

Stella Maris Catholic Primary School

NEWSLETTER 19 February 2026

NEWSLETTER

Kia ora e te Whānau

Yesterday we marked the beginning of Lent by joining the parish for Mass. The ashes that marked our foreheads are a sign of repentance – as the ashes were placed on our foreheads we heard the words “turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel”. In this time of Lent we are called to repent for our sins and embrace the teachings of Jesus. We can do this in three ways – pray, fast and give. The students will be reflecting on these in class, and you could discuss as a family how you could find some time to pray a little more during Lent, what you could choose to give up for fasting, and how you could give alms to help those you know who are in need.

Through the parish there are several ways for parishioners to give to those in need: you can donate non-perishable food items that are passed on to Love Soup, you can make a donation to Serving Spoons (details are in the parish newsletter) or you can give to the Caritas Lenten Appeal - <https://www.caritas.org.nz/> Or you may leave non-perishable food items in the basket in the main atrium at school and we will deliver them to the parish.

A children's prayer for during Lent:

"Dear God, thank you for this special time of Lent. Help me to grow closer to you by praying more, helping others, and forgiving those who hurt me. I want to become more like you, especially by loving others and by giving up things that keep me away from you. Help me to be kind, generous, and faithful every day. In the name of Christ our Lord, Amen"



Carpark Safety: Please help us to keep everyone safe in our school carpark, remember that children can be hard to see, and can be impulsive.

- Drive slowly in the carpark at all times
- Do not park on footpaths and yellow lines (this will help with visibility)
- No riding or bikes or scooters in the carpark area
- No bouncing/kicking balls in the carpark area
- Use the footpaths and crossings to move around the carpark.

Meet the Teacher: We are looking forward to seeing you all at the Meet the Teacher tomorrow afternoon. The Mārama team (Yr 1-3) session begins at 3:30 in the school hall, Ahi team (Yr 4-6) session begins at 4:15pm in the school hall.

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

Catherine Cyprian

Principal



DRS Message

On Wednesday the school joined our HBC Parish for Ash Wednesday mass. Fr James led us in a beautiful service where the students and parishioners were encouraged to make Lenten promises that help us demonstrate love for God, love for others and love for ourselves. Our students did us proud with their mass responses, singing and prayerfulness. Our student leaders read prayers and led the readings like experts. These moments bring together all the work done in classes by the teachers and staff to prepare our students for participating in the Catholic mass. It was a privilege to be part of this Ash Wednesday mass. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent where we prepare for the Liturgical season of Easter. Pope Francis once said that Lent is a time to confront both personal and collective struggles with faith and compassion. May we use this time of Lent to grow closer to God. We are reminded as the cross of ashes is traced on our heads at this Ash Wednesday mass, may we “repent and turn back to God”.



Mārama Team News

Kiaora Whanau, this week started by joining together as a team for the first time to celebrate assembly which was led by St Lucy class. It was great to get together and learn about the magic word YET! We were also able to welcome all of the new children who have joined our Marama team this year. Cleanliness in the toilets is starting to become an issue, we ask that you please reinforce the importance of correct bathroom usage. We look forward to seeing you at the Meet the Teacher meeting tomorrow in the hall at 3.30pm.

Ahi Team News

Ahi classes are fully engaged in their learning programmes, and there is definitely a buzz in the air. On Wednesday, the school attended the Ash Wednesday Mass at St John’s Church. We thank Samuel Bell, Spencer Heinrich, and George Hammond for delivering the Scripture Readings and Prayers of the Faithful at this service. Next Monday, St Joseph will be leading the Whole School Assembly at 9am. Our athletics training sessions will continue, with the Year 5/6 students on Tuesday and Friday and the Y4’s on Thursday. The Interschool Cricket Teams have been busy training for their event on 5th March, and we thank Mrs Bessone for organising this event.

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, this is due to take place on Wednesday and therefore accounts will be sent out accordingly.

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.

Sport

A notice went out on Hero on Tuesday 17th February for after school Basketball registrations - Term 2, held at Stanmore Bay Leisure Centre. Registrations close Friday 27th February 2026.

Stella Stars Playgroup

We have a playgroup called Stella Stars that is run by a group of our Mum's that takes place in the school hall most Friday mornings from 9am to 10.30/11am.

They are meeting tomorrow morning so please feel free to go along. It is a wonderful way of getting to know some of our families in our school and the community.

Parish News

The 2026 Sacramental Programme

This programme will be run during terms 2 and 3 this year. Children need to be aged 9 by June 1st to enrol in the programme. Information and enrolment details will be in the newsletter over the coming weeks. Applications will open on March 2 and close on April 18.

This programme is facilitated by the Hibiscus Coast Parish so please email Brenda Neville@ Brenda.neville@hibiscuscoastparish.org.nz if you have any queries.

