

Stella Maris Catholic Primary School

NEWSLETTER 27 February 2025

NEWSLETTER

Kia ora e te Whānau

Last week our a Mārama teachers (Yr 0-3) attended the three day structured literacy workshop based upon the Little Learners Love Literacy programme. It was a very intense few days, filled with a lot of learning, and our teachers are bursting to get the programme underway. There will be ongoing fortnightly professional learning after school for the next few months. Over the next week the teachers will be carrying out the baseline assessments before they begin teaching the Little Learners programme. They will then be planning and organising resources to get this programme fully implemented in the coming weeks. Over time you will notice changes, particularly in the way you will support your Year 0-3 children at home. In the meantime – read with your children – have fun reading and sharing books that you have at home, visit the public library and choose books to read together. This helps to develop a love of reading.

“Maths, No Problem” is the maths programme we are using at Stella Maris to meet the requirements of the new Mathematics curriculum. Our teachers have participated in professional learning based upon the new “Maths, No Problem” programme and have begun implementing this programme in classes. They have been excited to see the level of engagement in the students.

Once we have both the structured literacy and “Maths, No Problem” programmes up and running fully, we will hold some parent information sessions to help you understand the changes in literacy and maths, and how you can help at home.

End of day pick up – There have been a number of parents or grandparents arriving in the classroom atriums from 2pm and this creates quite a distraction for the children in their learning, and also removes the ability to use the atrium as a learning space. You are very welcome to pick your child up from the classroom at the end of the day, however we ask that you wait in the main atrium until the bus bell at 2:35pm. Thank you for your support in this.

Meet the Teacher, tomorrow afternoon - 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 19-20th March, or you may organise a separate meeting with the class teacher.

Ash Wednesday - we are looking forward to joining the parish for Mass next Wednesday for Ash Wednesday, to prepare us for our Lenten journey. You are welcome to join us and the parish for Mass, 9:30am at St John’s Orewa.

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

Catherine Cyprian
Principal



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**



While schools across New Zealand are introducing the new Maths and English curriculum, Catholic schools across the country are continuing to introduce the new RE curriculum as well. This extra Professional Development, on top of Structured Maths and Structured Literacy PD, is all about improving our teaching and learning. This week our Year 5 and 6 teachers attended the first of four PD days to explore the resources, planning, teaching and assessment of the Year 5-6 level of To Tatou Whakapono- Our Faith. While they have all been exploring this new curriculum in teacher meetings for some time the resources have only just gone live for this level. You will notice some changes in the work your children are doing so please explore their learning with them, ask questions and join in this journey with our teachers.

"This change is so very positive. The learning packs in the new curriculum resources are very student orientated, student friendly and easy to access" **Miss Hunt.**

"We love it. The content is engaging and the resources are designed in a very student friendly and teacher friendly way." **Ms Kain.**

"The resources are age appropriate, relevant and exciting. The diocese has been very supportive in helping us launch this new curriculum." **Mrs Law.**

"The resources are great. There are a huge variety of ways of delivering the lessons. I'm really excited to get stuck in." **Mrs Bessone.**

"The resources are user friendly. They are in line with current pedagogy. The resources are all in one location and engaging." **Mrs Cunningham-Tyler.**

We look forward to the ongoing improvements to the teaching and learning in our RE and as a school we are tremendously excited to finally have access to all the resources needed to deliver this new curriculum effectively. Please don't hesitate to discuss the new curriculum with your child's teachers and explore the activities they are working on in class.

*God of new beginnings,
You are with us in every transition and change.
As we enter into this new era with excitement and positive anxiety,
we recall your deep compassion, presence and abounding love.
Amen.*



AHI TEAM NEWS

We invite our parents to our Meet the Teachers session from 4:15-5:00pm this Friday. We will begin in the hall before you are invited to meet with your child's teacher in their classroom.

Last Friday you should have received a notice about Maths Buddy. The Year 5/6 team has found success with this programme in the past and this year we have included the Year 4 students. Maths Buddy is suitable for maths homework throughout the week. Please look out for this form and return your payment when possible.

