



**ST MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL  
(ROTORUA)**

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**NEWSLETTER #2**

**12<sup>th</sup> February 2008**

# PLEASE READ ME !!!

**TERM 1, WEEK 2**

**12<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2008**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Thank you so much for your very warm welcome last week. You have certainly helped to make my start to the year an enjoyable one. It was lovely to see so many of you at Mass and at the following morning tea. It was a little disappointing, however, that after all our children's practise and preparation for the Mass that we were not able to participate fully.

A warm welcome to our new parish priest, Father Aidan Mulholland, who has joined us from Frankton in Hamilton. He has a huge job ahead of him in taking over three parishes and we ask God's blessing on his work.

In order to begin the year with smaller classes in the school we have created some composite classes which differ in their make up from what you have been used to. You can be assured that your child will be extended at the level at which he or she is working. Teachers have always organised their programmes to suit the wide range of abilities and levels within their classes and this will continue. Teachers will group children within their classes according to their needs. These groups will be more evident next week when we will have completed school wide testing.

I am really impressed with the neat and tidy appearance of our children at school. Thank you for ensuring that your child comes to school correctly dressed in school uniform. Would you please also impress upon your child the need to wear school uniform correctly to and from school. St Mary's has a lovely uniform and it is good to see children wearing it with pride.

Tomorrow we will celebrate our traditional beginning of year school Mass. Mass starts at 5:30pm. Your child is expected to attend and we ask that children congregate on the school field at 5:20pm. If it is wet, we will meet in the church hall.

It is fantastic to see the Gala committee is in full swing. The group is putting in a huge effort to ensure that the Gala is a success. Please support them by helping where you can with your time and donations of goods. All proceeds from the gala go straight back into the school. This year the funds will go towards the upgrade of our computer suite.

Today our Year 6 students have been involved in selection and training for senior leadership in the school. A big thank you to teachers in the senior school for the thorough process, which they are currently undertaking, of selecting leaders. We expect to announce our senior leaders during Mass tomorrow.

Enjoy the start of the year everyone.

God bless,  
David Macmillan, Principal

## !! GALA COUNTDOWN !!



**As we count down the days to the School Gala (28<sup>th</sup> February) please keep this notice handy for the dates you can drop off any of the items listed below:**

### FEBRUARY

- Wed. 13<sup>th</sup> Grocery Day. Please bring to school any grocery items
- Thurs. 14<sup>th</sup> Bottle Day. Please bring to school a bottle or jar of something, e.g. shampoo, Coke, wine, beer, sauce, perfume, jam.
- Fri. 15<sup>th</sup> Books, Toys and White Elephant, any plastic cake containers(e.g. from New World etc)
- Mon. 18<sup>th</sup> Tinned goods or bags of lollies, e.g. Baked beans, peaches, Mackintosh's, jet planes, liquorice allsorts
- Tues. 19<sup>th</sup> Nacho Day. Corn chips, tinned tomatoes, chilli, baked or Kidney beans, onions, ice cream containers
- Wed. 20<sup>th</sup> Grocery Day. Please bring to school any grocery items.
- Thurs. 21<sup>st</sup> Books. A packet or box of something, e.g. chips, sultanas
- Fri. 22<sup>nd</sup> Bottle Day. Please bring to school a bottle or jar of something, e.g. shampoo, Coke, wine, beer, sauce, perfume, jam.
- Mon. 25<sup>th</sup> Books, Toys, White Elephant, Corn chips, Tinned tomatoes & beans.
- Tues. 26<sup>th</sup> Tinned goods or bags of lollies, e.g. Baked beans, peaches, Mackintosh's, jet planes, liquorice allsorts, White Elephant, Soccer Boots, Books
- Wed. 27<sup>th</sup> Grocery Day. Any grocery items, tinned goods
- Thurs 28<sup>th</sup> Cakes, Biscuits, Muffins, Sweets, Fudge, Coconut Ice, Lollies, Plastic cake containers (i.e. from New World etc)

### **No fresh cream please.**

**Could all items for the Cake Stall please be covered in plastic wrap and labelled ready for pricing at school.**

Please drop off all items to the School Hall

Many thanks – St Mary’s Parent Support Group



Dear Parents/Caregivers

Our Gala is rapidly approaching and WE NEED YOUR HELP!!

