

# Stella Maris Catholic Primary School

NEWSLETTER 26 February 2026

## NEWSLETTER

Kia ora e te Whānau

Thank you to those families who came along to the Meet the Teacher last Friday evening. It was a good time for you to learn about the routines of the team and your child's class. Coming up on 25 and 26 March we are holding the Whānau Connect sessions. This is an opportunity to meet with your child and their teacher to discuss goals for their learning and how these can be achieved - at school and at home. We ask that the students are part of these meetings as they are central to the learning and need to know and understand their goals. Details for booking a time slot were on the letter that was sent home yesterday. If you haven't seen the letter yet, please check your child's bag or book bag.

The PTFA held their first meeting of the year on Tuesday evening and have in place the fundraising events for Term 1. Next Friday, 6 March is the first fun lunch of the year – a pizza and iceblock lunch. Orders for this need to be placed on Kindo. This year the PTFA are very excited to be introducing a new event – the Colour Run, which will be held on Friday 20 March. For full details please check the information that was sent home last week. There are prize draws each week in the lead up and all children signed up are in the draw. Congratulations to Jake Madsen in St John class who won the first prize draw. Thank you to all who have sent back the forms showing ways that you can help the PTFA during the year. Many hands make light work. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 31 March at 7pm – all are welcome to attend.

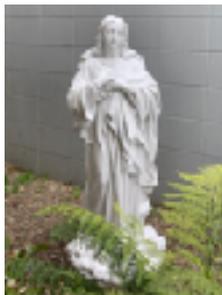
As we journey through Lent towards Easter you are invited to join with either the parish or the school (or both) for the Stations of the Cross. **Stations of the Cross in the Parish:** during Lent every Friday, 7pm at St John's, and every Sunday, 4pm at St Francis. On Friday 13 March, a small group of Year 5/6 students from Stella Maris will be leading the Stations of the cross at St John's at 7pm. You are all welcome to come along. **Stations of the Cross at Stella Maris:** Thursday 2 April, St Anthony class will be leading the school Stations of the Cross in the school hall at 9:00am. You are very welcome to attend this prayerful liturgy.



Ma te Atua koe e manaaki – May God bless you

Catherine Cyprian

Principal



## DRS Message

Lent lessons were explored over the last few weeks with a range of experiences and activities. Across the

### Year 1

#### The children will:

Recognise Lent as the season for getting ready for Easter.

Identify ways people can get ready for Easter.

Recognise that people get themselves ready for Easter by loving God and others.

Name ways people can be more loving during Lent.

### Year 2

#### The children will:

Recognise that the Sign of the Cross is a reminder to live as Jesus lived.

Identify some practical ways people can live as Jesus lived.

Recognise that Lent is a season when people think about changing to become more like Jesus.

Identify ways children can change to live more like Jesus lived.

### Year 3

#### The children will:

Name traditional signs that show Lent as a season of change.

Identify natural signs in Aotearoa New Zealand that can be related to the season of Lent.

Recognise Lent as a time for people to change their ways as Zacchaeus did.

Identify ways that people can change in Lent.

### Year 4

#### The children will:

Recognise Lent as a season for turning back to God through fasting and almsgiving.

Identify ways people are helped to turn back to God during the season of Lent.

Recognise Lent as a season for turning back to God through prayer.

Identify ways people can pray alone, with family-whanau and in parishes during Lent.

### Year 5

#### The children will:

Recognise Lent as a season of 40 days beginning on Ash Wednesday.

Explain the meaning of receiving the ashes at the celebration of the Eucharist or in a special ceremony on

Identify at least one purpose of Lent.

Recognise that people can turn back to God and grow in friendship with God through prayer - karakia.

Identify different ways people can participate in prayer - personal, family and the celebration of the Eucharist

Recognise that the Stations of the Cross help people pray with Jesus on his way to his death.

### Year 6

#### The children will:

Explain what it means that Lent is a time of renewal and spiritual growth.

Explain what Luke 9:23 means 2 identify the virtues people require to take up their crosses.



