



## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

### Dear Parents/Guardians,

Last Friday a number of staff went to Hamilton to attend Father Mark Field's ordination. It was a very special celebration and we all wish him well in his parish work here in Rotorua. We look forward to his arrival.

You may not be aware that St Mary's Catholic School has been fortunate enough to be accepted into the Literacy Professional Development Programme for 2008-09. This will involve us investigating school wide literacy practises. The outcomes for our school will include increased teacher knowledge which will transfer to more effective teacher practise within the classroom. Our inquiry will focus on writing and will include reading.

Today Kowhai Room demonstrated their newly acquired swimming skills, thank you to the parents who were able to attend. Tomorrow the rest of the junior classes (Kauri, Totara, Tawa, Rata, Matai) will have their turn to show what they have learned during the swimming season.

Last night we had our first Parents Information evening on Numeracy with ideas for helping your child at home. We had a great turn out so thank you to the parents who were able to attend. There will be further opportunities for you to attend other meetings during the term. If you have been sent a letter of invitation we ask that you make your attendance a priority. A meal and crèche facilities will be provided. The next workshop will be Wednesday 26th March at 6:00pm in the school hall.

Next Monday is Fast Day (also known as Solidarity Day). Included in this newsletter is a note from the D.R.S. outlining what the day is all about and the organisation at school. Please support this important event.

This Friday we will celebrate St Joseph's and St Patrick's Feast Day. Please join us at 9am Mass on this day. We celebrate St Joseph's Day to acknowledge the Josephite nuns' strong influence in educating children of St Mary's School over a great number of years. Later that day the Palm Sunday donkey parade will take place in our school grounds so we ask that our children bring Jesus clothes to change into for this.

Congratulations to the children who were presented with Principal's Awards at assembly this week: Kararaina Pene, Simran Mann, Darron Byford, Teresa Goldsmith, Duncan Nixon, Ella Florence, Megan Hughes.

I hope you have an enjoyable week.

**God bless,  
David Macmillan, Principal**

## P.S.G. (GALA) SPOTLIGHT ON 'SEBAMED'

Please find enclosed in today's newsletter, brochures from Sebamed. These were supplied to us by Shay Sweetman from Regional Health along with some lovely Segreti Mediterranei Cosmetic samples which we used in our Gala gift baskets.

## UNIFORMS

**GIRLS: Please order your winter tunics now** to ensure adequate stocks. If you leave it until the end of Term 1 or beginning of Term 2, you may miss out on the size you want.

Mon 8:30-9:00am Wed 2:30-3:00pm Fri 8:30-9:00am

## SPORTS

### MINIBALL:

Registration forms are available from the school office. Cost is \$25 per child plus \$1 at the door each week. Registrations need to be in by Monday 17th March.

### HOCKEY:

Registration forms are available from the school office. Cost is Minis \$40, Maxis \$60. Registrations need to be in by Monday 31st March.

### SOCCER:

Registration forms have been sent home with every student, spares are available at the school office. We need lots of coaches so if you can assist with your child's team please let us know. Any enquiry please contact Denis Marriner 3453798 Home, 3480479 Work, or Email [denis@dawson.co.nz](mailto:denis@dawson.co.nz)

### NETBALL:

Registrations for netball teams have closed.

### CRICKET:

Currently playing Thursdays and Saturdays.

### WATERPOLO:

Currently playing on Wednesday and Thursdays.

## PARENT SUPPORT GROUP—GALA 'THANK YOU SO MUCH'

St Mary's School Parent Support Group would like to thank the following sponsors who helped make our recent gala a huge success.

Thank you so much for your support in so many different ways!



