ST MARK'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Following in the footsteps of Jesus

Monday 24 August 2026

Kia Ora, Welcome, Hello, Nǐ hǎo, Talofa Lava, Hallo, Salut, Namaste, Bonjour, Bula Vinaka, Guten Tag, Shalom, Ciào, おはよう (Ohayoou), 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

Tuesday 25 August	**Yr 1-3 Fun run**	Starting at 11.40am
Wednesday 26 August	**HPPA Interschool Netball Field day**	3 x Yr5/6 teams at Lloyd Elsmore
2 - 4 September	**Choir Festival at Elm Park**	4 performance sessions
Friday 4 September	**School Disco**	6-7.30pm at Buckland Beach Memorial Hall
Tuesday 8 September	**BOT meeting**	7pm in the staffroom
14 - 18 September	**Te Wiki o te Reo Māori**	
Tuesday 15 September	**HPPA Interschool Mathex Competition**	
Friday 18 September	**Final day for cookbook recipes to be submitted**	
Friday 25 September	**Last day of Term 3 - *Crazy Hair / Mad hatters and Wheels to school day***	
Monday 12 October	**First day of Term 4**	
Monday 26 October	**Labour Day - public holiday - school is closed**	
Tuesday 27 October	**Staff Only Professional Development Day - school is closed for instruction**	
Friday 6 November	**Mission Day - details TBC**	
Sat 14 - Mon 16 Nov	**Year 5 and 6 Camp: Lakewood Lodge**	

Swimming in Term 4

Our school swimming programme will take place in Term 4, ensuring our tamariki develop essential water confidence, safety awareness and swimming skills. Swimming is an important part of the NZ Health and Physical Education curriculum and all children are expected to participate. Swimming lessons and transport for Years 3–6 are fully funded, while our Years 0–2 programme is heavily subsidised to make lessons accessible for all families. Further information, including dates and costs for Years 0–2, will be shared before the end of term.

Message from School Principal

Kia ora e te whānau

It has been another busy and rewarding few weeks at St Mark's, with many opportunities for our tamariki to represent our school beyond the classroom. Firstly, congratulations to all of our children who have participated in recent HPPA events, including the Dance Festival, Interschool Cross Country and Speech Competition. We are incredibly proud of the way you represented St Mark's. These events provide wonderful opportunities for our children to be part of the wider Howick/Pakuranga schooling community, while growing in confidence, developing new skills and strengthening friendships. Thank you also to the staff and whānau who support our children to participate in these experiences. As I shared in our previous newsletter, opportunities beyond the classroom play an important role in developing confidence, resilience, teamwork and service in our young people.

Last week we also welcomed our External Catholic Character Review Team to St Mark's. The review was an extremely positive and affirming experience for our school community. The reviewers were particularly impressed by the strength of our Religious Education curriculum, the calibre and professionalism of our team, the supportive and welcoming nature of our community, and, most importantly, our wonderful tamariki. It was especially pleasing to hear how confidently our children were able to show their faith in action, talk about their love of Jesus and share their enthusiasm for learning. The team also commented positively on the children's artwork and the warm, welcoming classroom environments they experienced throughout the school. These observations were a wonderful affirmation of the Catholic identity, Gospel values and caring culture that we strive to make visible in every aspect of school life.

A review is also an important opportunity to reflect and continue to grow. The reviewers have worked alongside our Leadership Team to identify some next steps that will help us further strengthen our Catholic character and continue building on the many positives they observed. We look forward to receiving the final report and sharing the key findings with our Board, staff and wider school community.

I would like to acknowledge our staff for the care, commitment and professionalism they bring to their work each day, and our families for the ongoing support and trust you place in us. Most of all, I am immensely proud of our tamariki. They continue to remind us what it truly means to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