## Mārama Team News

Kiaora Whānau, this week a notice has come home regarding the Mārama Team trip to the Auckland War Memorial Museum in week 9. We are very excited for this trip and know that the children will benefit immensely from this experience. Please ensure that forms are completed and returned to the school office.

We have also been continuing to practice our athletics skills and will be having an afternoon sprint session next Thursday, 5th March. On the afternoon of Thursday 19th March it will be our athletics showcase. Now that we are half way through our first term, we are beginning to notice how tired the children are. Please encourage them to have good bedtime routines so that they are coming to school ready for learning.

## Ahi Team News

Next week, the Year 5 and 6's will be holding their Athletics Day at school. We will begin with the heats and finals of the sprints at 9am. The field events of High Jump, Long Jump, Shotput, and Discus will then continue until lunchtime. From this competition, we will choose our interschool team. The Year 4 students will hold an athletics fun day at a later date.

Next Thursday, the interschool cricket teams will be participating in their event. Thank you to our coaches and parents transporting our students. We wish our teams well at this event.

Our Kapa Haka group began their sessions last Friday, with a large group of interested students joining Ms Hunt in the hall.

## School Accounts

Please be aware that school accounts have not yet been sent out. These will now be sent out tomorrow and the beginning of next week.

## Whānau Connect Conferences

Mark your diary that on Wednesday 25th March school will **finish at 12.20pm** for our Whānau Connect Conferences. A letter was sent home today and interviews will open up on Monday 2nd March for bookings.

## 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.

Please feel free to join them as it is a wonderful way of getting to know some of our families in our school and the community.

## 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](mailto:Brenda.neville@hibiscuscoastparish.org.nz)

## New Curriculum Abbreviations And Phrases

In our new English and Maths curriculums there are abbreviations and phrases that you will hear often.

### English Curriculum

- Cvc word = Consonant, vowel, consonant eg cat
- Ccvc word = Consonant, consonant, vowel, consonant eg ship
- Phoneme = Smallest unit of speech sound in a spoken word eg played - p / l / a / y / d
- Grapheme = A letter or letters that represent a sound eg played - p / l / ay / d
- Morpheme = Smallest possible meaningful unit in a word base words, prefixes and suffixes all carry meaning eg 'play + ed' - fun activity, past tense
- Phonemic awareness = The ability to isolate, segment and blend the smallest unit of sound (phoneme) in words
- Digraph = A combination of two letters representing one sound, as in *ph* and *ey*.
- **Decoding** = Is the ability to "sound out" words, recognising letter patterns and blending sounds to form words
- **Encoding** = The process of translating spoken sounds into written symbols (letters) to spell words. It's essentially the opposite of decoding

### Mathematics Curriculum

- Operations = addition, subtraction, multiplication, division
- **Subtise** = to perceive the number of (a group of items) at a glance and without counting
- **Base 10 structure** = The base-ten system, which we call the "decimal" system, requires a total of ten different symbols/digits to write any number. They are, 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9. The decimal system is also an example of a positional base system, which simply means that the position of a digit gives its place value.
- Rational number = Is any number that can be written as a fraction, where both the denominator and the numerator are integers and the denominator is a number other than 0.
- Financial Mathematics = Representing money values in multiple ways using notes and coins.

If you have any questions about what your child is learning in class please contact your child's teacher in the first instance.

Mrs Hogg

## 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](mailto:Brenda.neville@hibiscuscoastparish.org.nz) if you have any queries.

Application forms are available in the school office.

