

St Mary's Catholic School, Papakura

Term 4 Week 3 (24 October 2025)

Me Whakakotahi, Kia Maarama, Kia Pono, Ki Te Karakia

Together We Learn, We Pray, We Serve

Tumuaki/ Principal's Message



Tēnā koutou katoa e te whānau!

Term 4 has come around so fast! We are heading into week 4 with our senior camp suddenly upon us.

Our Year 5 and 6 students are almost ready to head out to enjoy an amazing experience and we are so pleased that with the support of a grant from the Trillion Trust and kind donations from our parish community, we can now make sure that all children can go on camp on a much reduced cost to parents. If you are still concerned about your child participating or if cost is still a barrier,

please contact me directly via email or phone. We will make it work.

Wednesday 22 October was a day to remember! We came together as a school family in a beautiful Filipino celebration of faith and culture. Our Filipino community shone and shared their culture and their food with such pride, love and generosity. Thank you to all who supported Mrs Pelvera and her hardworking team to provide this awesome experience.

I want to also express my thanks to our Board and parent community for supporting our staff as we participated in reportedly the biggest industrial action in 40 years in New Zealand. We are focused on providing the best possible schooling and learning experience for all our tamariki, with state of the art resources, well supported staff and with every child achieving their individual potential. This is something worth fighting for.

We are looking forward to our Annual Athletics Day on 7 November and hope that you and your families will join us for another great St Mary's Athletics event. Support your children in their house colours and enjoy a day out with us.

October has been declared Mission month. On Tuesday 28 October, we will be joining the rest of our catholic schools to raise funds to support Pope Leo's appeal. You may send your child to school in casual clothes for a gold coin donation to Mission Month.

Please see the Pope's message below.

Mā te Atua koutou.
Audrey Kippen

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Mission Month - an appeal from MissioAotearoa

Mission Appeal - October is Mission Month

Children may wear casual clothes on Tuesday 28 October - for a gold coin donation.



NEW ZEALAND: Global Video for Mission Month 2025



**and be close to them
in their suffering.**



Take care around schools - drive safely

Another reminder to parents and whānau - drive safely and respectfully around our school.



Please keep in mind that everyone is battling the traffic, has somewhere to be and deserves our respect. Park with care for others, making sure there is enough parking space for everyone. Use our safety crossing at all times, even if it is inconvenient. Please follow the requests made by our road patrol volunteers. They are not trying to make your life hard - they are trying to keep our children safe.

Our children are watching you. Please model our Catholic values to them.

Watch out for the new electronic speed signs on Clark Road - these are active between 8am and 9am, as well as between 2.30pm and 3.30pm.

Celebrating our children's successes

Last weekend Brae Milne (Year 6) competed in the 2025 Kartsport Hamilton Club Champs.

Brae has not had much seat time lately so there were no expectations. However, random grid draws had Brae starting off at the back of the grid and was in 1st by the end of lap 1.

Brae managed to win each heat race and the final, becoming the club champ in his class.



Next up was the reverse grid Grand Prix - if you win club champs you have to start at the back. Brae managed to take the win in the Grand Prix making him "champion of champions" alongside some other NZ Motorsport greats including the 2025 Bathurst winner!!

To top off the weekend Brae was recognised for his attitude and helpfulness towards other drivers. To both his family and all of us at St Mary's, this is just as great as the win. The St Mary's Way in action!

Next year Brae moves into a bigger kart and starts a whole new challenge. St Mary's will always be watching this young man's success and cheering him on. Well done, Brae! We look forward to seeing your name on the world stage one day.

From the Desk of our DRS (Director of Religious Studies)

Term 4 Week 3



Upcoming Events

Mission Month

On Tuesday students can dress casually and bring a gold coin donation for missions around the world.

