

Term 1 April 2025

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 are at the end of Term 1 already. What a fantastic term we have had. It's wonderful to see our settled learners consistently making excellent choices, both during lessons and in the playground.

Every year we update our strategic and annual plan. Our path forward is determined through a collaborative process that considers the requirements of the Palmerston North Diocese and the Ministry of Education, alongside the crucial input of your voice, student voice, and teacher voice.

Three strategic goals guide our overarching direction.

Strategic Goals 2024 - 2026

Embracing Faith:	Excellence in Education:	Thriving from Within:
Aspirational Goal: To passionately live and serve in the spirit of Jesus through active participation, Catholic Social Teaching and modeling of our Catholic faith within our school and wider parish. Learning focused partnerships between students, teachers and whānau empower learners to thrive.	Aspirational Goal: To establish a forward-thinking local curriculum that embodies our Catholic identity, is grounded in Te Ao Māori, and fosters robust student success. Ensuring a unified curriculum approach throughout the school, placing learners at the core. Fostering a culture of continual improvement which prioritises effective collaboration between teachers to provide rich student achievement.	Aspirational Goal: To nurture our students, staff and whānau by building wellbeing and resilience. To promote spiritual wellbeing which forms the foundation of life's journey with God. To provide a safe positive environment through authentic quality relationships and partnerships. To remove barriers through equity growing curious, courageous and confident learners.

We then develop an annual plan that outlines how we will achieve these strategic goals. The full plan can be found on our website.

In a nutshell...

- **Religious education, Tō Tātou Whakapono Our Faith.** The implementation of our new curriculum over the last year has provided us with the opportunity to keep embedding effective planning, tracking, assessment and evaluation of the programme.
- **Celebrating our diversity.** We have some exciting plans unfolding over the year to celebrate our many unique cultures. Watch this space.
- **Our staff are experiencing a large amount of change and I am so proud of them!** As you may know from recent news, we have a new refreshed curriculum. You will also have heard about Structured Literacy and Structured Maths. Our staff have worked through, are working through and will be working through the Better Start Literacy Approach and Numicon to support structured Maths. It is essential that we proceed through these changes with care that we do not lose good practice and we embed new learning to enhance teaching and learning.
- **Assessment changes ahead.** We currently use a variety of tools to assess students and differentiate their learning to suit their needs. These tools are changing over the next year so our priority is to keep providing you with a clear picture of where your child is achieving. We continue to provide a mid year report and an end of year report. Remember if you have any concerns you are always welcome to contact your classroom teacher and ask for a meeting at any time.
- **Healthy Active Learning.** We continue our work with Sport Whanganui to plan and provide a positive and inclusive learning experience for all students within the Health and Physical Education learning area.
- **Attendance.** The Ministry of Education has set a target of having 80% of students attending school regularly by 2030, aiming to address declining attendance rates through initiatives like the Stepped Attendance Response (STAR) and focusing on interventions for chronic non-attenders. We will be working through this process from Term 2 this year.

Staff Only Days Heads Up:

As part of our professional development we have three Staff Only Days this year. We absolutely understand the pressure this places on you but unfortunately we are reliant on the availability of outside providers. Over the past few years we have managed to hold professional development in non contact time where possible which reduced the impact for you. Unfortunately this year our hands are tied.

I have spoken with Sonia from SKIDS and they are happy to be open on those days. To find out more... <https://www.skids.co.nz/locations/st-marys-whanganui/>

Thursday 22nd of May: First Numicon training day. Numicon is our new structured Maths programme which we are very excited about. This training requires two full days.

Monday 16th of June: Second Numicon training day.

Tuesday 26th of August: Bishop John has requested that all staff of Catholic Schools within the Palmerston North Diocese come together for an inspiring and valuable professional development opportunity.

David Wells from the UK, is a highly regarded and inspirational speaker, who will lead us in reflecting on the vital role our schools play as places of Faith, Hope, and Love.

With term 2 fast approaching I have included the Winter Uniform information. We ask that you ensure you buy the correct brands through the Anderson's Uniform Shop. This is especially important for the trousers as we want to keep our uniform looking sharp. It is always worth seeing Ivy for second hand uniform items if things are a bit tight.

