

Stella Maris Catholic Primary School

Kia ora e te Whānau

Tomorrow, 15 August, we join the parish to celebrate the Feast of the Assumption. On this day as Catholics we commemorate the belief that at the end of her earthly life Mary was assumed body and soul into heaven. We reflect on the life of our Blessed Mother, and we honour her role in the Church and her closeness to God. At Stella Maris we reflect upon the virtues she modelled - her unwavering faith, hope, charity (love and compassion) and how we aim to follow her ways through our Marian Values to grow closer to Jesus.

Pope Francis wrote :

"... she lived the Beatitudes of Jesus as none other. She is that woman who rejoiced in the presence of God, who treasured everything in her heart, and who let herself be pierced by the sword. Mary is the saint among the saints, blessed above all others. She teaches us the way of holiness and she walks ever at our side. She does not let us remain fallen and at times she takes us into her arms without judging us. (Gaudete et Exsultate, #176)

We hope that you are able to join us tomorrow at St Johns, 9:45am in Mass to celebrate the Feast of the Assumption.

A reminder that students need to be at school on time tomorrow as the buses will be leaving straight after morning rolls have been completed. Please ensure students are wearing full, correct and tidy uniform, and hair is tied up with plain black hair accessories.

Kapa haka: Congratulations to our Yr 3-6 Kapa Haka for their performance at the North Shore Catholic Schools Kapa Haka Showcase last Thursday. All seven schools participated in this special occasion, a time for our schools to come together and share in our learning, faith and culture. The Stella Maris Kapa Haka did our school proud, and we thank them for their commitment. We also thank Ms Hunt for her dedication and work that she gave to prepare the Kapa Haka. Thank you to the parents who helped on the buses and all who were able to join us on the day.

Cross country: Our school cross country will be held next Tuesday, 19 August, starting at 1pm. The race order is as follows: year 6 girls, year 6 boys, year 5 girls, year 5 boys, year 0-1 girls, year 0-1 boys, year 2 girls, year 2 boys, year 3 girls, year 3 boys, year 4 girls, year 4 boys. Each race will start once the previous race has finished. The students are to come to school in their school uniform but bring either house colours or PE uniform to run in. Spectators are welcome to join us.

Absences: There is a lot of sickness around school at the moment and we thank you for keeping your child home when they are unwell as this helps to slow the spread to other students and staff. A reminder that if your child is off school that you need to inform the office of their absence through the school App or email before 8:45am.

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

Catherine Cyprian
Principal





DRS Message

This week we explore our Assumption lessons as we look forward to enjoying our school Feast day. At Stella Maris we learn Catholics pray to Mary, not to worship her as God, but to ask for her intercession as the Mother of God. We explore how it is like asking a special friend to pray for us. Mary is close to God and can therefore pray for us on our spiritual journey. This is based on our belief that there is a communion of saints, and those in Heaven who can help those on earth. Christ himself honoured His Mother and we try to follow His example, just as we try to follow Mary's encouragement to the people at the Wedding at Cana where she told them, "Do just as he tells you!"

"Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee."

This part comes from the Bible, when an angel told Mary she was special because God chose her to be Jesus' mother. "Full of grace" means she was very close to God and loved by Him.

"Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus."

This part is from when Mary's cousin Elizabeth greeted her, recognising that Mary was carrying Jesus.

"Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen."

This part asks Mary to pray for us, especially when we make mistakes, and to help us when we die

MĀRAMA TEAM NEWS

Kia ora Whanau.

What a wonderful finale for our Dance Curriculum programme last Friday! The children's faces shone with pride as they showcased their dance moves, despite the nervous anticipation! They did a great job and once again our thanks go to Omar (ably supported this year by Manny) for such great work with our tamariki. Our thanks, too, to Diana Pearson for organising everything for us again. We are already looking forward to next year's sessions!

It would be great to see you at St John's tomorrow morning for Mass as we celebrate our Mother Mary's Assumption into Heaven.

A reminder of Cross Country next Tuesday from 1pm. The children are encouraged to wear bare feet as we anticipate much muddy fun! ????????

On a less than pleasant note, please remind your children about using the bathroom appropriately. The expectation is that children use the toilet at school in the same way as they would at home.

Ma te Atua koutou ē Manaaki,
the Mārama Team.

AHI TEAM NEWS

Next week we have a number of activities that will keep our students very busy. Tuesday is our whole school cross country. From this event, a team involving Year 5 and 6 students will be chosen to participate in the upcoming interschool event. On Wednesday, it will be St Anthony's turn to hold their school mass in the Library at 1:30pm. On Thursday, our interschool hockey teams will participate in their tournament. We thank Mrs Pearson for the preparation of these teams. Finally, on Friday, we welcome 13 Japanese students who will be working alongside Year 5 and 6 students for three days.

