

Stella Maris Catholic Primary School

NEWSLETTER 6 March 2025

NEWSLETTER

Kia ora e te Whānau

Yesterday we began our Lenten journey when we joined the parish for Ash Wednesday Mass. In the readings we heard the message that during Lent we are all called to do three things – **to pray, to fast and to give alms**. In his homily Fr Chris talked particularly about fasting, and for us to think about what we choose to give up in this time. It needs to be something that is challenging and gives us pause to reflect, however not so challenging that it makes us grumpy and then impact others negatively. Almsgiving is about donating money, time, services or resources to those in need. Through the parish there are several ways for parishioners to give to those in need: you can donate non-perishable food items that are passed on to Love Soup, you can make a donation to Serving Spoons (details are in the parish newsletter) or you can give to the Caritas Lenten Appeal - envelopes for this can be collected from the church or you can donate online <https://www.caritas.org.nz/>

Maybe this weekend you could discuss as a family how you could find some time to pray a little more during Lent, what you could choose to give up for fasting, and how you could give alms to help those you know who are in need.



We know that yesterday morning the traffic made getting to school on time difficult, and we really appreciate that families kept in touch and that you all managed to get to school in time that we were able to hop on the buses and arrive at Mass on time.

Goal setting conferences, Wednesday 19 March 1:15pm – 7pm, and Thursday 20 March 3:15pm – 5:45pm. These goal setting conferences are one to one meetings with your child and their teacher to set some goals to support your child's learning. Please make sure that you book a time – information on how to book was in yesterday's Beacon available on the school app. Please note that school will remain open for the full school day on Wednesday 19 March. Class teachers will be available for the conferences from 1:15pm in their classrooms, and Senior Leadership and teacher aides will be providing supervision for students from the end of lunchtime until 2:45pm. The Mārama (Year 0-3) students will gather in the library for the afternoon, and the Ahi (Year 4-6) students will gather in the hall for the afternoon. If you wish to pick your child up early you will need to sign them out at the school office as usual. If you have a conference booked between 1:15 and 2:45pm you can pick your child up from either the library or the hall to join you. End of school pick up will run as usual at 2:45pm and the buses will run at the usual time.

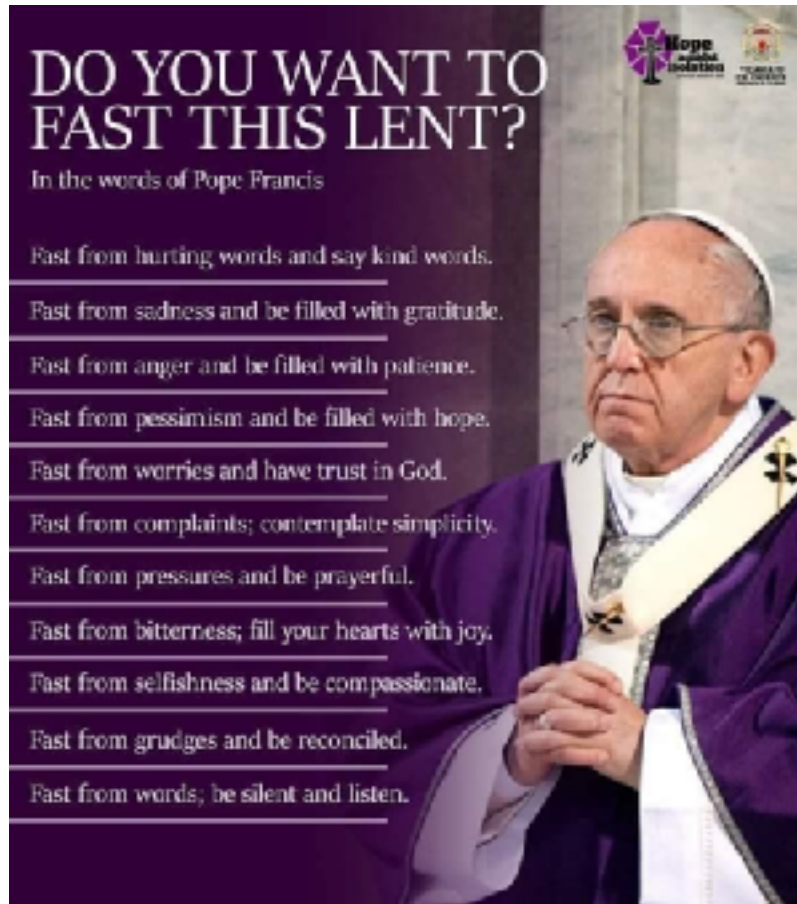
Ma te Atua koe e manaaki – may God bless you

