



Newsletter

29 November 2019
Term 4 Week 7

Message from the Principal

Kia ora koutou Te Kura O Hato Mere Whanau

The slippery slide into the celebration of Christ's birthday is rapidly speeding up as we head into our first weekend of Advent. This morning we listened to a fantastic reading from John's Gospel thanks to Room 7. Prepare the way, turn back to God was the call and the focus. It was so uplifting with the class acting out the gospel and developing our understanding of Advent while lighting the first candle and explaining its significance.



This is a time of reflection and celebration for us all. As the quote below from Cardinal John Dew's newsletter reminds us,

'Instead of being just a church that welcomes and receives by keeping the doors open, let us try also to be a church that finds new roads, that is able to step outside itself and go to those who do not attend Mass, to those who have quite or are indifferent.'

Pope Francis

The church, God is all around us at all times. We live in his presence and are blessed every day as we wake up in the world he created for us to be who we are in. Let us share this amazing gift with those around us and share the joy of this festive season.

It is the time of the year as school comes to an end for another year, (148th for St Mary's School I believe) where we reconnect with those who have had a large influence on our lives, that we may have been a little too busy to connect with throughout the year. To centre ourselves and think of the new year upon us and what our goals and aspirations are for not only ourselves but for others as well.

We are steadily shifting as a school and have already completed most of the planning for 2020 which has brought a sense of calm over all those involved in the details and timing. Great to have plans, a direction and be able to modify if and when needed.

The builders have been in today and looked at the work to be done around the shifting of the playground and repurposing of spaces here at school. The work will begin in February next year and will see another major shift in our physical environment, allowing for the new learning space to be developed in front of rooms 3 - 6 and also tripling the size of the current playground on the Maxwell Road boundary.

The taonga (gift) left by the Year 8 students is soon to be underway as we have been waiting for the containers to be painted. It will reflect our school and our motto on a huge and dynamic canvas. We plan to have this finished by December 20th.

Peppercorn Tree (Stevenson Street, Maxwell Street corner)



It was with great regret and sadness that the famous Peppercorn Tree which also has many other names (ask your children) had to be removed last Saturday morning. The tree had been assessed in 2017 and was seen to be in a bit of strife. Over the last two years, we have removed limbs that are deemed unsafe or dangerous. Unfortunately, it was assessed a fortnight ago and there was no sign of improvement

of a safe future for the tree as it was the main climbing tree of the school.

At Friday prayers we shared prayer as a school and thanked God for this wonderful tree which had meant so much to so many children over the years it has been with us. We also prayed that one of the 15 native trees that were planted on the boundary last term would have the same effect and grow to have as much legendary status as the Peppercorn Tree had.

We, as a school then went to the tree and had some photos taken as it reflected how much the tree meant and what it represented to so many pupils.

Classes and teachers for 2020

It has been another great year at St Mary's where we have seen the roll continue to climb and has meant the employment of an extra teacher (Mr. Livingstone) at the end of term 1 this year. Following on from that grow we are also having a shift in teaching next year.

The classes and teachers for 2020 are as follows:

Year 0/1	Room 6	Mrs Louise Lee
Year 2	Room 4	Miss Tracy McCone
Year 3/4	Room 3	Mrs Rosie Lamain
Year 3/4	Room 9	Mrs Barbara Lormans
Year 5	Room 7	To be confirmed
Year 6	Room 8	Mrs Helen Sloan
Year 7	Room 2	To be confirmed
Year 8	Room 1	Miss Rebecca Lunt

The two teachers yet to be confirmed will be confirmed in the next newsletter as we are interviewing and will have a decision made within the next 5 days.

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Beatitude to Be Excellent Award

Congratulations to the following students who received a 'Beatitude to Be Excellent Award' at our last assembly:



*Jackson, Joe, Madison, Grace,
Andrew, Junior, Felix,
Bluebell, Scarlett, Georgia,
Marc, Anastasia, Maddison,
Janaya, Rory*

Next assembly will be **Monday, 2 December 2019 at 2 pm**. It is wonderful to have parents and families to join us at our assemblies and you are all welcome.