Family Mass

Sunday, 16 November, 10.30
St Mary's Parish, Papakura
Week 6

All Souls Day

Tuesday, 4 November at 12pm
Week 5

Mission Day

Friday 21 November
Week 7

Leo XIV, makes a special appeal for World Mission Day



Junior Team (Year 0 -1)

This term, the Junior Team have been exploring the exciting world of shops through our concept, Little Mission Markets. Each week, the children are experiencing a different shop, getting an opportunity to explore the Bakery, Ice Cream Shop, Fruit & Vege Stall, Book Shop, and Toy Shop. Through their play they've been learning to recognise New Zealand coins and notes and use them to purchase goods. Our Year 1 students have also been practising simple addition and subtraction with money. It's been wonderful to see so much rich language, new vocabulary, cooperation, sharing, and turn-taking as the children take on the roles of shopkeepers and customers.

We have also been really enjoying our Athletics Day practise, getting out on the fields in the afternoons to practise our skills. We are looking forward to the big day to show our parents and whanau what we have learnt about high jump, shot put, sprint racing and more!





Simone Butler - Junior Team Leader - simoneb@stmaryspapakura.school.nz

Krishnie Govender - krishnieg@stmaryspapakura.school.nz

Simone Fifita - simonef@stmaryspapakura.school.nz

Philippa Cunningham - philippac@stmaryspapakura.school.nz

Jay Moodly - jaym@stmaryspapakura.school.nz

Middle Team (Year 2 - 3)

What a wonderful start to the term for our Middle Team tamariki. This month, we are honouring the Month of the Holy Rosary by learning about the significance of the rosary and the power of prayer in our classrooms. Our tamariki have been practising how to pray the rosary together, learning the different mysteries and reflecting on how prayer brings us closer to God and to one another. It has been a beautiful way to strengthen our faith as a team.

Our new concept, "Mission Possible: From our Hands to their Hearts" encourages our tamariki to show kindness and generosity in everyday ways. Students have begun earning tokens for positive behaviour and acts of kindness, which they will later use to "buy" donated books and toys at our Team Marketplace. Through this kaupapa, our learners are discovering that being generous and making wise choices with money can bring joy not only to themselves but also to others.

In Maths, we have been exploring financial literacy, learning about money, budgeting and making wise spending decisions. It's been inspiring to see our tamariki engaging in real-life problem-solving and applying their learning with enthusiasm.

As part of Filipino Language Week, we have been having lots of fun learning about Filipino culture, songs and dances. Our classrooms have been filled with music, creativity and laughter as students explored simple Tagalog greetings and colourful traditions. A big "ka pai!" to our Year 2 and Year 3 ākonga who participated in the Filipino events and performances — you made us all so proud with your confidence and joy on stage!

What a wonderful start to the term, filled with faith, kindness and celebration of culture!

Reyney Pelvera - Middle Team leader - reyneyp@stmaryspapakura.school.nz

Mary Bird - marybd@stmaryspapakura.school.nz

Leuia Latu - leuial@stmaryspapakura.school.nz

Bea Halal - beah@stmaryspapakura.school.nz

Chante Small - chantes@stmaryspapakura.school.nz



Senior Team (Year 4 - 6)

It's been a busy and exciting start to Term 4 for our senior students! We've ignited our new concept, Mission Possible and students are fully engaged and enthusiastic about their learning. Planning and preparation for Mission Day is well underway—students are busy creating products, designing marketing and developing their entrepreneurial skills. We can't wait to share their efforts with you, so get ready to support us by coming along and purchasing their products!

A highlight of the term so far was our Team Assembly, led entirely by the Adams Whānau. It was fantastic to see our students confidently step up and run the assembly on their own, developing their public speaking skills.

Homework is tracking well and we're looking forward to celebrating our dedicated learners who will receive their Super Student 100 Badge this term.

There's a strong focus on learning across all areas as we prepare for the exciting senior camp next week. We are also preparing for our Athletics Day coming up on the 7th November. It's shaping up to be a term full of growth, leadership and memorable experiences!

Jelinda Adams - Senior Team Leader - jelindaa@stmaryspapakura.school.nz

John Frings - johnf@stmaryspapakura.school.nz

Carolyn Quinlan - carolynq@stmaryspapakura.school.nz

Danielle Nattrass - daniellen@stmaryspapakura.school.nz

Candice Jeffrey - cjeffrey@stmaryspapakura.school.nz

From the Sports Desk

Mālō e lelei and greetings

Athletics Day 2025

We look forward to our annual school Athletics Day on **Friday 7th November** to be held at St Mary's School.