# 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](mailto: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:

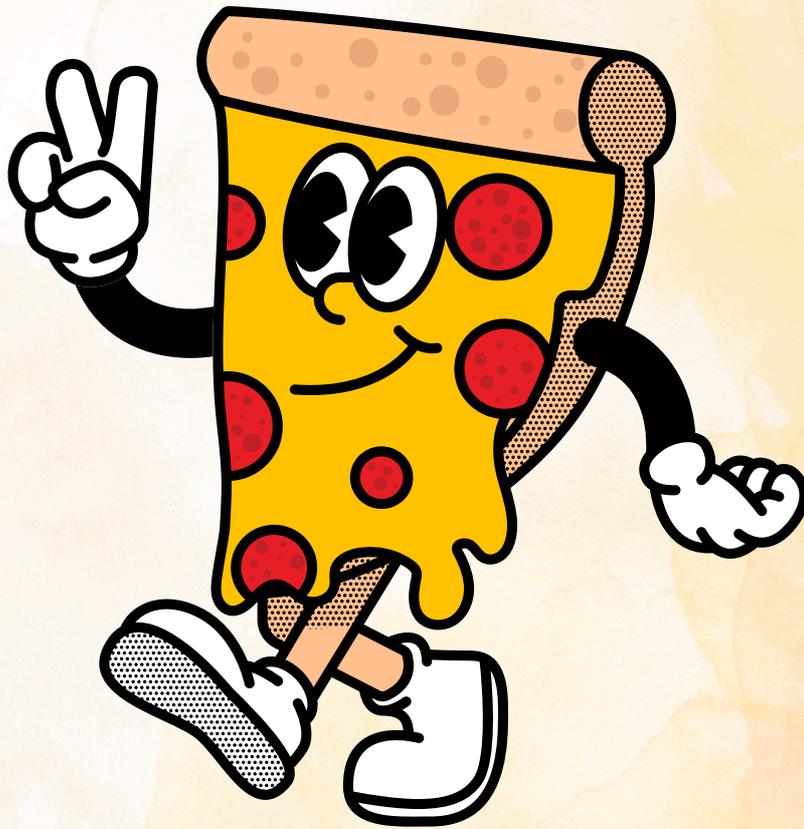
22nd October Softball - Victor Eaves

5th November Swimming - Northern Arena



**THE PTFA  
PRESENTS**

# **PIZZA AND ICE BLOCKS FUN LUNCH**



*Order Now on Kindo*

**MARCH 6TH**

**PIZZA**  
**\$2.50/SLICE**  
**\*GF AVAIL**



**LEMONADE**  
**ICE BLOCKS**  
**\$2.50**

## Mark Your Diaries

27 Feb	Carmel College Open Day 9.30am
02 Mar	Ahi Athletics Day
02 Mar	Ahi Athletics Day
05 Mar	Whole School Liturgy
05 Mar	Year 5/6 Interschool Cricket at Victor Eaves
05 Mar	Mārama Sprints
06 Mar	Pizza Fun Lunch
09 Mar	Mārama Assembly 9am
13 Mar	Whole School Cultural Day
25 Mar	<b>School Finishes at 12.20pm</b>
25 Mar	Whānau Connect Conferences
26 Mar	Whānau Connect Conferences
02 Apr	<b>END OF TERM ONE 2:45pm</b>
20 Apr	Term Two Commences 8.45am

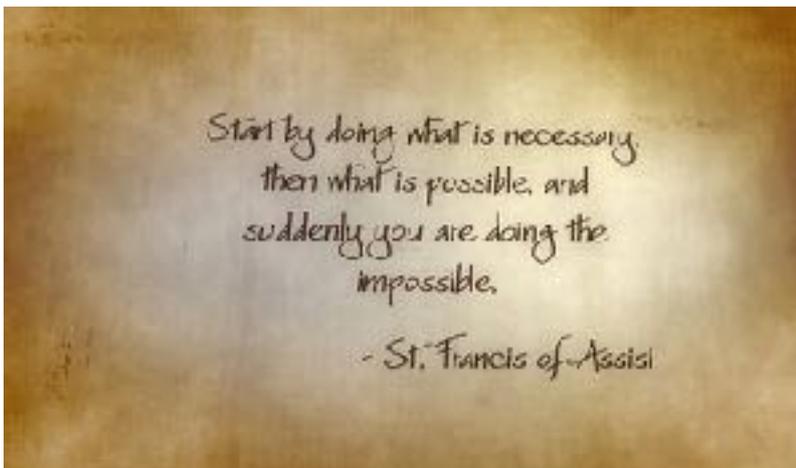
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## 2026 School Term Dates

|        |                                         |
|--------|-----------------------------------------|
| 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

|                 |                                       |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
| 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                     |



**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**