We urgently need another 25 volunteers to help run stalls. Please don't leave it to the same ones every year (as grateful as we are to those faithful friends ☺), we would love to see some new faces, *don't make me ring you ... !!*

This is a great opportunity for everyone in the school community to have a role in helping the school, meet new faces and **HAVE FUN!**

We will be having a white elephant, food stalls galore, quickfire raffles, and of course – the infamous Teachers' Fun Alley.

**REMEMBER - WHATEVER THE WEATHER,  
THE GALA WILL STILL BE ON.**

Any time or assistance you can give is very much appreciated so we can ensure a successful 2008 Gala.

Contact: Angela 349-4218 or Necia 345-3798

We still need donations for prizes for our raffles and food stalls. If you are associated with, or work for a business that could help us with either a donation (or a discount) could you please let us know so we can make contact. Alternatively, vouchers or product can be delivered directly to school office attention to PSG.

*Thank you.*

## ST MARY'S SCHOOL SUPPORT GROUP

### WELCOME

Welcome to all our new students joining us at the start of Term 1:

Daniella Baylosis, Anthony Bray, Trent Bray, Alex Donoghue, Angsu Haldar, Mele Kanavale, Eric Khau, Bakani Kombanie, Samuel Lennie, Liam Macmillan, Sophie Macmillan, Nidhi Mann, Danicca-Rose Mihaka, Macy Pascual, Julianna Peters, Cielo-Mae Quilab, Alan Romanick, Grace Romanick, Natalie Romanick, Elisapeta Sakalia.

Welcome to the two new members of our teaching staff, Mrs Dunkley and Miss Parker. Mrs Dunkley is in Room 9 and Miss Parker is in Matai Room. We hope you will enjoy a long association with St Mary's.

We trust our new students and staff members have felt the warm welcome and support of our St Mary's school community.

### ✝ PRAYERS ✝

We ask that our families continue their prayers for those in our school community who may be sick or suffering hardship, as we know they appreciate your support.

## OPENING SCHOOL MASS

**THURSDAY 14<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY - 5:30PM**



As per the Special Character of our school, we expect the attendance of all students at the Opening School Mass this Thursday (14/02) at 5:30pm. (We are aware the St Mary's calendar has an error showing the Mass being held on Friday). Students are to assemble on the school field by 5:20pm (if it is wet, please assemble in the church hall).

We look forward to seeing you all there.

### ST MARY'S BUS

With rising costs of maintaining this service, it has now become necessary to increase the prices for riding on St Mary's School Bus. Starting this term the prices will increase to:

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| 1 child, 1 way (either to school <u>or</u> from school) | \$ 7.50 per week |
| 1 child, both ways (both to <u>and</u> from school)     | \$12.50 per week |
| 2 or more children, 1 way                               | \$15.00 per week |
| 2 or more children, both ways                           | \$19.50 per week |
| Single rides  | \$ 2.00 per ride |

Accounts are expected to be paid in full each week (some families pre-pay and this is most appreciated). Automatic payment forms are available from the school office. Due to the demand for this service and the limited seats available, we now have a growing 'waiting' list of students wanting to ride the bus. If your child no longer requires the service of the St Mary's bus please let the school office know as soon as possible.

### 2007 SCHOOL MAGAZINE

If anyone missed out and would like a copy of the 2007 School Magazine please see the school office. Copies are \$10 each.

