



Week 3 Term 1

17th February 2020

School website www.stmarys.ac.nz

School Facebook www.facebook.com/groups/stmarysschoolwanganui

School App From the Google Apps / Play Store: SchoolAppsNZ St Mary's School

We won!!!

Thank you Mitre 10 and the wonderful person who nominated our school. We won a brand new BBQ for our school AND on the 28th of February they are coming to school to cook our students a sausage sizzle!

This week we have parent interviews... please make an appointment and return the form to school. This school home partnership is so important. We aim for 100% contact. Please ensure your child is collected at 1pm on Thursday. SKIDS are operating.

Please keep an eye on the calendar as we are already in full swing.

Not long now until the GALA. Many hands make light work.. We really appreciate your help.

God Bless
Jacqui Luxton



Meet the Teacher Interviews Thursday 20th February

This is your opportunity to share your hopes, needs and concerns with your child's teacher.

It is important that we work as a team to set your child up for success.

You can book two different ways.

- 1) www.schoolinterviews.co.nz

The event code **28bfy**

Follow the instructions

- 2) Ring Ivy and she will book you in

**We finish at 1pm on Thursday
20th February.**



Who to see... If you have a query or concern regarding your child please see your child's Teacher first. If you still require assistance please see your child's Team Leader as follows:

Junior Team

Dallas Limpus:

Student from JLC, Room 3, 4 and 5

Middle Team

Cath Daignault:


Students from Rooms 6, 7 and 8

Senior Team

Ian Kerr:

Student from Rooms 9, 10 and 11





St Mary's School
Whanganui

A grid of ten blue circular icons on a white background, each with a white icon and a label below it:

- Absentee (phone handset)
- Contacts (two people)
- Links (chain link)
- Calendar (calendar icon)
- Newsletter (envelope with checkmark)
- Term Dates (three horizontal lines)
- Sports (running person)
- Alerts (megaphone)

Please use our Absentee App when your child is sick. This makes things so much easier for us here at school. Please give a detailed reason as this helps us to monitor the spread of illness and to assign the correct absence code for the Ministry of Education.



We have a lot of bugs floating around and they are spreading.

If your child is unwell, vomits or has diarrhoea you are required to keep your child home **48 hours after** all symptoms have stopped.

This is vital to contain the spread of the bug.

Important dates coming up...

- **Parent Interviews - Thursday 20th February**
- **School Twilight Gala - 5th of March**

You may be aware that schools will be using more Staff Only Days this year. These will be used for staff to access Professional Development and assist with work load demands. In 2020 we are accessing professional development from an expert from the UK. We are also joining a Whanganui wide community of learning. The Teacher only days for this professional development will be:

- **Teacher Only Day - 3rd of August**
- **Teacher Only Day - 3rd and 4th of September**



INCLUSION

Āpiti

The second commandment is 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." MARK 12:31



In Term 1 we are focusing on the Gospel Value of **Inclusion**.

We would love you to take the time to talk about and reinforce each aspect of our ICIC Gospel Values with your child.

This week we look at **Welcoming**... there are 4 skills that we can work towards.

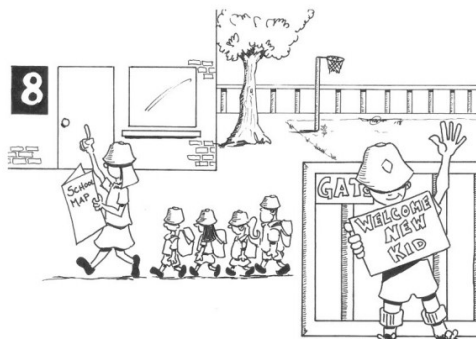
Welcoming

Making new people welcome.

Knowing and using people's names.

Ensuring new people know the way we do things.

Fully participating with Reverence and Respect in the School Powhiri.



Twilight Gala Update!

March the 5th... not long now!



We still need volunteers!!!

If you are able to help on the day please text

Jacki Clark on 0210548080

We have our next GALA Meeting on

Tuesday the

25th of February at 7pm.



Thank you PTA!!!

We are now the proud owners of a portable stage for our hall. Our students are going to love performing on this.



Starting from Next
Thursday...

YUM

St Mary's School Wanganui Pita Pit - Thursday

Pita Pit is back and delivering lunches every
Thursday - start date 27th February 2020

It's simple; all you need to do is register at
www.lunchonline.co.nz
and follow 4 easy steps to get started

- 1 Register an account
- 2 Add member/s including your child's name, school and classroom
- 3 Make a payment so you have funds in your account before you order
- 4 Select your lunch and place an order



 **lunchonline**
www.lunchonline.co.nz

Phone 0800 LOL LOL

Phone 0800 565 565

info@lunchonline.co.nz

Healthy and affordable | Easy internet ordering

Kia Ora

My name is Vivienne East and I am a Registered Nurse based at the Whanganui Hospital. I visit St Mary's School throughout the school year offering support, advice and referrals for any health concerns that parents, caregivers or teachers may have.