Mercy Team (y 0-4) EOTC experience - next week!

On **Friday 6 December** the Mercy Team (Year 0-4) are having an EOTC experience. We are going to be walking to visit the *Marlborough District Library, Millenium Art Gallery and Seymour Square*.

Room 6 will be leaving school at 9:15 am after whole school prayers and returning to school at approximately 12:30 pm.

Room 3 & 5 will be leaving school at 10:15 am and returning to school at approximately 1:30 pm.

Room 4 & 9 will be leaving school at 11:15 am and returning to school by 3:00 pm.

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Please make sure that on the day your child/children have:

- A packed lunch
- Drink bottle with water only
- School sunhat
- Sunscreen

We do require parent helpers on the day so if you are able to join us for the experience that would be great. Please email Tracy if you are available to walk with us.

If your child has a library card they are able to bring it on Friday as they will be able to issue books during our visit to the library. Thank you.

Learning Through Play

At St Mary's School Year 0-4 teachers implement a learning through play approach in their classrooms.

Why Learning Through Play?

Research shows that children learn best through play. Learning through play allows for social, emotional, and cognitive development at a rate that is appropriate for the child. Play promotes creativity, imagination, initiative, responsible risk-taking, resilience and communication skills.

In a play-based classroom the children's learning is based on their interests and developmental stages. Research shows that when we are curious, we learn more and we remember what we have learned.

What is Play?

According to (Gray, 2013; Brewer, 2007) play needs to be;

1. self-chosen and self-directed;
2. process rather than product-driven;
3. contains structures or rules established by the players themselves;
4. imaginative, non-literal and removed from reality;
5. occurs between those who are active, alert and non-stressed.

In a learning through play classroom there are lots of discussions between students, creating through the use of loose parts, thinking, reflecting and modifying. Children are engaged as they are driving their own learning.

Role of the Teacher

In a learning through play classroom the teacher's role is vital as the teacher:

- Provides an environment that allows children to develop and pursue their interests.
- Observes the play and has conversations with the children. This enables the teacher to set up provocations for children to further develop their interests and skills.
- Makes links to the curriculum to recognise the learning within the play.

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- Gives coaching statements and answers questions which take the learning to a higher level.
- Provides reflection time for the children to make connections to the Beatitudes, NZ Curriculum and Key Competencies.
- Provides direct teaching in Reading, Writing and Mathematics at a pace that is developmentally appropriate for the child.

For more info and photos please visit our website: [Learning Through Play](#)

Summer Hockey 2020



If your child is interested in playing hockey in Term 1 next year permission forms need to be completed and returned to the school office by next Friday 6 December 2019. Permission forms are available from the school office. Payment for this is to be paid directly to the hockey association via an online link so it is important that it is done before you return the permission form to the office.

Fundamental Skills, Year 3 and 4

Year 3 and 4 are having a great week at Fundamental Skills. There is lots of concentrating, positive attitudes and teamwork happening.



Waikawa Marae visit

What a fantastic experience.

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Picton Tuia 250 – By Vincent Vermeer and Anel Moli



On the 25th of November year 5 to 8 went down to Picton to see the replica of the Endeavor. We went on the replica of the Endeavor and one of the crew members spoke to us about the ship and gave us a tour, he was talking about what they did on it and some facts. He told us that the ropes were dipped into tar. It was built in Australia. Building started in the 1980's and it first sailed in 1993.

The first activity was building a mini version of a waka and we had to put it together like a puzzle. After a few tries and a hint, our group finished first and the second group had to do the Haka, the third group were doing something different. The third group each got a painting and had to talk about what they thought it was. After we had a chat the group had to put the paintings into order. The paintings were of them building the waka and setting it off to sea. For the second activity, we went to go see the waka from Tahiti for about 30 seconds. The experience was so cool it was amazing looking at the designs on the waka. After having a look we went to our next activity about the Endeavour. For the third activity we played an emoji game, so the person we were listening to gave us a question about what it would be like on the waka and we had to choose one of the four options. For example, could you cope eating well for a week and for the rest of the voyage not being able to eat fresh food?