MĀRAMA TEAM NEWS

Kia ora, Mārama Whanau. Another busy week in Mārama! Our tamariki are embracing their new class routines and locking in to the learning.

Next week we see the beginning of Lent, starting with the Mass on Wednesday - Ash Wednesday. All are welcome to join us.

We look forward to seeing you at our team introduction on Friday evening at the 'Meet the Teacher' session. There will be a brief chat in the hall followed by a chance to visit your child's classroom and ask any general questions you may have.

SCHOOL NEWS

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.

Ash Wednesday Mass

On Wednesday 5th March, the whole school will be travelling by bus to attend Ash Wednesday Mass at St John the Evangelist Church, Orewa. **Children will need to be at school well before the 8:45am bell, buses will be leaving school promptly at 9am** for the 9:30am service.

Stationery Payments

Stationery was distributed to students at the start of the school year. Your children should have brought home an itemised account. This is due for payment. If you are not sure of the amount please contact the school office and we can help.

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.

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.

Annual AGM Will Be Held 12 March, 7PM @ Stella Maris

Our current members are stepping down, creating the opportunity for some fresh new faces to continue the wonderful work they have been doing. No events have been planned for 2025....Leaving the option to bring your own creative flare or have some of our experienced members share their knowledge with you. Grab a friend and give it a go. It is a rewarding feeling being able to give back to the school. Many previous members have juggled work and PTFA. Many hands make light work.

SPORTS NEWS

Basketball

Year 2 Stella Dunkers came home with a Dunker win 11-2 against Orewa Primary School Dragons. The team was on fire with Harrison Tezel-Hay taking home player of the day ball for his bravery and getting out on the court with courage. Well done to the whole team as they were great at passing and making sure they worked together as a team.

Year 1 Stella Swish came home with a win 5-0 against Dairy Flat School Lions. This young team played hard and came away with learning lots. Max Zahorodny took home the player of the day ball for showing up and giving it his all. He was engaged and super thrilled to join the year 1's. Well done to all the boys especially as it was their first time on the court.

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

COMMUNITY NEWS

2025 Registrations For Silverdale United Rugby And Sports Club Are Open

There is a new IT Platform implemented by NZR called Rugby Xplorer. We have created a page on our website with all fee information and links to get the job done. **Please Visit this Page for the exact instructions.** Everyone (All Players, Parents of Junior Players, Coaches, Managers and even Supporters) will be asked to complete a payment before the registration is accepted. Those unable to make payment (and we all know just how tough times are at the moment) need to reach out to any of our staff; Myka juniorrugby@silverdalerugby.co.nz, Amy seniorrugby@silverdale.co.nz or Graeme on manager@silverdalerugby.co.nz. We will generate a code that will allow you to complete the registration. **Juniors Parent Muster** - Please save the following dates for a visit to the CLUB on the afternoons of 25th, 26th and 27th of Feb to get yourself weighed. You will still need to complete the online registration ABOVE before coming to these weigh-ins.

Carmel College Open Day 28 February For Year 6 Students and Parents.

28th February 9-10.30am

Applications for 2026 close on 21st March 2025



Structured Literacy Corner



The Mārama team participated in a 3 day Structured Literacy Course last week. In the coming weeks I will share some of the things we learned and direct you to places where you can find more information if you are interested.

Here is a brief summary of what a Structured Literacy programme is:

Principles of Structured Literacy

- Systematic & Cumulative
- Explicit
- Diagnostic

Li Kore Literacy

- Follows a scope and sequence, simple to complex, builds on prior learning
- Simple, direct, reduces cognitive load
- Monitoring, responsive, aiming for mastery

Mrs Hogg



**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

Join us for a Cultural Community Celebration

**RACE
UNITY
2025 day**

**Sunday 23 March 10am-2pm
Lake House Arts**



**Cultural Food Music Performances Dances
Arts Market plus Zen Tea Ceremony Experience**

Lake House Arts www.lakehousearts.org.nz



Mark Your Diaries

28 Feb	Meet the teacher
03 Mar	Whole School Assembly 9am
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 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**