

Stella Maris Catholic Primary School

Kia ora e te Whānau

As this is our last newsletter for the year I would like to say thank you for your patience and support through another year that presented a number of challenges in the form of building projects and school closures due to weather events, power outages, strikes and threats. However despite the challenges there were many positives in the year too. The building work led to a fresh look for the school with the new colours, the fantastic shade sails were installed over the playgrounds, we had an outstanding Special Character Evaluation in October, our students have had some great individual achievements in their learning, and we have seen the return of whole school events, in particular our Masses and liturgies. The Splash and Dash last Friday evening was such a fun evening – it was great to see the sunshine and the children enjoying the water activities, and families relaxing as we celebrated the end of a good year. Thank you to the PTFA for the organisation of this event that was as much about fun as it was fundraising. What a great way to end the year.

On Monday we held the Shine and Service Assembly for Year 3-6 students. There was a large number of students who completed the optional Shine Home Learning Challenge, and we thanked and recognised all of the students who took on roles of responsibility throughout the year and provided service to our wider school community. Then on Tuesday Matikao Team presented their Nativity to the rest of the school and then to families. This was a joyous occasion, telling the story of Jesus's birth. Thank you to the students and staff who told this story and began our Christmas season.

Next Tuesday we have our Thanksgiving Mass at St John's, Orewa at 11am. You are all welcome to join us as we celebrate our year and farewell our Year 6 students as they graduate from Stella Maris. We wish all of our Year 6 students all the very best as they leave Stella Maris to begin the next stage of their learning journey. We are sure that you will take with you all that you have learnt in your time at Stella Maris, in particular the Marian Values as these will always guide you in your learning, work and play, and ensure you "Shine for God" in all you do.

| | | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Andres Abuyabor | Benjamin Araujo Hodson | Michelle Arora | Matteo Austria |
| Penny Bell | Peyton Bell | Emilio Boric | Erin Cahill |
| Charles Cate | Matthew Coetzee | Nuala Cuffe | Eva Di Muro |
| Zachary Dizon | Coco Hakaraia | Emalyn Harvey | Zoe Johanson |
| Leo Lawson | Rennie Leach | Arden Lu | Ollie Masutti |
| Madeline McColl | Quinn McKenzie Linnell | Campbell Molloy | Ruby Nakhla |
| Amélie Negri-Vivar | Braxton O'Connor | Christopher O'Neill | Lockie Pearson |
| Aiden Perera | Orlando Purvis | Isabella Reid | Emily Serancke |
| Vincent Straka | Harry Thomas | Chloe Verdonkschot | Rhaedyn Wood |
| Sammy Zhang | | | |

At this time we also farewell Matt Walker, teacher of St Joseph class. Matt was in a one year fixed term position at Stella Maris this year. He has been a valuable member of our staff and quickly established himself in the school. He will be missed and we wish him all the best in his new role at Red Beach Primary.

We also say a huge thank you to Nicole Lawson who is stepping down from the Stella Maris School Board at the end of the year. Nicole has been a Proprietor's Appointee on the School Board for nearly 10 years. We thank her for the passion, wisdom and faith that she brought to the role, and for supporting and leading our Pasifika group for a number of years. We wish her and her family all the very best as they move onto secondary school.

I wish you all a blessed Christmas and a happy New Year. May the sun shine on us all over the summer and you all have a safe and relaxing break.

Ma te Atua koutou e manaaki – May God bless you all

Catherine Cyprian
Principal



DRS Message

Christmas lessons across the school take place over the last few days of the year. Across the school we have many celebrations and Liturgical moments where we collectively prepare for Christmas and in classes we focus on Year levelled specific learning.

Matikao team use things like their Nativity play and lessons in class to recall the birth of Jesus, the people present and what happened when. Many also look at the setting where Jesus was born. Why Joseph and Mary ended up in Bethlehem and the many amazing events that led to Jesus' birth.

Mohehu team explore how Jesus is God's greatest gift to us. They also look into giving and receiving Taonga. Mohehu may also look into traditions surrounding Christmas such as the Christmas tree, wreath and other traditions associated with Christmas.

Huruhuru look into how we can and should make room for Christ at Christmas and what Christmas looks like around the world.

The birth of Christ is a Taonga from God for all of us and it is our calling to then share this gift with others.

For all those who have offered service to the school in any capacity we thank you dearly for helping us to create opportunities for our students to encounter Christ. Christ is truly present in Stella Maris.

From our Stella Whanau to yours, we wish you all the most blessed Christmas.

*May we use this Advent to gather Hope, to help build Peace,
to recognise the Joy of Jesus' birth and to receive and share God's Love with
all those we meet this Advent and Christmas season.*

*May we continue to Shine for God throughout our Christmas break and
return rejuvenated in 2024.*

Amen.

