Principal’s Message:

Last week we had two wonderful examples of what a great family community we have here at St Mary’s.

Firstly, a parent from the opposition team at touch took time to write this message:

“I want to express my appreciation to the children from St Mary’s School. They played against our team of Year 1&2’s at touch today. The team was considerably bigger, being they are a small school. Those children did themselves, their school and their parents proud. They went easy on our young ones, letting them get tries and touches, and helped teach them the rules throughout the game with extraordinary patience. Our babies felt good after the game and it was the best example of sportsmanship I’ve seen in a long time. Thank you.”

Well done team! You all displayed our school values on the touch field and we are so very proud of you!

Secondly, it was wonderful to see our school community come together and support the PTA with their Weetbix Tryathlon fundraiser on Sunday. The donation of fruit, baking and sandwich ingredients was amazing and very much appreciated. Thank you to Cynde for making the sandwiches and to Alice for helping to make the deliveries on the day. A special mention must go to Jacquie for co-ordinating this fundraiser, and to her and Adrian for the huge amount of effort that went in on the day. Not only does this fundraiser bring in money for our school, but it gets our name out in the community. What a great team effort, well done everyone!
Sport:

Touch: Thursday 9th March

Congratulations to the ‘Player of the Day’ last week - Christian Mullens

Teeball: Saturday 11th March.

Congratulations to the ‘Player of the Day’ last week - Stanislav Cherkun.

Draws for both games are not out yet, we will post them on Facebook ASAP.

Walk n Wheel Week

Wow, it was awesome to see how many children and families took up the ‘Walk n Wheel to School Week’ challenge! With the sunshine all last week it was wonderful to see the children on their wheels at every possible moment they could! On Friday during Discovery Time we decorated our wheels and had a small parade to end a fun week!

Remember, children are very welcome to bring their bikes, scooters, skateboards etc to school every Friday.

‘Hello’ from our new Principal

Greetings to you all.

My name is Alan McInally and I have recently been fortunate enough to be awarded the Principal’s position at St Mary’s school. My wife and I are excited about coming down and meeting you all in the next couple of months. I am currently working at a school of around one hundred students, twenty five minutes Northwest of Taupo.

I studied at Otago University where I spent a lot of time coaching sports teams and working with CCS, particularly with the Halberg sports programme. My fondest memories of Dunedin were of the open and friendly community and this is something we are very much looking forward to being a part of. I have two daughters, one of whom will be enrolled in the Junior class, with my younger daughter turning three in the next couple of weeks.

We are also expecting a third child in the not too distant future. I hope that you are having a great start to 2017 and I am eager to meet you all at the start of term two and help you to meet the goals that you have set for your children.

Warmest regards,

Alan McInally and family.
**This week at a glance:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Events</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Y3/4 ‘Have a Go’ day at the Edgar Centre. 9:30am - 12:30pm&lt;br&gt;T-Ball Practice (3-4pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Naomi - Sports Activator is taking small ball skills. Touch.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Kavanagh begin their Gifted &amp; Talented programme.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Naomi - Sports Activator is in again.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Kavanagh begin their Gifted &amp; Talented programme. Assembly: 2:30pm in Room 1&lt;br&gt;Working Bee from 3:00 - 7:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Naomi - Sports Activator is in again. T Ball.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Next Week</td>
<td>Naomi - Sports Activator is in again. Friday - St Patricks Day: Green Day! (more information next week)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Working Bee** Friday 10 March @3:00 - 7:00 pm

A list of things that we need to get done and tidied up will be up in the office by Wednesday.
Please come when you can and leave when you must.
The BBQ will be on at tea time for a sausage or two.

**Guitar Lessons**

We have been very fortunate to have Mr Trevor Graham volunteer his time once a fortnight to teach our senior class guitar. Trevor is part of our parish community and has just retired from his job as caretaker at Bradford School. Thank you Trevor, we feel privileged that you want to pass on your skills and passion for music to our children.

**Special Character and Religious Education:**

We have been talking in class about the 3 things we try to focus on during lent:
**Prayer, Fasting** (giving up something we don’t need) and **Almsgiving** (donating to charity).

Here is an idea we saw on Facebook that may appeal to some people.

*Each day of Lent, remove one item from your house that you no longer wear or need and put it into a bag. At the end of the forty days, donate these items to a charity store. They will be shared with those who can really use them!*
We are continuing to make the most of the sunshine at the moment. We are loving getting into the garden with Linda and seeing what is ready to be picked and dug up! Last week we harvested silverbeet, cabbages and even a few beans!

At Discovery Time we used the potatoes we dug up last week to make some yummy scalloped potatoes. We are going to freeze them and use them for hot lunches next term. Thank you to Kelly for your help with this station.

Kia Ora,

The wheels in Room 3 have continued to turn as we have established excellent routines and have had time to get to know each other. It always amazes me to discover the special talents and interests that children have especially with the children in Room 3. It’s a great reminder to never underestimate what children know and what they can do.

We have been exploring the features and habits of different mammals. The children have been working on their projects and deciding how they are going to present them. Recently we have finished off our investigation on Statistics and found out some fascinating data on the New Zealand population and future growth.

This week we start our new Jesus strand and for maths we start looking at fraction and percentages.

It’s great to see children completing their homework and eager to improve their spelling results.

A big thank you to all the parents for showing support to their children’s learning needs also!

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**Sausage Sizzle Fridays**

Name _____________________________

No. of Sausages $1.50 each ____________   Ice Block $1.00 each _______