher Only day |
| Friday 26 March | Good Friday |
| Monday 29 March | Easter Monday |
| Tuesday 30 March | Easter Tuesday |
| Friday 9 April | End of Term Service |



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### Zone Athletic Sports

Two weeks ago a large contingent of St Mark's athletes from Year 5-8 traveled to Ngā Puna Wai to compete at the Independent Schools Zone Athletics.
All of our students were great representatives of the school and competed hard.

Students who will be representing St Mark's and our Independent Schools Zone at the Canterbury event:
Cody M.
Mikayla N.
Beau W.
Julius CT.
Alex R.
Riaan A.
Willa CM.
Michelle N.
Cristian DN.

This year, thanks to that success, we are sending a larger than usual group to the Canterbury event.
Many thanks to Mr Clarkson for his outstanding organisation of our team to this event.





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**Year 5/6 Science**

Our Year 5 and 6 students became Earth scientists and hydrologists as they explored how rivers change from source to sea. Working in teams, students investigated different sections of a river, observing, explaining and predicting how water moves and shapes the landscape through erosion, transportation and deposition. Each group researched the risks, limitations and opportunities of their river environment before presenting their findings to the class. Using a model river running through the classroom, students brought their learning to life with diagrams, explanations and practical solutions.



It was a wonderful opportunity to see students collaborating, thinking critically and applying their scientific understanding to real-world challenges.









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**Top Team**

Last Wednesday we hosted a Top Team competition and had the Year 7 and 8 students from St Michael's come and take part. It was a brilliant way to bring our two Anglican schools closer together, to build friendships and enjoy some fun activities.









It was also lovely to have the principal of St Michael's, Mrs Coster visit us again. For new families to St Mark's, Liz was our much loved deputy principal for several years before gaining promotion to principalship at St Michael's.



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**Year 0-3 Athletics**

What a wonderful day of competition, community and fun! It was a pleasure to host this annual event. We had a large number of parents and whānau along to cheer the children on. It was outstanding to see the leadership of our Year 8 students as they helped with the field events. Many thanks to staff who worked hard to make this event so successful.










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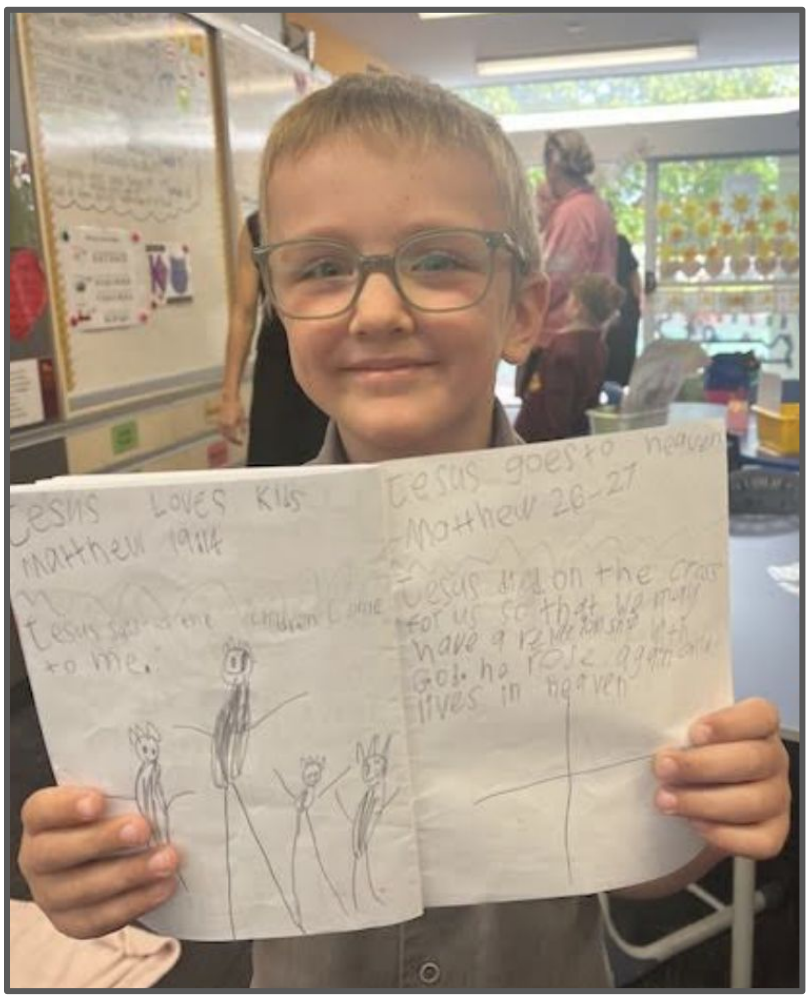
*"Living Out Our Faith And Pursuing Excellence Together"*

