

# Local Curriculum at Te Kura o Hato Māka St Mark's School



St Mark's  
School

The St Mark's local curriculum connects the school to the Opawa area by celebrating geographical features, wildlife and the history of the area, at the same time growing relationships and connections.

## Hiranga Excellence

to achieve excellence, using the potential of our God given talents and gifts.

## Huatau Grace

Through grace, we act with compassion and humility

## Piriponotanga Faithfulness

as we show faithfulness to God and others.

## Māiatanga Courage

This gives us the courage to act to bring about change,

# St Mark's School Values



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## A tātou Ūara

## Our Values

### Huatau / Grace

Through grace we act with compassion and humility ....

by:

- being kind
- being humble
- forgiving

### Hiranga / Excellence

.... to achieve excellence using the potential of our God given talents and gifts.

by:

- using our unique gifts and talents
- aiming for the highest standards
- working hard
- setting goals and striving for success

### Māiatanga / Courage

This gives us the courage to act to bring about change .....

by:

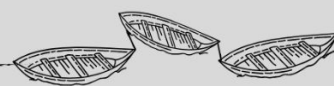
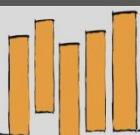
- taking appropriate risks
- being an upstander
- owning our mistakes

### Piriponotanga / Faithfulness

...as we show faithfulness to God and others.

by:

- growing our faith
- being inclusive
- being trustworthy
- serving others



# Our St Mark's School Cultural Narrative

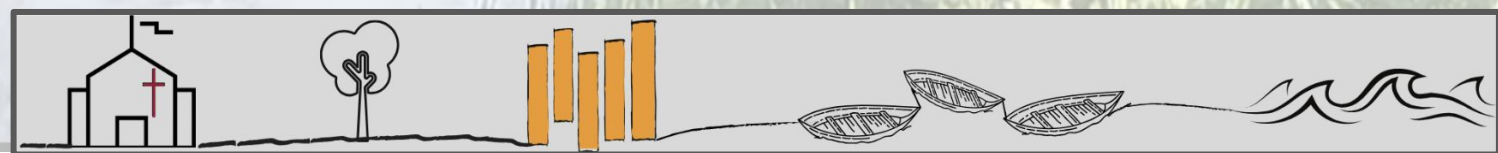


Being located near Ōpāwaho, the Heathcote River, we acknowledge rich connections to Ngā Tuāhuriri, mana whenua of our area. Our Cultural Narrative outlines the importance of Ōpāwaho as a mahinga kai site, and significant places around Banks Peninsula and beyond, providing rich learning opportunities. Our local Opawa community has many resources and connections that we aim to include in our curriculum and programmes so our students can grow within and develop strong links to both this community, and to the wider Christchurch community in which they live.

The school worked closely with Mātauraka Mahaanui to develop culturally sustainable practices and bring our culturative narrative to life when redeveloping the school in 2015. Mātauraka Mahaanui and the staff worked together to develop names in te reo Māori for important elements of the school.

Students progress from Mōkihi (year 0-2), to Waka Pūhara (year 3-5), to Waka Hourua (year 6-8). Each hapori or class within the waka connect with a native plant, animal or bird. Names and concepts are also reflected in teaching and learning opportunities.

There is a strong connection for students and whānau to the overarching concept of tūrangawaewae - 'a place to stand' that reflects a strong sense of being empowered and connected with the school and community.



# Cultural Narrative

## The names of our learning teams explained



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### Mōkihi Year 0-2

The mōkihi was a form of raft, fashioned mainly from bulrushes and flax. These simple vessels were excellent for crossing lakes and rivers and for gathering kai close to shore.