TEAM NEWS

Matikao Team

Well, what a week! We hope you enjoyed the Nativity celebration on Tuesday afternoon as much as we enjoyed presenting it to you. The children did an amazing job, not just on the day itself but in all the preparation and practice that preceded it. They showed great patience and understanding and made us proud, as I am sure they did for you. Our aim is to emphasise the true meaning of Christmas and to move towards the day preparing our hearts to welcome the baby Jesus. We tell the children we can all do this by being extra caring of each other, being thoughtful and kind in our words and our actions. Little acts of love and kindness, a gentle word and a smile can help to make those around us happy in the true spirit of Christmas. We hope, too, that the children will now be able to tell you the story of the first Christmas and that the significance of it stays with them forever. Matikao team thanks you for your wonderful support throughout the year and wishes you all Meri Kirihimete and a very happy holiday. Ma te Atua koutou e manaaki, Whānau.

Mohehu Team

Kia Ora Whanau, we would like to extend our thanks to you all for the support you have shown us throughout the year. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a warm summer holiday. Tomorrow is our picnic time, which the children are all very excited about. Please check your child's bags for any art or school books that they are bringing home.

Huruhuru Team

Another year is quickly coming to an end. Next week we farewell our Year 6 students at their Graduation Dinner and the Thanksgiving Mass. We will also be farewelling Mr Walker who has completed his one year appointment with us and we wish him well as he begins his new position at Red Beach School. We have appreciated having him as a member of the Huruhuru team. We say thank you to our teacher aides, Karen Lloyd, Mon McKernan and Katie McClennan, who consistently go above and beyond to support the team. This year is Ms Kain's last year as sports coordinator (she continues as the teacher in St Dominic). She has been truly committed to this very busy role for many years. We are sure that you will join us in thanking her for her dedication to the students, managers and coaches.

SCHOOL NEWS

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.

Sacramental Programme 2024

The parish is in urgent need of two volunteers to teach the children in the 2024 Sacrament Programme. If you are able to help or would like more information please contact Farren farrengcoetzee@gmail.com

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:

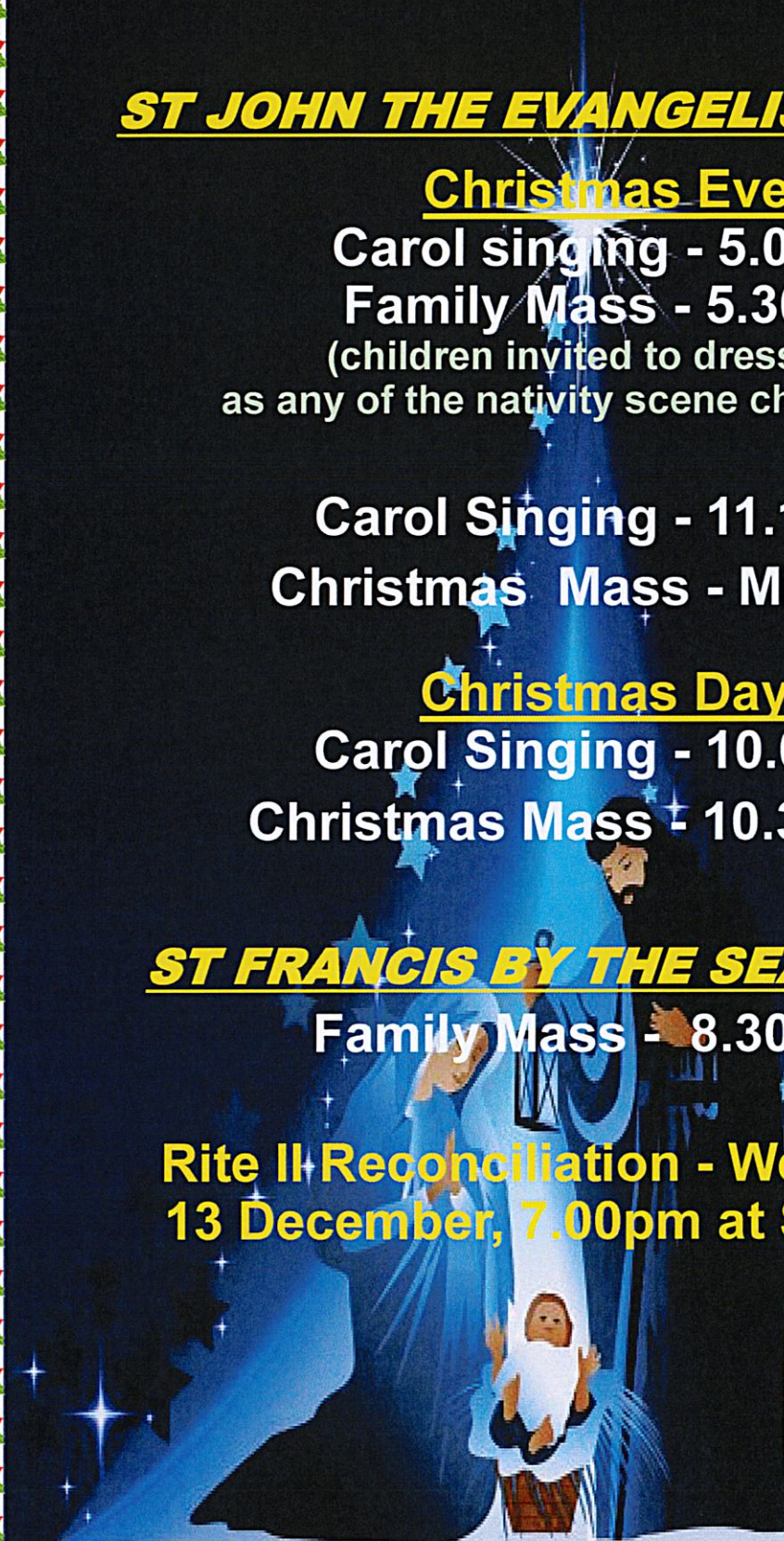
Carol Singing - 10.00am

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.**



Mark Your Diaries

| | |
|--------|---|
| 15 Dec | 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 |
| 07 Feb | TERM ONE STARTS 8.45am |

2023 School Term Dates

TERM 4 Monday 09 Oct - Wednesday 20 Dec

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## 2024 School Term Dates

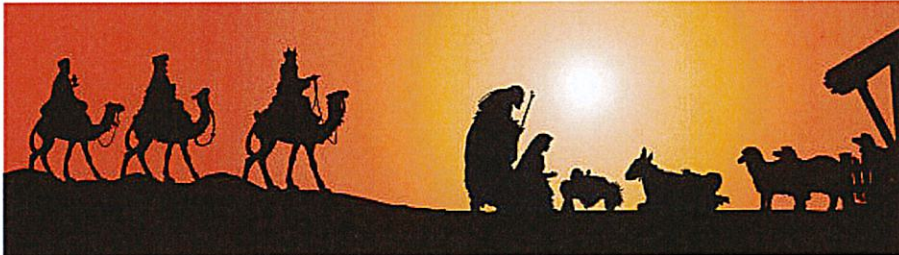
|        |           |                 |        |
|--------|-----------|-----------------|--------|
| TERM 1 | Wednesday | 07 Feb - Friday | 12 Apr |
| TERM 2 | Monday    | 29 Apr - Friday | 05 Jul |
| TERM 3 | Monday    | 22 Jul - Friday | 27 Sep |
| TERM 4 | Monday    | 14 Oct - Friday | 20 Dec |

## 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](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.webhealth.co.nz)

Auckland Youth

[www.akyouth.org.nz](http://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**



# BOARD OF TRUSTEE NEWSLETTER

Kia ora e te Whānau

On behalf of our School Board I would like to thank each and every one of you for the special role you play in making our school so special. We are so blessed to have such a wonderful school community and it is an inspiration to witness how our Marian Values and our Catholic faith is lovingly put into action each day.

This term, it indeed has been a great blessing to be able to come together as a full school community in our hall and be back in our usual classroom and office spaces as the building work has now been completed. I thank you for your patience with this and other disruptions that have occurred this year that have been outside our control.

As we draw to the end of the year, we farewell our Year 6 students. Students, you have been a very special and important part of our school over your time at Stella Maris and we will miss each of you so much, however, we are so excited for you as you set off on your next adventures.

It has been an immense joy to watch you grow into the beautiful young people you are today and see how you have developed and fostered many outstanding skills, abilities and talents. Our school today would not be the same without each and every one of you, and the abundant gifts and joys you have brought to it.

I pray that as you set off on these new adventures, you will know that you have your friend Jesus and Our Blessed mother at your side, to guide and inspire you to shine and be Christ's light for others. As a Board we wish every one of you all the very best and we will keep you in our prayers.

Families we thank you so much for the dedication you have had for your children's education this year and for the support and contributions you have given to our school and community in so many ways. Thank you for giving your precious time to us when you have helped with class trips, swimming, and fundraising events such as sausage sizzles, discos and the "Splash and Dash". Thank you for your dedication and commitment when you have stepped up out of your busy schedules to coach and manage sports teams, and importantly thank you for the spiritual help and prayers you have given us along the way – dear families, you have been a big blessing to our school and on behalf of the board we thank you immensely.

I would like to thank all of our Staff at Stella Maris for the love you put into what you do each day. Thank you for the dedication, care, wisdom and perseverance you give to our students that shapes not only their academic progress but also their faith and character, inspiring each child to 'Shine for God'.

As the year closes, we are also farewelling Nicole Lawson, who has served on our school board as a Proprietor's Representative for over 9 years. Nicole has been a great blessing to our School Board over her long service and her faith and wisdom has been invaluable. We wish Nicole and her whānau all the very best on their next chapter.