**Year 8 Pounamu Carving**

This week twenty one of our Year 8 students took the opportunity to take a stone carving course taught by Mr Davis after he in turn took a skills course in it. Students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and left with some beautifully crafted pieces.








**Toby's Bible**

Toby T. has been working hard and has completed an incredible piece of work.

He has written his own bible using stories he loves!
It is fully illustrated, beautifully written and represents a massive commitment in terms of time, skills and dedication.
Toby will be receiving a principal's award for his wonderful work.

Cheekily I asked him which big kid did all of the fantastic writing. He laughed and said that of course he did it!



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# Awards

**Church Certificates**

| | |
|---|---|
| NE/Yr 1 Kererū/Raupo | Nicky P/George E |
| Yr 1 Harakeke | Basil T |
| Yr 2 Pūtakitaki | Eddie M/Tia E |
| Yr 3 Kawau | Kirah-Jewel D |
| Yr 5 Aua | Alex R |
| Yr 7 Toroa | Jackson W E |



MD TENNIS

COACHING · DEVELOPMENT · FUN

Play.
Learn.
Improve.

# SUMMER TENNIS CAMPS



CAMP DATES

**Thursday 17th – 18th December**
**Monday 21st – Wednesday 23rd December**
**Monday 25th – Thursday 28th January**

## Ages 5 – 14

Children will be split into groups based on age and ability.

**HALF DAY**
9am – 1pm
**$46**

**FULL DAY**
9am – 3pm
**$72**

**HOW THE CAMPS WORK** Skill-based learning • Themes each day • Fun games

**Earlybird Special!** Ends 21st November
**10% OFF**

using code:
**SUMMER26**

Fun Environment

Build Your Skills

Make New Friends

VENUE
**Opawa Tennis Club**

**BOOK NOW!** | www.mdtennis.co.nz

Christchurch School of Music *Te Kura Puoro*

# IN SCHOOL MUSIC

MUSIC STARTS HERE!



**INSTRUMENTS:**

FLUTE
TRUMPET
CLARINET
TROMBONE
SAXOPHONE
PERCUSSION
BASS GUITAR
FRENCH HORN




Children who learn music build confidence, increase their learning abilities, sharpen organizational skills and gain valuable social, physical and academic skills.

We teach clarinet, flute, trumpet, trombone, electric bass guitar, percussion and saxophone.

Students receive a lesson each week and will also play in a band. Lessons will happen during school time.

Their first band will be Da Capo (beginners). Once they are ready they will move on to the Tutti Concert Band. As they progress there is also the opportunity to join the Con Brio Concert Band for students up to Year 10.

Students in Year 4 and above can choose their instrument and join a band.

After four lessons children join the Da Capo band at their school. They rehearse together every week and have an individual lesson.

## What will it cost?

You can find the fees at https://www.csm.org.nz/fees/.

We invoice by term but we can also arrange a weekly payment plan if that suits you better. If you have a community services card you may be eligible for a 50% discount on the base fee, dependent on the availability of grant monies.

## Hiring an Instrument

You can hire an instrument from KBB Music or Musicworks.

