

# Stella Maris Catholic Primary School

Kia ora e te Whānau

Exciting news! Thanks to the wonderful support of our school community over the last couple of years the PTFA have raised the funds required for the upgrade of the junior playground and this project will be going ahead over the summer break. There has been a shift in the project with the need to upgrade the playground equipment itself due to its age and to maintain the health and safety standards. As we looked into the original project of replacing the bark with a safety matting/turf it became evident that there was a need to replace the 20 year old playground equipment also. To do both would cost around \$200 000. The decision has been made to upgrade the play equipment and replace the bark, which can be achieved with the \$100 000 the PTFA and community have raised.

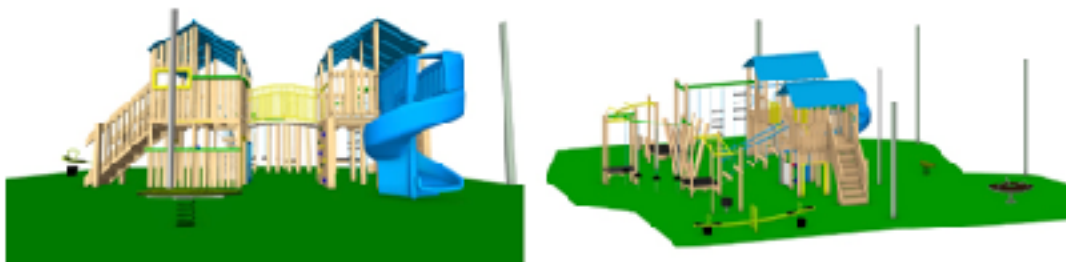
The PTFA have also purchased soccer/rugby goals for the field. We are now waiting for a long enough dry spell to allow the field to dry out sufficiently so that the goals can be constructed and erected, and then for the students to be able to play on the field to enjoy them.

All of this work is because of the support that all of our families give to the PTFA fundraising events. Thank you to our amazing PTFA – those who held this role over the past few years, and the current team, and to all of you who support them.

There will need to be a couple of working bees to carry out some preparation work for the playground upgrade. Please keep an eye out for information about these and consider if you can give your time and energy to help with this.

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

Catherine Cyprian  
Principal



## 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)

## Stella Maris School Board Elections 2025

Please check your emails for nominations forms. If you would like a hard copy, please ask at the school office. Nominations close 12 noon, Wednesday 6th August. Voting papers will be emailed to you. Election day is Wednesday 10 September.



## DRS Message

Threaded through our RE curriculum are cross themes we encounter regularly. One of these is Īnoi Prayer. Father Chris mentioned in his sermon last Sunday that there is nothing too great and nothing too small that we can't pray for. He mentioned, as we do in our RE lessons, that communication with our God is important for us to maintain that relationship. Īnoi Prayer is part of every aspect of living a Christian life. It is a critical area of personal and communal spirituality and "is both a challenge and an adventure". In prayer we listen to God, encounter God, discern God's will and give voice to our heart's desires. We enter into relationship with God. There are many forms and styles through which the heart and mind may be opened to God. The practice and habit of Īnoi Prayer can be learned and embedded, and is modelled in Jesus, the lives of saints and whānau, at home and at school, and throughout all Church liturgies and Sacraments. God is always seeking to enter into dialogue with us, Īnoi Prayer is our response through entering into dialogue with God. We begin prayer by saying, "Kia Īnoi tātou, let us pray". Prayer unifies us, speaks within us and we recognise ourselves in it.

We see so many examples in scripture of the importance of prayer.

**Luke 11:1** — He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples."

**Mark 14:32, 35-36** — They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." ... And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said, "Abba, Father, for you all things are possible..."

**Matthew 6:5** — And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward.

**Matthew 21:22** — Whatever you ask for in prayer with faith, you will receive.

**Luke 6:12** — Now during those days he went out to the mountain to pray; and he spent the night in prayer to God.

**Luke 11:9-10** — So I say to you, ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

**Acts 2:42** — They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

**Romans 1:8** — First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed throughout the world.

**Romans 12:12** — Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.

**Philippians 4:6** — Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

## TEAM NEWS

### Mārama Team

Kia ora Whanau. A great start to our Dance Curriculum lessons this week! The children are enthusiastic and throwing themselves into the new dance moves. Remember that the programme will culminate in a dance performance, to which you are all invited, on the final Friday - August 7th - between 9 and 10.30 (Week 4). The following Friday, 15th August, we will celebrate the Feast of the Assumption, our special school feast day, with Mass at St John's in Orewa. All are also invited to share this special occasion with us, as we explore further our focus on To Tatou Whakapapa - Our Story. We are also gearing up for our school Cross Country later in the term - in three weeks time, to be exact. Our tamariki will practising daily till then.

