Dear Parents/Caregivers,

The staff and I would like to extend a warm welcome to our families for the new year at school. We are very pleased to welcome Autumn Stevens-Howell and Matthew Rietveld to St Mary’s Kaikorai this year. Both Matthew and Autumn have parents who were past pupils of our school and it’s lovely to have people with these connections returning to us. It adds to our current number of 3 parents who were pupils of St Mary’s.

As always in term 1 we will be holding goal setting interviews where parents have the opportunity to meet with teaching staff alongside their child/ren to discuss learning goals established for the term. This is a good opportunity for you to raise any views you have about aspects of your child/ren’s learning also. A date for these goal setting interviews will be set over the next week or two.

We also encourage you to meet with us casually prior to these interviews if you wish to outline anything you feel may be of significance as we set up the school year. We value your input and always have your child’s best interests at heart.

We’re very excited about what 2015 has in store for us especially the prospect of the introduction of our Electives programme as well as our senior ski camp later in the year coupled with our fantastic junior camp.

We are very excited about having Miss Julia Thurlow and Miss Kate Todd from Teachers College with us this year. They are completing their final year of professional training in teaching and their specific talents will enhance the learning experiences our children receive throughout the year. A very warm welcome to you both.

Warm wishes to you all,

Richard Duffy

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

Waitangi Day  Friday 6 February (No School)
Road Safety Awareness  Thursday 12 February
PTFA AGM  Thursday 12 February
School Mass  Saturday 14 February @ 6 pm
Weetbix Triathlon  Sunday 1 March

Term Dates for 2015

Term 1:  Thursday January 29 - Thursday April 2
Term 2:  Monday April 20 - Friday July 3
Term 3:  Monday July 20 - Friday September 25
Term 4:  Monday October 12 - Monday December 14

Altar Servers

Altar Servers
7 Feb  Jean Luc and Angelique Peyroux
14 Feb  School Mass
21 Feb  Kata Moata’ane and Sam Al-Baloushi
28 Feb  Emila Makasini and Summer Paulin

Tutor Reading Volunteers

Children’s reading benefits from the tutor reading programme that has been running over the past few years. We are very keen to continue the programme once more this year and are looking for volunteers to work alongside our children. If you would like more information or may be interested in being involved any time or day of the week, please let any of our staff know.
For your Diary - Dates for the 4 Family Masses this year.
Term One: Saturday 14th February @ 6pm  
(Beginning of the School Year Mass)
Term Two: Saturday 9th May @ 6pm  (Mothers Day Mass)
Term Three: Saturday 5th September @ 6pm  (Fathers Day Mass)
Term Four: Saturday 12th December @ 6pm  (Graduation Mass)

There will also be a Sacramental Mass during the year where Launga will receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist.

We look forward to your presence and support at these special occasions.

There will be a liturgy tomorrow morning at 9am to celebrate Waitangi Day. Parents are welcome to join us.

Mrs Sara Paulin
The staff said a brief farewell to Sara on their Teacher Only Day.

She has been a wonderful volunteer not only in the library but also around the school and making the staff their coffees on Fridays.

She will be missed by all, we wish her well with her family and business commitments

She will be back to visit us all soon

We thank Mrs Paulin for all of her help in our school library these past few years. She did a great job in the library by buying books, displaying them amazingly, repairing any damaged ones and keeping the library so tidy… and reading to us.

She has also helped us with book reviews and training us to be great librarians like her, St Marys will miss her so much.

From the Students of St Mary’s
Sports News ...

St Mary's T Ball Tigers
Welcome back everyone, I (Panz) will be continuing coaching our wee team for this season, which ends in March/April.

Calling all players who want to play, our first practice will be next Wednesday (weather permitting) after school. Kids remember to bring a snack to have before practice.

Looking forward to another great season. Thanks—Coach Panz

Touch
We are waiting to hear from Otago Touch around the dates for this terms competition. The players will be informed once we know the draw.

St Mary’s Cricket

Otago Cricket is running a Kiwi Cricket competition for school teams (Year 2-4 and Year 5-6) on a Monday afternoon for 6 weeks, beginning 16th February.

Kiwi Cricket is played with a soft ball and aimed at children new to the sport. 8 players are needed to make a team.

The cost is $25 per child, which includes 4 coaching sessions at school and NZ Cricket giveaways.

