

Stella Maris Catholic Primary School

NEWSLETTER

Kia ora e te Whānau

This Sunday sees the beginning of the liturgical season of Advent, a time in the Christian calendar when we wait and prepare for the coming of Jesus. In the Gospel on the First Sunday in Advent we hear Jesus say to His disciples "be on guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come." He is telling us to prepare for the second coming. He is giving us Hope – the theme for the first week that is the focus as the first candle is lit on the wreath.

It has been a busy sports week at school this week between swimming and athletics. The Huruhuru Team had their last two swimming sessions and have made great improvements in their swimming skills. Thank you to all the parents, grandparents and friends who helped with walking the classes to and from the pools. We know that this is a busy time of year for everyone and appreciate you giving your time to ensure the children are able to get to and from the pools safely. On Tuesday Mokehu Team held their athletics day, and today the Matikao Team held their athletics activities – the sun shone and the field was dry and it was great to see and hear the enthusiasm of the students as they took part in the different activities and supported one another. Thank you to the senior students in St Patrick and St Dominic classes for helping out at each of these athletics days.

Strategic Goals: The School Board and staff have set our strategic goals for 2024 and 2025.

Special Character Goal: to develop a personal relationship with God as people of Aotearoa, growing our knowledge of the Catholic faith, living and experiencing the values of Jesus with Mary as our guide.

Teaching and Learning Goal: To provide an engaging, relevant and responsive education for all learners in our school community.

Community Goal: To build and enhance relationships in a safe and inclusive environment within our school, parish and wider community.

Hauora – Well being: To foster the hauora of all members of our school community, so that they feel valued and respected, and a sense of belonging in a safe emotional and physical environment.

We look forward to unpacking and achieving these goals with our school community in the new year.

Ma te Atua koe e manaaki – May God bless you

Catherine Cyprian
Principal





DRS Message

This Sunday we begin our Advent journey. We reflect during this time on the Love, Peace, Hope and Joy that the coming of our Saviour, Jesus, brings. We begin our Liturgical Strand- Advent in classes.

Year 1 and 2 classes explore many of the traditions of Advent. They explore how Advent is a time for waiting with others, as Mary did with Elizabeth. They also explore how families are preparing for Christmas and how we, the church, prepare for Christmas.

Year 3 and 4 classes look a little deeper into the place of Advent within the Liturgical calendar. They explore the traditions and meanings of the Advent wreath. They learn how John the Baptist prepared some for the Messiah and how we prepare today for the coming of Jesus. They explore the Whakapapa - Family tree of Jesus and the people in His life.

Year 5 and 6 classes explore in greater detail the symbols of Advent. They will also look into how we prepare internally for the celebrations of Christmas. They also explore the people of Advent, along with the people in the Old Testament who prepared the way for the Messiah.

We prepare across the school in many ways, with each class using an Advent wreath during daily prayers. We create a school wide Jesse tree. The Liturgical colour of purple adorns every classes prayer focus. Our Year 1 and 2 team prepare for and present a team Nativity play. We have classes lead liturgies exploring Advent and our end of Year Mass celebrates our Special Character and Charism, along with all we have achieved across the year. It is important to us at Stella Maris to focus in on our purpose. To create opportunities for our tamariki to have personal encounters with Jesus.

*Dear Jesus, help us focus on you during this busy season.
May we stay aware of the joy you bring into our lives.
We want to find you in the everyday moments and come with hearts of
gratitude to your manger on Christmas.
Amen.*

TEAM NEWS

Matikao

We have been training hard for our Athletics and today we celebrated all this hard work with our exhibition day. We have begun to organise our end of year Nativity performance and we look forward to sharing this with you on the 12th December. We thank you all for your continued support as we close in on these special, end of year events.

Mohehu

Kia ora whānau, this week it was great to be outside for athletics day on Tuesday. It was great to have this culminating activity after the training we have been doing all term. Thank you to St Patrick for helping us on the day. Last week St Francis led us beautifully in Liturgy.

Huruhuru

This week has been another busy week beginning with swimming on Monday and Wednesday. On Tuesday St Patrick assisted Mohehu team with their Athletics day, with St Dominic helping Matikao on Thursday. It was an opportunity for these classes to practice their leadership skills and provide service to the school. Hopefully our Year 6 parents have responded to their invitations to the Year 6 Graduation Dinner. If you have any questions about this event, please refer to the information on HERO. We still need Y5 parents to help prepare the food for this event. Please contact Olwyn Hobman if you are able to do so.

SCHOOL NEWS



Helpers Morning Tea

We would like to invite all those who have helped out at school this year to a morning tea on **Thursday 7th December at 11am**. This is our chance to say thank

you to all of the parents, grandparents and friends who have helped in so many ways around school, including but in no way limited to coaching and managing sports teams, class trips, walking to and from swimming, reading with students, helping in class, PTFA fundraising events, pastoral care and second hand uniform sales – and so many more ways. We hope that you are able to join us so that we can share our appreciation for all that you have done to help and support the school.

Matikao Nativity

This will be presented in the school hall on 12 December at 1:20pm. Matikao (year 0-2) parents are invited to attend.

