

# St Mary's School Avondale

## Community Report June 2011 Issue



### Principal's Comment

#### Creativity

Why do we put so much emphasis in New Zealand schools on creativity? Why are the arts pushed for instance? Why do we try and develop the children's confidence to sing and speak in public? Why do we push information technology and computers? I think some parents, perhaps used to a different education system, or perhaps with ideas based on their own schooling wonder about this. In this small article I will try to answer that.

Nothing really important has ever been achieved by people who simply follow the old ways of doing things. Jesus Christ, for instance came to proclaim a new life, a new way of looking at things. He was the ultimate creative being. He didn't keep pace with the times. He was ahead of his time. He didn't just accept his own culture as being the last word in everything. He led and inspired cultural change. He was an artist.

Today the pace of change in terms of technology is increasing in speed. The number of manual labouring jobs continues to decrease. The need for skilled and educated workers increases. The children who will do well in the next 20 years will be the creative, flexible thinkers, the people who can accept and lead change. The confident ones, who can speak in public, take initiative and have found their own inner voice and have the self belief to express it. These will be the ones who will be the most useful in our families, communities and countries. The successful ones will be the kids with their heads in the clouds, but their feet on the ground. Encourage the dreams your

children have for their futures. They might just come true.

Ex-pupil Steven Luatua is making us proud again! Steven is a key player for the New Zealand Junior All Blacks (under 20's) who have just won the World Champs. Congratulations!



**Rob Allen**  
**Principal**

### 3x a Charm – Album Launch

(Jeanil Lopez - Room 13, Iris Guevarra - Room 12 and Cielo Mae Quilab - Room 14)

Congratulations to 3x a Charm on the release of their music album "**Certainly Something**" recorded here at school.

Also thanks to all who attended their very successful album launch last Tuesday. The evening was *Certainly Something*.

This album has 12 original songs written by the girls and has already been critically acclaimed as a great achievement.

These girls have wonderful talent and creativity.

**Certainly Something is now on sale in the school office for the very reasonable price of \$10.**

### Parent Information Evening

All parents are invited to an Information Evening on National Standards in Week 9. Please diarise the date so you will be available to attend:

**Wednesday 29 June at 6.30pm.**

## Area 3 News

We are almost at the end of term 2 and we are as busy as bees.

The Intermediate children are learning about The Water Cycle and its Impact on the Environment in great detail. Please encourage them to share their knowledge with you.

At the end of this term you will be receiving your child's half yearly report. This is an important report for your Year 8 children as this is the report that will be requested when they apply for enrolment at high school.

Please ensure that your Intermediate child gives you any notices, newsletters, weekly report cards, etc. that are being sent home. Too many Intermediate children are not giving their parents this valuable information and too many replies are not being sent back to school.

Thank you again for your ongoing support.

**Michelle Jadoo**  
**Deputy Principal**

## Area 2 News

### A Lovely Warm Winter Welcome to You All!

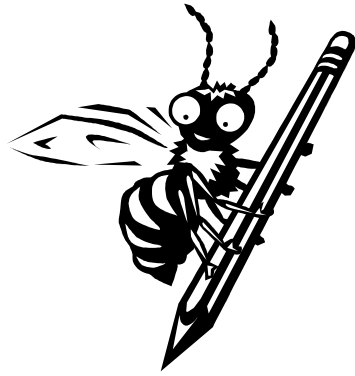
The shortest day of the year has just past during this week. We have had some good warm sunny days and we are lucky that the children have spent very little time indoors during the morning tea and lunch breaks. Area 2 teachers are pleased to report that school is going very well. Everyone is working hard on their learning and the children are active and engaged. They are being offered a wide range of sporting and cultural activities that go towards experiencing a rich and broad curriculum. Exactly how it should be for primary aged children.

### Listen to What Area 2 Children Are Saying:

- "We are investigating and doing experiments."
- "We have been learning that science is FUN!!!"
- "We have been doing lots of amazingly cool experiments."
- "We have learnt that you must follow the instructions exactly as they tell you, or else you might stuff up and have to start all over again."

### Area of Concern

Teachers have been finding children very tired at school. This is true especially after a weekend. Children need their sleep in order to function at a high level at school. If they are always tired then they will not be learning to their optimum levels. We would appreciate it if parents could support us with this by getting their children to bed at a reasonable time each night.



## Reporting

Teachers are completing mid-year progress reports so all children need to focus on how close they are to attaining their targets and goals set earlier in the term. Best foot forward, everyone.

## Tennis

The following children have been selected to represent St Mary's at the Grasshopper Tennis Tournament on Thursday 30th June at Blockhouse Bay Tennis Club between 10am-12:30pm. Good luck to:

- Chloe Benedito
- Seini Likiliki
- Vaipalolo Nevili
- Ezekiel Sio
- Andrew Biggar
- Siosaia Tahifote (Captain)
- Nathaniel Cocker-Valu
- Aaliyah Lila (Captain).

Thank you to all our wonderful parents who entrust your children into our care.

**Geraldine Malgas**  
**Assistant Principal**

## Area 1 News

Hello all! We welcome the new families to St Mary's School Avondale. Thank you for trusting us with your child's learning and we will assure you that these children will have a fruitful and productive learning journey.

The new pupils in Area 1 this term are:

- Katharina Weischede
- Patrick Mailo
- Cy Macatuggal
- Avery Patrick Tuilaepa
- Julius Leavai.

What a great week of learning it has been leading up to the last three weeks of this term. Lots of hard work has been put in by children into finishing their work and achieving their target goals. Congratulations to all those children who are really working hard aiming high to achieve progress. KEEP WORKING HARD!

## Reminders

Please ensure the following:

- Ensure your child has eaten his/her breakfast before coming to school.
- Your child has packed food for morning tea and lunch.
- Ensure that your child is wearing the correct winter uniform.
- Your child comes to school on time.
- Ensure that you read with your child every night.
- Your child does her/his homework if there is any.
- Check your child's bag for school notice/s.
- **Do not send unwell children to school.**

## St Mary's School Community Reading Centre

I would like to thank all families who attended our recent opening of St Mary's Community Reading Centre, which is part of the Home-School Partnership programme at our school.



It certainly demonstrated our school's strong sense of community and provided a wonderful opportunity to meet other families in a relaxed and comfortable

environment. During the meeting, we had the privilege of being entertained by the Area 1 children with their songs and dances.

A special thank you is extended to all the parents who helped in putting up the reading centre. It was marvellous to see parents working hand in hand with us, anytime of the day. Your time and effort is much appreciated.

## Classroom Helpers

In the Junior area, we are fortunate to have many parents willing to volunteer their time to assist with special events, help within classrooms and assist children in their learning. If you would like to help within the classroom, please come and see your child's teacher. Although parents are not able to help within their own child's year level, we will ensure you are with a class in which you feel comfortable.

## ICT in the Junior Classes

Technology continues to be a very popular and effective way to teach in our classrooms. There are endless supplies of interactive stories, activities and educational games excellent for our school children. Our ICT Suite provides limitless supply of teaching possibilities. Children are so engaged in this style of learning, they problem solve and share knowledge with each other, usually independently, on a regular basis. Children in the Junior area are enjoying the ICT integrated learning.

## School Mass

Area 1 will lead the celebration of the Feast of Sacred Heart of Jesus, on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2011 at 9am. We invite parents to join us in the celebration of this Eucharistic Service.

## Reports

At the end of this term, your child will bring home the first semester report regarding your child's progress and achievement at school this first half-year. We encourage you to look closely at your child's report and give us feedback about it.

**Sonia De la Cruz**  
**Senior Teacher Junior Classes**

## CWSA

Kudos to the Media Broadcasters group for scooping news around the school. You are like real CNN or BBC roving reporters. You did a fantastic job reporting live to all St Mary's Avondale children about the latest activities and events of the school. Thank you Marijana Vincent, Brian Kumar, Robert Mailangi and Samrawit Tesfai. You all did your job well. You will be hearing more news and updates in the days to come from other media broadcasters group. Congratulations to the Media Broadcasters group!

The ICT Club of CWSA group has started working with children in Room 1, assisting them in developing their ICT skills. Every Friday, the ICT Club work with children from different classes to help them acquire ICT skills.

Children across the school will have extra time to work in the ICT Suite during lunch break.



## 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](http://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**.

## Religious Education

In Week 7 the whole school participated and celebrated Mass with the parish for the feast of Pentecost. We called on Te Wairua Tapu to fill us with faith, hope and love. Area 3 prepared mass with children who read and sang beautifully. Many parishioners commented on how beautiful mass was celebrated and how reverent and respectful our students were in the house of God. Thank you St Mary's for worshipping with such awe and respect for our catholic ways and values.

The sacramental program has begun and students have been participating in lessons for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Lessons are held on Thursdays by Mrs Soagia and Fridays by Father Ephrem. The lessons for the Sacrament of Reconciliation are coming to an end and lessons for Holy Communion will begin in Week 10. If there are any families who would still like children to participate in the program for the sacrament of Holy Communion please see Mrs Soagia in Rm 9 **before Friday 8<sup>th</sup> July**.



Children are given activities to reflect on and complete at home **with their families**. This is a vital part of developing faith and values for your child. To all parents, please take time to work and reflect on activities that your children bring home to work on, whether it be for the sacramental program or for the religious education curriculum in school.

We are now working on the God strand in school and children are developing understanding on the mystery of who God is and the promises that God has made. God is a God who is great, faithful and without limits.

God Bless you all  
**Agatha Soagia**  
**Director of Religious Studies**

## School Holiday Programme

Carol Raynes from our Tuckshop is running her School Holiday Programme again these holidays on 18<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> July. The Funtimez Kids Club is based at Fruitvale School and is designed for children between 5-13 years old. Each day has fun activities and is open from 7:30am until 6pm. The programme is CYF approved for the OSCAR subsidy - **so it may not cost you as much as you think!**

Enrolment forms are at the tuckshop or school office. Alternatively please contact the school office and a form can be sent home with your child.

### Term Dates 2011

- Term 2** Mon 2 May - Fri 15 July
- 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)*

National Standards Information Evening **Wed 29 June**

Y7 Immunisations & Y8 girls HPV catch up **Thurs 30 June**

Area 2 Tennis **Thurs 30 June**

Area 1 Mass 'Sacred Heart' **Fri 1 July**

Room 3's Assembly 1:30pm **Fri 8 July**

Maori Language Week **Mon 11 to Fri 15 July**

Term 2 Ends **Fri 15 July**

Term 3 Starts **Mon 1 Aug**

Dental Screening Van onsite **Mon 1 Aug to Tues 9 Aug**

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