The office will be open until 1pm in the first week of the holidays if you need anything. The office is closed during week 2 of the holidays.

You will notice a big change on your return to school next term. We are getting the first stage of our new fence. The new fence will be along the back and the side of the school. The rest of the fence will happen at a later date.

I have included dates of different events happening further in the newsletter. This list will be added to as the year proceeds.

We finish the term with our Easter Liturgy. You are more than welcome to attend.



As we approach the winter terms, please be assured that we will continue to diligently employ our sanitisation and ventilation protocols to minimise the spread of illness. Your cooperation in keeping children home when they are unwell is also crucial in this effort. Illness can significantly impact both our staffing levels and the availability of relief teachers. While we are committed to ensuring all classes are covered and maintain their regular programmes, this can become challenging at times. We appreciate your understanding and will provide updates as the term progresses.

As the school term draws to a close, we wish all our families a blessed and joyful Easter, filled with the hope and renewal that this special season brings. May you enjoy a restful and happy holiday, spending quality time with loved ones. We look forward to welcoming you back refreshed after the break.

Mā te Atua e manaaki
Jacqui Luxton



The response to our call for support was **truly remarkable!**

Thanks to your **incredible generosity** during our 'wear your own clothes day' earlier this term, we were able to raise **\$2000** for one of our families.

This significant contribution has made a real difference.

Below is a thank you card from Amy-Lee, Rob, Levi and Zane.



To all at St. Marys School
A Huge Thank-You to all
who donated to the Knight
Family

It really means a lot.

The Countdown Vouchers
really helped in our time
of need. Much Appreciated
Amy Lee, Rob, Levi & Zane.

Winter Uniform

Girls Years 1 to 6

Skort (Cullinane Tartan)

Long sleeve royal blue polo shirt

Navy socks or tights



Girls Years 7 and 8

Skirt (Cullinane Tartan)

White long sleeve blouse

School tie navy / monogrammed

Navy socks or tights



Boys Years 1 to 6

Long sleeve royal blue polo shirt

Grey drill shorts

Grey socks with teal/royal blue band



Boys Years 7 to 8

Long sleeve grey shirt

Grey drill shorts

School tie navy / monogrammed

Grey socks with teal/royal blue band



Optional for all students winter uniform

Black regulation trousers

(to be purchased from Andersons Uniform Shop)



Junior Option



Senior Boys



Senior Girls

Black socks to be worn with trousers



Navy monogrammed

polar fleece

Year 1 to 4



P.E monogrammed T-Shirt

P.E. shorts navy plain



Navy monogrammed

jersey from

Year 1 to 8



Black covered in school shoes





so far...

11th April	End of Term Easter Liturgy
11th April	Term 1 ends
28th April	Term 2 starts—Powhiri for new whānau 10am
20th May	Baptism classes begin (email heatherl@stmarys.ac.nz for more information)
22nd May	Staff Only Day— Numicon structured Maths
28th May	Catholic Schools Day Mass— all Catholic Schools in Whanganui will gather at the Memorial Hall to celebrate—more information to follow
3rd June	Cullinane open evening— enrolments close on the 27th of June
15th June	Baptisms
16th June	Staff Only Day— Numicon Structured Maths
27th June	Term ends
14th July	Term 3 starts—Powhiri for new whānau 10am
22nd July	First Communion Classes begin (email heatherl@stmarys.ac.nz for more information)
26th August	Staff Only Day— Palmerston North Diocesan Professional Development
19th September	Term 3 ends
6th October	Term 4 starts—Powhiri for new whānau 10am
22nd, 23rd & 24th October	Year 7 & 8 Camp
Date to be confirmed	Year 5 & 6 Camp
21st November	Tough Kids
10th December	Prizegiving
15th December	Year 8 Graduation Dinner
17th December	Term 4 ends 1pm

HOLIDAY HQ GAME ZONE



Holiday HQ

Holiday HQ the ultimate destination for kids looking for an unforgettable break from the school routine!

From exciting outdoor escapades to creative workshops, cooking classes and interactive learning sessions - our expert educators provide a dynamic blend of engaging activities and enriching experiences.

