

ST MARK'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Seek and you shall find



Tuesday 2 September 2025

Kia Ora, Welcome, Hello, Nǐ hǎo, Talofa Lava, Hallo, Salut, Namaste, Bonjour, Bula Vinaka, Guten Tag, Shalom, Cìào, おはよう (Ohayou), 안녕 Ahn Nyeong, Olá, Privet!, Xin Chào, Kia Orana, Malo e Lelei, Fakaalofa Lahi Atu, Sat Shari Akal, Melo Ni, Halo Ola Keta, Mauri, Fakaalofa Atu, Salam, Welkom.

Key Dates

Date	What
Friday 5 Sept	Proclaiming the word speech final at St John's, Otara
Friday 5 Sept	SCHOOL DISCO from 6-7.30pm at the Bucklands Beach Memorial Hall
Tuesday 9 Sept	Buddy Class Mass for Rooms 1, 3 and 7: 9am in Parish Church
Wednesday 10 Sept	Kitea Team Fun Run (Rms 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7)
Wednesday 10 Sept	NZSTA BOT ELECTION DAY: POLL CLOSES AT 4pm
Thursday 18 Sept	SECKA Kapa Haka Festival at Sancta Maria College (details TBC)
Friday 19 Sept	LAST DAY OF TERM 3 - WACKY HAIR DAY/ non-uniform day
20 Sept - 5 Oct	Term break
Monday 6 October	First day of Term 4
Friday 10 October	Mission Day TBC
Tuesday 14 October	HPPA Mathex Event at Sunnyhills
Friday 17 October	PTFA Quiz Night
Tuesday 21 October	BOT meeting in the staffroom from 7pm
Friday 24 October	STAFF ONLY DAY: MOE Curriculum development day - School is closed
Monday 27 October	LABOUR DAY - School is closed
3 Nov - 12 Nov	Yr 0 - 2 Swimming intensive at Lagoon pools

SWIMMING IN TERM 4

Learning to swim and being confident and safe in, and around, water is so important. St Mark's values these important life skills and each year, in Term 4, our school children engage in swimming lessons at local swim schools. There is an expectation for ALL children to participate fully in the programme unless there are genuine medical reasons for requesting their withdrawal. More information will be shared through class communications about this

Message from School Leadership

We are enjoying a positive and productive term, and it is wonderful to see our learners so engaged in a wide variety of activities across our faith-focused curriculum.

Our school faith life continues to be a source of joy and strength. This term we have celebrated buddy class Masses, which provide a beautiful opportunity for students to gather in smaller groups to pray and reflect together. We also came together as a whole school to celebrate the Feast of the Assumption. It was a blessing to have so many families join us for this special liturgy, and afterwards to share a cuppa, cake and kōrero in the staffroom.

Whakatere's Cross Country event was another great success, with around 50 students progressing to the HPPA Inter-School event this week. Congratulations to all who gave their very best effort, and a special *three St Mark's specials* go to Olive C for her gold medal in the Year 6 girls' race, and to Mrs McKenzie for her outstanding organisation of this much-anticipated annual event.

Next week the Kitea Team will be holding their fun run, and it has been wonderful to see the enthusiasm and teamwork building during their practice sessions. More details will be shared in class communications, and we warmly encourage you to come along and cheer your child on from the sidelines.

The fortnightly delivery of the *House of Science* kits continues to provide rich, practical lesson ideas and materials that inspire curious questions, problem solving and scientific reasoning. Our Thursday *Footsteps* dance classes are proving a highlight for Rooms 1, 2, 3, 10, 11 and 12 too and we are looking forward to seeing the children showcase their moves at Friday's disco.

There continues to be much media attention recently about the quality and direction of New Zealand's curriculum, with proposed changes to NCEA and the government's directive for "an hour every day" of literacy and numeracy in primary schools. At St Mark's, we want to assure you that these essential learning areas remain a key focus. We are proud to have been early adopters of structured approaches in both literacy and mathematics, ensuring consistent and coherent practices across our school. We firmly believe in laying strong foundations during the primary years—well beyond the government's minimum requirements.