Please note the following points:

1. Students are to wear their PE gear and HOUSE COLOURS for the day. This is not a mufti day. Please ensure children have appropriate clothing for both warm and cold weather.

2. Protection from the sun is vital. A 'named' school hat **must** be worn and children should also bring sunblock.
3. Also remember, plenty of food and water to drink for morning tea and lunch.
4. To ensure the smooth running of some of the events **we need support from parents**. Please contact Mrs Wetere at the school office if you are able to help.
5. Please see separate notice for the day's timetable - below.

Parents and families are more than welcome to come along.

We are looking forward to an enjoyable and successful day.

Senior Surf Camp

The students are super excited about next week's surf camp. On Wednesday morning our Year 5 and 6 students will travel by bus up to Mangawhai for 3 days of adventure, challenge and fun. We will be hosted by the Aotearoa Surf group. This group of trained specialists will introduce our students to a range of water based activities in a safe and supportive way. Surf Camp in 2023 was a huge success and we look forward to building great memories that will last a lifetime. We can't wait.

Go Kart Success

Brae Milne has continued to make great progress within the go-kart world. Last week-end in the final event of the series Brae managed to win each heat race and the final becoming the Club Champ in his class. He then went on to take the win in the Grand Prix making him "Champion of Champions" A previous winner of this event was Matthew Payne. (2025 Bathurst 1000 Champion) Congratulations Brae - all the best for your future.

Cheerleading Success

Brydie Edge competed at Cheer Dynamix in Berries. They have competed in Auckland, Hamilton, Tauranga and are off to Rotorua this weekend to compete in Nationals. Brydie has worked hard in and she is a base and a flyer in her team. Together as a team, they trust each-other, work and train even harder. Well done Brydie. Congratulations and good luck in the Nationals this weekend.

John Frings - Sports Co-ordinator

johnf@stmaryspapakura.school.nz

Dear Parents / Caregivers

Athletics Day 2025

Our Athletics Day will once again take place here at school on **Friday 7th November**.

Our Junior Team, (Govender, Butler, Fifita, Cunningham and Moodyly) will have their own mini athletics on the top field at **9:45am-10:45am**. This will include athletics rotations and sprint races.

At **10am**, the Senior Team (Nattrass, Jeffrey, Quinlan, Adams and Frings) will begin their athletics on the bottom field (by the hall).

The Middle Team (Small, Halal, Bird, Latu and Pelvera) will have their rotations on the top field at **11:15am**. They will then come down to the bottom field for sprint races at approximately **12pm**.

This is when the Senior Team will have lunch and cheer the Middle Team on. This will be followed by progressive relays with Y1-6 children.

Children need to wear their **HOUSE COLOURS** for the day. This is not a mufti day. Please also pack a jacket/jumper in case of cold weather.

Children all need to be wearing their named school hat and sunscreen is recommended.

Please send plenty of food for morning tea and lunch as well as a named water bottle.

Let us know if you are able to help supervise any of our rotations or in any way on the day.

Parents and families are more than welcome to come along and enjoy the day with us.



Order your child's calendar art



Te Reo - Phrase of the Week

Enjoy the long weekend - Kia pai te wiki roa

The Uniform Shoppe - SAS Sport Limited

Term 3 2025 - Winter Uniforms. Please ensure children have the correct footwear which is plain black school shoes. Shoes with logos, brands and any other colour are not acceptable. Black socks/tights for girls and grey sock for boys. No white socks please.

Uniforms are available for purchase from the SAS Sport shop located at 28B Wood Street, Papakura. Shop Telephone: 296 6063 - or visit: www.theuniformshoppe.co.nz and click 'shop online'. WINZ Quotes are available through SAS Sport.

'Scrunchies' (\$2) are available through the school office.

Please note that all long hair (for boys and girls) must be tied up neatly away from the face and neck and all hair accessories must be black, brown, navy blue or white. (Hair longer than the base of the neck/ below the ears is considered long hair).

PLEASE ENSURE ALL ITEMS ARE CLEARLY NAMED. THANK YOU.

See the Uniform Requirements below.