Ma te Atua koutou ē Manaaki,  
the Mārama Team.

### Ahi Team

This week, our students have enthusiastically begun their dance lessons. Please ensure that all payments for these lessons are made at the school office as soon as possible. Due to a change in dates across our school cluster, we have unfortunately had to withdraw from the Interschool Rippa Rugby Festival. The Interschool Cross Country will now take place on Thursday, 4th September. To provide our students with a similar opportunity, we will be hosting a Stella Maris Rippa Rugby Festival later in the term for our Stella interschool teams. This event will be held at school, which means our Ahi students will have the chance to attend and support their peers. A big thank you to Mrs Bessone for organising this event. Our Kapa Haka group is currently preparing for their Showcase performance at Rosmini College on Wednesday, 7th August. We are seeking parent support for the day, and a contribution of \$6 is required. Uniforms are being arranged, and a reminder that girls will need to have their hair in a bun for this performance. Thank you to Ms Hunt for all her mahi and support.

## Dance Curriculum Showcase Friday 8 August

Next Friday 8th August, students will be showcasing the dances they have been learning during the dance programme. Weather permitting this will be held on the school courts.

### Session 1 9.00 - 9.40am

Year 0, 1, 3 and St Joachim, St Patrick, (Yr 5 St Anthony)

### Session 2 9.40 - 10.20am

Year 2, 4 and St Dominic, St Joseph, (Yr 6 St Anthony)

## 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.

## Library Book Care Reminder

This year, we've had quite a few library books returned damaged – some with water, food, or mould, and others from general rough handling. Sadly, many of these were brand new books we were really excited to add to our shelves!

Please help us keep our library books in great condition by encouraging your child to:

- Keep books away from food and drink
- Make sure they stay dry (especially in school bags!)
- Turn pages carefully
- Store them in a safe place at home

Please take a moment to talk with your child about looking after their library books so everyone can enjoy them for longer. Thank you!

## Marine Reserves (Written By A Year 4 Student)

We are learning how to write a paragraph.

Marine Reserves help protect the biodiversity of New Zealand waters. Marine reserves are important because they have healthy environments for the creatures that live there. Sadly people can't fish there because it's home to wonderful sea creatures that don't want to become our dinner. People wonder what biodiversity means, but all it means is fish and plants that live in our stunning oceans. Marine reserves are very special to scientists because they can study all about them and possibly cure certain types of diseases like cancer. By keeping marine reserves safe, we make sure New Zealand's ocean life can stay healthy for the future.

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

## Parent Prayer Group

You are invited to come and join in prayer at Stella Maris. The next prayer group gathering will be at 8.45 - 9am, on Thursday 31st July in the school library prayer room .

## First Holy Communion Mass

The 72 children completing this year's Sacramental Programme will be receiving their First Holy Communion during the 10.30am Mass on August 10 at St. John's Church. As the Eucharist is the summit of Christian life, it is important that the children celebrate the Eucharist within a Sunday Mass highlighting the communal nature of this sacrament. The church will be quite busy so you may like to take this into consideration when planning which mass to attend that weekend. Apologies for any inconvenience caused by this.





**STELLA MARIS PARENTS**

*Oscars  
Theme*

**QUIZ**

**NIGHT**

*Hosted by* Karl Hobman

**FRIDAY  
AUGUST 22**

**AT HIBISCUS COAST RSA**  
DOORS OPEN AT 5:00PM

TICKETS

**\$30**

PER PERSON

TEAMS OF 6,8,10,12 OR  
SINGLES  
AVAILABLE TO  
PURCHASE ON KINDO

*The Events*

HAPPY HOUR 5-6:30PM

BUFFET DINNER \$28/PP  
STARTING AT 5:30PM  
DRINK SPECIALS ALL NIGHT

LIVE BAND PERFORMANCE  
BY OUR VERY OWN  
ROY OLIVER & ADAM STEVENSON  
FROM CAPITAL THEATRE

**LIVE AUCTION FOR PRIZES**

FOR MORE INFORMATION: [TARA@NEEDRECRUITMENT.CO.NZ](mailto:TARA@NEEDRECRUITMENT.CO.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
------------	-----	--------

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 

**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](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**