### Waka Pūhara Year 3-5

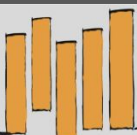
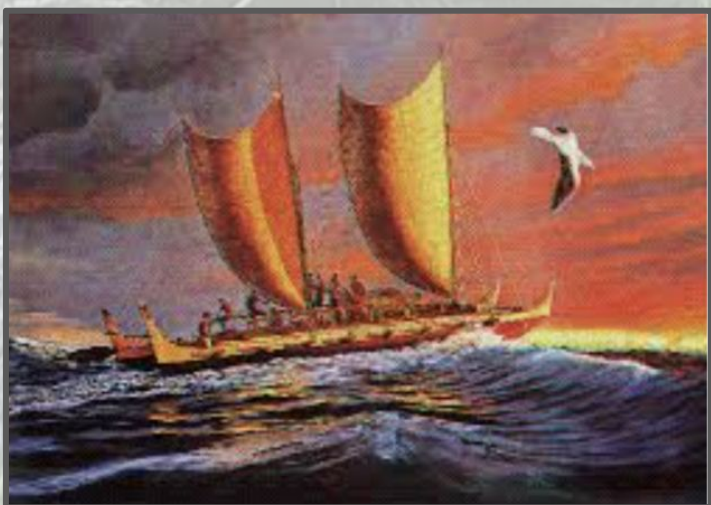
The waka pūhara or kōrari had a flat-bottomed hull. The bottom and sides were made from dry flower stalks (kōrari) of harakeke. To help keep the vessel afloat, bull kelp (rimurapa) was inflated and stored in the base of the canoe. As long as the raft was tightly fastened together, these waka were very safe, and unlikely to fill and capsize.



**Waka Pūhara**

### Waka Hourua Year 6-8

Many Māori and Polynesian people have travelled huge distances in these double-hull sailing vessels. These waka can be up to 36 metres long and have either one or two sails. Polynesian people used these waka between 3,000 and 4,000 years ago to populate the Pacific.



# Environment Education Programmes



The interwoven St Mark's environmental narrative is a journey that begins in the sheltered waters of the Ōpāwaho River. The river had long been an area of food provision and rest, initially for the Ngāti Māmoe followed by Ngāi Tahu. On the Ōpāwaho River, mōkihi would have been used for transportation of food. On the banks of the river there would have been flax, ferns, grasses, toe toe, tī kōuka and native trees providing shelter and food for our native birds, insects and waterlife.

Understanding of our river ecosystems before and after European settlement, bird, insect, fish and plants play an important role in our enviro education programmes. Reflected in our Christian faith and the Five Marks of Mission is the treasuring of nature and creation. Students are educated about nurturing and celebrating the ecosystems around us, in our local community and on a global scale.

St Mark's School supports each student to understand the importance of caring for our environment through sustainable systems such as worm farming, recycling, composting and caring for the Ōpāwaho River.

In the Mōkihi area of the school, students learn to sow and grow vegetables and fruit which can be shared with others.

Waka Pūhara students are responsible for sustainable systems of recycling, worm food collection and composting.

In Waka Hourua the senior students participate in the river programme, Nature Agents. They monitor water quality in the local stream, Jackson's Creek and work with scientists from EOS Ecology.



# Painting a hand gesture from our school haka



In 2022 three senior students were challenged to paint, in oils, a representation of each of our three waka as described by the whakataukī of each in our school haka.



## **Mōkihi**

*Aukaha Kia Kaha*

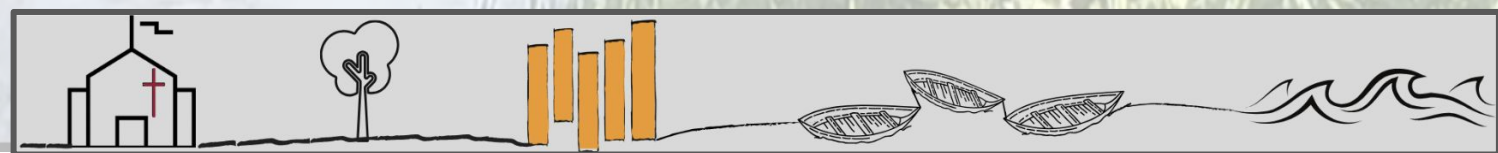
*Strengthening the bindings*

To me, this means creating friendships at school, and also for life beyond St Mark's as well.

The friendships that are made here will last forever.

Jasmine Okey

Year 8 2022





## Waka Pūhara

*Kia Kotahi te hoe e te waka*  
*Paddling in unison*

Paddling in unison means learning how to all work together. In classes, we do lots of activities with other people, learning how to cooperate well in groups.

