

Stella Maris Catholic Primary School

NEWSLETTER 12 February 2026

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Kia ora e te Whānau

The Religious Education and Social Sciences focus for the term is Our Story – Ā Tātou Whakapapa. In this unit of learning the students are learning about who we are as individuals, families, a school, a parish, a church and a community. Part of this learning is understanding the charism of Stella Maris and how we are guided by Our Lady, Mary, Star of the Sea on our journey to know Jesus better. Our school values, the Marian Values, are at the heart of all we do at Stella Maris, it is through them that we “Shine for God” and show that we are part of God’s family. As we discuss and learn how to demonstrate the values at school, you might like to explore at home how you demonstrate the Marian Values as a family.

*Faith -Whakapono, Love – Aroha, Wisdom – Whakaaronui, Belonging – Whanaungatanga,
Service – Āwhina, Guardianship – Kaitiakitanga*



Meet the Teacher: You are invited to the Meet the Teacher sessions next Friday, 20 February. The Mārama Team (Yr 1-3) session is at 3:30pm-4:15pm, and the Ahi Team (Yr 4-6) session is 4:15pm-5:00pm. Each of the sessions will begin in the hall where you will be introduced to the teachers in the team, and learn about how the team works together. Following this you will move through to your child’s classroom to meet their teacher in person and learn about the specific routines of the class. Please note this is not a time to discuss individual children, there will be an opportunity for one to one discussions later in the term. We hope that you are able to join us for the Meet the Teacher.

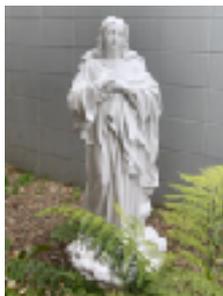
Reporting Absences: It is important that you inform the office staff if your child is going to be absent, and when doing this that you give a clear reason why they are absent. Please note that there are different codes for the different reasons for absences. If we do not have a clear reason your child will be marked as an unexplained or truant absence. You can inform the office of an absence by ringing the school office (09 427 9189) and leaving a message on the absence line, or emailing absences@stellamaris.school.nz or using the Absentee link in the School App. You are able to view your child’s attendance on Hero.

Parish Picnic: A reminder that you are all invited to join in the parish picnic at Wenderholm Regional Park on Sunday 15th February, after the 10:30am Mass. Bring your own picnic rug, picnic lunch and join in some games. Look out for the Stella Maris gazebos. If the weather is not suitable the picnic will be postponed to Sunday 22nd February – notification of any postponement will be made at the 8:30am and 10:30am Masses, and on the HBC Parish Facebook page.

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

Catherine Cyprian

Principal



DRS Message

We start 2026 exploring A Tatou Whakapapa-Our Story in our RE sessions. A Tatou Whakapapa focuses on the Church's story so far, but also on young people's own story, the story of their school, people and land. It addresses such questions as where did the Church come from, what are the stories of the Church, and where do these stories intersect with my own life? It considers the Church's story as a shared story that has influenced the whole world and our own land from the perspective of 'this is my own story and our story', rather than just 'their story'. Church history forms an important part of the knowledge base for young people in search of identity and that identity must be understood in light of their personal history and their status as human beings made in the image of the Creator and their relationship to God. Young people should experience a sense of belonging, connection and interdependency with God, the Church, other humans and creation.

Below is a brief explanation of Key Content from the Curriculum.

My Story

The young person is introduced to the basic themes of Christian anthropology: what does it mean to be human and who are we in the eyes of our Creator? The young person learns that they are made in the image of God and that they are called to be in relationship with God, the Creator, who loves them. They are assured of their uniqueness and value. They have gifts they have been given and are called to use. They have a belonging, a purpose and a future.

My Story, My Whānau And My People

The young person is part of the story of their family and the people that their family belongs to. They appreciate the spirituality of the bonds of family and people with whenua, place and journey. They are assured of the importance of their culture in how they live and express their relationship with God.

