

# St Mary's Kaikorai School

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***Tuesday 31 January 2017***

## **Principal's Message:**



It has been wonderful to see your children again and catch up on all their holiday adventures. We are looking forward to an exciting term ahead! We are lucky to have new teachers, students and families joining us today, and I am sure they will receive a warm St Mary's welcome.

We are looking at having a school BBQ evening in a few weeks for you all to meet our new families and teaching staff.



## **Welcome to our new students:**

Scarlet, Elizabeth, Samuel and Gabriel began their school days today. We got to know these wonderful children at the end of last year and are so happy to welcome them into our school family. Don't they look so flash in their school uniforms!



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## This week at a glance:

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Tuesday   | Beginning of Term Liturgy - 9am in Room 1.  |
| Wednesday |   |
| Thursday  |   |
| Friday    | First Friday Mass - 9.30am in the Church.<br>Sports Activator - 11 am                           |
| Next Week | <i>Monday - Waitangi Day (no school)</i><br><i>Family Mass - Saturday 11th February at 6pm.</i> |

## Before & After School Clubs:

These clubs are up and running as of



today. So make sure you make use of this free service if you need to. Remember that all bookings are to be made through Jacque in the school office (email or phone).

**Kickstart Breakfast Club:** 7:45am - 8:30am. Breakfast provided.

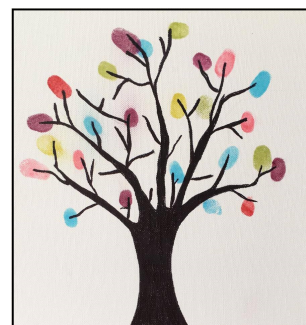
**After School Club:** 3:00pm - 5:30pm. Please pack something extra in your child's lunchbox for afternoon tea.

A special thank you to Julia Kubala (Xavier's cousin) and Kelly Keach for volunteering their time to help staff run these clubs. It is greatly appreciated.



## Special Character and Religious Education:

- ◇ We are running 2 RE classes this year and are beginning with a **Prayer Module** which introduces/re-introduces children to different types of prayer.
- ◇ We began the school year this morning with a **small liturgy**, specifically welcoming our new students, families and teachers. We created a school family tree with our thumb prints! Parents, you are very welcome to come and add yours at any time.
- ◇ We have a **First Friday Mass this Friday at 9.30am**, parents are very welcome to join us.
- ◇ Our **Family/Parish Mass for Term One is next Saturday, 11th February at 6pm**, this will be followed by a cup of tea in the hall afterwards.



## A message from our BOT Chairperson:



Over the break we have been working very closely with the Bishop's Office and as a Board to consider several applicants for the position of Principal. For a number of reasons, none so far have fitted all of our requirements. We wish to take our time and get this right.

Mrs Deerness has very kindly accepted the position of Acting Principal for the first term to enable us to have the time needed to continue this process. *Kind regards, Erin Barton*

## Current Staffing:

**Room 2:** Mrs Deerness will teach Monday - Wednesday mornings and all day Thursday & Friday. Miss Thurlow will teach Monday - Wednesday afternoons.

**Room 3:** Mr Morgan will teach all day Monday - Thursday, and Mrs Deerness will teach all day Friday.

*Our Friday Buddy Learning will include, Buzz Groups, Library, Phys Ed, Visual Art, Environmental Studies and Discovery Time. We are excited about giving our senior students the opportunity to develop their leadership skills in working alongside the junior class. Senior children will experience working in buddy situations and even plan and lead a Discovery Time Station.*



## Introducing our new teachers:

Mr Jeremy Morgan



We are very excited to welcome Mr Morgan to St Mary's. Jeremy has had lots of experience teaching in Catholic Schools in both NZ and his home 'town' of Melbourne. Jeremy has just moved on from 6 years at St Francis Xavier School. Jeremy has interests in sport, mathematics and environmental activities. We also extend a warm welcome to his wife Jane, and their sons Oliver and Daniel. "I'm very excited to be teaching in Room 3 this term."

Miss Julia Thurlow



We are also very excited to have Miss Thurlow back at St Mary's. Some of you will remember Julia when she was a student teacher in Room 2 in 2015. Julia has spent the last year teaching a Year 0-3 class at St Patrick's in Marton. She moved back to Dunedin over Christmas and we are very happy that she has accepted the Principal Release Position.



## Our amazing volunteers:







A huge 'thank you' to Linda and David Hartstonge for their continued hard work in keeping our school and grounds looking wonderful and safe over the summer holidays. Sophie and Will helped harvest our summer holidays crop and deliver it to parishioners in the community. David and Linda do an absolutely amazing job for our school and really do care about your children. Please keep them in



your thoughts and prayers at the moment as David recovers from an operation, and Linda has the hard task of making sure he rests for 6 weeks.....and stays away from school!

## New initiatives:

- ◇ **Fruit/Vege Break** - Each morning at 9.50am we will stop for a 5 minutes 'Brain Food Break' where we will all eat some fruit/vege. Research has proven that this healthy snack break increases energy and focus. Its also a great way to encourage children to eat the fruit/vege in their lunchboxes! 
- ◇ **Environmental Studies** - Linda and David intend to volunteer their time to work alongside us every Friday at 12pm. Our Term One focus will be on maintaining our school vegetable and flower gardens, and planning and building a compost bin using pallets. Any parents/grandparents/parishioners that wish to join us are more than welcome! (This was organised before David's operation, so we will be delaying this a few weeks.) 
- ◇ **See-Saw** - This is a multi-media journal that allows teachers to share snapshots of children's work with their parents via an app. More information will follow once it's set up. 
- ◇ **Gifted & Talented Programme** - From Week 6 our school will be the Gifted & Talented hub for the Diocese, a programme run by specialist teachers from Kavanagh College. Our Senior children will get to be part of this programme for one hour a week. See attached sheet for more information, this is very exciting for us! 



## Messages from Jacquie:

Hi-viz vests will be given out this week, followed by sports uniforms next week.

Stationery has been sought and given to your children to be used at school. This will be added to you school account. There will be no extra stationery costs throughout the year.

Sausage Sizzle Friday's will begin again **next week**.

# Diocese Unites with Gifted and Talented Programme

New Opportunities are on the horizon for St Mary's Kaikorai Primary School with a fresh programme up and running in 2017. Kavanagh College and St Mary's have joined forces to bring like minded individuals together. The new Gifted and Talented Learning hub will be hosted at St Mary's and Kavanagh will provide the expertise with Kavanagh's Dean of Gifted and Talented leading the way.



The 2017 Gifted and Talented class uniquely caters towards students who want to excel beyond the everyday curriculum. Students will develop on their 21st century learner skills through working with like minded students, education outside the classroom, multi-level learning, inquiry based learning, critical thinking and problem solving. This programme will run as part of the St Mary's teaching and learning programme. We encourage students who like to engage in challenges to get involved.

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