Option one was that you were really confident on the trip. The second option was that you would if you had to go on the voyage. The third option was you would probably not do it and finally, the last option was that you were definitely not going to do it.

Overall the time there was really fun and enjoyable, we wish we could have stayed longer.



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Marlborough Primary School's District Athletics results

Congratulations to the following students who represented our school at the Marlborough Primary School's District Athletics this month.

Year 4 Sofia Cooke-Vasque, Freda Duan, AJ Moli, Samson Pine, Hannah Silva

Year 5 Hayden Dittfort, Archie Thompson

Year 6 Olivia Bain, Jeremie Cruz, Anastasia Gemmell

Year 7 Taetunaula Kula, Shalia Narayan, Pongi Papani, Hunter Warmouth,
Leon Wightwick

Year 8 Anton De Leon, Jeremiah Donald, Ronan West

Special congratulations to the following who had a top three placing in their age group event:

AJ Moli	2nd 100 metre sprint
	3rd Long Jump
Samson Pine	3rd High Jump
Archie Thompson	1st High Jump
Ronan West	1st 100 metre sprint
	1st 200 metre sprint
	1st High Jump



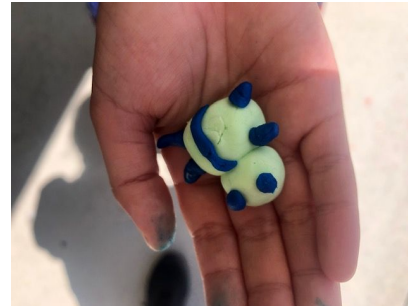
Fondant Club – By Grace Gamble

At the start of term 3, Grace McKendry and Isabel Gaines wanted to help make a fundraiser help year 7 have a way to share what we know and more ways to learn. So we established the Fondant Club. After the first time, we decided to split the Fondant Club members into two groups, the older

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people and younger people. Now we run the club on Wednesdays and Thursdays. We have lots of fun and funny fondant creatures.



The “Grinch-ish” Cookies - By Enzo Clavecilla



Today we made Grinch cookies. We split into two groups and did some math to evenly split the ingredients. We did this because we were reading about Grinch’s heart being two sizes too small. We made the Grinch-iest cookies.



office@stmb.school.nz



enson St, Blenheim

Farewell Peppercorn Tree

*In the winding branches we played,
They swung above us when we needed shade,
We all came together for its final days,
For soon it will be gone just a whisper in its place,
Goodbye Peppercorn Tree you will always remain in our hearts.*

By Matilda Phelps and Olivia Bain



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St Mary's Friends

St Mary's Friends will be holding their last meeting for the year on **Monday 2nd December, 7.15 pm at Fairweathers – 36 Scott Street.**

This will be preceded by a Special Meeting at 7.00 pm where we will pass a motion to change some wordings in our Constitution. Everyone is welcome.

Term 4 Dates and Start Date for Next Year

Tuesday 10 December 2019	St Mary's Got Talent	11.05am
Tuesday 10 December 2019	Year 8 Leavers Dinner	6.00pm
Thursday 12 December 2019	End of Year Celebration	5.30pm
Friday 13 December 2019	End of Year School Mass	10.30am
Friday 13 December 2019	End of School Year	12.05pm
Monday 3 February 2020	First day of school for 2020	
Thursday 6 February 2020	Waitangi Day School Closed	
Friday 7 February 2020	School Closed for a long weekend	

Cyber Safety - Online Safety Parent Toolkit

Netsafe have recently launched a great new resource for parents and whānau, the '**Online Safety Parent Toolkit**'. This interactive PDF offers parents and whānau practical tips and tools to help them talk to their children about online safety. It includes:



- Quick starter tips for parents, whānau and young people
- information to enhance digital parenting knowledge
- details about the online risks and challenges their children may face
- advice about how they can help their children.
- advice around social media, cyberbullying etc

Please [click here to the Netsafe 'Online Safety Parent Toolkit'](#).