Our School And Our Parish

The young person learns the history of their school and the role the community had in establishing it. The hopes and intentions of the founders of the schools, the Bishops of Aotearoa New Zealand and the wider Church community regarding their education, well-being and relationship with God, should be emphasised (rather than focusing only on a Religious Order itself). The young person should be aware that they are part of a parish and diocese and appreciate the relational structure of the Church.

Our Country

The young person learns about the spirituality of Aotearoa New Zealand before Christianity came to the land. They understand how Catholicism arrived and how it was received. They learn about the history of Catholicism in Aotearoa New Zealand. Young people with strong links to other countries learn their own history of how Catholicism came to their place.

Our Church

The young person needs to understand the past to understand their present and imagine the future. It is important for them to understand Catholic Tradition and traditions — the origins, practices, changes and continuity of the Church which have brought it to the present day. They also need to understand the Church's impact on general society, including those without faith, in the past, present and future.

Our God

The young person needs to understand that all that has happened and will happen does so within the loving embrace of Te Atua who continuously creates, calls, forgives, inspires and challenges humanity. For humanity would not exist if not created by God's love and constantly preserved by it.

Mārama Team News

Kia Ora Mārama whānau! Welcome back for the 2026 school year. This year we welcome Mrs Mary Morton-Jones who is teaching Year 3 in St Francis and Mrs Nada Boric who we have recruited back from the Ahi team and will be working in St Mary. A team letter has been sent home and also your individual teacher will be sending a letter too, please keep an eye out for these. Please remember to name your child's school hat and shoes. With this wonderful, hot weather please ensure that drink bottles come to school each day and that sunblock is applied in the morning. There is sunblock available in classrooms for children to use before breaks. Please note, starting next week we will be having a Athletics Rotation in the afternoons that the children will need their PE gear for. Teachers are busy setting up class routines and expectations and we are enjoying getting to know the children.

Ahi Team News

Welcome back to our new school year. Here are a few reminders for the Ahi Team.

Sport - Athletics practice for Y5/6's is currently on Tuesday and Friday mornings at 9am. Year 5/6 students can come to school in their PE uniform with their school uniform in their bags to get changed into after Sport. The Year 4's have their Sport session 9am on Thursday mornings. The Year 4's are to come to school in their school uniform and will change into their PE gear before school.

Devices - On Monday, the Team had a Device Information session, where we discussed school rules and government regulations regarding devices. Students have access to their school emails and are currently joining their Google classrooms. Many of those bringing their personal devices are now connected to the school wifi. First port of call for any device or wifi issues is the class teacher, who will direct students to staff who can help.

Maths Buddy - Students should their username and passwords for Maths Buddy, which is an online system that students can access at school or for homelearning. Most teachers will be assigning their students tasks over the next few weeks.

Ash Wednesday Mass

On Wednesday 18 February all students and staff will be going to St John's Church in Orewa to take part in Ash Wednesday Mass. We will be travelling by bus and we ask that all students are here by 8.30am so your child's teacher can do the role before the buses leaves at 9am. Mass starts at 9.45am and you are more than welcome to join us at St John's.

Whānau Connect Conferences

Mark your diary that on Wednesday 25th March school will finish at 12.20pm for our Whānau Connect Conferences. A letter will be coming home with information about these next week.

These conferences will also continue on Thursday 26th however school will finish at the normal time of 2.45pm.

School Accounts

Please be aware that school accounts have not yet been sent out. We are waiting to have our first board meeting to finalise these and once this has taken place they will be sent out accordingly.



Wheels!

The track is OPEN

Bring your wheels to use at
lunchtime



Community News

If your child is year 5 and above and you would like them to learn French, we have one of our former parents who is offering tuition. Please see her poster below.

EXCUSE YOUR FRENCH

FRENCH

STANMORE BAY

Off Cooper Road - Bus Stop 4066 Vipond Road

After School Programme
Open to keen learners Year 5 and above

MONDAYS | 1:30-4:30 PM

FROM
\$32
PER CLASS

Learn French like a native speaker. Grow your brain, build confidence & discover a new culture.

