ST MARK'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Following in the footsteps of Jesus

Friday 31 July 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

Wednesday 5 August	**PTFA meeting**	7pm in the staffroom
Tuesday 11 August	**HPPA Interschool Cross Country**	Lloyd Park from 9am
Tuesday 11 August	**Timetable Rockstar National Challenge**	
Tuesday 11 August	**BOT meeting**	7pm in the staffroom
Monday 17 August	**HPPA Interschool Speech Competition**	Details TBC
Tuesday 18 August	**ACPPA Proclaiming the Word Competition**	Details TBC
Tuesday 18 August	**Kind, Firm, Calm parenting workshop**	7pm at OLSOS school hall
19 - 20 August	**External Catholic Character Review**	Review team on-site
Monday 24 August	**Ministry of Hound - safety around dogs**	Special assemblies today
Tuesday 25 August	**Yr 1-3 Fun run**	Details TBC
Wednesday 26 August	**HPPA Interschool Netball Field day**	Details TBC
2 - 4 September	**Choir Festival at Elm Park**	Details TBC
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**	
Tuesday 22 September	**Kapa Haka Evening with OLSOS and SMCPS**	Details TBC
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**	

Message from School Principal

Kia ora e te whānau

One of the greatest strengths of St Mark's is the partnership we share with our families. When school and home work together with trust, openness and shared purpose, our children flourish academically, socially, emotionally and spiritually.

*Thank you to the **88 parents and caregivers** who recently completed our School Community Survey. Your willingness to share your thoughts, celebrate what we are doing well and identify areas where we can continue to grow is deeply appreciated. Continuous improvement is only possible when we listen carefully to the voices of those we serve. Following our next Board of Trustees meeting, we will share a summary of the survey findings with our community, highlighting the key themes and the next steps we will take together. We will also draw the winner of the **$100 petrol voucher** and announce this shortly afterwards.*

*Term 3 is often described as a **"grunt term"** and with good reason. It is the time of year when sustained effort, consistent attendance and quality teaching combine to make a significant difference to student achievement. Every school day provides valuable opportunities for learning, and every day matters.*

During the holiday break our Leadership Team carefully analysed our mid-year achievement data alongside our teachers' informed professional judgements. This work has enabled us to refine teaching programmes and ensure every learner receives the right level of challenge and support. Some students will receive additional targeted intervention to strengthen key foundations, while others will be extended to reach even higher levels of achievement. Our commitment is simple: every child deserves to make meaningful progress and experience success.

While academic learning remains our core purpose, education at St Mark's extends far beyond the classroom. Throughout the term our students will participate in HPPA sporting events, cultural festivals, school excursions, leadership opportunities and faith experiences that develop confidence, resilience, teamwork and service. These moments help shape not only capable learners but compassionate young people who understand the importance of contributing positively to others.

*As always, I ask for your continued partnership. At St Mark's we believe in **"sweating the small stuff so the big stuff doesn't happen."** Small concerns rarely stay small if left unaddressed. Whether your child is experiencing friendship difficulties, anxiety, changes at home or challenges with learning, please let us know early. Open communication allows us to work together, respond proactively and provide the care and support every child deserves.*

Our vision has always been to create a school where every child is known, valued, challenged and inspired to become the person God is calling them to be. That vision remains at the heart of everything we do. Thank you for the trust you place in us each day. We look forward to another term filled with learning, faith, growth and celebration.

Your friend in Christ,

Tracey Kopua

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord."
Colossians 3:23

Catholic Character Review

On **Wednesday 19 and Thursday 20 August**, St Mark's will welcome an External Catholic Character Review Team to our school. These reviews take place in all Catholic schools and provide an opportunity to celebrate the many ways our Catholic faith is lived each day while identifying opportunities for continued growth. The review team will spend time meeting with students, staff and community representatives as they explore how our Catholic identity, Gospel values and caring culture are reflected throughout every aspect of school life. As part of the review process, the Diocese invites parents and caregivers to complete a short anonymous survey. Your voice is an important part of the evidence gathered by the review team and helps them understand how families experience the Catholic special character of our school.
We would greatly appreciate you taking a few minutes to complete the survey using the link:
https://forms.gle/fJcyFFKP3GSfCKNt6

Thank you for supporting this important review process and for the ongoing partnership you have with our school and parish.

Kind, Calm and Firm Parenting Workshop

We extend a warm invitation to the **Kind, Calm and Firm Parenting Workshop**, presented by **Parenting Place**, on: **Tuesday 18 August from 7.00pm at Our Lady Star of the Sea School (Hall)**
Parenting Place workshops are always practical, engaging and full of realistic strategies that can be applied immediately at home. Whether your child is five or fifteen, this session will provide valuable ideas to help build positive relationships, set healthy boundaries and confidently navigate the everyday challenges of parenting. Many of us know that parenting doesn't come with a manual. Taking time to invest in ourselves as parents is one of the greatest gifts we can give our children. We hope many of our St Mark's families will embrace this wonderful opportunity. **Please register using this link**

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

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