

St Mary's School Avondale

Community Report
August 2011 Issue



Principal's Comment

Dear Parents,

Many thanks for the wonderful turn out at Parent Teacher Interviews. One of the things I love about the parent community here is the interest you all have in your child's achievement levels. Remember - your child is a unique individual. As people, they have their own personality, strengths and weaknesses. It is easy to forget sometimes that, just like us, they have their own set of needs and difficulties.

One of the things that worries me about life in this modern world is the tremendous pressure on children to grow up too fast. Remember, your **kids are only kids**. Set realistic expectations for them. Remember they have dreams too. A good rule is to do just as much listening to your child as you do talking. You will be amazed what you learn about them.

Rob Allen
Principal

Aquatic Education

Term 4 will be very exciting for our school! PoolsInSchoolZ Trust and WaterSafe Auckland Inc. have an innovative new initiative that brings a portable pool to our school!

A portable pool is an amazing opportunity for our school to achieve its aquatic education learning to meet the requirements of the NZ Curriculum. We will have a pool for each Term 4 during the next 3 years.

WaterSafe Auckland will provide professional development for the staff around aquatic education, learning to swim, classroom critical thinking, as well as some teacher support poolside. This is provided free of charge.



We need parent helpers for the delivery of this important and exciting education. You will receive training with the staff. If you can help, please speak to Mrs Malgas or the school office.

Area 1 News

Kia Ora! We have had a great first four weeks at school and I am pleased with the efforts and behaviour of all of the children as well as their enthusiasm being displayed in the classrooms. I hope that this will continue throughout the remainder of the year.

To all the new children and their families in Area 1, we welcome you with a big cheer! The new children are:

- Jahn Chester Vega *Rm 5*
- Weston Faleafa *Rm 1*
- Melenaite Falekaono *Rm 1*
- Luvasterson Pulini *Rm 2*
- Delilah Tuihalangie *Rm 1*
- Sylvia Tangaloa-Leniu *Rm 1*

Exciting Rugby World Cup Integrated Unit

This term offers many exciting activities to all the children in Area 1. As you are all aware of the big event happening in our country, THE RUGBY WORLD CUP 2011, children will learn about the different countries participating in this event, places in New Zealand where tourists can visit, how sports people like the All Blacks keep fit and healthy, and many more. The highlight of our unit of study is the holding of a mini rugby world cup at school participated by our children in the Junior classes. We will keep you posted.

Homework

Children in all classes from Years 1 to 3 receive homework on a Monday and it is due back on Thursday of each week. A BIG THANK YOU to all the children who are motivated and inspired to complete their homework every week. Ninety five percent of the children in the Junior area complete their weekly homework. Thank you to all the parents who are always supporting their children with their school work.

Reading: Reading at home will always be an essential part of school and forms the children's literacy homework. Please encourage your child to read at home regularly and make some time to discuss the book with them.

Spelling: Please help your child learn spelling words. This will surely improve your child's reading and writing.

Maths: In Year 1, children will continue to solve addition and subtraction facts up to sums of 10 and 20. By the end of Year 2, most children are expected to know their 2, 5 and 10 times tables. In Year 3, children will continue to extend their knowledge regarding times tables. Quick recall of times tables help children in all aspects of maths. We expect children in Year 3 to practise their times tables for 10 minutes at least 4 times a week. Please encourage and support your child to practise their times tables on a regular basis.

Parent Teacher Interviews

It was pleasing to see so many parents at the school for our recent Parent Teacher Interviews. I am sure you found this time with your child's teacher valuable and that you enjoyed looking at what has been happening in the classrooms and gained a greater insight into all they are achieving and doing at school. This was also a time to discuss future learning goals for your child. I would like to remind parents that while these formal interview times are important, we do have an "open door" policy and you are welcome to make an appointment with a teacher at any time throughout the year.

Lateness to School

With the cold winter mornings, we have noticed an increasing number of students arriving late to school. It is important that all students are at school with bags unpacked and ready to begin class by 8:40am. If students are late, they miss learning time. PLEASE COME ON TIME.

Sonia De la Cruz
Senior Teacher Junior Classes

Area 2 News

Welcome back! I hope you are all well and rested after the school holidays. I'm sure Term 3 will prove to be very busy and exciting.

Rugby

Our school wide theme for Term 3 is "Rugby World Cup 2011". Thanks to the writers and designers who worked on the Rugby World Cup 2011 providing us with excellent education resources for teachers and students. Through our classroom programmes we hope that students will gain an understanding of the cultural significance of physical activity and sport, especially Rugby, to Aotearoa New Zealand. You will be getting your child's clearfile at the end of this term giving you an opportunity to comment on your child's achievements and progress.

Baby Sa!

Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Sa on the birth of their beautiful daughter on Tuesday 23 August 2011.

Saints Netball Results 20/8/11

Congratulations girls on a very successful zonal tournament. Wonderful team spirit and dedicated training has paid off with Saints A and B teams finishing at the top of the ladder in their first matches.

You should be proud of all your efforts and great teamwork. THANK YOU so much coach Marija Vincent for all your time, patience and skills you've given the girls. It is much appreciated.

Winter Field Day - Soccer

This year, two soccer teams from St Mary's entered the soccer tournament for the Winter Field Day. Teams were entered into Divisions A and B. Both teams were excited and prepared as much as they could for the day. The teams were very nervous but gave it everything they had.

Unfortunately we did not come out with any wins but the most important thing is that everyone tried. The teams learnt a lot from the tournament and about the game of soccer. Of all the games that were played on the day, we managed to score one goal and this was kicked by our new addition to the Area 2 family – Jahn Roffer Vega in Rm 10.

Siaso Siaso from Rm11 and Andrew Biggar from Rm10 displayed outstanding goal keeping skills. Siaso was so good that he was summoned from the B team to play a few games with the A team on the day! Caleb Laiman and AbiArthur Faletoi Tuilaepa from Rm11 were outstanding strikers for the A team. They really committed themselves and literally threw their bodies on the line with every run of the ball that they had. Derek Eteuati and Victor Afoa from Rm 9 were impressive on defence for the B team and Andrew Biggar ruled the field with his loud screams of direction and commands to get his A team to move! There were outstanding performances by everyone on the day and I was really proud of their efforts.

A big thanks to Mrs Elaine Colaco who stepped in and managed the B team on the day. Thank you to all the parents who came along to cheer and support the St Mary's soccer teams. We promise to win at least one game next year ☺

Parent/Teacher Interviews

Thank you to all parents who used this opportunity to talk to your child's class teacher. It is always good to see so many interested parents attend our information evenings. It sends out all the correct messages to your child and that is that you value their learning, success, achievement and areas to improve their learning. To those parents who did not attend, please make arrangements with your child's class teacher to discuss the latest developments of your child's progress.

God Bless
Geraldine Malgas
Assistant Principal

Area 3 News

Our theme for this term is "The Rugby World Cup". We will be looking at:

- How we talk about our sport heroes.
- How sport has shaped our New Zealand culture.
- What the benefits and costs to the nation are of hosting the RWC.
- How the resources built for the RWC will be used in the future.
- How we plan to support the All Black during the RWC.
- The role of supporters, volunteers, guides and ambassadors.
- The importance of being a team player.
- What we could do to improve our environment for the RWC visitors.
- How sport has changed over the decades in NZ and the world.
- What our expectations are of sportspeople.

Your Intermediate child will need to watch some TV coverage of the RWC, the news and have access to the newspaper at least once week.

Your Intermediate child will be coming home with their clearfiles at the end of this term. Please take the time to look at your child's clearfile with them. Discuss the topics that have been covered and pay careful attention to their achievements especially in the area of Math and Language. Please make a comment on your child's work on the page provided.

At the beginning of the year we all agreed that the expectations of high standards in work, behaviour and appearance should be upheld and maintained in our Intermediate Department. However, not everyone is keeping their promise. *Some* children are coming to school with no homework being done, wearing the incorrect uniform or foot gear and with untidy and messy hairstyles and this is happening on a regular basis! Thankfully, most of our Intermediate children are doing their families proud in their work, behaviour and personal appearance. To those families I would like to say a very big THANK YOU and please keep it up!!!

God Bless You All!
Michelle Jadoo
Deputy Principal

CWSA

CWSA kids are having fun learning film making using multimedia software. These children have a challenge to create a 2-minute film that will explore their thinking skills; from brainstorming, to script writing, to compiling their movies, and editing the digitised video.

A resource person was invited to talk about film making and other multimedia tools that they will need in creating their project. After listening to the demonstration, I was amazed how these children quickly absorbed what they have seen. Well done CWSA group! You all deserved to be there.

Hands on Learning

At St Mary's School Avondale, we now have our own vegetable garden! Our students are



learning to prepare soil, make compost, raise plants from seed, and how to plant and cultivate seedlings. Now that the weather is improving, the children are keen to get planting.

As far possible we try to practise sustainability, by recycling food scraps from school, and by making use of other organic waste like grass clippings. **Mitre 10 Mega** generously donated some equipment for our garden, but any further donations of plant seedlings, compost, gardening tools, anything at all, is most welcome.

If you would like to know more about the project, contact Craig Satherley at the school, or anytime 027 2426027.

Term Dates 2011

Term 3 Mon 1 August - Fri 7 October

Term 4 Tues 25 October – Fri 16 December

Term Dates 2012

(subject to change at school's discretion)

Term 1 Tues 7 February - Thurs 5 April

Term 2 Mon 23 April - Fri 29 June

Term 3 Mon 16 July – Fri 28 September

Term 4 Mon 5 October - Thurs 20 December

School Diary

(subject to change at school's discretion)

Mobile Dental Clinic onsite **Mon 15 Aug to Fri 23 Sept**

Intermediate Rugby away game **Fri 2 Sept**

Mad Hatter's Mufti Day **Fri 2 Sept**

Mary's Birthday Celebrations **Thurs 8 Sept**

Hearing and Vision testing **Thurs 8 Sept**

Rm 2 assembly 1:30pm **Fri 9 Sept**

ERO **Mon 12 to Wed 14 Sept**

BOT Meeting **Thurs 22 Sept**

Rm 11 assembly 1:30pm **Fri 23 Sept**

Rm 13 assembly 1:30pm **Fri 30 Sept**

Religious Education

This term has been a very busy term. Children have been learning about the Sacraments through the Sacrament Strand and some children have been participating in the sacramental programme. The sacraments of Reconciliation, Holy Communion and Confirmation have been taught and on Saturday the 6th of August the following children received their First Holy Communion:

William Hunt	Matthias Ikinofu
Jan Grace Lopez	Robert Mailangi
Vanessa Mailangi	Chanell Opetaiia Tui
Marisa Posiano	Hayley Stowers
Samrawit Tesfai	Million Tesfai
Anthony Thompson	Xavier Webb
Nahya Westerlund-Manu	

The following children will receive their First Holy Communion on Saturday 10th of September:

Victor Afoa	Petelo Ah-Yen
Derek Eteuati	Maria Karini
Violet Leota	Talita Moata'ane
Raymond Pua	

Raphael and Mary Cruz will also join all of the above students in receiving the sacrament of Confirmation during the same ceremony.

Let's keep these children in our thoughts and prayers as they continue to prepare for the sacrament of Confirmation. The children will receive these sacraments on Saturday the 10th of September.

On Friday the 12th of August we celebrated the Feast of the Assumption of Mary in a whole school mass led by Area 2. It was a beautiful mass of prayer, meditation and worship through song. Many children from Y4, 5 & 6 led the mass with confident reading and solo singing. Thank you to all of the students who participated with confidence and reverence and praising through their talents.

September the 8th marks the birthday of our mother Mary. Children will prepare their own class liturgies to celebrate Mary's birthday. Parents will be invited to attend these class liturgies.

God Bless,
Agatha Soagia
Director of Religious Studies

Musical Instruments Needed

Our school needs your old or unused musical instruments or any microphones, amplifiers, etc.

We are currently resourcing our music department and any donations are greatly appreciated.

School Attendance Dues Sponsorship Scheme

The Attendance Dues Sponsorship Scheme has been created to assist families who may need financial support with the payment of attendance dues, for students attending Catholic schools in Auckland Diocese, both primary and secondary.

The purpose of the sponsorship scheme is to allow parents or caregivers facing financial hardship another option to seek relief where they may be reluctant to approach their school for help.

The existing financial hardship scheme – operated by your school – is also available to parents or caregivers facing hardship and we do encourage families facing financial difficulties to please contact your school office.

Application forms are available from school and parish offices, or can be downloaded from the Catholic Schools Office Website: www.catholicschools.org.nz (go to Property and Finance / Finance / Attendance Dues).

If you have any queries or require assistance with the payment of attendance dues under the sponsorship scheme, you are invited to phone in confidence, Carol Krebs (Ph. 360 3069) at the Auckland Diocese office.

Applications to the sponsorship scheme for 2011 attendance dues will be accepted by the Auckland Common Fund Ltd up to **December 2011**.

Arran Street Parking

Please do not park off the street in Arran Street/Kelvinside Terrace. Alongside the walkway to our school is a private driveway. Parents are using this area as a carpark and blocking in (or out) the owners.

PLEASE PARK ON THE STREET - NOT IN DRIVEWAYS!!!

St Mary's School
Avondale

Walkway entrance

