

ST MARK'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Seek and you shall find



Wednesday 17 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
Thursday 18 Sept	SECKA Kapa Haka Festival at Sancta Maria College from 6pm
Friday 19 Sept	LAST DAY OF TERM 3 - WACKY HAIR/ SUPER HERO Dress-up day
20 Sept - 5 Oct	Term break
Monday 6 October	First day of Term 4
Tuesday 7 October	PTFA meeting in the staffroom from 7pm
Friday 10 October	Mission Day/ Lunchtime stalls and games
Tuesday 14 October	HPPA Mathex Event at Sunnyhills
Friday 17 October	Quiz Night in the Parish Centre
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
Tues 28 - Fri 31 Oct	Yr 0 - 2 Swimming intensive at Fulton Swim school
Tues 4 - Fri 7 Nov	Yr 0 - 2 Swimming intensive continues at Fulton Swim school
Wed 12 November	PTFA meeting in the staffroom from 7pm
Wed 26 November	End of Year Thanksgiving Mass in the church from 6.15pm
Friday 5 December	Christmas Nativity and Special awards in the church from 1.15pm
Wed 10 December	Summer mufti and teddy-bear picnic (shared lunch as class groups)
Friday 12 December	Last day of Term 4 - school closes at noon
Thursday 29 January	First school day for the 2026 academic year

Message from the Principal

Kia ora koutou

*This week we have been proud to celebrate **Te Wiki o te Reo Māori** across our school. Our classrooms have been filled with karakia, himene, waiata, art, and action songs giving our tamariki a chance to deepen their understanding and appreciation of te ao Māori in meaningful and creative ways. A highlight for many will be our Kapa Haka Festival tomorrow night. A very special thank you to Matua Hemi and our dedicated staff (Mrs T, Mrs Powell and Mrs Owen) for the time, energy, and aroha you have poured into preparing our group for this event – we know they will represent us with pride.*

As we draw near to the end of the term, I also want to acknowledge the great progress and effort of all our children across the curriculum. Whether in RE, reading, writing, maths, sports, the arts, science or cultural learning it has been inspiring to see the determination, curiosity, and joy for learning that shines through in their achievements.

We are also looking forward to Friday, when our tamariki can unleash their creativity by dressing up as superheroes or donning wacky hairstyles! This will be a fun way to celebrate another wonderful term together and to create more magical memories here at St Mark's.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you to our whole community for your ongoing support. We deeply value the partnership between home and school that helps our children thrive. I wish you all a safe and relaxing break – may it be a time to recharge, enjoy whānau, and prepare for the exciting term ahead.

Ngā manaakitanga - your friend in Christ,

Tracey Kopua

SWIMMING IN TERM 4

Since our last newsletter, we have secured an alternative swimming venue for our Year 0–2 programme. This change was made in response to ongoing issues around the public changing facilities at Lagoon Pools and the reliance we have on volunteer support, particularly in the male changing area. After visiting the Fulton Swim School, off Ti Rakau drive, it was clear to us that this private venue is much better suited to the needs of our group. We are pleased to let you know that the Year 0–2 swimming programme continues to be heavily subsidised in order to keep costs reasonable for whānau. The financial contribution is \$60 per child for 8 lessons - an intensive course like this would usually cost in excess of \$200.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES NEWS

The results of the election were emailed yesterday. The new Board of Trustees will take office from today and is composed of:

- **School Principal** - Tracey Kopua
- **Proprietor's Representatives** - Francis Coutinho, Chris Leung, Marty Ryan, Aaron William
- **Parent Representatives** - Joel Compton, Charlotte Cowan, Patrick O'Riordan, Rhona Tagipau, Moana Vui
- **Staff Trustee** - Angela Butcher

Special thanks to the outgoing trustees - Gavin Coad, Wini Kannangara, Ingrid Manickum, Charlotte Pienaar and Sarah Tuckerman—for their excellent governance and dedicated service to our school community.

2026 PLANNING

- NOT RETURNING - We are currently planning class groupings 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 - If you have not yet enrolled your Year 6 child in a school for 2026, we encourage you to do so as soon as possible. Many local schools are zoned and have closing dates, so early application is important. If you need any support with the enrolment process, please let us know—we are always happy to help.

OUR INAUGURAL QUIZ NIGHT

Have you saved the date and sorted out babysitting? Don't miss this chance to have some fun, catch up with friends and celebrate the amazing connections within our school community! Don't forget to purchase your tickets through Kindo.

A vibrant poster for St Mark's First Ever Quiz Night. The background is a gradient of blue and purple. At the top, a yellow banner reads "ST MARK'S FIRST EVER". Below this, the words "QUIZ NIGHT" are written in large, bold, yellow letters with a black outline, set against a purple starburst background. Four yellow question marks are scattered around the starburst. Below the starburst, a yellow banner reads "LET'S RAISE FUNDS + RAISE THE FUN". The text "DOOR OPEN AT 7:00PM | QUIZ STARTS 7.30" is written in white. Below this, "FRIDAY 17TH OCTOBER | 📍 ST MARK'S PARISH" is written in white. The theme "THEME: BACK IN TIME" is written in white. Below the theme, a line of text reads "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!". Below this, the text "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!" is written in white. The ticket information "TICKETS: \$25 OR BOOK A TABLE OF 6 \$150 (NIBBLES INCLUDED | BYO ALCOHOL)" is written in white. Below this, the text "Don't have a group? No problem — we'll assign you to a team!" is written in white. At the bottom, a yellow banner reads "BUY TICKETS THROUGH THE KINDO APP!".

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