



Newsletter 5 March 2025

Kia Ora, Welcome, Hello, Ni hāo, Talofa Lava, Hallo, Salut, Namaste, Bonjour, Bula Vinaka, Guten Tag, Shalom, Cìao, 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

Mon 10 March	Brendan Malone seminar	from 7pm in Parish centre
Wed 12 March	Sancta Maria Open Day	9am or 1pm
Mon 17 March	St Patrick's feast-day	Green-themed mufti
Wed 19 March	Parent/Teacher Interviews	1-7pm (school closes at noon)
Thurs 20 March	PHOTOLIFE in school	More info to follow
Fri 21 March	HPPA Interschool Swimming Sports	Swim team at Lloyd Elsmore
Tues 25 March	BOT meeting	7pm in staffroom
Thurs 27 March	Waka Ama and Te Ao Maori fun day	Rms 10 and 11 at Okahu Bay
Fri 28 March	Waka Ama and Te Ao Maori fun day	Rms 1 and 12 at Okahu Bay
Wed 2 April	Cultural festival at Sancta Maria	Dance group performing
Thurs 3 April	Cultural festival at Sancta Maria	Dance group performing
Fri 11 April	Last day of Term 1	Dress like Jesus Special Holy week liturgy time TBC
Sun 13 April	Palm Sunday	Refer to the St Mark's Parish website for service times: https://stmark.org.nz/
Fri 18 April	Good Friday	
Sun 20 April	Easter Sunday	
Mon 28 April	First day of Term 2	
28 April - 2 May	Life education mobile classroom on-site	More info to follow

Please note:

- School will close at 12 noon on Wednesday 19 March for Parent Interviews. Please arrange to collect your child at this earlier time or contact SKIDS to make a casual booking.
- Mufti days (non-uniform days):
 17th March for St Patrick's Day (green theme)
 11th April - Dress Like Jesus: Palm Sunday/Holy week liturgy

SCHOOL INTERVIEWS - bookings now open

This term we are inviting families to 1:1 meetings with classroom teachers. If your child has a different teacher for Maths, there will be an opportunity to meet Maths teachers in Term 2.

For families of children in Rooms 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 10, 11 and 12

Please login: <https://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz/code> and use the booking code: **pw7us**

For families of children in Room 4

Please login: <https://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz/code> and use the booking code: **z86n3**

SPECIAL CATHOLIC CHARACTER



We are now in the Christian season of Lent. Lent is the period of 40 days before Easter. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, Lent is a prayerful time of reflection and preparation before the celebrations of Easter. During Lent, you are invited to :

1. **Pray** - for yourself, for your family, for someone with a special need or a prayer of thanksgiving for blessings received.
2. **Fast** - to intentionally give up something we love or are attached to, as a sacrifice. For e.g. when you enter a store do you buy what you want or what you need?
3. **Almsgiving** - to give to others who are in need, those less fortunate than us.

A Lenten prayer to pray together as a family

*Open our minds to the silence of Your presence, that we may be refreshed
Open our hands to receive and to give, that we may be replenished
Open our hearts to your word, O Lord, that we may be renewed
Amen*

COMMUNITY SURVEY

We are currently gathering feedback about our after-school pick-up procedures. If you haven't already completed the survey, please do so by Friday 7th March: <https://forms.gle/dZt2aQ95KB3AX3PL6>

Message from the Principal

Kia ora St Mark's Catholic School whānau

As we come to this mid-term point there is so much to be thankful for. Firstly, I would like to express heartfelt gratitude to the PTFA for organising another successful family fun night/ colour run. I offer three St Mark's specials in appreciation of the many past-pupils, staff members, BOT members and families who assisted in the kiosk and/or 'threw paint' at each of the colour stations. Special thanks to all the courageous colour runners who made this event a magical and memorable occasion. It was great to hear so much laughter and to see the JOY on the faces of those participating.

I wish to acknowledge your hard-working children who have settled quickly to school routines and are focused on their learning. Learners at St Mark's try very hard to follow in the footsteps of Jesus and this is evident through polite manners, care for others and respect for the environment. It's been wonderful to see so many children receiving house tokens, certificates and positive affirmation cards for demonstrating the ABCs and 3Rs.

Our teachers are to be thanked for planning and delivering a variety of learning experiences across the curriculum. Kitea team has enjoyed visits from different community groups who help keep us safe and Whakatere students are looking forward to waka ama at Okahu Bay. The school has had opportunities to pray together through regular Monday assemblies, the Opening Mass and Ash Wednesday services. It's been lovely to welcome Fr Austin and Fr Alain to our Parish/School family.

Now we are back to term-time routines, here are a couple of timely reminders:

- Please keep children home if they are unwell.
- Ensure your child has plenty of nutritious food and snacks packed for a day of learning. Water is the only drink to be brought to school.
- Ensure your child is on time each day - classes open at 8.30am and formal learning starts with prayer from 8.50am.
- Try to refrain from booking trips and holidays during term time
- Monitor your child's on-line activity closely and restrict screen time.