Catherine Cyprian
Principal



DRS Message

On Wednesday the school joined our HBC Parish for the Ash Wednesday mass. Fr Chris led us in a beautiful service where the students and parishioners were encouraged to make Lenten promises that help us demonstrate love for God, love for others and love for ourselves. Our students did us proud with their mass responses, singing and prayerfulness. Our student leaders read prayers and led the readings like experts. These moments bring together all the work done in classes by the teachers and staff to prepare our students for participating in the Catholic mass. It was a privilege to be part of this Ash Wednesday mass. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent where we prepare for the Liturgical season of Easter. Prior to his recent hospitalisation the Pope reflects on the theme "Let us journey together in hope." The pope said that Lent is a time to confront both personal and collective struggles with faith and compassion. May we use this time of Lent to grow closer to God. We are reminded as the cross of ashes is traced on our heads at this Ash Wednesday mass, may we "repent and turn back to God"



AHI TEAM NEWS

We have two team sporting events coming up in the next two weeks. Firstly, on the 13th March we have the Year 5/6 Interschool Cricket Tournament where we have a boys team and a girls team representing the school. We wish them well as they prepare for this event. The following week on Tuesday 18th March, the Ahi team will be holding their Athletics event for all Year 4-6 students. We will begin with sprints heats and finals at 9am. We will then start a rotation of athletics events that will continue throughout the day. From this event we will choose the Year 5 and 6 students who will represent the school at the Interschool Athletics Day on Thursday 3rd April.

MĀRAMA TEAM NEWS

Kia ora koutou! A big thank you to all the parents who attended the 'Meet the Teacher' evening last Friday – it was fantastic to see so many of you there. Our athletics skills training is in full swing every Thursday, and it's wonderful to see the tamariki gaining confidence with each session. We were also delighted with the children's behaviour at the Ash Wednesday Mass. As we continue our Lenten Journey, we're encouraging them to keep making those good choices that reflect our Marian Values. Ngā mihi nui!

SCHOOL NEWS

Health And Safety Reminder

If you visit the school during school hours you are required to sign in and out at the school office.

Help Needed

We have a small welding job, a number of desk legs need to be re-welded. If there is someone in our community who could help with this please see Steve here at school Monday to Wednesday.

Water Slide

While we still have some warm sunny days the water slide is still open at lunch times. If your child wishes to use the water slide they need to bring in their togs and a towel.

CHURCH NEWS

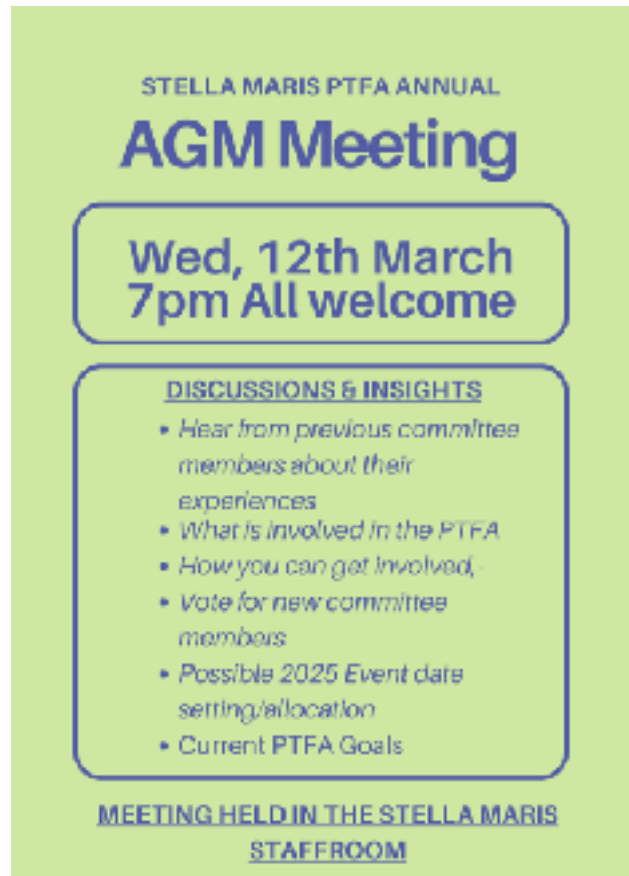
Baptism Preparation Programme

The RCIC Programme (Baptism Preparation Programme for children aged 8+) will begin on March 16th at St. John's Parish in Orewa at 9.15am. This programme will include three sessions for the children and the parents (March 16, March 23 and March 30). These children will then be baptised on April 5 at 11am. Please note that you and your child will need to attend each of the three sessions of this programme to complete the necessary preparation for the preparation of the Sacrament of Baptism. If you are interested or would like some additional information, please contact: Brenda brenda.neville@hibiscuscoastparish.org.nz

PTFA NEWS

Keen To Get Involved In The PTFA For 2025?