As we near the close of the current Board of Trustees' term, we wish to sincerely thank our BOT members for their dedication, wisdom, and service to St Mark's. Their guidance has been invaluable in shaping the direction of our school. A reminder too that elections for the new Board are closing soon. Please take the time to cast your vote and ensure that our school continues to be well-served by strong, committed leadership at a governance level.

Finally, thank you for your ongoing loyalty, support and encouragement. We are truly blessed to serve such a wonderful community. As always, if you have any concerns about your child's learning or wellbeing, please reach out to their class teacher in the first instance, or to a member of the leadership team for more serious matters.

Your friends in Christ
Tracey and the team

PTFA SCHOOL DISCO

We are looking forward to the school disco on Friday 5 September.

Wristband Ticket and Kiosk tokens

These will be sent home with your child on Friday. If your child isn't at school on Friday and this isn't through sickness, their ticket/ token envelope can be collected at the door.

VENUE

Bucklands Beach Memorial Hall (on corner of Wharf road and The Parade on Bucklands Beach)

TIME

Doors will open at **6pm** and lights will be turned on around **7.20pm** for a big tidy-up before the last dance. Younger children may only want to stay for a short while and this is absolutely fine.

SAFETY

A disco is for dancing - the children have been reminded that they are not allowed to run around or play chasing games. Please supervise younger children as the hall will be darkened and it will be busy and loud. Please remember to walk safely to and from your car and ensure your vehicle is locked.

HUGE THANKS TO THE FABULOUS PTFA TEAM FOR THEIR AWESOME HELPING HANDS AND FOR MAKING THIS EVENT POSSIBLE. We look forward to making more magical memories at St Mark's.

2026 PLANNING

- **NOT RETURNING** - We are in the early stages of planning classrooms and staffing for next year. If for any reason your child/family will not be returning to St Mark's (with the exception of Year 6 school leavers), we would appreciate you letting the school know asap.
- **FUTURE ENROLMENTS** - If you have a child turning 5 before the end of 2026, please complete an enrolment asap. You may know of other families hoping to enrol their child/children at St Mark's. If this is the case, please encourage them to arrange a visit to the school and a meeting with the Principal.
- **YEAR 6 LEAVERS** - It is wonderful to hear that the majority of our Year 6 learners are continuing their educational journey into Catholic secondary schools. If you have not yet enrolled your Year 6 child in a school for 2026, you are encouraged to do so asap. Many local schools have zones and closing dates for applications. If you need any support with your enrolment, please let us know. We are only happy to help.

Following in the footsteps of Jesus
At St Mark's Catholic School

Learners at St Mark's are reminded to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. To encourage learners to do this, we reference our school's ABCs and 3Rs.

ABCs: A - AROHA; B - BELIEF; C - COURAGE
3Rs: RESPECT; RESPONSIBILITY; RESILIENCE

PTFA QUIZ night

Get ready...tickets will go on sale through KINDO on Monday 8 September.



ST MARK'S FIRST EVER

QUIZ NIGHT

LET'S RAISE FUNDS + RAISE THE FUN

DOOR OPEN AT 7:00PM | QUIZ STARTS 7.30
FRIDAY 17TH OCTOBER | 📍 ST MARK'S PARISH

THEME: BACK IN TIME

Come as anything from the roaring '20s to Y2K — think flapper girls, '60s hippies, '70s disco, '80s workout, '90s grunge, medieval knights, Gatsby glam, pirates or even cavemen!

Dress up, have fun, raffles, win prizes — and help fund swimming lessons for the whole school and the Year 6 celebration at St Mark's!

TICKETS: \$25 OR BOOK A TABLE OF 6 \$150
(NIBBLES INCLUDED | BYO ALCOHOL)

Don't have a group?
No problem — we'll assign you to a team!

BUY TICKETS THROUGH THE KINDO APP!