Sonia/Bookings:
027 739 1986
Mel/Accounts:
021 036 2992

Autumn Holidays 2025

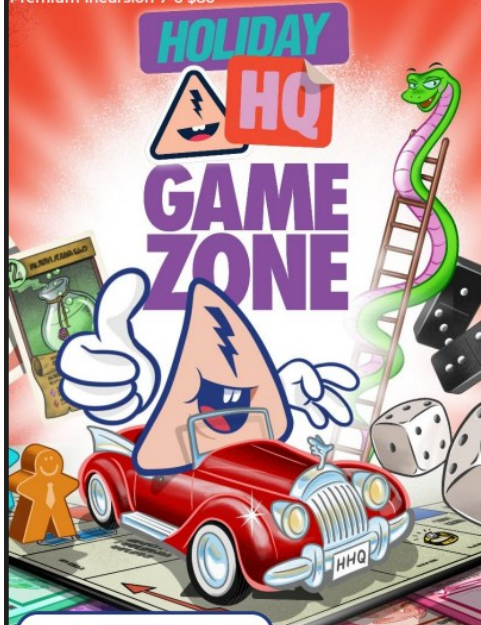
Level up these April Holidays at Holiday HQ!

Get ready for non-stop games, challenges and activities to keep kids engaged, active and having fun all day long. Whether you're heading off on an exciting excursion, problem solving, or mastering life-sized games, it's an unforgettable experience where every move counts!

14th – 24th April 2025

skids

Prices
Onsite short day 8.30-3.30 \$65
Onsite full day 7-6 \$75
Excursion full day 7-6 \$85 (drop off by 8.45 – onsite by 4.30 pm)
Premium Incursion 7-6 \$80



Scan the QR code to secure your spot today!



MSD-Approved.
Work & Income
OSCAR Subsidy
available!

sKids Carlton
(Whanganui)
Carlton School Hall
Carlton Avenue
Tawhero

Onsite:
021 020 65622

Sonia/Bookings:
027 739 1986
Mel/Accounts:
021 036 2992

Book now at: skids.co.nz/Carlton
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skids

14th – 24th April 2025

April

Monday 14 th	Tuesday 15 th	Wednesday 16 th	Thursday 17 th	Friday 18 th
Retro Revival	Live Action Play	Minecraft Movie & Swim	Bunny Quest	GOOD FRIDAY SITE CLOSED
Travel back in time with epic retro games! Sardines, marbles, pixel dodgeball, and more at our Retro Games Gala. Plus, create your own DIY Tic Tac Pac(man) to take home!	Get moving with life-sized challenges! Make giant dice & play giant chalk games. Step into Jumanji & make Minecraft portraits for an action-packed day!	Minecraft movie at Embassy Cinema, followed by a swim at the Splash.	Hop to it. Egg Hunt Quest, follow the clues! Bunny themed and egg craft. Easter cooking, fun & games!	

April

Monday 21 st	Tuesday 22 nd	Wednesday 23 rd	Thursday 24 th	Friday 25 th
EASTER MONDAY SITE CLOSED	Game Show Stars	Bowling, Parks & Swim	Battle of the Brains (Brick Antics visit too)	ANZAC DAY SITE CLOSED
	Step into the spotlight these holidays! Show off your cooking skills in The Great Snack Off, then spin the Wheel of Fun for awesome challenges and prizes!	Bowling fun at Play 2Win followed by a picnic & play at local Parks. Swim at the Carlton school pool.	Get ready for brain-busting challenges and mind-bending puzzles! Put your problem-solving skills to the test with exciting games, and hands-on activities. Brick Antics Lego action too	



NAVIGATING NEURODIVERGENCE

FOR WHĀNAU, CAREGIVERS, AND LOVED ONES OF DIAGNOSED, UNDIAGNOSED, AND SUSPECTED NEURODIVERGENCE.

AUTISM SPECTRUM (ASD)

Come along to learn more about ASD from guest speaker Kim Mawston, and learn about resources to support your family.

