

ST MARK'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Seek and you shall find



Tuesday 29 July 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
18 July - 6 Aug	BOT ELECTIONS: CALLING FOR NOMINATIONS
Tuesday 29 July	'Come and See' BOT drinks and nibbles for prospective trustees from 6.30pm
Thursday 31 July	Footsteps dance programme commences for Rms 1,2,3,10, 11 and 12
Thursday 31 July	Pakuranga Schools Dance Festival at Pakuranga Intermediate school (2 groups)
Tuesday 5 August	HPPA Cross Country field day (saving date 7 Aug)
Wednesday 6 August	BOT ELECTIONS: NOMINATIONS CLOSE AT 12 NOON
Tuesday 12 August	Buddy Class Mass for Rooms 4, 5, 10 & 12: 9am in Parish Church
12 or 13 August	HPPA Netball Field days (draw to be confirmed to determine date)
Friday 15 August	Feast of the Assumption - Whole school Mass at 9am
Tuesday 2 Sept	HPPA Speech Finals (details TBC)
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

Feast of the Assumption – Thursday 15th August: Mass at 9am

Please join us as we celebrate the beautiful Feast of the Assumption, a special holy day in our Catholic calendar honouring Mary, the Mother of Jesus. We will gather for Mass as a school and parish community at 9am. Afterwards, you are warmly invited to visit our classrooms and enjoy some light refreshments in the staffroom. We look forward to sharing this meaningful day with you.

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST LEARNERS

We extend a warm St Mark's welcome to Grace, Gabby, Luna, Nathan and Edmund who have recently joined Mrs Moffat's Room 4 class.

Message from the Principal

Kia ora e te whānau

A very warm welcome back to Term 3! I hope the holidays provided you and your whānau with time to rest, reconnect and recharge. It's been wonderful to see our tamariki return to school with energy, smiles and a readiness to dive back into learning.

*This term we are placing a special emphasis on the **Nature of Science** strand in our classrooms. This means our learners will be encouraged to think like scientists—to question, investigate, observe and make sense of the world around them. We are excited to foster curiosity and wonder as students engage with science not just as a body of knowledge, but as a dynamic, hands-on process of discovery.*

*Term 3 is often known as the “**grunt term**”—a time to dig in, focus on the basics, and keep up the momentum of learning. Regular attendance, consistent routines, and a positive attitude go a long way in helping students thrive during this important part of the school year. Please continue to support your child's learning by ensuring they come to school ready each day, and stay home when they are unwell to help keep our community healthy.*

*This term also marks an important moment for our school governance. **Elections for the Board of Trustees** are coming up, and I encourage you to prayerfully consider standing for this essential role. Our board plays a vital part in shaping the direction of our school and ensuring our Catholic character, values and strategic goals are upheld. If you have a heart for service and a desire to contribute to the life of St Mark's, this is a meaningful way to make a difference.*

As always, I want to express my gratitude to each of you—our students, staff, parents, caregivers and parish whānau—for your continued support and faith in our shared mission. Your presence and partnership are what make St Mark's such a special and spirit-filled community.

Let's journey together through this term with purpose, joy and faith.

Ngā mihi mahana.

Your friend in Christ

Tracey Kopua

ENROLLING NOW FOR 2026 AND BEYOND

Is your child turning 5 soon? If you, or someone you know, has a child turning 5 in the next year or so, we encourage you to connect directly with **Kerrie Hunt** in our school office to express your interest and collect an enrolment pack.

Limited Spaces Available We are also accepting enrolment enquiries for children across different year levels. Spaces are limited, so we encourage families to register their interest early to avoid disappointment. For all enrolment enquiries, please contact: **admin@stmarks.school.nz**

WHAKATERE CROSS COUNTRY RESULTS

Huge congratulations to all our Yr 4-6 learners who took part in last week's Cross Country event! It was heartening to see ALL participants give their very best, showing true grit, determination and perseverance—even when it wasn't easy. We know that cross country running isn't everyone's favourite activity, but the way our tamariki stepped up to the challenge and encouraged one another along the way was something special. Thanks for the awesome sideline support too! Ka mau te wehi tamariki ma! You made us very proud. Please find the placings below. These children will represent St Mark's at the HPPA event later this term.

Year 4		Year 5		Year 6	
Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
1. Kysan 2. Freddie 3. Maikheun 4. Lennox 5. Jayden A 6. Felix 7. Tyson 8. Ethan M	1. Victoria 2. Rose 3. Winter 4. Angela L-J 5. Poppy 6. Michaela 7. Rosie 8. Therese	1. Finley 2. Conaghan 3. Franco 4. Haran 5. Theo 6. Daniel 7. Ray E 8. Jacob L	1. Angela 2. Jasmine 3. Annelise 4. Lara 5. Harper 6. Samara 7. Aamairah 8. Emilie	1. Fletcher 2. Ryan 3. Kallen 4. Richard 5. Lewis 6. Luke 7. Benjamin 8. Ekueni	1. Olive 2. Juane 3. Chloe V 4. Katelyn 5. Abigail 6. Elsa 7. Oneshi 8. Sophia

REPORTING AN ABSENCE

Daily absences and requests for leave are to be reported through to the school office via the school app or website: <https://www.stmarks.school.nz/absences.html> or by calling: **09 576 5296**.

CORRECT CONTACT INFORMATION

A reminder to please ensure that the school has your most up-to-date contact information. Phone numbers, email addresses and emergency contacts can change over time, and it's vital that we are able to reach you quickly if needed. If your details have changed recently, please contact the school office to update them. This helps keep our records accurate and your child safe.

FOLLOW THE SCHOOL ON FACEBOOK

Please remember to follow our school on Facebook. We use this platform to share quick news and to celebrate learning: <https://www.facebook.com/st.marks.catholic>

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