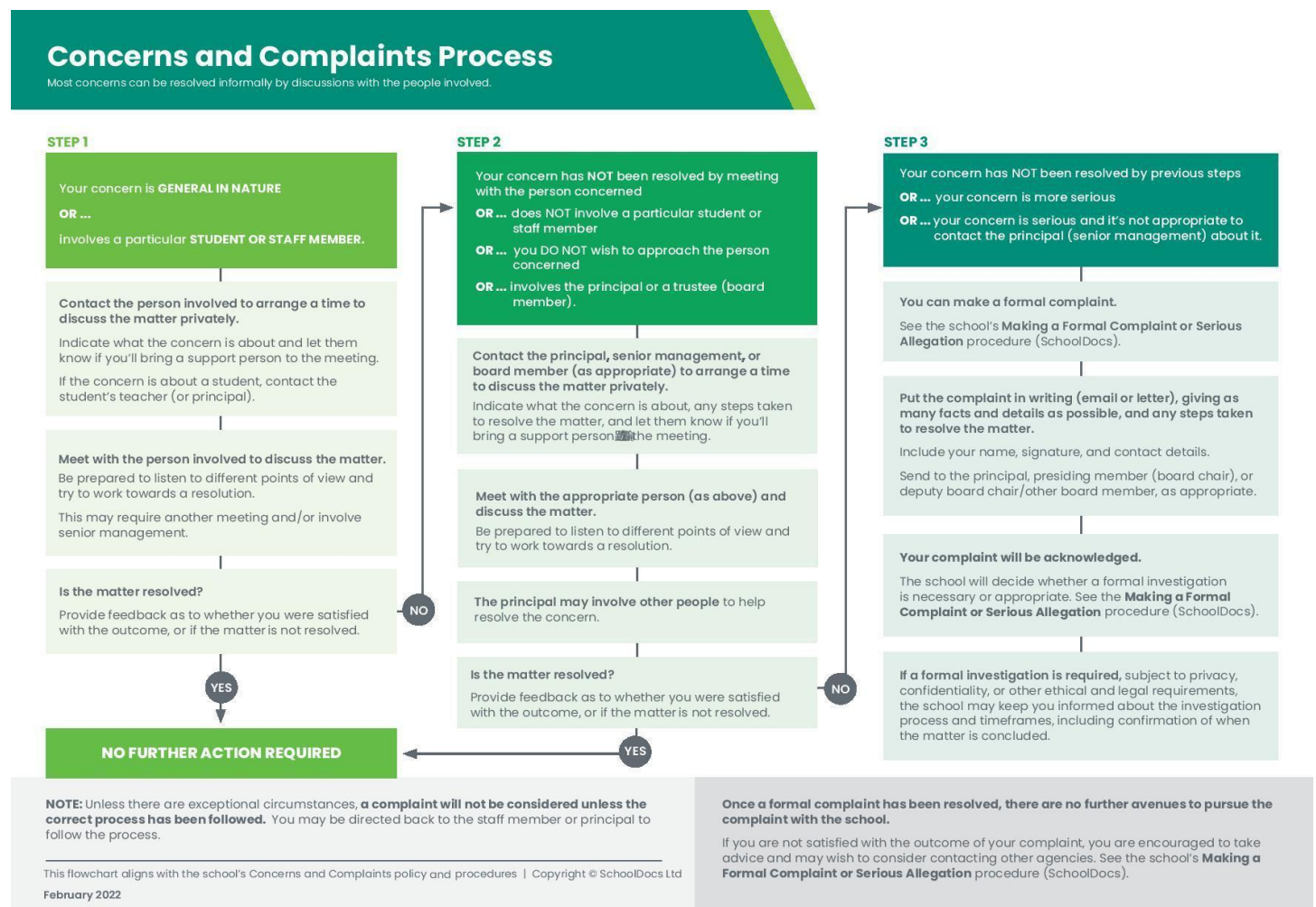
At last week's first BOT meeting of the year, Marty Ryan accepted the presiding member role. 2025 is an election year and we will be seeking nominations ahead of elections in September. A great way to find out more about the work of a school BOT is to attend a meeting. Please remember BOT meetings are public meetings so anyone can attend. Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 25 March at 7pm in the staffroom.

Finally, If you have any concerns whatsoever about any aspect of your child's learning and/or wellbeing at school, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher in the first instance or arrange a time to see myself, Mrs Hodgson (Special Education Coordinator) or one of our Learning Team leaders, Jess Robinson (Kitea Team) or Ushnathi Leaver (Whakatere Team).

Your friend in Christ
Tracey Kopua

COMPLAINTS OR CONCERNS

Schools are not perfect places and we acknowledge that from time to time there may be cause for concern. Most concerns can be resolved informally through respectful discussion. Please reference the flowchart below outlining St Mark's Catholic School's Concerns and Complaints Process.



SCHOOL POLICY AND PROCEDURE

Our school works on a subscription basis with SchoolDocs to maintain, update, and review our policies. SchoolDocs provides us with a comprehensive core set of policies, which have been well researched and follow the Ministry of Education National Administration Guidelines. The policies and procedures are tailored to our school, and the school supplies specific information such as our charter, and procedures for behaviour management, reporting to parents, etc.

We invite you to visit the site at: <https://stmarks.schooldocs.co.nz> (note that there's no "www.")
Our username is "stmarks" and password "seekfind"



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