### HUI – PARISHES OF ROTORUA

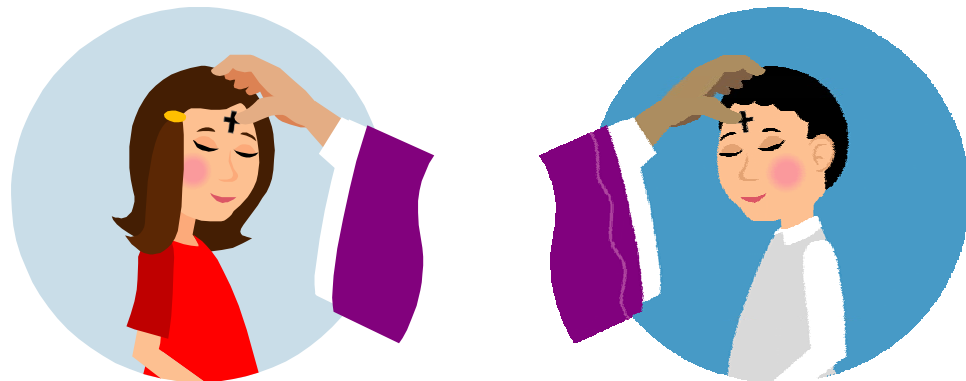
On February 16 (this Saturday), Bishop Denis is holding a hui which all parishioners are invited to attend, to listen to, and voice their opinions on the changes taking place within the Parishes of Rotorua. This hui is being held in the hall at John Paul College at 10am. We ask that as many as possible attend to make this a success.

### SHAMBLES YOUTH THEATRE

Principal, Remo Royall Malcom LTCL, invites enrolments for Drama Classes at the Shambles Youth Theatre. For all information regarding this and Speech & Drama classes in 2008, ring Remo on 348-9009 or email [remoroyall@xtra.co.nz](mailto:remoroyall@xtra.co.nz)

### SEASON OF LENT

We are now in the Season of Lent as we prepare for Christ's Resurrection on April 8<sup>th</sup>. Lent reminds us to make an effort to change direction, to renew our lives, to come back to the Lord. We may have grown careless. Lent calls us to reflect and ask ourselves the reason for our presence in this life. Why are we here? Why did God create us? We are in this life to know, love and serve God and in His light to love and help one another as we walk the pilgrim path of life together. May we all use this Lent to go into training so that we will emerge at Easter fitter and stronger and better prepared to take part in the struggle that can be Christian life. Spend more time in prayer, make time to pray and this Lent will be, for all of us, a time of renewal and growth in the Spirit.



### LIBRARY BOOKS – MISSING IN ACTION ...

During the holidays did you or your child/ren find any of the following St Mary's School library books:

Fiction: Felicity Wishes – Little Book of Christmas, Dracula's Daughter, Gary Who?, George's Marvellous Medicine, The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, The Third Wish.

Non-Fiction: Beauty and the Beast, How Cool Stuff Works, The Magic School Bus has a Heart, Maps and Mapping, Oxfords Children's Pocket Book of Facts, The Tuatara.

If any of these books have come across your path, Mrs Francis, the Librarian, would be delighted to have them returned.

### 2008 SCHOOL TERMS

|        |            |              |
|--------|------------|--------------|
| Term 1 | 4 February | 18 April     |
| Term 2 | 5 May      | 4 July       |
| Term 3 | 21 July    | 26 September |
| Term 4 | 13 October | 18 December  |

### LUNCHES

Buying lunches will resume in Week 4 of Term 1 – 25<sup>th</sup> February.

### STATIONERY & ACTIVITY FEES

Thank you to all the parents/caregivers who have purchased stationery for their child/ren, it is always appreciated when the students are able to fully take part in class. If there are families experiencing any hardship in meeting these fees please contact either your class teacher or the Principal.

### 2008 YEAR 6 AUCKLAND TRIP

The school office is starting to receive payments for the 2008 Year 6 Auckland Trip to be held the week of the 31<sup>st</sup> March. We ask parents to contribute \$250 towards the actual cost of this trip of \$350 per child - some parents may find it easier to arrange automatic payments or set up a payment schedule – please see the school office to arrange this. If there are families experiencing any hardship in meeting this cost please contact either the school office or the Principal.