The Stella Parents, Teachers and Friends Association (PTFA) are a group of parents who meet on a regular basis to discuss and plan various activities, like our school discos, Fun lunches, Splash & Dash. Through these annual fundraisers, we can provide some of the "extras" that will enhance our children's experience at Stella. The PTFA also aims to promote community spirit amongst the school staff, BOT and parents. If you have children who have been at the school for some time or are new to the school, it's a great way to become a part of the school community, meeting new parents and teachers - we'd love to see you at the AGM.



STELLA MARIS PTFA ANNUAL
AGM Meeting

Wed, 12th March
7pm All welcome

DISCUSSIONS & INSIGHTS

- Hear from previous committee members about their experiences
- What is involved in the PTFA
- How you can get involved,
- Vote for new committee members
- Possible 2025 Event date setting/allocation
- Current PTFA Goals

MEETING HELD IN THE STELLA MARIS
STAFFROOM

SPORTS NEWS

Basketball

Congratulations to the **Yr5/6 Stella Whittakers** team on their amazing success over the past two weeks, including the last match against OB Rebound Rebels with a 12-8 score, a great result! The boys all played incredibly well, showing great team work and determination. Each game provided them with valuable lessons to make them stronger. Special mentions go to Jordan Johansen and George Hammond for being named Players of the Day! Keep up the fantastic work, let's continue our winning streak.

Year 2 Stella Swish, gave it their all this game, battling the Nutumea Nets. Score was a 0-2 with the Nets taking the win. But, the Swish we're looking super strong this week. The Swish played 100 percent better than last week by upping their defensive game! They were working hard at attempting to score some baskets! Cooper Walker took away the player of the day as he was determined to make a "swish," never giving up! Great mahi!

Year 2 Stella Dunkers came away with another incredible win with a score of 12-1, dominating the Gulf Harbour Sharks! With 9 players at the game, the team did a great job subbing in and out, making sure each Dunker got court time! Teamwork at its finest! The Dunkers have a strong defense and maintained control of the ball most of the game. Zach O'Shea secured the player of the day for finding Mānawanui around subbing! His passion to play well is contagious! Great job team!

The Power Of The Word Yet

Last week in the Mārama assembly we looked at the Power of the Word YET. Below I have included links to some songs and also a PP from Twinkl with a great message in it. Mrs Pearson

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XLeUvZvuvAs>. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NcaoWeVOKIs>

Power Point Link - <https://rebrand.ly/sxb7apz>



Structured Literacy Corner



"We need to teach our students to read words carefully and accurately so when they are reading independently, they can maintain a level of accuracy that supports comprehension."

Jan Hasbrouck, The Bulletin Learning Difficulties Australia, Volume 52, No 1, June 2020 | 9

What it takes to be a proficient reader:



Mrs Hogg

Goal Setting Interviews

Wednesday 19 March commencing at 1.15pm–7pm
or Thursday 20 March commencing at 3.15pm–5.45pm



Bookings are to be made online by visiting

www.schoolinterviews.co.nz

Our School Access Number is **qnxhf**

**Please ensure you have booked your child
in for this important process**

Mark Your Diaries

17 Mar	St Patricks Day Green Mufti Bring a can
18 Mar	Ahi Athletics Day
19 Mar	Goal Setting Interviews - School will remain open
20 Mar	Goal Setting Interviews Continue from 3.15pm
03 Apr	Interschool Athletics
11 Apr	Stations of the Cross
11 Apr	TERM ONE ENDS 2:45pm
28 Apr	TERM TWO COMMENCES 8:45am

2025 School Term Dates

TERM 1	Monday 3 February - Friday 11 April
TERM 2	Monday 28 April - Friday 27 June
TERM 3	Monday 14 July - 19 September
TERM 4	Monday 6 October - Tuesday 16 December

2025 Public Holidays

Easter	Fri 18 – Tue 22 Apr
ANZAC DAY	Fri Apr 25
King's Birthday	Mon Jun 2
Matariki	Fri Jun 20
Labour Day	Mon Oct 27



SchoolDocs/Policies: We have moved all of our policies to SchoolDocs. If you need to access any of the policies you can click on the link on the school website – look for the SchoolDocs link under the Community page. You will need the following username and password to access them.

<https://stellamaris.schooldocs.co.nz> Username: **stellamaris** Password: **shine**

Telephone

Netball

– Cancellation Contact –
teresa@netballnorthharbour.co.nz

Parish Office

– Parish Priest –
Father Chris
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**