Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Our children enjoyed their camp experiences last week despite the weather proving a bit of a challenge at times. Looking through the week activities that our junior Room 2 children were involved in they had some brilliant experiences on the theme of Polar Express. The Room 3 camp to Quarantine Island was a first camp experience for the school although one or two children had been there before. Mrs Cross and I were both very proud of every single child in the way they organised and conducted themselves with us on camp. They were so respectful during our visits to the chapel and the cemetery and also faced up to a pretty daunting challenge of climbing down to a cave near the edge of the shore.

Many thanks to our parents who helped in some way whether it be with transport, assisting the children at different venues or providing food for us all to eat. A special mention must go to Kostya Cherkun and Leanne Fisk who spent the nights with us on Quarantine Island and did a superb job feeding and looking after our children.

Manuia le aso (Samoan farewell)

Richard Duffy

You are invited to attend our Helpers Morning Tea
Thursday 4 December at 10:30 am

This is the Board of Trustees and Staff’s way of thanking all our supportive community for the vital work you do in and around our school. Without you a lot of things wouldn’t be done as well or not done at all.

Please RSVP to the school office or email secretary@st-marys.school.nz for catering purposes.

We aspire to become confident, creative, life long learners who follow Christ
**Dates for your Diaries**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tr>
<td>Band to Kaikorai Kindy</td>
<td>Thursday 27 November</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yr 6 to Kavanagh Assembly</td>
<td>Thursday 27 November</td>
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<tr>
<td>First Eucharist</td>
<td>Friday 28 November</td>
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<td>Thank you morning tea</td>
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<td>Mary Day</td>
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<td>Last day of Term 4</td>
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**Altar Servers**

- 29 November: First Eucharist Mass
- 6 December: Jean-Luc and Agnelique Peyroux
- 13 December: School Graduation Mass

**Sports News ...**

**St Mary’s T Ball Tigers**

Let’s hope for a fine sunny morning.

- Draw: St Marys Tigers vs Opoho Panthers on Diamond 6 at 9 am.

**St Mary’s Touch**

- Draw: St Marys Maroon vs St Francis Xavier on Field 4 at 4:15 pm.

**Playground Progress**

We have plans of the design of our fort displayed in one or two windows around the school. The fort is going to be situated next to the stage up on the grasses area above the retaining wall. The exciting thing for us is that the slide is going to swing around end down on the wood chipped area by the existing playground next to the asphalt court. We are waiting for a quote to come through for the constructing of the fort and then our subcommittee can begin putting some grant applications together for funding. We are most fortunate that we have a good contribution built up through the efforts of our PTFA in their fundraising.

**Christmas Eve Children’s Mass**

The Parish will be holding a Children’s Christmas Eve Vigil Mass at St. Francis Xavier church following the fantastic support received last year. It will be held at 5pm on 24th December.

As this is a Children's Mass, children will play a large role therefore we are looking for children who would like to be involved and for parents who would like to help support and organise the Mass.

We want to extend the invitation to the children and parents from St Mary’s school.

We are planning to hold a quick meeting at 10.30am following the 9.30am Sunday Mass at St Francis Xavier church on 7th December to confirm who is interested and assign roles, as well as organise and set dates for rehearsals. It is therefore important for everyone who wants to be involved to attend or have someone there to represent them. If you have any questions please contact Alix Lucas-Fyfe (alix@outreach.co.nz) or Elizabeth Schonwald (elizabethlouiseaskin@yahoo.co.uk).
First Eucharist
This is YOUR invitation to join us, in celebrating this special Sacrament on Saturday 29th November 6pm at St Mary’s Church

Dakoda, Aayliyah, Chloe, Xavier, Victoria, April and Janivah will receive the Eucharist for the first time.

Please bring a plate for supper after the service.
This is a celebration in the life of these children and we like to make it a very special time for them.

School Feast Day Mass

Immaculate Conception of Mary
Week 8 - Friday 5th December 9.30am
This is where we celebrate the Patron Saint of our school and church. We have lots of fun Mary Day activities planned for this day - keep a watch for more details.

Family Mass - Graduation Mass
Week 9 - Saturday 13 December 6pm
This is where we celebrate our school year and farewell our Year 6 friends.

This weekend is also the beginning of Advent. A time when we are waiting and preparing for the birth of Jesus.

St Mary’s Kaikorai Warmly invites you to Carols by Candlelight and Prizegiving 2014
Wednesday 10 December
What’s happening in Room 2?

We had a great week learning about trains.

Quarantine Island Camp Reporters

The best things that I enjoyed about camp were sharing a bunk with my best friend Alyssa and learning about the amazing history of the island, and that it wasn’t easy for the people that got very ill. It was very moving when we sung *Awesome God* at the cemetery on the island. Another camp highlight was the delicious food that Jen’s Dad Kostya made for us...even though the smoke alarm went off when Kostya made his yummy burgers. Camp was lots of fun!

By Liana

On Tuesday I nervously packed my stuff into Mr Duffy’s car. I cried...but it was only 5 drops! Mr Duffy said that because it was the Year 4s first camp we got first choice where we could sleep! When I arrived on the island I saw the BIG rooster...it was the biggest rooster in the world. I saw lots of really cute baby chicks too. Gordon was really nice and taught us about the history of the island and that people came to the island with lots of diseases. I enjoyed camp and going to see the scary caves and it was fun being away from my brothers too.

By Xavier Peyroux

Sausage sizzle/Ice Blocks Order Form - Friday Lunchtimes

Name _____________________________

Number of Sausage/s $1.50 each ____________ Ice blocks $1.00 ________