

## St. Mary's School Newsletter

### Something to Sing about.....

What a wonderful warm heart filled welcome we celebrated with our students on Tuesday morning 31 January.

It was also great to see the happy smiling faces of our children and whānau returning for another year of schooling. As our community grows and our school roll grows (we have the highest start of year roll in our history) we are heartened by the kindness, arohanui and generosity of our families who reach out to support those who are new, who need a helping hand, who need support and extra love as they settle into their new environment. THANK YOU- this is what it means to be St. Mary's people and helps to "strengthen community".

#### 2023 Staffing and Learning Communities

##### Aroha Year 0, 1 and 2

Year 0, 1 - Mrs. Nicola Silver and Miss Katrina Trewhitt

Year 2 - Mrs. Deana Garstang and Mrs. April Haayema

Teacher's Aide - Ms. Isabella Sampson, Mrs. Alana Cooper, Mrs. Cindy Pointon, Mr. Jack Popata, Mr. Connor Johnson and Mrs. Diane Havell

##### Tika - Years 3 and 4

Mrs Andrea Deakin, Mrs. Greer Jenkins and Miss Deborah Gouwland

Teacher's Aide - Mrs. Belinda Clark

##### Pono - Year 5 and 6

Mr. Paul Newsome and Miss Claire Walshe

Teacher's Aide - Miss Gemma Elston

Mrs. Standish is our Deputy Principal and Mrs. Nila Trocio is our amazing and super organized Office Administrator. Our school is kept in pristine condition by the hard working Mrs. Trish Mokole

##### Staff Celebration

Congratulations to Mrs. April Haayema on becoming a fully Registered Teacher at the end of 2022!



#### Ash Wednesday/Lent

Ash Wednesday comes early this year on 22<sup>nd</sup> February, marking the beginning of our Lenten journey. Lent is a special Season of the Church's Liturgical Year. It begins on Ash Wednesday where Catholics around the world attend a special Liturgy where we are marked with the ashes on our foreheads. It is a period where we as Christians pray, fast and give. Our school will be gathering for our own Ash Wednesday Liturgy on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February which you are welcome to be part of. All our children will be marked on their forehead with the ashes that were from the burnt palms of last year's Palm Sunday celebration. This is a special time of repentance where we reflect on ways we can be closer to God.

As a Catholic School we share in the goals for Catholic Education...to be a place where we communicate Christ, helping to form Christ in the lives of others...a place to encounter the loving God so that each person and child experiences a genuine and ongoing encounter with Christ...a place to grow in knowledge and understandings of Christ's teachings...a place where Christian witness is nurtured and strengthened within the community of our Lord's disciples, the church.

This is our hope for our school community - that together we grow/flourish in unity and in learning ka ako, loving ka aroha and serving ka manaaki, in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

#### New Staff

This year we welcomed back Mrs. Garstang after her year-long maternity leave. It is fantastic to have her back and she leads the Aroha Team. We also welcomed three new Teacher Aides in the Aroha team Connor Johnson, Isabella Sampson and Cindy Pointon.



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy Birthday to the following students who celebrated their birthdays over the past few weeks:

Zoe Smith, John Eiden, Brooklyn Nijo, Evania Mary Tinu, Raya Rahul, Nori Pillar, Julia Brown, and Darrell Abel

*Ke te Pai (well done) to all our KWAPA (Kids With A Positive Attitude)*

Team Aroha

Brooklyn Nijo, Joanna Tijo, Savannah Buckley and Jhays Espiritu

Team Tika

Raya Rahul, Evan Jinish, Isabella White, Mahé Keenan, Annet Anoop, and Cedric Mitchell

*Ko te tino mahi (great job) to all our students who received certificates these past few weeks. Ka Pai!*

Team Aroha

Arfon Jones, Kaya Funaki, Aaron Valummel, Ivan Kel, Brock Ropati and Aleena Rijo

Team Tika

Millar Walters, Zakira Henriette, Lulian Nerves, Drake Daclan, Ravi Birondo and Venus Weerakoon

Thursday 23 February	Year 1 & 2 Tabloids St. Joseph's Feilding
Friday 24 February	Family Picnic
Thursday 02 March	Year 5 & 6 Tabloids Our Lady of Lourdes
Wednesday 08 March	Year 3 & 4 Tabloids St. James

## Positive Behaviour for Learning

### PB4L Journey

PB4L is a school wide framework which helps to build a culture of positive behavior and learning. We began our PB4L journey at St. Mary's in 2020. Each fortnight we teach our specific behavior focus, whilst also reminding ākongā of our school values of care, courtesy, respect and responsibility. Children's good choices are recognized by teachers and teaching assistants and rewarded with a token, alongside a brief comment about what behavior was noticed. Tokens are collected within teams, where we work towards a shared reward. These rewards are generated and chosen with the children in each team and vary across the school. The teaching focus for term 1 are:

- Look after your and others' belongings
- Enter and leave in an orderly way
- Allow others to learn
- Use kind words and actions
- Be considerate of others

We look forward to sharing more about PB4L throughout the year.

"A very big welcome to Brylle Mc Zayn Evangelista, Kaya Malia Funaki, Gabriel Chibuikem Ezepue, Arfon Michael Simmons Jones, Kheondre Zaiden Bañez, Amelor Zoe Galang, Esme Fleur Helena Rule, Brooklyn Nijo, Eion Emmanuel Gallaza, Zoe Smith, Eiden John, Annie Hannah Jinto, Evaan Raoul Nadan, Mishael Anna Anson and Annet Mary Anoop! We wish you happy school days at St. Mary's School!"  
Absent: Evania Mary Tinu, Anorah Maria Arun and Serah Cyril







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