BOOK NOW!

claire@excuseyourfrench.com
@excuse_your_french

ATTENDANCE DUES

Investing in **Catholic School Infrastructure**

**Today
AND FOR
Future
GENERATIONS**



2026 ATTENDANCE DUES CHARGES	PRIMARY STUDENTS	SECONDARY STUDENTS
per year (incl. GST)	\$544	\$1,124
per term (incl. GST)	\$136	\$281

Attendance Dues must be paid either in full at the beginning of the year or through regular instalments (weekly, fortnightly, monthly, or per term). *Please note that paying in full at the end of the year is not an available option.*

Attendance Dues are used to pay for building related costs at Catholic Schools in the Auckland Diocese.

Paying Attendance Dues is a condition of enrolment for all students attending New Zealand Catholic Schools.

Attendance Dues are compulsory – there is a legal requirement for parents and caregivers to pay Attendance Dues under the Education and Training Act 2020.

For more information:

<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/catholic-schools-2/>

Phone: (09) 360 3040 **Email:** acfl@cda.org.nz



Mō tā tou, ā, mō ngā uri ā muri ake nei | For us, and our children after us.

Catholic Special Character Contribution

The Catholic Special Character contribution is used to fund the staff and services provided by the Catholic Education Services Board, who are responsible, on behalf of the Proprietor for maintaining and enhancing the Catholic Special Character of our schools. This includes:

Religious Education

Supporting schools to deliver high-quality, nationally approved Religious Education programmes.

Professional Development

Providing training for teachers and leaders to gain the qualifications and certification needed to teach and lead in Catholic schools.

Leadership Formation

Growing and forming strong Catholic leaders in our schools.

Governance Support

Supporting school Boards to govern with a Catholic worldview.



The contribution is \$70 per student per year, or \$17.50 per term. The contribution is tax deductible, and a 33% refund can be claimed from the IRD.

For more information go to:

www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/catholic-education-services/

Phone: (09) 360 3091 **Email:** ces@cda.org.nz

Your contribution ensures that the Catholic special character remains well-supported and at the heart of our schools.

Stella Maris Catholic Primary School

Mark Your Diaries

13 Feb	Second Hand Uniform Sale 8.15am
15 Feb	Parish Picnic 11am Wenderholm
18 Feb	Ash Wednesday Mass St John's 9.45am
20 Feb	Meet The Teacher 3.30pm Mārama. 4.15pm Ahi
26 Feb	Carmel College Open Day 1.30pm
27 Feb	Carmel College Open Day 9.30am
02 Mar	Ahi Athletics Day
25 Mar	Whānau Connect Conferences
26 Mar	Whānau Connect Conferences
02 Apr	END OF TERM ONE 2:45pm
20 Apr	Term Two Commences 8.45am

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

2026 School Term Dates

TERM 1	Monday 2 February - Thursday 2 April
TERM 2	Monday 20 April - Friday 3 July
TERM 3	Monday 20 July - Friday 25 September
TERM 4	Monday 12 October - Tuesday 15 December

2026 Public Holidays

Waitangi Day	Friday 6 February
Good Friday	Friday 3 April
ANZAC Day	Monday 27 April (Observed)
King's Birthday	Monday 1 June
Matariki	Friday 10 July (During July Holidays)
Labour Day	Monday 26 October



CARMEL COLLEGE

Empowering young women through a Catholic education in the Holy tradition to pursue personal excellence and to be prepared to challenge and shape the future.

Visit our Open Days on
Thursday 12 February 2026 8:30 - 1:00pm and
Friday 21 February 2026 10am - 12pm

Register Here
for open days





Enrolment Applications for 2027 open on 27 January 2025

We accept enrolment applications online please click the enrolment icon on the home page
www.stellamaris.school.nz or call 09 426 5599 for help. Enrolment closes 15 March 2025

Address: 207 Stokeswood Road, Hillside, Auckland. Email: enrol@stellamaris.school.nz Website: www.stellamaris.school.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**