Some of the health problems include: allergies, nutrition concerns, growth and development, immunisations, puberty concerns, bed-wetting, toileting issues, vision and hearing, parenting support.

I can be contacted on my mobile on 021 373 212 or through the Whanganui Hospital on 06 348 3343 or you can email me on

vivienne.east@wdhb.org.nz

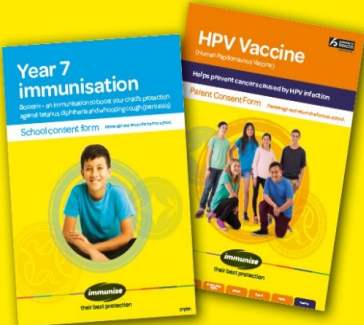
Nga Mihi

Viv

If your child is in **Year 7 or 8** they'll be offered important **free** immunisations at school. These will help protect them against serious diseases, and will also help protect your whānau and our wider community.

Ask your child for the consent form they've been given for you to read, sign and return to school.

For more information:
Talk to the **Public Health Nurse**
visit health.govt.nz/imms-older-children
or call **0800 Immune**



immunise
their best protection

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
New Zealand Government

Year 7 and 8 education sessions will take place on Tuesday the 18th February at 9.30am in the library.

Parents and caregivers are welcome to attend.

For more information please contact Vivienne East, Public Health Nurse on 021 373 212



There's a very good chance you've heard of Minecraft. The block building phenomenon is, arguably, the most beloved video game of all time which has managed to maintain its popularity since its first release back in 2011. Nine years later, it still has a huge userbase of 112 million people playing the game every month. Accessible to those 7+, Minecraft can be a gateway into a world of learning and exploration which encourages players to use their imagination to build three-dimensional worlds with virtual building blocks. While Minecraft is considered relatively safe generally speaking, there are some safety precautions parents may want to consider before allowing their children loose on the game.



OPEN TO HACKING

Hackers can be a real problem in any online game, including Minecraft. Some individuals can access other people's games to disrupt their play time, or even worse, access private details about players such as their names, email addresses, dates of birth and so on. It would be incredibly rare and unfortunate to encounter a player like this, but it does happen and must be taken as a serious risk.



RISK OF GRIEFING

Griefing is when someone purposely upsets another player during the game. This can be done by destroying someone's creation or generally doing something to spoil someone's gameplay and can essentially amount to a form of cyberbullying. In open servers, or even private ones among friends, it can be difficult to keep track of who's saying what, and an innocent comment in one person's eyes could be seen as bullying by somebody else. Stealing supplies, destroying things that take hours to build and harassing innocent players can all be commonplace if care isn't taken.



CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Most players aged 7 and over will be able to play the game comfortably and, whilst creating an account does ask you to input your date of birth for confirmation, there's no way to check if the information is correct nor to check someone's real identity. This could mean that children younger than 7 could access the game. However, what is more concerning is that adults pretending to be children could theoretically be using false information to access the game and be interacting with your child.



ADDICTIVE NATURE

Minecraft can be an incredibly exciting game but it can also be very addictive. Too much time on the game could impact on your child's behaviour, causing them to become irritable or angry when being asked to stop playing. This might suggest it might be time to enforce some time away from the game. Addictive behaviour can be compounded at a young age and encouraging gaming in moderation is always recommended.

'SCARY' CHARACTERS FOR YOUNGER GAMERS

For the most part, Minecraft is not a scary game. Despite this, there are certain characters in the game that younger children in particular may find frightening. Creepers, zombies and various other 'baddies' can be commonplace in some parts of the game and young minds may find it difficult to disassociate them from real life once they switch off the game.



Safety Tips For Parents

BLOCK STRANGERS AND UNWANTED CONTACT

Despite the fact that private messages can no longer be sent in the game, strangers may still attempt to interact with your child. From the pause menu, players can block chat and friend requests from others in the game. This causes any profanities, email addresses and phone numbers to become automatically blocked, meaning it's harder for people you don't know to potentially contact your child.

MONITOR GAME TIME

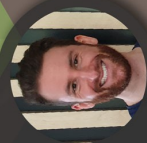
Being able to play on a wide variety of platforms can be beneficial however it can also make it more difficult to put the game down. Play time should be monitored and it's always a good idea to talk to your child if you feel they are spending too much time on the game or showing signs of addictive behaviour.

CREATE SERVER WHITELISTS

Username you know to be safe, like your child's friends or relatives, can have their accounts whitelisted as safe. Essentially, this means that server moderators can create a community made up of people they know to be friendly and children will only be playing alongside people both they and you know, reducing any risk of contact with strangers or experiencing griefing.

Meet our expert

Mark Foster has worked in the gaming industry for 5 years as a writer, editor and presenter. He is the current gaming editor of two of the biggest gaming news sites in the world, UNILAD Gaming and GAMINGible. Starting gaming from a young age with his siblings, he has a passion for understanding how games and tech work, but more importantly, how to make them safe and fun.