THURSDAY
1ST MAY

1:00PM-2:30PM
6:30PM- 8.00PM

THURSDAY
8TH MAY

1:00PM-2:30PM
6:30PM- 8.00PM

THURSDAY
15TH MAY

1:00PM-2:30PM
6:30PM- 8.00PM

THURSDAY
22ND MAY

1:00PM-2:30PM
6:30PM- 8.00PM

THURSDAY
29TH MAY

1:00PM-2:30PM
6:30PM- 8.00PM

THURSDAY
5TH JUNE

1:00PM-2:30PM
6:30PM- 8.00PM

THURSDAY
12TH JUNE

1:00PM-2:30PM
6:30PM- 8.00PM

THURSDAY
19TH JUNE

1:00PM-2:30PM
6:30PM- 8.00PM

THURSDAY
26TH JUNE

1:00PM-2:30PM
6:30PM- 8.00PM

NEURODIVERSITY 101:

Come along to learn what you really need to know about neurodiversity, and learn about resources to support your family.

ATTENTION DEFICIT HYPERACTIVITY DISORDER (ADHD)

Connect with us as we learn more about ADHD from guest speaker Mandy Musa, discuss strategies, and challenges.

EMOTIONAL REGULATION

Supporting tamariki in their emotional competence and help them to understand, express and regulate their emotions.

HOW TO WORK WITH YOUR SCHOOL

Learn how to ask for support for your tamariki at school by listening to special education advisor Tara McIlory.

CONTACTS

📞 ROSIE MCMENAMIN- 027 381 9509

✉️ ROSIE@WHATEVER.ORG.NZ

📞 BETH L. SAVAGE- 021 384 255

✉️ OFFICE@WOVENWHANAU.ORG.NZ

GET IN TOUCH

WHAT NEXT?

Lastly, come along to learn how to care for yourself. Because you are an important factor in your tamariki's lives!

NAVIGATING MEDICATIONS

Join us as we learn from guest speaker Mandy Musa about how to go about navigating medications.

SENSORY SUPPORT/TOYS

Come and learn more about the sensory needs of people with diagnosis. Leave equipped with new ideas to help your whanau.

KIA ROHA/YOUR WAY

You may be eligible for funding for your tamariki. We will discuss what you need to know.

LOCATION: CANCER SOCIETY BUILDING AT 3 KOROMIKO ROAD, GONVILLE



WOVEN WHĀNAU





Kia Ora

My name is Vivienne East and I am a Public Health Nurse based at the Whanganui Hospital. I visit 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, bedwetting, toileting issues, vision and hearing, and 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 at vivienne.east@wdhb.org.nz

This is a free service offered by the Whanganui District Health Board.

Nga Mihi

Viv

We need your help...

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

If your child is unwell with flu like symptoms, 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 illness. It is really helpful if you could ring our absentee line or message us through the school app to let us know if your child is going to be away.

It saves Ivy a lot of time and it is appreciated.

On the next page there is some information about changes with how attendance is tracked.



Who to see...

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

Junior Team

Team Leader Dallas Limpus: dallasl@stmarys.ac.nz

Students from the JLC, Room 3 and 4

JLC: dallasl@stmarys.ac.nz

Room 3: amandab@stmarys.ac.nz

Room 4: theresec@stmarys.ac.nz

Middle Team

Team Leader Alex Caradus: alexc@stmarys.ac.nz

Students from Rooms 5, 6, 7 and 8

Room 5: heatherl@stmarys.ac.nz

Room 6: sarahh@stmarys.ac.nz

Room 7: alexc@stmarys.ac.nz

Room 8: tammyf@stmarys.ac.nz

Senior Team

Team Leader Chris Scudder: chriss@stmarys.ac.nz

Students from Rooms 9, 10 and 11

Room 9: chriss@stmarys.ac.nz

Room 10: tash@stmarys.ac.nz nadinek@stmarys.ac.nz

Room 11: iank@stmarys.ac.nz

If you are requiring further assistance:

Ivy: ivys@stmarys.ac.nz

DRS: heatherl@stmarys.ac.nz

Deputy Principal: katiel@stmarys.ac.nz

Principal: jacquil@stmarys.ac.nz

