

Term 4, 2019

BIKE TRACK UPDATE

We're so proud to be able to confirm that the bike track fundraising reached its target and the bike track will be going in over the summer holiday - what a massive achievement Stella!!

We'll be hosting a grand opening of the bike track at the Welcome Picnic on Friday the 28th of February. We'd love to see both current and past students come to celebrate with us. Watch the school newsletters and Facebook pages for more information to follow early in term one.

2020 PTFA Meeting Dates

- 26 February
- 25 March (also the AGM)
- 29 April
- 27 May
- 24 June
- 29 July
- 26 August
- 23 September
- 28 October
- 25 November

All are invited, welcome and encouraged to attend meetings which begin at 7.15pm and run for 90 minutes max, in the school staffroom.

A WORD FROM THE CHAIR

And just like that my "straight in the deep end" first year as Chair is done! I've been extremely privileged to work with very committed and hard-working fellow committee members; Sheena Lu, Michelle Arnott, Michelle Wyatt, Kelly McColl, Kathie Bodle, Steve Fleming, and Alan Watts. Thank you for your dedication to and support of the PTFA committee, and our initiatives this year. I'd also like to acknowledge the massive support of the wider school community – both parents and kids. From the sponsorship of various initiatives, donations of time, baking and money to the sharing of ideas and everything in between, we would be poorer without you, so thank you. We are so grateful and so appreciative of all your contributions.

WHAT'S UP IN 2020?

We're hoping to re-introduce Re-Wild the Child in term one of 2020. This has proved to be a popular and fun event in the past, and one that the kids who attend get a lot out of. If you'd like to help organize Re-Wild the Child please get in touch with stellaptfa@stellamaris.school.nz as soon as possible. Many hands make light work, and this will be such a fun event to create.

All parents are invited to come along to a "parents' social night" on Saturday the 14th of March. This will be casual occasion for you to meet your fellow parents and will be held at Mexico Silverdale. Mark your calendars now, and more information will follow early in term one.

Term two will see the introduction of a movie night for the kids. This will be held in the school hall on Friday the 5th of June. The movie will be chosen by the kids through voting.

The parent's social event will be held on Saturday 20 June and will be either a bingo or a quiz night. The kids' disco will be held on Friday 18 September. We're looking for helpers for each event, to both organize and to help on the night.

We'll continue to run the fundraising fun lunches next year and would like to invite sponsorship of these events. Contact stellaptfa@stellamaris.school.nz if you'd like to know more about this opportunity. The Mum's and Dad's Day events will be part of this series and will be held on Friday the 8th of May (Mums) and Friday the 4th of September (Dads - breakfast). Mark these dates in your calendar, we'd love to see as many of you there as possible.

Grandparents Day will be held on Tuesday the 27th of October. We'll need parent help for the morning for this one – 8:30am till about midday.

Again, thank you to you all for a massive 2019. We're a little school punching well above our weight and everybody deserves a pat on the back for making it happen.

Merry Christmas and God bless!

Roxy Pringle

Chairperson, Stella Maris PTFA

Stella Maris BOT Term 4 2019 Newsletter December 2019

"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity."

As we ready ourselves for the departure of another term and year let us reflect on the departure and growth of our senior year 6 folk that leave us soon. I recall many of them when they first started at the junior end of the school with Mrs Pyatt and Mrs Elliott. They seemed so very small back then, wide eyed and impressionable. Hard to believe it is the same children that have come back from camp after a week of confidence building activities, grown in experience and grown in stature.



Stella Maris has had a growth year as well, with our roll steadily on the increase, with the 300 milestone just about to be broken with a constant flow of new entrants joining us and starting on their journey through the atriums. They too will grow, physically, mentally and spiritually, until their time with us is complete. Each one will be represented by a new painted rock in our growing pile of rocks in our Cross Garden in the school roundabout. Do take the time, when passing, to have a look at and reflect on the wonderful colours and delightful artwork on show, as the pile continues to grow as a reminder of each child that spends time in the Stella Maris family.

Our Stella Maris Board of Trustees is also slowly growing in experience and we now have our full appointment of members, both parent elected or selected, plus our Bishops appointed members. We have enjoyed monitoring the student achievement and seeing the students attain wonderful things through the year, academically, culturally, spiritually, on the sports fields, or something as simple as learning to plant some seeds in the garden or going up a reading grade. One of our primary goals is to make sure Stella Maris remains a fantastic and fertile ground for them to grow in their learning and conducting themselves in the spirit of the school Marian Values. I must thank the teaching and support staff for all they have done to make this a successful learning and growth year.



I encourage the parents and guardians of our students to take an active role in the school and Parish community. It makes the children's journey more valuable and varied. I was thrilled to see a good number of families at our most recent school working bee. There were lots of new and enthusiastic faces, but somewhat dusty and dirty after a morning of trimming, mowing and weeding. Thank you for your efforts through the year to these folks, plus our valued parent helpers, PTFA members and other contributors. Without this work the school community would be

far less vibrant and would have far less spirit. Well done. If you ever feel that you wish to step up to assist the school in any way there are many opportunities, on the PTFA, the Board, around the grounds or sports groups etc. Be assured the BOT appreciates all of the fantastic effort that goes on around the school. Your support is valued immensely.

Kind Regards - Derek Molloy – Stella Maris BOT Chairperson Email derekm1966@yahoo.co.nz