Dear Parents/Caregivers,

4 February 2014

On behalf of the staff I’d like to extend a warm welcome to our school families for the new year at school. We are also very pleased to welcome 4 new families into our school and hope they and their children enjoy being part of our school family. Christian & Keira Mullins (and their parents Mike & Cindy) were involved with us from late last year but officially started with us last Thursday; we met Korbin McAlevey (and his Mother Polly) last year and he also began with us last week; Lily McCormick (and her parents John & Erin) visited us in the last week of the school year and Lily also began school last week; and finally we welcome Madison Cole (and her mother Marlese Brown) who we met prior to the beginning of the term and who joined us last Thursday. We are very pleased to have all of you with us in 2014.

We also extend a very warm welcome to the extremely enthusiastic Mrs Kelly Cross who joins us this year and will be involved in teaching in both Room’s 2 & 3. We are very happy to have Kelly with us.

Later this term we will provide the opportunity for our parents to meet with us alongside their child/ren to be informed of learning goals that your child/ren have established in discussion with staff. This is a good opportunity for you to raise any views you have about aspects of your child’s/rens learning. 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 sincerely have your child/rens best interests at heart.

It has been great for the staff to renew acquaintances with most of our parents over the first two school days. We look forward to seeing most of you at our beginning year Mass on Saturday or over the next week or two.

Ka kite ano, Richard Duffy

St Mary’s Kaikorai is ‘Dunedin’s best kept secret!’

Catholic Education Review Team 2013
**School Dates 2014:**

Term 1: Thurs Jan 30 – Thurs April 17
Term 2: Mon May 5 – Fri July 4
Term 3: Mon Jul 21 – Fri Sept 26
Term 4: Mon Oct 13 – Mon Dec 15

**Waitangi Day**
- Thursday 6 Feb
- No School

**Waitangi Day Liturgy**
- Friday 7 Feb
- 9 am in Room 1

**First Friday Mass**
- Friday 7 Feb
- 9:30 am in the Church - all welcome

**Beginning Year Mass**
- Saturday 8 Feb
- 6 pm in the church - all welcome

**BOT Meeting**
- Monday 10 Feb
- 7 pm in the staffroom

**Movie Night (PTFA)**
- Thursday 13 Feb
- 5:30 pm@school—everyone welcome

**Bereavement Notice**

We wish to extend our condolences to Will & Rachael Deerness and family on the recent passing of Will’s grandmother. Our prayers and thoughts are with the family during this time.

**School Drop Off and Collection Times**

School day bells ring at 9 am and 3 pm. Children are able to be dropped off from 8:30 in the morning. The school is usually open from 8 am but children are not able to be supervised until 8:30. We appreciate children being collected by 3:30 pm. Again, there is usually a staff member on site until 5 pm, however with the possibility of out of school meetings on occasions, 3:30 is the time limit on our ability to supervise any of our children.

Parents have been very efficient in collecting their children and we appreciate this. The gate is usually manned by a staff member until 3:10 pm. At this time we advise any children waiting to return to the school buildings and be collected from there. After 3:10 pm, could you please collect children from the building/playground area. We appreciate parents who ring to let us know they may be a little late as at times we can organise supervision between us, particularly if any one of us may have an out of school commitment at this time.

Just a friendly reminder to NOT drive down the driveway to drop off or pick up. This is for staff cars only.

**Absent**

If your child is sick or will not be at school for any reason, please phone the school office 476-4277 and leave a message.

**Sausage sizzle/Ice Block**

We desperately need your support to cook on Friday lunchtimes.

If you are able help please complete attached form and return by the end of the week.

Last year this money was used to buy a second hand mac book laptop and funded some of the camps the children went on.

I can help on Fridays Name _______________________________________

**Sausage Sizzle Order**

Name ______________________________

Number of Sausage/s $1.50 each __________________

Ice Block $1 each ____________ (only 1 per child)
Beginning Year Mass
We celebrate the beginning of our school year this Saturday evening in our parish church from 6pm. It is a lovely opportunity to come together as a school family group and share in a Mass recognising the link our church and parish has with our school. All children with a part must be at church by 5:45 pm.

Thank you to all of those families who continually make the effort to attend and we hope that we can have a positive turn out from our school community at Mass. All are welcome to join together for supper at the end of Mass. FULL SCHOOL UNIFORM must be worn. It will be lovely to see all families at mass.

Waitangi Day Liturgy
We will be celebrating Waitangi Day with a small liturgy in Room 1 on Friday morning. You are all welcome to join us.

Sports Notices
Tee Ball in 2014
Coach Pania Paerata will be holding a team practice this Wednesday directly after school. All returning players and any new players are welcome. The first round of games is on Saturday February 15. Any child between the age of 5 and 10 is eligible to play. For more info please speak to Pania or Richard.

Term 1 Sports Options
We have received confirmation of a Year 2-4 week night school cricket competition that we may be able to enter as well as information on a Term 1 Futsal competition. We are waiting for correspondence from Otago Touch and will be sending a note home in the next few days to gauge interest in available sports.

Sports Uniforms and Hi-Viz Vests
These will be sent home by the end of the week, along with an information sheet. There is a hire fee charged of $5 to your school account. If they get lost or ruined there will be a full replacement fee.

School Uniforms
As we have stated previously, we are very happy with the standard of presentation at school of our children in uniform. It sends a clear message to the community in general of the pride we have in ourselves and our school. We have informed our children 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 at The Warehouse, but we have a few spare second hand hats at school that we are more than happy to lend to children (but suggest you take them home to be washed prior to wearing).

MOVIE NIGHT - PTFA Thursday 13 Feb
BYO tea from 5:30 pm
Movie and Popcorn 6:00 pm in Room 1 on the ’Big Screen’
Approx finish time 7:30pm

Cup of tea and coffee for parents, hope to see you all there for a fun evening
May Today
There be peace within
May you trust that you are exactly where you are meant to be.
May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith in
yourself and others.
May you use the gifts you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you.
May you be content with yourself just the way you are.
Let this knowledge settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love.
It is there for each and everyone of us.

Mother Theresa