Perma Pine  
 Dawson Insurances  
 Number Works  
 Simmonds Firestone  
 The Treehouse on Ranolf Child Care Centre  
 Opus  
 Lonestar  
 Golds Gym  
 Bajo NZ Ltd [www.bajo.co.nz](http://www.bajo.co.nz)  
 Rotorua Duck tours  
 Rotorua Basement Cinema  
 Exquisite  
 Bill Davis  
 Bike Vegas  
 Body Conditioning Studio  
 Whitcoulls  
 NZ Police  
 Fire Brigade  
 Herbs & Spices Thai Takeaways  
 Grace  
 The Health Shop  
 Body Shop  
 The Daily Post  
 Pamela Jenkins Florist

MORE FM  
 McLeods Bookstore  
 The Metro  
 Triple 1 five  
 Pig and Whistle  
 Aquatic Centre  
 Palm Court Motor Inn  
 180° Ltd  
 Crazy Beautiful Hair Salon  
 WL Gracie and Assoc  
 Bond and Bond  
 Contours  
 Kumon  
 Agrodome  
 The Catering Company  
 Progressive Enterprises Ltd  
 Off Road NZ  
 Pak N Save  
 Eddie Pasco Electrical  
 The Birthday Island Ltd  
 Rosco's  
 Variety Mart  
 Brumbys



## NEWS FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The BOT had its first meeting for 2008 on the 4th March.

At that time Mark Lovegrove stepped down from the position of Chairperson after several years in the role. Huge thanks goes to Mark for his leadership during this time, and in particular, during the second half of 2007 when the School faced many changes and upheavals. Mark will remain on the Board as Deputy Chairperson.

Other matters discussed at the Board meeting included:

- \* A decision was made that burgundy polar fleeces, with the St Mary's logo become an optional uniform item. Arrangements are currently being made for these to become stocked at Postie Plus in time for winter. The jersey will remain a compulsory uniform item and worn for formal occasions (school Masses, etc).
- \* The ERO Team will be returning to the School for a follow-up review in mid May. Considerable progress has been made in addressing the issues of concern identified in the 2007 review.
- \* Planning is underway for consultation on enhancing the Maori dimension of the School. This was one of the issues highlighted by ERO last year.

The Board of Trustees is a very committed team of people. With the Management Team now in place, and our great staff, St Mary's Catholic School is in very good hands.

Jane Eynon-Richards  
 Chairperson

### 2008 Board Meeting Dates

4th March, 9th April, 13th May, 24th June, 5th August  
 16th September, 28th October, 2nd December  
 All meetings—7:15pm for 7:30pm start

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES

We are busy preparing for Holy Week. Please note the following dates and requirements.

### 14th March (Friday) - 9am—St Joseph's Day Mass

We look forward to seeing many of you celebrating our special day with us.

### 14th March (Friday) - 12 noon—Donkey Parade



We will be remembering Palm Sunday, Jesus' journey to Jerusalem. Can the children please bring some 'Jesus clothes' - clothes similar to ones worn in Jesus day - to wear at the parade.

### 17th March (Monday) - No lunch—Fast Day

As part of our Lent theme, and thinking of others who do not have as much as we do, we will be having a fast day.

All students will be provided with apples and bread for their lunch. Juniors may bring morning tea but we would prefer the middle and senior children not to.

We would also appreciate the children bringing a gold coin for our Lentern Mission collection.

Thank you for your support.

God bless,

**Teresa Rush**  
**St Mary's D.R.S.**



## 2008 YEAR 6 AUCKLAND TRIP

**MEDICINE:** If your child needs medication to be taken on the trip with them, a special form must be filled out—the medication needs to be supplied in its original container noting type of medication, dosage, name of doctor and name of student. See the office for details. No unauthorised medication will be accepted on the day of departing so please organise this now.

**GEAR LIST:** The personal gear list was sent out to all Year 6 students yesterday. If your child did not bring one home please see the office for a copy.

**DIETARY REQUIREMENTS:** Included with the gear list was a form to be returned if your child has a special dietary requirement as a medical precaution. Please note, the form is for medical reasons only as we cannot cater for children's individual food preferences.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Valuables such as cameras, watches, etc, are to be taken at the owner's risk. Adults will not be able to look after them and will not be responsible for them. No money will be taken on the trip, it will not be needed. No sweets or edible items to be taken for personal consumption. No cell phones, no transistor radios, games or walkmans to be taken.

**TRIP PAYMENTS:** Thank you to those who have paid for the Year 6 trip. It would be appreciated if payments were completed by the 20th March, however if you are experiencing difficulty with this deadline please contact the school office or the Principal to discuss payment plans.

## WELCOME TO THE WORLD—Denzel White

Congratulations to Mum & Dad on the birth of a gorgeous baby boy, a brother for Shanyse Payne-Douglas to goo and gaa over.

