

Stella Maris Catholic Primary School

NEWSLETTER 13 February 2025

NEWSLETTER

Kia ora e te Whānau

Welcome to the new school year. It has been great to see the students settling into their new classrooms so well, ready for new learning. I extend a very warm welcome to all of the new families who have joined Stella Maris this year, we look forward to getting to know you as the year unfolds. We also welcome two new staff members. Karen Bessone has joined our teaching staff, in St Patrick class (year 5/6) and she too has settled very well into the school community. Kevin Kemble is our new part time caretaker (Thursdays and Fridays) and has been doing a fabulous job of helping to get the school ready for the return to school.

This year, like all primary schools in Aotearoa New Zealand, we are implementing the new English and Mathematics curricula and you will begin noticing some changes in the teaching and learning programmes. Next week all of our Mārama teachers (Year 1-3) will be participating in a 3 day Liz Kane 'Little Learners Love Literacy' workshop from Wednesday to Friday, with a specific focus on the structured literacy programme. The Year 4-6 classes are already teaching Liz Kane 'The Code' structured literacy programme, and in term 2 they will undertake more professional development to further enhance this programme.

In mathematics we are using the 'Maths – No Problem' programme. We received our textbooks and workbooks just as the year started, and in the week before school opened the teachers took part in professional development for the 'Maths – No Problem' programme. You will begin to see teachers and students using this resource from next week.

As the teachers take part in the professional development, and the structured Literacy and Maths programmes are fully implemented we will communicate with you ways that you can support your child's learning at home. In the meantime keep reading to and with your children, sharing the enjoyment of reading, and practice the basic facts in maths.

Attendance: You will be aware that raising student attendance at school is one of the education priorities. We appreciate that you keep your child home when they are unwell, this is important to avoid the spread of the bugs. As the year begins we ask that when booking family holidays you book these during the school holidays. Family holidays during term time are an unjustified absence and are marked as such on the attendance register. One of the most positive impacts on student learning and achievement is high and consistent attendance.

Staff Carpark: Please note that the carpark between the top gate (Old Mill Rd entry) and the round-about is designated for staff parking. We ask that parents do not park in this area, allowing room for our staff to park.

End of day pick up: Parents and caregivers are welcome to pick children up from the classrooms at the end of the day, however we ask that you wait in the main atrium until the 2:35pm bus bell. Waiting outside the classrooms any earlier causes a distraction for the children. We thank you for your support of this.

Meet the Teacher: Parents and caregivers are invited to 'Meet the Teacher' on Friday 28th February. There will be two sessions: The Mārama Team (Yr 1-3) 3:30pm-4:15pm, and The Ahi Team (Yr 4-6) 4:15pm – 5:00pm. Each of the sessions will begin in the hall as a whole team, and then you will be invited to the classrooms to meet your child's teacher and learn about the specific routines of the class. Please note that this is not a time for one on one discussions with the class teacher, you will have an opportunity for this at the Goal Setting sessions on 19-20 March, or you may organise a separate meeting with the class teacher.

Communication with class teachers: You are welcome to pop into the classroom before or after school for quick catch ups with the class teachers. If you wish to discuss something in more depth it is best to organise a meeting with your class teacher. You can do this by emailing them (see contacts below) or by asking the teacher when you see them before or after school. Please note that we have teacher meetings after school Mondays and Wednesdays so teachers will not be available at these times.

If you have a message that you need to get to your child during the school day it is best to contact the office staff to pass the message on. If you email the class teacher during the school day they are not likely see the message until after school.

We are excited to share this new school year with our students and their whanau, and look forward to working with you throughout the year.

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

Catherine Cyprian
Principal

CLASSROOM TEACHERS			
Mārama Team – Year 0-3 classes			
Mārama signifies the clarity and light that comes with new learning (light/clear)			
Team Leader: Amanda Bates (St Leo class) – amanda@stellamaris.school.nz			
Associate Principal: Mel Hogg – melh@stellamaris.school.nz			
Karl Hobman	Year 2	St Leo	karl@stellamaris.school.nz
Diana Pearson	Year 3	St Lucy	diana@stellamaris.school.nz
Erica Mainwaring	Year 0-1	St Benedict	erica@stellamaris.school.nz
Amanda Bates	Year 1	St Leo	amanda@stellamaris.school.nz
Jenny Bentley	Year 2	St Nicholas	jenny@stellamaris.school.nz
Marie Woodard	Year 3	St Francis	marie@stellamaris.school.nz
Ahi Team – Year 4-6 classes			
Ahi symbolises the inner fire and passion for learning as students grow older.			
Team Leader: Tracey Law (St Anthony class) – tracey@stellamaris.school.nz			
Associate Principal: Olwyn Hobman – olwyn@stellamaris.school.nz			
Tina Hunt	Year 5/6	St Joachim	tina@stellamaris.school.nz
Tracey Law	Year 5/6	St Anthony	tracey@stellamaris.school.nz
Michelle Kleingeld	Year 4	St Peter	michelle@stellamaris.school.nz
Rebecca Dragicevich	Year 4	St Augustine	becd@stellamaris.school.nz
Natasha Kain	Year 5/6	St Dominic	natasha@stellamaris.school.nz
Karen Bessone	Year 5/6	St Patrick	karen.bessone@stellamaris.school.nz
Phoebe Cunningham-Tyler	Year 5/6	St Joseph	phoebe@stellamaris.school.nz





DRS Message

We begin this year, as we do every year, revisiting our Special Character here at Stella Maris. Our special school prayer, school song and the things we do and see that demonstrate our Catholicity. Classes explore our Marian Values and what this looks like for us as learners at Stella Maris.

