Dear Parents/Caregivers,

It has been highlighted by our recent review teams in Term Two of this year, the wonderful things that are happening here at St Mary's Kaikorai. As parents we think it is important for you to know this, and we ask you to promote your school by sharing this with others.

Findings from the Ministry of Education Review Office

- The school provides a welcoming and caring family atmosphere for students and their families and whanau.
- Students identify strongly with their school and are proud of their school environment. They have many useful and interesting places for learning and play. They are actively involved in practical and meaningful activities.
- The school works closely with parents.
- Teachers know the students and their learning needs very well, by providing appropriate intervention or extension programmes.
- The Board fund extra staffing to support the very young students, to build their readiness for learning and their literacy skills.
- Children take part in rich learning experiences.
- Students benefit from a strong emphasis on reading, writing, numeracy and religious education.
- There is high quality teaching in all learning areas.
- Teaching practices help develop students’ inquiring minds.
- There is a well-established culture of learning.

Findings from the Catholic Education Review Office

- St Mary’s School Kaikorai is a safe, caring school environment where faith is central to the life of the school at all levels.
- This small school is fortunate to have a complement of committed staff who make, integrate and weave Special Character through the culture and curriculum of the school.
- High quality teaching is evident using a variety of engaging strategies
- Classroom programmes provide for all levels of learning and the school has excellent pastoral care, a good mix of technology and well planned and evaluative teaching.
- A strength of this small school is the loyal and genuine commitment some support staff have made to the pastoral care and faith formation of the children over many years.
- There is also a high level of volunteer support for the school from parents.
- St Mary’s Kaikorai is one of Dunedin’s best kept secrets.
What we are proud of at our school

- Weekly “Mary Wonders Programme” (our 4yr old programme) available.
- Transition (school visits) are encouraged the 6 weeks leading up to starting school.
- Spacious modern classrooms with vibrant displays.
- Great teacher/child ratio.
- Variety of sporting opportunities available and promoted. Supported by staff and parents.
- 3 year senior camp cycle (winter-ski, summer and local).
- Large grass playing field.
- Sustainability/Environmental education in our school environment.
- Opportunities form ‘hands on contextual learning’ in science and technology.
- A teacher trained, teacher aide working alongside children in class and also on a small group and individual basis.
- Rich faith opportunities (Sacramental Programmes, ministries at Mass/Liturgies, opportunity for prayerful experiences).
- Well-resourced school
- Various leadership opportunities for all children.
- Many opportunities for Education Outside the Classroom, invited guests and using community resources.
- Events to support and celebrate The Arts and our cultural diversity.
- Links with the wider community (Little Sisters of the Poor, Grandparent/Mothers/Fathers Day, Kindergartens, and other schools)

We are proud of our successes and the findings of these external reviews. We think it is important to celebrate these achievements, and in the interest of promoting the on-going development of your school, we ask you to share this information with others.

Kind regards,

The Principal and Staff

“St Mary’s Kaikorai is one of Dunedin’s best kept secrets.”

(Catholic Education Review Team)