As Nicole moves on, we warmly welcome Rebecca Doyle who will join our board from the beginning of next year as a Proprietor's Appointee. Rebecca's faith, skills and talents will be an asset to our Board as we navigate the years ahead.

Next year we look forward to implementing our new strategic plan and living out our revised Marian Values, please see below for more information.

I encourage you to please get in touch with us with any questions or feedback you may have, either by emailing Catherine Cyprian [principal@stellamaris.school.nz](mailto:principal@stellamaris.school.nz) or the Board via [BOT@stellamaris.school.nz](mailto:BOT@stellamaris.school.nz)

I wish you and your families a wonderful Christmas and a New Year filled with the love, hope, peace and joy of Jesus.

Advent and Christmas blessings,

Trish Hammond

On behalf of the Stella Maris School Board



# Stella Maris Catholic Primary School

## STRATEGIC PLAN 2024-2025



### MISSION STATEMENT

As a Christ centred community, inspired by Mary and our Catholic faith, we will support, challenge and empower each other to strive for personal excellence to navigate life's journey.

### STRATEGIC GOALS

#### 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.

Teacher knowledge of the new RE curriculum, To Tātou Whakapono, Our Faith, will inform planning, teaching and learning, and assessment in RE.

Our revised Marian Values will be embodied in our school culture, special character and charism.

#### TEACHING AND LEARNING GOAL:

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

Teacher knowledge of Te Mātaiaho, the national curriculum, will ensure students participate in rich learning opportunities through the implementation of our Stella Maris Curriculum.

#### COMMUNITY GOAL:

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

Communication within our community will be streamlined to ensure our methods are impactful, timely and relevant.

#### HAUORA – WELL BEING:

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

Students will be supported to understand the importance of caring for themselves and others; they will be able to communicate their needs, ask for and accept help.

Through our Marian Values students will demonstrate an understanding and empathy for others, valuing and celebrating diversity.



SHINE FOR GOD



# PTFA 2023 Wrap up

What a successful year it has been. Disco, Think-a-thon, fun lunches, mix and mingles, Mum & Dad's Day lunches, and most recently the Splash & Dash. As I sit and reflect on the year, I feel proud, and my heart is full. The 2023 elected PTFA committee members (*Brittany Barnes – Secretary | Jaime Davies | Kelly Alder – Fundraising | Rachel Wakelin – Pastoral Care | Jen O'Keefe – Fun Lunches Coordinator | Belinda Scott – 2<sup>nd</sup> Hand Uniforms*) have donated so much of their time and efforts to ensure our children and families are offered a variety of social events throughout the school year. These members go above and beyond for our school whilst balancing work, motherhood, and many other commitments. Collaboratively, with the help of our volunteers this year we have successfully raised over just short of \$55,000!! And more importantly put smiles on so many faces, both big and small.

The PTFA have been set the challenge by Stella to raise \$100,000 for upgrades to the junior playground flooring. We agree it is not the most exciting item to be raising funds for, but by replacing the bark. Stella is set to save thousands per year on maintenance while ensuring our youngest children are provided with the most up to date playground safety. Lucky the team love a challenge!

Are you keen to help us smash our goal and make 2024 bigger and better? We are absolutely ready and rearing with some exciting events already planned. The wonderful thing about the PTFA is it is a "do what you can" approach. How you can help varies from person to person. It may look like volunteering for an hour at one of our events, attending our monthly meetings, sharing your skills, knowledge and connections with us or helping out with a Grant applications or simply joining our Facebook pages and interacting with posts (<https://www.facebook.com/standupforstella/> | Parents and Friends of Stella Maris). There are so many ways to be involved and it really is a rewarding committee to be a part of. You will leave with a sense of belonging and a strengthened relationship with the school community. There is lots of chat and laughs are guaranteed! The cliental are pretty cool too 😊 The more parents and families on board, the more we can achieve!

Our first meeting for 2024 is scheduled for Wednesday 24th February 2024, 7pm @ Stella Maris School. All Welcome 😊 Email [stellaptfa@stellamaris.school.co.nz](mailto:stellaptfa@stellamaris.school.co.nz) if you would like to join our mailing list.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to say Thank-you to Helen Searancke, as the year wraps up so does Helen's time with us at Stella. Over the years Helen has been our second-hand uniform sales angel. Helen has donated her time over and over again. From organising donations, mending holes/rips to hosting the much-appreciated 2<sup>nd</sup> Hand uniform sales. Thank you, Helen, you are a true example of a shining star. We wish you all the best.

On behalf of the 2023 PTFA I would like to wish you all a safe and happy holiday. We cannot wait to see you all again next year.

God Bless.

Arohanui,  
Lani Baxter-Mackay