LEARN FROM YOUTUBERS / TWITCH STREAMERS

There are a lot of Minecraft focused YouTubers and Twitch Streamers that offer a huge variety of fun, engaging content. Many of them focus on making videos specifically for younger audiences, which don't include bad language or anything scary. If you're unsure about the game, check out some of the biggest streamers and more importantly, ask who your children like. This will help you to understand what the game is about and also make sure that your children are watching age-appropriate content online.

CREATE A PRIVATE SERVER

The best way to avoid unwanted strangers or grievers in a server is to simply create your own. Private servers do exactly what they say on the tin by offering a safe, secure place for children to play and create with their friends, free from outside interference. They (and you) control who is allowed in the server and what kind of things they can do in it, making it the closest thing Minecraft offers to parental controls.

LEARN TO PLAY YOURSELF

Minecraft is an incredibly easy game to pick up and play. Furthermore, it doesn't require an expensive console or computer, with versions available for smartphones and tablets. Learning to play yourself and playing alongside your child is the best way to understand the game and will help to put your mind at ease in respect of what your child is viewing and who they may be interacting with.

PLAY IN CREATIVE OR PEACEFUL MODES

Playing the game on Creative or Peaceful mode ensures that the experience is strictly safe. Peaceful mode allows children to explore with friends without having the survival elements of normal Minecraft, while Creative mode allows imagination to run wild with unlimited resources, encouraging creation of vast, personalised worlds. There really are no limits as to what can be accomplished and getting involved yourself can make it a great way to bond with your child and give you a long-term project to complete with them.

I n C hrist I C an... Champions!



Inclusion

Courtesy

Integrity

Courage



St Marys School

In Christ I Can

Name: Samuel Jackson

Room: 6

☒ Inclusion

☐ Courtesy

☐ Integrity

☐ Courage

Reason: Hearing a student when he was letting people know he was feeling alone then doing it by encouraging him to play football.

Teacher: Mr. Dargatzis



St Marys School

In Christ I Can

Name: Taviana-May

Room: 6

☒ Inclusion

☐ Courtesy

☐ Integrity

☐ Courage

Reason: For looking after the new girl. She saw her sitting alone.

Teacher: Mr. Dargatzis



St Marys School

In Christ I Can

Name: Kourtney Edwards

Room: 7

☒ Inclusion

☒ Courtesy

☐ Integrity

☐ Courage

Reason: Kourtney graciously accepted help from a fellow student when she was struggling with a math game, and used beautiful manners to thank him at the end of the game. Well done Kourtney!

Teacher: Mr. Dargatzis



St Marys School

In Christ I Can

Name: Chloe

Room: 4

☒ Inclusion

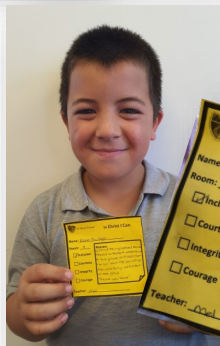
☐ Courtesy

☐ Integrity

☐ Courage

Reason: Chloe saw that a number of the class was doing a puzzle on her own so she went and joined in with her.

Teacher: Miss Slade



St Marys School

In Christ I Can

Name: Kane Savage

Room: 7

☒ Inclusion

☐ Courtesy

☐ Integrity

☐ Courage

Reason: Kane was being asked to join a new game and decided to go. He read the cards so the group was fully included! Thank you Kane!

Teacher: Mr. Dargatzis





February



Monday 17th:

- Bike Skills Room 11

Tuesday 18th:

- School nurse talk to Year 7 & 8 immunisations
- Bike Skills Rooms 7, 8, 9 & 10
- Gifted & Talented STEM

Wednesday 19th:

- Rotary Readers
- Technology Yr 7 & 8
- Bike Skills Rooms 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11

Thursday 20th:

- Bike Skills Rooms 7, 8, 9 & 10
- **School closes 1pm for Parent Interviews**

Friday 21st:

- Gifted & Talented Arts
- Mass @ Cullinane Rooms 4 and 5

Monday 24th:

- Volunteers Thank You BBQ 5 - 7pm

Tuesday 25th:

- Swimming Trials Rooms 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11
- Gifted & Talented STEM
- **PTA Gala Meeting 7pm**

Wednesday 26th:

- Year 1 & 2 students beach water safety trip
- Rotary Readers
- Kapahaka
- Technology Yr 7 & 8
- Ash Wednesday Liturgy 12.30 in the Hall
- Assembly Room 10

Thursday 27th:

- Pita Pit go to lunchonline
- Swimming Trials Rooms 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11

Friday 28th:

- Gifted & Talented Arts
- Mass @ Cullinane Rooms 6 and 7
- BBQ Lunch for whole school - provided by Mitre 10!

March

Tuesday 3rd:

- Bike Skills Rooms JLC, 3, 4, 5 & 6