You will need to purchase an Essential Elements book. We will give you details about this once you have enrolled.

Copy and paste this link to go to the enrolment form:
HTTP://forms.gle/goq4JexcKZMYD3oT7

**TO ENROL:**
**www.csm.org.nz/enrol & select 'Outreach Band Programme'**

**Or, call (03) 366 1711 / email office@csm.org.nz & outreachband@csm.org.nz**




# JANUARY 9-17 2027

Canterbury Agricultural Park, Christchurch

**THENINJARUN.CO.NZ**

**10% discount when you book with our code AND St Mark's receive 10% fundraising rebate with every booking**

St Mark's School Discount
Code: 006543

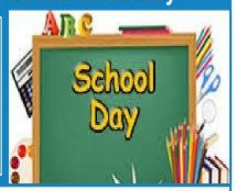
# Dec Holiday Programme

Full Day 7:30-6:00 07:30 am-06:00 pm $74.00 (All Inclusive - No Extra Fees)
Full Day 8:30-6:00 08:30 am-06:00 pm $64.00 (All Inclusive - No Extra Fees)
Half Day 7:30-3:00 07:30 am-03:00 pm $64.00 (All Inclusive - No Extra Fees)
Half Day 8:30-3:00 08:30 am-03:00 pm $54.00 (All Inclusive - No Extra Fees)
ALL DAYS INCLUDE "MAKE COMPANY" WOODEN CRAFT KITS - AT NO EXTRA COST.

## Opawa School December 2026

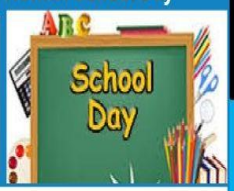
30 Ford Road, Opawa, Christchurch

### Mon 14 Dec — Normal School Day



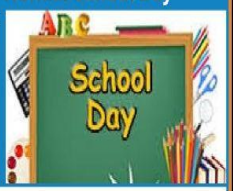

Normal School Day

### Tue 15 Dec — Normal School Day




Normal School Day

### Wed 16 Dec — Normal School Day



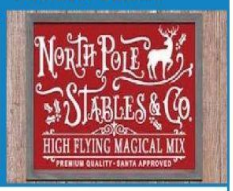

Normal School Day

### Thu 17 Dec — Last Day of Term 4




Last Day of Term 4, Half Day finish, Kidsbase will be opening early from the close of school at no extra cost - normal Afterschool rates apply.

### Fri 18 Dec — Reindeer Stables




We need your help to get the Reindeer Ready for Xmas, today we make Reindeer decorations & your own puppet, with lots of festive fun.

### Mon 21 Dec — Xmas Stockings & Spa




Its time to decorate the tree with your very own Stocking decorations. A day of festive craft with plenty of colour, sparkle, games and treats.

### Tue 22 Dec — Santa Paws Workshop




Step into Santa Paws Workshop where Kids will make Xmas Pocket Pals + build your own Xmas house for them, Pawsitively Awesome Day.

### Wed 23 Dec — Get Ready For Santa




Santa is nearly hear so lets get ready for his arrival with special signs, decorations and fun instructions ready for Santas big visit.

### Thu 24 Dec — CLOSED Christmas Ev




Time to get excited as only 1 more sleep until Santa arrives.

### Fri 25 Dec — CLOSED Christmas Day




Wishing you and your family a Very Merry Christmas and a Safe & Happy New Year.

** WINZ SUBSIDIES AVAILABLE ** All Programmes are MSD approved. Children from ALL schools welcome.

For more information, call 027 544 5059 Or 027 239 7690

or email info@kidsbase.co.nz

## Book now at Kidsbase.aimyplus.com

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# 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.

**Sonia Cameron** | 027 220 5665
sonia.cameron@bayleys.co.nz

**Sophie Everson** | 021 025 46007
sophie.everson@bayleys.co.nz

SONIA CAMERON
AND SOPHIE EVERSON
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# 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

**HARCOURTS FERRYMEAD**

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