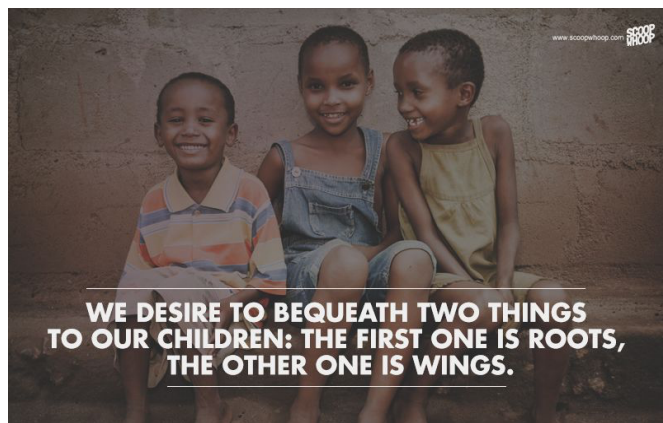


## ***Stella Maris BOT Newsletter – Term 1 – April 2021***



*He iti te mokoroa, nāna i kati te kahikatea*

*The mokoroa (grub) may be small, but it cuts through the Kahikatea*

This short Whakatauki (proverb) reflects that small things can have a much greater impact than we expected. Don't underestimate what small things our young people can achieve. It encourages us to think big, sometimes like a child does, without all of the negative influences or perceived obstacles that the adult mind may imagine. Although

numbers or resources may be small, like the mokoroa, it is possible to achieve great tasks or something that no one thought was possible. I think it can also help us to be more encouraging of our young ones big dreams and imaginations or ambitions, no matter if we think it is unlikely or impossible ourselves. Let's give them room to soar.

So many of our youngest, new entrant students will have begun their time at Stella Maris, in St Mary, with Mrs Pyatt. Over the last 14 years, I would guess upwards of 300 children, will have landed in St Mary with that same energy, enthusiasm and imagination as the mokoroa. Pam Pyatt has long been a steady influence on these students, as they begin their education journeys. Pam's time with us is sadly ending, as she hangs up the teacher's hat for a well earned retirement at the end of this term. I know, so many of us have anxiously anticipated the impending start date for our new entrants and wondered how on earth they would be kept on the straight and narrow and adjust to school life. I also know so many of us have also then witnessed a transformation of those new entrants into wonderful Stella Maris characters and have gone on to develop their wings and amaze us. Thank you Pam, from the Stella Maris Board, plus from the entire school and so many parents over the years. Thank you.

We also farewell this term, Cheryl King. Cheryl has been at Stella Maris pretty much from those earliest of beginning days in her role as a teacher aide. Cheryl has worked with many of our blessed divergent learners over the years and we wish her all the best on her move to the West Coast at the end of the term. Her role takes a special type of character to teach these learners, and it is a pleasure to wander around the school and see how much love and respect her students have for her. She will be especially missed. Good luck Cheryl.

We have welcomed an amazing number of new families into the school community recently. As our roll continues to grow steadily it is good to see that the school community is being bolstered by more good folks that don't mind getting in and having a go, or contributing in some way. I do encourage you to be as active in the school as you can manage, be it helping with the PTFA committee or events, assisting with sports teams or jumping in to be a coach or team manager. There is so much scope to add small amounts of time or effort to the enrichment of the children's experience at Stella Maris. Thank you to all of our class helpers, our dedicated swimming walkers, the fund raisers, the beach clean up volunteers, the garden and green house helpers, athletics day volunteers etc .... THANK YOU. Do not feel any effort is too small, or simply not worth it. I assure you every ounce of effort makes a difference and it makes the children's journey more valuable and varied. Also be assured the Board appreciates all of the effort that goes on around the school. Your support is valued immensely.

Kind Regards - Derek Molloy – Stella Maris Board  
Chairperson Email [bot@stellamaris.school.nz](mailto:bot@stellamaris.school.nz)



## Term 1 PTFA News

The PTFA held our AGM on the 17<sup>th</sup> March. Our 2021 as elected are Kelly McColl as Chair, Sheena Lu my deputy chair, Michelle Arnott our Treasurer and our new Fundraising officer is Emily Thomas. We thank resigning committee members Secretary Roxy Pringle and Fundraising officer Roslind O'Neill for their time dedicated to their roles over the last year. We are needing to fill the secretary role, if you would like to know more about this please email me [stella.ptfa@stellamaris.school.nz](mailto:stella.ptfa@stellamaris.school.nz)

Last year we were lucky enough to receive a \$20k Grant from the Bikes in School Trust. Have you spotted the 40" container that has been delivered to the top field? This will be ready for storing kids bikes through the week next term. We also have a fleet of 30 bikes and helmets on its way to our school!!! Both of these purchases were made with this grant and means Stella Maris can offer equal opportunity for children being able to ride a bike. Watch for an announcement next term on how storage and bike use is all going to work.

This term between lockdowns we had a great welcome picnic sponsored by The front office. We also celebrated St Patricks day with students dressed in Green Mufti they also enjoyed a sausage sizzle and iceblock fun lunch sponsored by Millsbury farm. A big thank you to our sponsors.

**\*MUST READ\*** We have an ongoing fundraising platform **Rewardhub**. This offers 148 online stores that include Countdown, cotton on, Specsavers, hello fresh and Kathmandu to just name a handful. Our school is rewarded a percentage of **your** spend. We would love you to get behind this because it has huge potential for us to reach our fundraising goals a lot quicker and **without** costing the shoppers any extra!

To register please visit <https://rewardhub.co.nz/> share this with your friends and family and lets watch our fundraising goals reached – we currently have 49 supporters and have earnt \$250 in 6 months! Imagine what could be achieved if we all joined!

### Dates for the calendar!

7 <sup>th</sup> May	Mums day Fun Lunch
14 <sup>th</sup> May	2 <sup>nd</sup> Hand Uniform Sale
19 <sup>th</sup> May	PTFA Meeting 7.15pm in Staffroom
28 <sup>th</sup> May	School Disco
16 <sup>th</sup> June	PTFA Meeting 7.15pm in Staffroom
26 <sup>th</sup> June	Parents Quiz night
2 <sup>nd</sup> July	2 <sup>nd</sup> Hand Uniform Sale
2 <sup>nd</sup> July	American Hot dog fun lunch

We are in the final stages of gathering quotes for Sun shelters over the playgrounds and sandpits as these are our next fundraising projects. This will be done in 2 stages with the Junior playground stage 1. We hope to have a visual for you to see soon!

Thanks for all your support this term. God Bless and Safe holidays to you all

Kelly McColl