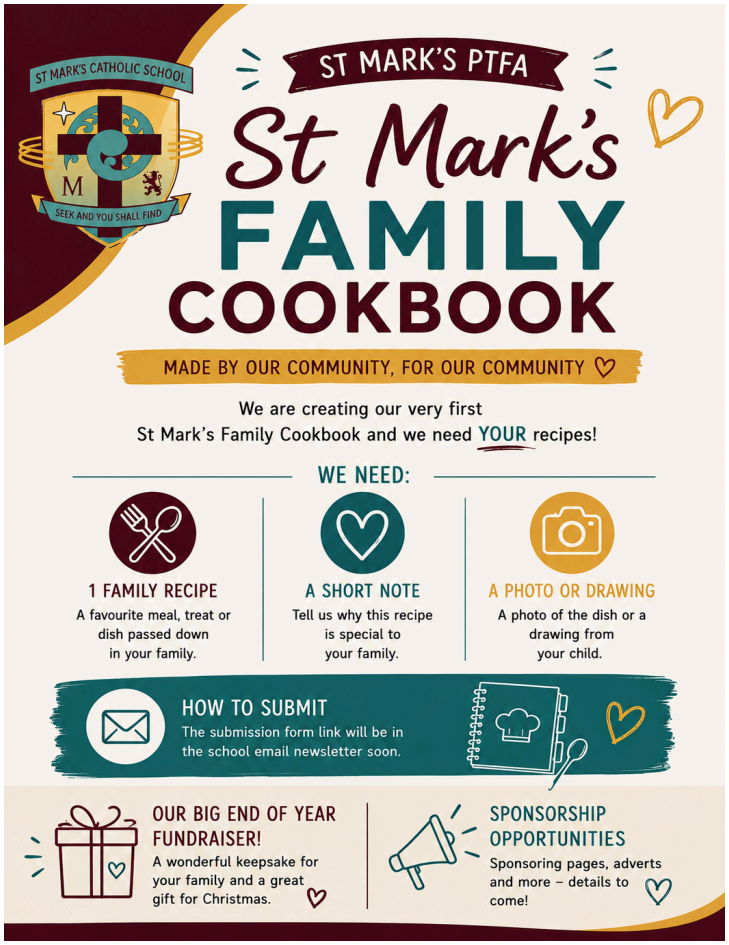
Your friend in Christ
Tracey Kopua

ENROLLING NOW FOR 2027 AND BEYOND

NEW ENTRANTS: If you, or anyone you know, has a child and/or children turning 5 later this year or next year, please connect with Kerrie Hunt in our school office to lodge an expression of interest and to collect an enrolment pack.

LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE: We accept enquiries and enrolments from families who may be seeking schooling for their child/children across different year levels. Limited spaces are available so register your interest quickly to avoid disappointment.

For all enrolment enquiries, please contact Kerrie Hunt: admin@stmarks.school.nz



We need your recipes!

*The cookbook will include a variety of sections such as **baking, family dinners, BBQ favourites, Christmas recipes, lunchbox ideas, sweet treats and family classics**. It doesn't have to be a complete meal! Your family might have an epic BBQ marinade, a favourite sauce or accompaniment, Grandma's famous slice, the birthday cake you make every year or simply something your kids always ask for.*

How to submit your recipe

Submit your recipe **HERE**

Tell us a little about the recipe or why your family loves it

Upload a photo to go alongside it - Have some fun with the photo! It could be the finished dish, your child holding it, your family cooking or eating together, or even a drawing of the recipe.

Classroom Challenge!

The PTFA will have a prize for the classroom that submits the most recipes. All recipes **must be** submitted by Friday 11 September.

School Disco

Our annual school disco is always a great evening of dancing, fun and friendship for the whole family!

Don't forget to purchase your tickets and kiosk tokens through KINDO.

Drop-Off, Supervision and Collection of Children

Year 1-3 children and pre-schoolers must have a parent or adult guardian present with them at the disco at all times.

Year 4-6 students may be dropped off without a parent or guardian remaining onsite. If you intend to do this, you must sign your child in on arrival and ensure you are back onsite BEFORE 7:25pm to collect them. The lights will be turned on at this time and the big clean-up will begin.

Everyone still present will be asked to pick up any rubbish around them and lend a hand with the pack-down of the hall 😊

Mission DAY

FRIDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2026

A day of fun, faith and friendship as we come together to make a difference.

MONEY RAISED WILL GO TOWARDS MISSIONS AND THOSE IN NEED.

WE NEED YOUR DONATIONS!

Please start bringing good quality used toys, books and games to school **from the START OF TERM 4.**

Please do not send broken toys, games or ripped books.

FUN FOR EVERYONE!

Our Years 5 & 6 students organise stalls and competitions for all to enjoy.

Stalls and games commence after lunch.

A PRAYERFUL START

The day includes a prayerful liturgy before our stalls and games commence after lunch.

STALLS, TREATS & MORE!

Homebaked goods, crafts, hair dye and nail polish... and even more!

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Games, competitions and stalls with lots of fun things to buy and enjoy!

PAY WITH TOKENS!

$5 TOKEN

We encourage students to purchase tokens instead of bringing cash.

$5 token = 10 x 50c coupons

Coupons will be stamped at stalls when they buy.

You will be able to purchase tokens on **Kindo**.
Families will receive further information next term.

MUFTI DAY!

Wear your mufti and come ready for a day of fun and giving!

Thank you for your continued support of our Mission Day.