A number of our students are involved in reading prayers for our school mass at St John's Church for 'The Feast of the Assumption', which is also our school feast day. We thank them for their contribution to our church community.

School Feast Day Mass

Feast of the Assumption, 9.30am Mass, 15th August St Johns Church, Orewa. Children will travel to and from Church by bus. The buses will be leaving school before 9am. **Please ensure your children are at school well before the 8:45am bell**, wearing tidy, correct school uniform. Long hair tied back and correct school shoes.

SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY CHANGE OF DATE NOW TUESDAY 19TH AUGUST 1pm

Term 4 Sports: Notices will be going out shortly for the following school team sports that are being offered in term 4. Please keep an eye out for the notice and full information.

- Summer Football (soccer):** Year 1-6 students. Monday evenings at HBC Football Club, Stanmore Bay. Karl Hobman is the initial point of contact and will be sending out information when it becomes available from the club. karl@stellamaris.school.nz



- Touch Rugby:** Year 1-6 students. Wednesday evenings at Silverdale Rugby Club. Karen Bessone is sending out information.



Karen.Bessone@stellamaris.school.nz

- Spring League Netball:** Year 3-6 students. Wednesday evenings (15 October – 19 November) at Edith Hopper Park, Whangaparaoa. Registrations will be in early September. Tara Fisher is the initial point of contact tara@needrecruitment.co.nz



- NB: Basketball** – the basketball seasons now run over two semesters (term 1&2, and term 3 & 4), teams for the current semester were formed earlier this term and remain in place for term 4.



All other sports are offered through the clubs and you need to contact them directly.

Photolife

Individual, class and sibling photos will be taken at school on Monday 25th August. **If you would like a sibling photo** please request this by completing the form that was sent electronically to you in last weeks Beacon or you can complete one at the school office.

Team and Group Photos will be taken on Tuesday 26th August.

2026 Term Dates

Term 1: Monday 2 February to Thursday 2 April

(Public Holidays: Waitangi Day – Friday 6 February, Good Friday – Friday 3 April)

Term 2: Monday 20 April to Friday 3 July

(Public Holidays: ANZAC Day – observed Monday 27 April, King's Birthday – Monday 1 June, Matariki falls in the July holidays)

Term 3: Monday 20 July to Friday 25 September

Term 4: Monday 12 October to Tuesday 15 December

(Public Holidays: Labour Day – Monday 26 October)

PTFA

🚧 **Helpers needed this Saturday!** 🚧

To make way for our new junior playground we need to extend the existing retaining wall. To save money by doing it ourselves, some of our lovely Stella dads have volunteered to make a start on this Saturday 16th August. If you are free and able to help out please join them at 10am Saturday at the school playground. Many hands make light work! 🙏

HOLIDAY WRITING WORKSHOP

Learn the **secrets** of writing great stories from an award-winning author

- 1 day writing camp for ages 9-14
- 1 day workshop for ages 7-10

Meet your presenter:

Maria Gill
The award-winning author of books including *Hz E: Enchanted Doodles* & *Eyes New Zealand Adventures*

Andy G. Fitch says...
"I wish you came just like around where I was a young writer!"

Write Like an Author

Register now at: WriteLikeanAuthor.com

STELLA MARIS PTFA

SEEKING DONATIONS

To use in our live/silent auctions
and as spot prizes at our
Quiz Night and
Splash & Dash fundraiser events!

Vouchers, new products,
experiences... every contribution
helps and is much appreciated!

Thank you for serving our school!

EMAIL US:

fundraising@stellamaris.school.nz



Mark Your Diaries

15 Aug	School feast Day - Feast of the Assumption Mass
19 Aug	Whole school cross country 1pm
25 Aug	Class, Individual and sibling photos
26 Aug	Team, Group Photos
29 Aug	NZ Playhouse - The Boy Who Cried Wolf
04 Sep	Inter school Cross Country
12 Sep	Second Hand Uniform Sale 2:30pm

2025 School Term Dates

TERM 3	Monday 14 July - 19 September
TERM 4	Monday 6 October - Tuesday 16 December

2025 Public Holidays

Labour Day	Mon	Oct 27
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STELLA MARIS PTFA 2025 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

TERM 3

- 18 July - Second Hand Uniform Sale
- 8 August - PTFA Fun Lunch 
- 22 August - Stella Maris Quiz Night - Parents Only 
- 5 September - Father's Day Activities and Morning Tea 
- 12 September - Second Hand Uniform Sale
- 16 September - Wheel-A-Thon Fundraiser 
- 16 September - Sausage Sizzle Fun Lunch 

TERM 4

- 10 October - Second Hand Uniform Sale
- 28 October - Grandparent's Day and Morning Tea 
- 21 November - Mufti Day and Gourmet Food Hamper Donation
- 5 December - Splash and Dash 
- Colour Run - early 2026 

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

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**

**“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**