Shine And Service Awards Assembly

11 December 9:00am in the school hall.

School Accounts 2023

Thank you to families who have their account paid in full. Your account for the year should have been paid on or before the **30th November**. This will allow for the reporting to the Catholic Diocese of Auckland to be done in a timely manner before the end of the school year.

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End Of Year Thanksgiving Mass

This will be held at St John's Church, Orewa on Tuesday 19th December at 11am. Children will travel to and from church by bus. **The cost of this is**

\$7.00. Family are most welcome to join us at the Church for this very special Mass.

Year 6 Leaver Dinner And Year 5 Parent Helpers

Year 6 students received a notice regarding their Graduation Dinner on the evening of 18th December. Please return the slips to the school office indicating how many will be attending from your family and any dietary requirements.

If there are any year 5 parents who are able to help on the evening please let the office know or return the form that was sent home with year 5 students.



School Library Stocktake

As we approach the end of the school year we are preparing for our annual library stocktake which is taking place next week. Please help by returning all school library books by Friday 1st December. Your child can drop-off their books at the library or leave in their class library returns box to be collected.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Mokehu Athletics

On Tuesday we had athletics day with the Mokehu team. First we did sprints. I came 5th place in the first race. I saw George slip over in his race but George got up and kept going. He sprinted like he was getting chased by a rocket. Orlando was running with Renzo. They were faster than 200 rockets! It was awesome. We had lots of fun and we tried our hardest.

By Alex Arnott

Yesterday it was Mokehu athletics day. The first event was sprints and I got to run with Orlando. We used the running rope so I could run as fast as a cheetah. The running was my favourite event of the day. High jump was my least favourite because the bar was extremely high, but I still tried my hardest. All day I could hear children, parents and teachers cheering us on. It made me feel very happy and excited.

By Renzo



STELLA MARIS PTFA PRESENTS

Splash & Dash

FAMILY FUN EVENT

Friday 8th December 3pm - 7pm
Stella Maris school field

WATER FUN, GAMES,
FOOD STALLS, BAKE
SALES, RAFFLES,
SILENT AUCTION AND
MORE!

\$10 A TICKET

Splash & Dash dollars
will replace cash at the
event and will be
available to purchase
via Kindo from Monday
30th October

Price list to follow



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES SCHEDULE

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, OREWA

Christmas Eve:

Carol singing - 5.00pm

Family Mass - 5.30pm

(children invited to dress up
as any of the nativity scene characters)

Carol Singing - 11.15pm

Christmas Mass - Midnight

Christmas Day:

Carol Singing - 10.00am

Christmas Mass - 10.30am

ST FRANCIS BY THE SEA, MANLY

Family Mass - 8.30am

**Rite II Reconciliation - Wednesday
13 December, 7.00pm at St Johns.**



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Mark Your Diaries

08 Dec	End of Year Picnic from 3pm
08 Dec	Second hand Uniform Sale 2.45pm at Picnic
11 Dec	SHINE and Service Awards Assembly 9am
12 Dec	Matikao Nativity Play - School Hall Time TBA
15 Dec	Class swap and student picnic
18 Dec	Year 6 Leavers Graduation 6pm
19 Dec	Thanksgiving Mass 11am St John's Church
20 Dec	TERM FOUR ENDS 12.20pm

2023 School Term Dates

TERM 4 Monday 09 Oct - Wednesday 20 Dec

2024 School Term Dates

TERM 1 Wednesday	07 Feb - Friday	12 Apr
TERM 2 Monday	29 Apr - Friday	05 Jul
TERM 3 Monday	22 Jul - Friday	27 Sep
TERM 4 Monday	14 Oct - Friday	20 Dec

2024 Public Holidays

Easter	Friday	Mar 29 - Apr 02
Anzac Day	Thursday	Apr 25
Kings Birthday	Monday	Jun 03
Matariki	Friday	Jun 28
Labour Day	Monday	Oct 28

Family Whanau Book Resource Link

<http://www.faithalive.org.nz/assets/Resources/Family-whanau-book.pdf>

Telephone

Netball

- Cancellation Contact -
teresa@netballnorthharbour.co.nz

Parish Office

- Parish Priest -

Father Raphael

09 426 5599 ext 2

- Parish Secretary -

Theresa Fouché

09 426 5599

theresa@hbcparish.org.nz

SKIDS

- After School Care -

021 0829 7693

School Dental Clinic

09 426 8470

Bayes Buses

09 426 5504

Public Health Nurse

09 427 0300 ext 4339

Influenza A (H1N1)

- Advise Healthline -

0800 611 116

Coronavirus Healthline

0800 358 5453

Stella Maris School

- Website -

www.stellamaris.school.nz

School Bank Details

Attendance Dues &

Donations

12 3046 0362238 01

All other Payments

12 3046 0362238 00

PTFA Bank Details

12 3046 0376269 00

Waitemata Health

www.webhealth.co.nz

Auckland Youth

www.akyouth.org.nz



**“Ki te ingoa o te Matua, O te Tamaiti O te Wairua Tapu, Amene”
In the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit Amen**