If your child is interested in playing, please let a teacher know or ring the school office.

Sports uniforms and Hi Viz Vest
These have all been issued this week. These NEED to be returned at the end of each year. We only have a few in some sizes, and even though your child may still fit their uniform, that size may be needed for someone else. If these get lost or damaged there maybe a replacement charge. Please let us know if it needs fixing, we would rather do this sooner than later.

Sports uniforms are NOT to be worn under school pinafores or in place of the school uniform unless told by the teacher.

Wheels Friday
As like last year we are giving children the opportunity each Friday to bring some wheels to school on any Friday to ride on during Break or Lunch time. Scooters, bikes, skateboards or roller blades are able to be brought to school (and taken home at the end of the day). Children wishing to be involved at any time must have a helmet or we are unable to let them use their wheels.
Cricket World Cup
We entered St Mary’s into a competition to take a class to a Cricket World Cup game at the University Oval and we were one of the winning schools. We are looking at taking all of Room 3, and any of the older children in Room 2 who can manage sitting and watching cricket for a while!!

We have tickets for the Afghanistan v Scotland game on Thursday 26 February. The game starts at 11am and we would have children back to school by 3pm. However if there are a few children who would like to stay on and watch the end of the game, we can make some arrangements.

We think this is a special opportunity for our children to be part of one of the worlds biggest global sporting events, and are looking forward to giving our children this experience.

Please contact the office if you have any questions.

Weetbix Triathlon
If you would like to enter or more information please check out the link http://try.weetbix.co.nz/

Basketball Otago Junior Player Skills Programme
Basketball Otago are running a junior skills programme in Term 1 this year. All sessions are held at the Edgar Centre, Portsmouth Drive, Dunedin. Price per player for eight trainings $70.00
The programme consists of weekly coaching sessions at the Edgar Centre, where basic fundamentals are introduced, focusing on skill based drills and emphasizing having FUN. Players need no experience to attend.

For more information please contact:
Office: 456 4063
Email: admin@otagobball.kiwi.nz
School Uniforms
A big thank you to our parents for the effort they make in ensuring our children are presented in our correct school uniform. Our children are aware of the need to keep their uniforms tidy during the school day and do so. The high standard of presentation with our uniforms conveys a very positive message to the community in general of the pride we have in ourselves and our school.

Children are aware of the need to be wearing school uniform hats from this week. Wide brimmed navy blue is the regulation style and colour. These can be purchased from The Warehouse or online at http://www.schooltex.co.nz/

School Drop Off and Collection Times
School day bells ring at 9am and 3pm.

If your child is going to be late or absent please phone the school office and leave a message on the answer phone.

Children are able to be dropped off from 8:30 in the morning. The school is usually open from 8 am however no guarantees that a staff member will be here and children are not able to be supervised until 8:30. We appreciate children being collected by 3:30pm. If there are any disruptions at times which may delay parents in collecting children, please ring us and let us know.

After school a staff member is rostered to be at the top gate to supervise children leaving the grounds. We also have senior children who assist with this. As with last year our children know that they must walk around the cul-de-sac unless parents come across the road to collect them. This operated very well last year and we thank our parents for the responsibility they took in ensuring children were collected from school safely.

Anyone still waiting after our staff member has completed supervision at the gate are encouraged to return to the classroom area and be collected from there.

School Accounts
These will be sent out towards the middle of March. Give you time to recover from the holidays and the starting of school buying uniforms etc.

As in previous years Jacque has shopped around to get us really good deals on our stationery. Final costs still being worked out and this will just be added to the school accounts.

Friendly Reminders
No parking over the driveway, or other people’s driveways. No double parking, and especially no cars down the driveway. This is staff access only.
We were super excited to see each other again after the holidays and have had lots of Buzz Group opportunities to share all the details of our holiday adventures. We would like to especially welcome Matthew to our class, we hope you love your school days with us! Also a friendly welcome to Miss Thurlow who will be working with us this year.

This week we are reading popular children's books and completing different activities about them. Yesterday we spent the morning working on activities about "The Gruffalo". Today we were learning about "The Hungry Caterpillar".

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**Discovery Time**

Developing key competencies through activity-based, child-directed learning

**Discovery Time**

Discovery Time, including Mary Wonders (4yr old programme) will now be on Friday afternoons from 1.30 - 3.00pm.