Police 105

NZ Police recently launched a new **non-emergency number, 105**. We've done this to make it easier to get hold of us in the event of non-urgent situations or 'Things which have Already Happened', which don't require Police assistance immediately.

You can call us on 105 for all non-emergencies, or you can go online at 105.police.govt.nz to report things like:

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- Lost property
- Theft for a public place or car
- Intentional property damage
- Or to get an update or add info to a previous report

In the event of an emergency, always call 111 - Things that are Happening Now.

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Mission Statement

*St Mary's will be a vibrant and connected Catholic community,
 providing all learners with opportunities to achieve personal excellence.
 Our learners will encounter and reflect Christ's light, confidently sharing their gifts.*

School Values

St Mary's School Values are those Jesus proclaimed in the Gospel of St Matthew 5:3-10
**Humility, Compassion, Community, Faithfulness,
 Forgiveness, Honesty, Patience, Courage**

Whakatauki

Kaitiakitanga

Watching over, taking care of, guarding, nurturing and protecting

Manaaki Whenua

Care for the land

Manaaki Tangata

Care for the people

Haere Whakamua

Go ahead



[Parent Help - free parenting helpline](#)

[Basketball December Camp 2019](#)

[Blenheim Christmas Parade](#)

[Blenheim Christmas Festival](#)

[Host Families needed](#)

[Blenheim Musical Theatre's Audition Information for The King & I](#)

[Marlborough Basketball U11 Summer Academy 2019](#)

[Junior Aces Tennis Coaching](#)

[Marlborough Tennis](#)

[Weet-Bix Kids Triathlon 2019/2020 entries now open](#)

[Health Promoting Schools](#)

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[Oscar Summer Holiday Programme](#)

Bridge Valley Holiday Camps - Our overnight, week-long, children's holiday camps are coming up! Our camps are fun, safe, and exciting for all ages, and are a great way to spend a week of the Summer holidays.

Blast Day Camp (7-13 yrs): 18th - 20th December - Not overnight

Junior (8-11 yrs): 6th - 10th January

Intermediate (11-13 yrs): 13th - 17th January

Extreme (Junior: 9-11 yrs, Youth: 12-15 yrs): 21st - 24th January

Registrations are open online (www.bridgevalley.co.nz)

Email holidaycamps@bridgevalley.co.nz with any questions!

[The Great Reading Carnival](#)

This year we have the awesome theme of 'The great reading carnival!'

Parent /care-givers must visit the library in person to register their child/ren. Registration for the programme opens from Monday 9th December and the programme will run through until Friday 17th January.

Due to the popularity of the programme places are limited so we recommend parents get in quick!

The programme is for children 5-12 years old.

There will be rewards and prizes along the way and each child who finishes the programme will get to choose a book prize to keep and be awarded a certificate.

The programme is a great way for children to get excited about books and reading and to keep their reading practice up through the long summer holidays.

The programme runs to the same format as previous years:-

- To complete the programme children need to visit the library 4 times to report-in
- The report-in will be a one to one conversation with a librarian about the book they have been reading

I have attached a flyer for you to use in your newsletters, along with the image of the programme title should you prefer to use that.

If parents have any questions they are welcome to call 5207491 or email library@marlborough.govt.nz

[School Holiday Cricket Clinic](#)

[Hopai Sports Day - Celebrating 100+ years of a family picnic and sports days in the Pelorus Sounds](#)

[2020 Interschool Summer Hockey Festival](#)

RISING STICKS (Yr 5&6) - 23rd Nov, 9am-1200. Focus on Passing & Receiving, 3D Skills

QUICK STICKS (Yr 7&8) - 30th Nov, 9am-1200. Focus on Passing & Receiving, 3D Skills

DOMIN8 (College) - 7th Dec, 9am-1200. Focus on Passing & Receiving, Elimination Skills

<http://www.hockeymarlborough.org.nz/Spire-Hockey-Academy/ClinicsCamps>

\$35 per person. Simply click on your age group to book your spot.

[Spire Hockey Academy](#)

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