Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Wednesday 11 February 2015

Our Board of Trustees sub committee are currently in the process of finalising groups of funding agencies who they are able to submit grant applications to for (hopefully) funding for our playground. We really appreciate their efforts with this and are looking forward to this phase of the project gaining momentum.

You will be aware that we have plans for our fort displayed in one or two windows around the school but we haven’t displayed plans of the whole possible project. We felt that our initial commitment is the development of the fort and that if we secure greater funding then we will be able to complete more of the overall plan. Again the support of the PTFA is huge in being able to focus on this type of playground improvement and I know they really appreciate the efforts of our school families in helping with their fundraising initiatives.

Every year in term 1, we offer parents the opportunity to attend goal setting interviews. At these meetings children outline goals they have set for the term in consultation with their teachers and parents can raise any concerns or areas they feel their child/ren need support or further development in.

These interviews will be held on Wednesday March 4th, beginning from 3pm. Please keep this date in your diary or on your calendar and a form for arranging a time will be out in the next week or two.

Ka kite ano

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

Road Safety Awareness Thursday 12 February
PTFA AGM Thursday 12 February
School Mass Saturday 14 February@6 pm
Marae Visit Wednesday 18 February
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
14 Feb School Mass
21 Feb Keta Moata’aane and Sam Al-Balushi
28 Feb Emila Makasini and Summer Paulin

Tutor Reading Volunteers
We still have a couple of days available for anyone who may be able to help with our tutor reading programme. If you would like more information on what is involved, please ask Richard. It can be done any time or day during the school week.

Police Road Safety Education
Over the next few weeks at certain times Senior Constable Parcell will be at school instructing the children on general road safety. Our junior children are focussing on safety around footpaths and entering and exiting vehicles. Our senior children’s emphasis is on bike safety and if they have a bike they are encouraged to have their bikes and helmets at school this Thursday for a safety check. A letter was sent out last week outlining this and children have been encouraged to bring their bike in any day prior to Thursday.

Electives 2015
Letters for term 1 options for our fully funded electives programme went home with Yr 3-6 children yesterday. We are very excited about the high quality learning opportunities our children will receive throughout the year and are most thankful to the Board of Trustees for funding this initiative. Children are aware that option forms need to be back at school by Friday of this week at the latest.
Our Family Mass to celebrate the beginning of the school year is this weekend.
Saturday 14th February at 6pm.
Those children who have a special role in the mass are to be there by 5.45pm at the latest please. (Children know if they have a role.)

Is it an expectation that all children attend this mass, please come dressed in your school uniform.

Unfortunately Father Cipriano is away and Father David is unavailable, but Monsignor Harrison has very kindly offered to celebrate mass with us.

**Ash Wednesday & ‘Wednesday Word’**
We are not able to attend Ash Wednesday Mass this year at the Little Sisters as we will be on our Marae trip. We will instead have a small liturgy before we go to acknowledge this special day.

At this liturgy we will be introducing the “Wednesday Word” which will come home each week in our newsletter. This is a special resource produced for all Catholic schools that outlines the Sunday Gospel each week and has activities for your children to complete.

**School Marae Visit**
As part of our Early Maori learning topic for the term, we have organised a visit to Arai te Uru Marae on lower Shetland St for Wednesday February 18.

We will be walking to the marae leaving school shortly after the liturgy concluding there at about 1pm. During our time we will be exposed to some marae protocols and hope to do some learning on te kainga Maori (lifestyles, customs & traditions).

If you are able to walk with us to the marae at this time, please let a staff member know or return the slip below.

Name ____________________________ I can help walk to/from the Marae on Wednesday 18 Feb.
At the end of last year during Discovery Time we made some soft toys with Linda. We made them for the sick children who visit the A&E Department at the hospital.

We gave them to Chris Bates who puts ‘Distractions Packs’ together for lots of children each year. We think she is doing such a wonderful job that we would like to help out some more.

For our fundraising for charity this term, we think it would be fitting to donate $2 each, and ask the Year 6 Exec to go to the $2 shop and buy a variety of small toys for each pack. There will be a collection box in the school office.

Thank you.

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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.
Sports News ...
St Mary’s T Ball Tigers
Coach Panz has meet the teachers so Janivah and La-Charna’s mum will be coaching practise today after school.

The draw will be out soon and you will be notified, as soon as we know.

Touch
Draw for Thursday 12 Feb: St Mary’s Maroon vs Abbots 3  Field 1  4:15 pm

Cricket World Cup
As we mentioned last week, we are lucky enough to be taking a group of children to a Cricket World Cup game at the University Oval on Thursday 26th Feb to watch Afghanistan vs Scotland

If there are any parents that would like to join us, please let Rachael know.

Weetbix Triathlon
1 March 2015

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

Wheels Friday
Just a reminder, we are very happy for our children to bring wheels any Friday for lunch time riding, but we must insist on bike helmets being worn.

Sausage sizzle/Ice Blocks Order Form - Friday Lunchtimes

Name __________________________

Number of Sausage/s $1.50 each ____________  Ice blocks $1.00 __________
PTFA Annual General Meeting and Movie Night

12th Feb 2015—BYO tea from 5:30
6pm Movie in Room 1 and
Meeting in Room 2

Friends and Families
of St Mary’s

You are ALL invited to

Parent Teachers Friends
Association (PTFA)
AGM 12th February.

It is also the annual movie night at St. Mary’s. BYO tea from 5:30 or pre order a sausage. Kids movie in room 1 starting at 6pm and meeting in Room 2. Office Bearers will be elected and we will outline our programme for the year and we are keen to have input from our school community on how we can best support the school financially in 2015.

This is a huge year with our playground development which we are really excited about for our children and look forward to the ongoing support of our parent community.