Danielle Gillespie  
Year 8 2022

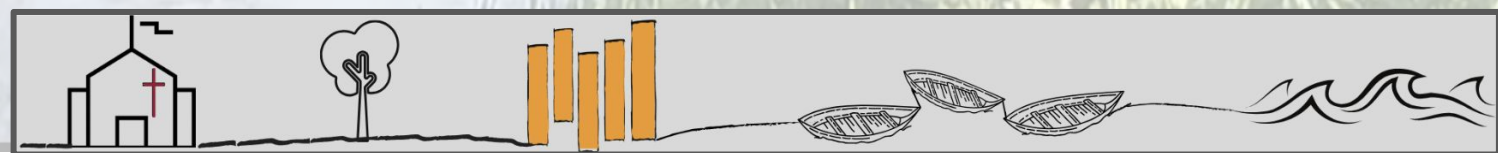
## Waka Hourua

*He Moana Pukepuke ka ekengia e te waka*  
*A choppy sea can be navigated*

This means knowing how to deal with any difficulties that come up throughout your life.

At St Mark's, teachers help people to identify difficulties and they back you up, they make you feel important, supporting you and giving you the help you need.

Olive Harris  
Year 8 2022



# St Mark's School

## Hymn



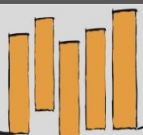
Commissioned by the Board of Proprietors in 2021 and  
written by Marnie Barrell

Here is our standing-place,  
this firm foundation.  
From here new paths we trace,  
each generation.  
Here we stand strong and free  
with pride and loyalty,  
so that the world may see  
we're on our journey.

Here we will learn and grow  
through Jesus' story:  
on every path we go,  
give God the glory,  
our character express  
with grace and faithfulness,  
courage and excellence:  
we're on our journey.

Teachers and family  
standing beside us,  
we dream who we can be,  
Saint Mark to guide us.  
New help to be received,  
New goals to be achieved,  
New truths to be believed,  
we're on our journey.

God help us every day  
care for each other.  
In learning, sport and play,  
all we discover,  
may Saint Mark's School be  
known  
a place where love is shown.  
Our trust in God alone,  
we're on our journey.



# Haka o Hato Māka

## St Mark's School Haka



L - Toronto Titaha

**Titaha hoki mai - Hi**

L - Ko wai tēnei kura e tu ake nei

**Ko Hato Māka Ko Hato Māka**

**He Kura whakapono, He kura Karaitiana,**

**He kura matatini no te ao katoa**

**Korero tuku iho**

L - Te Waka Mōkihi

**Aukaha kia kaha (strengthen the bindings)**

L - Te Waka Pūhara

**Kia kotahi te hoe o te waka e (Let's paddle together)**

L - Te Waka Hourua

**He moana pukepuke ka ekengia e te waka e (A choppy sea can be navigated)**

L - To mātou tohu

**He tohu Raiona Ha Ha**

**Te tohu o te whawhai e Hi Hi Ha**



# St Mark's School

## World War 2 Honour Roll



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### S. MARK'S SCHOOL OPAWA

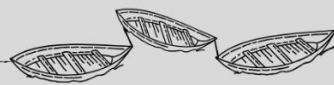
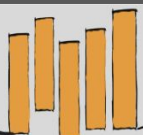


To the GLORY of GOD and  
in MEMORY of

Douglas Loftus Jones  
John May de Brotherton Morgan  
Stephen Henry Purchas  
William Neil Wright

Who gave their Lives in the World War  
1939 - 1945

~ Their name liveth for evermore ~

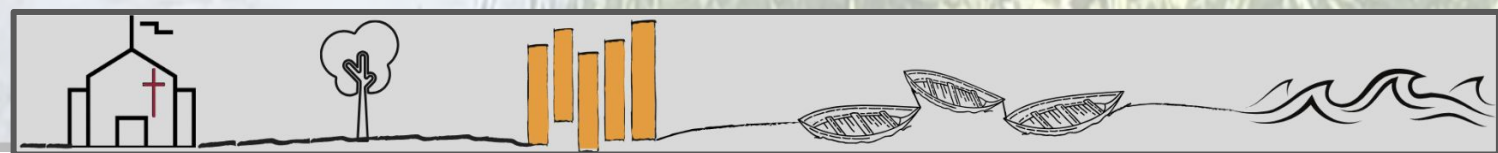


# Student Leader's letter to new parents



In 2023, one of year 8 student leaders, Felicity Wright, penned an open letter to all families thinking of choosing St Mark's as the school for their children.

You can scan this QR code to see and hear her read it.





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