We Begin Our Curriculum Work In Re By Exploring The Te Atua-God Theme For Term 1.

Te Atua God

Focuses on the nature of God as revealed in the scriptures and the Tradition of the Church. It addresses such questions as who, where, what is God and what does God do? It considers each person of the Trinity: God the Father, Jesus and Holy Spirit. It addresses God's relationship with us — individually and collectively, and our relationship with God.

Year 1-2

Who is God?

Introduce the concept of the God

(Father, Son and Holy Spirit) who loves us and is present to us.

Introduce the idea of encounter with Jesus.

Year 3-4

What has God got to do with me?

Explore how God is a Trinity of 3 Persons who overflow with love.

Understand that each Person of the Trinity is special and shares gifts with us.

Year 5-6

Who can show me how to be?

Grow in understanding of how Jesus shows me how to be, and how to serve God.

Explore how Mary and other saints show me that I can be like Jesus.

*E Te Atua, God our loving Father,
You gift us with this world and invite us
to respond with love and wisdom
E Hehu Karaiti, Jesus Christ, beloved Son,
You show us how to live and call us
to participate in your life and mission
E Te Wairua Tapu, Holy Spirit,
You empower and guide us on our shared
spiritual journey.
Bless the young people and whānau in our parishes
and their Catholic school communities
Bless all who work in Religious Education
in Aotearoa New Zealand
Remind us that you are always with us,
Fill us with enthusiasm, knowledge and joy
To learn and teach that which is at the heart of our schools,
You, who live and reign for ever and ever.
Āmene*

Stella Maris Catholic Primary School

AHI TEAM NEWS

Welcome back to our new school year. Our team, Ahi, consists of students in Year 4-6. Below are a few reminders as we start the year.

Sports - our day is Tuesday and this term it will be in the morning. Students must have their PE gear for this. This term they may wear their PE gear to school with their uniform in their bag to change into later in the day.

Hats are required for this term and we encourage students to apply sunblock before they arrive at school, especially on sports day.

Diary - Y4 students have Reading Diaries and Y5/6 have Faith Diaries. Students are reminded they need to follow the systems their class teacher has put in place for these returning to school.

We look forward to our exciting year ahead.

MĀRAMA TEAM NEWS

Kia ora, Mārama Whanau.

Our team welcomes you to a wonderful new year of learning, love and laughter at Stella Maris.

Our teachers are excited about getting to know you all and working with your wonderful tamariki throughout the year. We are committed to doing the very best for each and every one of them and are filled with hope that, working with you, we can achieve great things! In PE our team is focusing on athletics skills this term and we remind you that the children need a named PE kit at school.

God Bless you all.

Carmel College Open Days 27 And 28 February For Year 6 Students And Parents,

The days and times are as follows:

27 February Thursday	1.30-3pm
28 February Friday	9-10.30am

Applications for 2026 close on 21 March 2025.



ST MARY'S COLLEGE
2025 OPEN DAY
Thursday 6 March 2025

Two sessions available, commencing 2.30pm & 6.00pm
Both sessions deliver the same information





Join our Mercy Family
Enrolments for 2026 open Monday 10 February
for Year 7 and Year 9 students and a limited number of places at
other year levels
St Mary's College has no zoning restrictions
Enrolment and application information are available on our website
www.stmaryak.school.nz
11 New Street, Ponsonby, Auckland
A CATHOLIC SCHOOL FOR GIRLS - YEAR 7 TO YEAR 13

**Confidence
begins with
the basics**



Enquire
now!

At Kumon, we help students get the basics right before progressing to more advanced work. With a strong foundation in place, students have the confidence they need for success at school and for future learning.

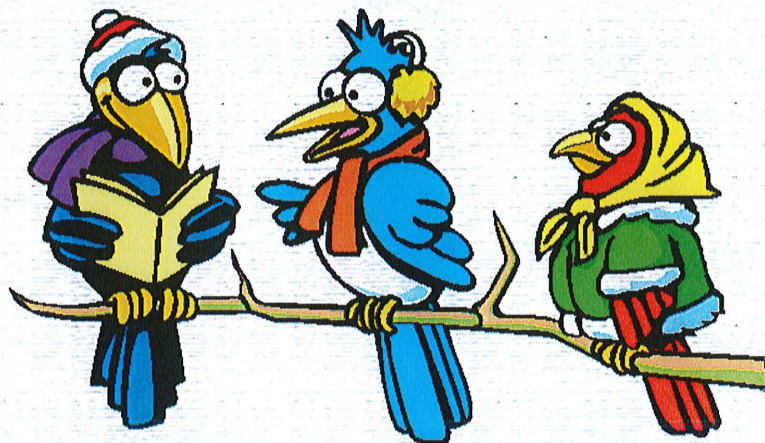
Contact Kumon Silverdale to hear how we can support your child to have a confident year ahead.

Rebecca Lu
021 0882 9858
kumon.silverdale1@gmail.com



KUMON
MATHEMATICS ENGLISH

SCHOLASTICS BOOK CLUB



*Order forms have gone home
this week - orders will close on*

*Tuesday 18th February
This is a wonderful way of
supporting your child's reading
and raising bonus points for the
school to purchase curriculum
items. Please hand your orders
into the school office.*

Your support is appreciated.

 SCHOLASTIC



Mark Your Diaries

14 Feb	Second Hand Uniform Sale 8:15am school foyer
17 Feb	Mārama Years 1-3 Assembly 11:20am
18 Feb	Scholastic Book orders close
28 Feb	Meet the teacher - time TBA
05 Mar	Ash Wednesday Mass - St John's Church 9.30am
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

Auckland Anniversary	Mon	Jan 27
Waitangi Day	Thur	Feb 6
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

Family Whānau 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**