RCIC Programme

(Baptism Programme for children aged 7+)

This programme begins on March 8th at St. John's Church in Orewa. It runs for 3 Sunday mornings (from 9am to 11.30am) on March 8th, March 15th and March 22nd. A parent needs to attend each of these 3 mornings with their child. The children participating in this programme will be baptised on March 28th @ 11.30am at St. John's Church. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Brenda Neville - Brenda.neville@hibiscuscoastparish.org.nz

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 466 Vipond Road

After School Programme
Open to keen learners Year 5 and above

MONDAYS | 3:30-4:30 PM

FROM **\$32** PER CLASS

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

BOOK NOW!

doira@excuseyourfrench.com
[@excuse_your_french](https://www.instagram.com/excuse_your_french)

United Spirit!

THE PTFA WOULD LIKE TO ANNOUNCE

STELLA MARIS'S FIRST EVER COLOUR RUN

MARCH 20
3PM - WARMUP
3:30PM - START

TICKETS LIVE ON KINDO
\$10/PP OR \$25/FAMILY PASS FOR 3 OR MORE CHILDREN

ONLINE FUNDRAISER TO UPGRADE THE SCHOOL'S SPORTS AND PE EQUIPMENT

SIGN UP NOW AT
[HTTPS://STELLAMARISCOLOURRUN.RAISEIT.CO.NZ/](https://stellamariscoLOURRUN.RAISEIT.CO.NZ/)

A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

SHOE SCIENCE | **Harcourts** | THE POOL MAN | HOLEY MOLEY | PAKnSAVE | SecondWind | NEW WORLD | F45 TRAINING

SAUSAGE SIZZLE (PREPAY ON KINDO) AND THE HARCOURTS ICE CREAM TRUCK WILL BE AT THE EVENT. BRING CASH TO AVOID QUEUES!

GET READY TO RUN, GET MESSY, AND HAVE FUN! - BYO WHITE T-SHIRT

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: STELLAPTFA@STELLAMARIS.SCHOOL.NZ

Stella Maris sport 2026



Year 0-6 School teams

These teams are organised by the teacher coordinating the sport. Keep an eye on the weekly newsletters for sign up details.

Term 1:

Basketball semester 1

Term 2:

Basketball semester 1

Netball semester 1

Hockey

Term 3:

Netball semester 1 continued

Basketball semester 2

Hockey continued

Term 4:

Basketball semester 2

Summer hockey

Touch rugby

Summer football

Please note:

- If parents are organising sports teams and would like to register them under the Stella Maris School name, please contact Karen Bessone before doing so. (karen.bessone@stellamaris.school.nz)
- Only students who are signed up for the sport may take part in games. If your team is short on the day, please connect with another registered Stella Maris team.



Local clubs offer various sports. Please contact them directly if you would like to sign up:

Ironup sports: <https://ironupsports.co.nz/>

Silverdale Rugby rippa and tackle: <https://www.silverdalerugby.co.nz/>

Raiders Rugby league club: <https://www.hbcraiders.co.nz/>

Pirates tag rugby club: HBC Pirates Tag Football (Facebook page)

Northern Arena Swim School: <https://www.northernarena.co.nz/>

Silverdale Tennis club: <https://clubspark.kiwi/silverdaletennisclub/>

Hibiscus Coast AFC: <https://hbcafc.org.nz/>

Rodney District Sports(RDS): <https://rdsports.co.nz/>

Year 5 and 6 Inter-school competitions/festivals:

Term 1:

5th March Cricket - Victor Eaves

19th March Athletics - Orewa College

Term 2:

14th May Football - Metro Park

11th June Rippa Rugby - Silverdale Rugby Club

Term 3:

30th July Hockey - Metro Park

27th August Cross country - Shakespeare Regional Park

Term 4:

22nd October Softball - Victor Eaves

5th November Swimming - Northern Arena



Mark Your Diaries

20 Feb	Meet The Teacher 3.30pm Mārama. 4.15pm Ahi
22Feb	Parish Picnic 11am Wenderholm
26 Feb	Carmel College Open Day 1.30pm
27 Feb	Carmel College Open Day 9.30am
02 Mar	Ahi Athletics Day
06 Mar	Pizza Fun Lunch
25 Mar	School Finishes at 12.20pm
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 27 February 2026 9.30 - 1.00pm and
Friday 28 February 2026 1.30pm - 5.00pm

Register Free
for 30 days

Enrolment Applications for 2027 open on 27 January 2026

For all enrolment applications please check all the website conditions. Email Mrs Susan Jones at jones@carmelcollege.org.nz or call 09 426 5599 ext 11. Enrolments close 15 March 2026.

Address: 24 Shakerstone Road, Milford, Auckland. Email: enrol@carmelcollege.org.nz Website: www.carmelcollege.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**