Financial Assistance.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE DUES - FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Financial assistance is available to assist families who may need financial support with the payment of Attendance Dues for preference students attending both primary and secondary Catholic schools in Auckland Diocese.

Families facing financial difficulties can contact their school office, their Parish Priest, or Auckland Common Fund Ltd at the Catholic Diocese of Auckland on 09-360-3069 for further information.

Application forms for this assistance are available from school and parish offices, or can be downloaded from the Catholic Diocese of Auckland Website:

<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/catholic-schools-2/>

What's going on at school?

Term 4

Wednesday 29 - Friday 31 October - Years 5&6 Surf Camp.

Thursday 30 October - Whanau Mass

Monday 3 November - All Saints Day Liturgy

Tuesday 4 November - All Souls Day Liturgy

Friday 7 November - Athletics (To Be Confirmed)

Wednesday 12 November - St Ignatius Whānau Transition Evening 6.00pm -7.00pm

Thursday 13 November - Whanau Mass

Friday 21 November - Mission Day. More information to be given closer to the time.

Wednesday 26 November - St Mary's Got Talent Show 1.00pm -3.00pm

Thursday 27 November - BoT meeting - 6.00pm. School staff room.

Thursday 11 December - Leavers Mass - St Mary's Church - 6.00pm -8.30pm

Monday 15 December - School Awards Ceremony 2025 - 1.00pm - 3.00pm

Wednesday 17 December - End Of Year Mass 11.00am - 12.00pm **School closes at 12pm** - all children have to be picked up on time. If you are unable to pick up at this time you need to book your child into after school care with Navigators.

Have Your Contact Details Changed?

Please remember to let the school office know of any changes in your contact details i.e. postal address, telephone/mobile and/or email address. Thank you.



VIEW OUR GALLERY

SCHOOL WEBSITE

Please visit our school website for information about our little gem of a school.

Do you have our school App?

Many parents tell us that they don't get emssages about events or notices from the school. Many parents have no idea what is happening at school and their children miss out.

One solution - download the school App in your phone. Do it today. Then activate your notifications.

You won't miss any notices again.

Go on - do it now!

Please remember to download our school APP to receive regular updates and reminders.



Contact Us

Email: office@stmaryspapakura.school.nz

Website: <https://www.stmaryspapakura.school.nz>

Location: [54 Clark Road, Pahurehure, Papakura 2113, Auckland, New Zealand](#)

Phone: +64 9 298 4450

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/St-Marys-Catholic-School-Papakura-109574014049059/?view_public_for=109574014049059

St Mary's Parish, Papakura - Contact

Parish Priest - Fr Matthew (parish administrator)

52 East Street, Papakura 2110

Parish Office - (09) 299 6056

Presbytery - (09) 298 5134

Email: office@stmaryspapakura.co.nz /

www.papakuracatholic.org.nz

Facebook - search: St Mary's Parish Catholic Church Papakura



Preference Certificates to be signed at the Parish Office
Wednesdays Only from 8am - 9am AND 1 - 4 pm - Appointment Necessary

MusiQhub Music Lessons

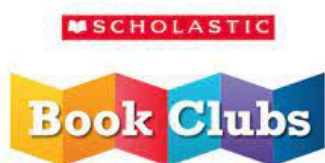
"Our good friends at MusiQHub are looking forward to another awesome year of music in 2023 at St. Mary's School! They will have some slots available for Guitar, Drums, Ukulele and Keyboard lessons in Term 1. If you're interested be sure to get in touch to reserve your spot or ask any questions you may have.

Drums, Piano/Keyboard, Singing, Recorder and Flute - Paul Barry
022 198 0044

Email: paul.barry@musiqhub.co.nz

Guitar and Ukulele - Lih Foo 021 2076 231

Email: lih.foo@musiqhub.co.nz



Scholastic Books - Ordering On-Line

Easy-To-Follow Instructions:

Please open the link below, then click on '**Order Here**' and register to create an account.

Once you register, instructions will be displayed on the screen.

Enter the school, the class/teacher and your child's name.

This information will be saved for future orders.

<https://www.scholastic.co.nz/parents/lucky-book-club/>



Beverley Wetere

Beverley is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters