



Starting at school this week

Week 1, 1 – 5 February 2010

[www.st-marks.school.nz](http://www.st-marks.school.nz)

Ph. 0064 4 385 9489

Dear Parents

**A very special welcome back to School to you all.** Starting the new year, after such a fun holiday, is not always easy for children to adjust to; however I am pleased to report that the beginning to this academic year has been very smooth and the children have quickly settled back into their routines. We have a full complement of staff and I extend a special welcome to our new staff and to our new families.



We were very saddened to hear of the death of one of our students over the holidays. Dylan Patel was killed in a road accident while holidaying in India last month. I know you will join with me in keeping the Patel family in our prayers.

You will have seen from the term calendar that next week sees the start of our 'Meet The Teacher' evenings with the first one on Wednesday for the families in Year 0 – Year 4. Watch out for the notices about these and I hope that you will take the opportunity to join us for a picnic tea, to meet the other families and children, and of course, your son or daughter's teacher.

Last year at one of our Parent Evenings I talked about our emergency procedures in the event of a civil defence emergency happening during the school day. In this issue of Remarks I have included a list of items we require at the school in case of such emergencies and I would ask that you send the items requested on the days suggested.

Much is planned for this first term and I ask that you keep a close eye on the Term 1 calendar and the 'Coming Up Next Week' section of our Remarks. A focus for the school this term is our School Family Fun Fair on March 26 – keep the date free and watch out for the gold notices in the school bag!

Barb and I have visitors from England staying with us for the weekend and it looks as though Wellington is going to turn on a fabulous weekend for us all. Enjoy the 'Rugby Sevens' and the celebrations for Waitangi Day tomorrow – New Zealand is a great place to live isn't it!

Tony

ICE CREAM DAY UPDATE

Please note Ice Cream day has changed to Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March.  
Cool ice cream tubs with a choice of sauces for just \$1.50



## Meet our new staff..

Mrs Louise Boon  
Year 6 Class Teacher  
and Science



Hello, Kia Ora. I am Louise Boon (from Nottingham, UK) and I have joined the St Mark's team this year in the role of Year 6 class teacher and science specialist for Year 7.

Already, I have been overwhelmed by the enthusiasm of your children, the warm welcomes from parents and the dynamic, friendly atmosphere from the whole school community. Thank you for making me feel so welcome.

This summer, I have taken time to start visiting some of the places around New Zealand on my rather extensive list! Having only just arrived in New Zealand (2 months ago,) I have been thoroughly amazed by the country's beauty, yummy meat pies and extreme sport activities! My 12,000 foot skydive was definitely a **high point** of the summer!

I am delighted to be working at St Mark's Church School. I believe that 2010 will be a fantastic year full of exciting opportunities for St Mark's and myself. I look forward to meeting you all.

## From the Parish

### From the Parish

Services are held at St Mark's Church on Wednesday at 10.00am and on Sunday at 9.30am with Sunday School.

All members of the school community, staff, parents and relatives are welcome to join the Parish at these services.

**Hall Hire:** If you would like to hire the Church Hall for a one-off function or regular activity, please contact the Parish Office.

Parish Office – 385 8536 –  
Val Scharnke  
Email: st.marks1@xtra.co.nz  
Reverend: Michael Holland

## The Virtue for weeks 1 & 2: Make Your Mark

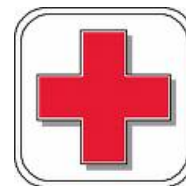
### Note from the Bursar...

An increasing number of our parents are enquiring about paying their fees by Automatic Payment.

Automatic payments can be tailored to meet the needs of each individual payer; weekly, or fortnightly, or even monthly, your automatic payments can be structured to match this.

Because fee levels differ between years, it is important that you contact the Bursar (Mrs Christine Kuper) on 385-9489 to ensure that the payment amounts and dates are the best to meet your circumstances.

### Emergency Information



A copy of the information held by the school will have been sent home last week. Please check to ensure all contact and medical details are correct and make any amendments required. If there are no changes, please still sign the sheet to show it is correct, and return to your child's class teacher.

It is vital we have up to date information. Thank you for your assistance.

### St Mark's Parents' Association All parents welcome

The Parents' Association is the official body representing all parent groups at St Mark's. It meets once a month in the evening with Tony Batchelor.

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February – 7.15 for 7.30pm

Meet in the School Staff Room  
See the Parents' Noticeboard for further  
information

## Staffing

Two of our staff members recently married after announcing their engagements this time last year. Our warmest congratulations to Mr & Mrs Joe and Jemima Southey, and Mr & Mrs Sam and Emily Hill.

It has been an exciting start to the year as we welcomed to the staff at St Mark's Mrs Louise Boon, Ms Emma Milne, Mrs Barbara Batchelor, Miss Rebecca Buchanan, Mrs Shalini Agarwal and Mrs Tracy Nel, and the return of Mrs Zoe Roles from maternity leave.

## Students

We welcome to St Mark's this year the following students: Jack Frizzell, Jack Dryden, Jaiden Baker, Nathaniel Bickers, Joseph Field, Aushadha Wickremesekera, Leon Zhang, Apostoli Camberis, Bethany Petrovich, Neakiry Kivi, Danny Kivi, Hannah Freynhagen, Kaia Jiang, Emma Dias, Dominic Bingle, Adam Musa, Samuel Nicholson, Luca Economou, Eva Hayes and Saskia Moore and their families as part of the St Mark's community.

It was a delight to begin the year with the fly-ups of 3 pupils from the Foundation class who have joined 1EG and 1AD.

## Parking

A start of year reminder to please obey the parking instructions outside the School and Church. For the safety of all, and to ease traffic congestion, please do not leave your car unattended in front of the School as this is intended to be a drop-off and pick-up zone only at the beginning and end of the School day. If you wish to deliver your son or daughter personally to the classroom please park around the Basin Reserve or on the Transit land by Regional Wines and use the light controlled pedestrian crossings to get to school. Transit New Zealand kindly allow us to use the vacant (gravel) land on this corner

**between 8-9am and 2.30-3.30pm.**

Please note that outside of these times towing instructions are in place.

Older children may be dropped in Kent Terrace or Adelaide Road to walk to School.

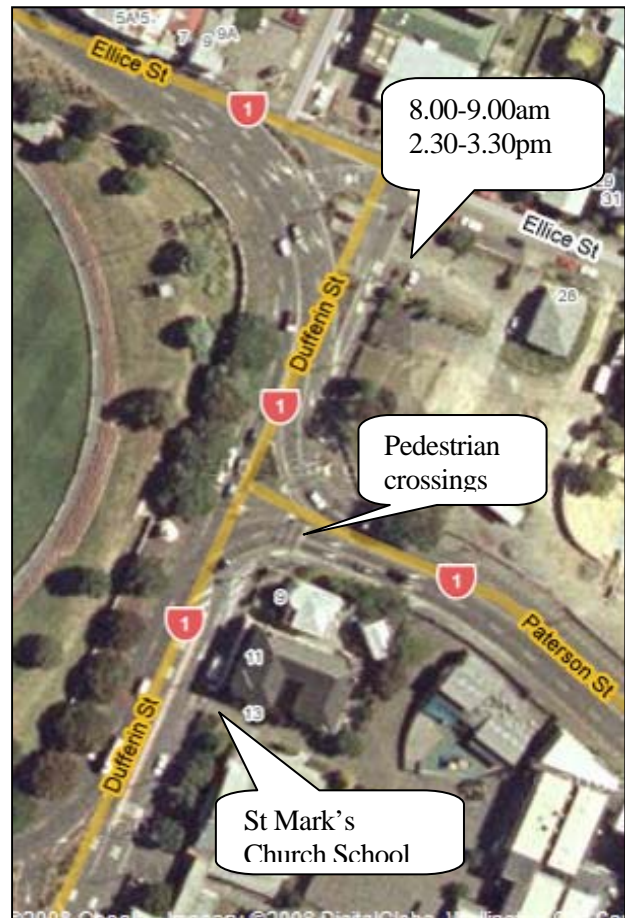
## Procedures at end of day

If you collect your child from outside the school at the end of the day please be advised that children will be asked to wait against the brick wall. A member of staff will be on duty. Children should not wait on the lawn or sit on the wall. For their safety, if children have not been collected by 3:40pm they will be taken up to school by the teacher on duty, and asked to wait by the school bell.

We appreciate your cooperation. These arrangements are to ensure the safety of your children.

## Bus children

If your child catches the bus home, they will be asked to line up behind cones at the church drive. Please talk to them about acceptable behaviour on the journey home and what you would like them to do if they miss the bus.



Coming up next week:

Monday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 6+8 Swimming</li> <li>7.30pm Parent's Association meeting-all welcome, Staff Room</li> </ul>
Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 7 Swimming</li> </ul>
Wednesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8.30am Church Y0-4</li> <li>12.30pm Y5 visit to City Gallery</li> <li>Meet the Teacher picnic 5.30pm Y0-4 (meet on Top Playground)</li> </ul>
Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8.30am Church Y5-8</li> </ul>
Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Y8 Urban Spaces walk to City</li> <li>Road patrol training</li> </ul>
Weekend	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9.30 Parish Church Service –Sunday</li> <li>St Valentine's day-Sunday!</li> </ul>

## Emergency Provisions

**Emergency provisions are a requirement at St Mark's.**

Emergency food and water, along with survival blankets and other necessities, are held on site in case of emergencies.

Cans are stored and used in the event of a major emergency. Unused cans of food are given to the City Mission at the end of the year.

Prompt delivery of both cans and tissues is most important to ensure that we have supplies on hand in case of an emergency

### Emergency Provision Contribution Days

#### Box of Tissues - per child

**All children are to bring one large box of tissues along with the required can of food. The tissues will be used during Terms 1 and 2. A second collection may be required in Term 3**

#### Cans of Food - per child

##### ***Monday 8 February***

ELC            2 x creamed rice pudding  
Years 1-3      2 x unsweetened fruit

##### ***Tuesday 9 February***

Year 4        2 x 450gms baked beans  
Year 5        2 x 450gms creamed corn  
Year 6        2 x 450gms baked beans

##### ***Wednesday 10 February***

Year 7            2 x 450gms spaghetti  
Year 8            2 packets Barley Sugar



## PYP News February 2010

"The real voyage of discovery consists  
not in seeking new landscapes but in  
having new eyes."

Marcel Proust

Welcome back to another exciting year of inquiry learning!

This term students begin with a Unit Of Inquiry based on the theme: **Who We Are**  
*'An exploration of the nature of the self; our beliefs and values; of personal, mental, social and spiritual health; of our families, friends, communities and cultures; of our rights and responsibilities; of what it means to be human.'*

The teachers are busy rewriting and adjusting the Units of Inquiry for their class. In the first few weeks all classes are focusing on writing 'Essential Agreements' which are guidelines for a successful and happy classroom. During our 'Meet the Teacher' nights you will be given specific information about your child's curriculum as it is carried out in the classroom. I am also hoping to run a workshop for parents in Term 2 where you will be able to become IB learners yourselves!

I am sure you will be impressed with the teaching and learning programmes teachers are planning and presenting to your child. We believe that using an inquiry approach and combining skills from different disciplines in our lessons will help our students develop deeper understanding. This year we are growing in our endeavour to integrate inquiry throughout the day in all areas. You can help us by asking your child "What good question did you ask today?" when they arrive home to talk about their day. Questioning, wondering, speculation, doubt, and curiosity are actions we like to see in our children as it guides and motivates their learning. Remember to visit our school website to see more information about the PYP and look for articles and highlights in each newsletter. This will be an important year for us as we face our Authorisation Visit from an IB Team in September which should see St Mark's becoming a recognised IB World School. As part of the continuous IB professional development that all the teachers receive throughout their journey as PYP teachers, sixteen of our staff will spend a weekend in February at school with an IB Trainer who is coming from Tasmania.

As always, we welcome your involvement and participation. If you have a particular expertise (or just a special interest) we would love to hear from you.

Have a great term,

Corinne



Do you have a question about the Primary Years Programme? Please refer your questions by e-mail to Mrs Corinne Roling PYP Coordinator. (For parents who are new to the school there is a lot of information about the Primary Years Programme on the International Baccalaureate website: [www.ibo.org](http://www.ibo.org)).

**THE ST MARK'S CHURCH SCHOOL**  
**INFORMATION CENTRE'S NEW OPENING HOURS**



**Before School:** The Information Centre is open every day before school from 7.45am for students to read the newspaper, browse the shelves, read a book, research, play a game of chess or work on the current puzzle.

**After School:** The Information Centre is open for parents to read with their children from 2.30pm to 4pm.

The Information Centre Manager, Tracy Nel, looks forward to seeing a lot of the St Mark's School family over the coming weeks!

**Family Fun Fair Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2010**

Only 8 weeks to go!!!!

You should receive a letter today outlining ways you can help. Please read this and send it back to school next week.

Over the holidays many of you had cleanouts and have collected clothing and books ready to donate to our stalls. You can now drop these off to the classroom nearest the front office. (Old 1EG room). We will only take Good Quality women's, children's and sports clothing and books please. We are also accepting DVDs and CDs this year but could you please make sure they are working. Any goods not sold at the fair will be donated to the Wellington Mission. You can also drop off old crockery (not glass) for the crockery crash. A big hit last year!!

We will also be having a pre sale day on the Wed and Thursday before the fair from 3 – 4pm for the clothing and bookstalls.



Please return the helpers note and let us know what you would like to do this year.

Keep reading Remarks each week for updates!!

## Back to School with Visique

No-one is more passionate about kiwi eye care than Visique Optometrists.

This year our back to school promotion includes the free sunnies for five-year-olds starting school, AND also we have a Fly Buys offer of 20 bonus points for every child's eye test.

To obtain free sunglasses for your new entrant starting school please visit our Visique website [www.visique.co.nz](http://www.visique.co.nz) and download your voucher today. Bring this voucher into Visique CapitalEyes and swap it for some stunning new sunnies. If you are unable to download a voucher for any reason please call 0800 Visique and we will post one out to you.

### Penguins Inline Hockey Open Day (ice hockey on roller blades)

Sunday February 14 from 2 – 5pm  
Kilbirnie Rec Centre to find out more  
Phone Claire 934 1344 or visit our  
website [www.penguinshockey.co.nz](http://www.penguinshockey.co.nz)

### Brooklyn Northern United 2010 Football Registration

Wed 17 Feb 6 – 8pm @ Brooklyn School.  
Thurs 25 Feb 5.30 – 7.30pm @ Wellington  
Bowling Club, Tanera Crescent.

Contact Ian Paterson Ph 384-1938  
[ipaterson@paradise.net.nz](mailto:ipaterson@paradise.net.nz)

### Karori Junior Hockey Club

Registration Day Monday 22 February  
2009 from 5 to 7pm in the Karori Normal  
School hall foyer, Donald Street, Karori.

Great game for boys and girls, from Year 1  
to 8. All queries to Leigh Perry ph 027 476  
0040 or email [perryclan@xtra.co.nz](mailto:perryclan@xtra.co.nz)

## Community Dental Service

We have received a letter from the School Dental Service. Although they have recruited a new Therapist who will be commencing in Term 2, if your son or daughter requires emergency dental care or is experiencing pain, please contact the Administration Office on 570 9292 or 570 9246.

### Year 7 Vision Screening

Regional Public Health provides a vision screening programme at your child's school during Year 7.

- **Vision** – Pupils will be advised of results at the time of testing. If further assessment is recommended you will be notified by mail.
- **Colour – Vision** – This is to identify boys with an inherited colour defect. If there is any difficulty with the colour-vision test you will be notified by mail.
- **Children** who wear glasses and/or are under professional care and have regular checks, will not require a vision check by our service.

#### **NON CONSENT**

- **Please notify the School if you DO NOT agree to your child being screened.**



Year 8, 2009 Art Project