

# St Mary's School Mosgiel

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Friends of the school,

When we look at the most important skills that we can have, I think that the ability to communicate would be at the top of the list. The most common forms of communication are speaking and listening. Children learn to speak and listen from an early age, writing and reading comes much later.

The language that we learn to speak in from birth, our first language, is very important to us. When we learn another language, especially at an older age, we face challenges. But a language is for more than a way of communicating, it is also symbolic of identity and heritage. The most common language in the world is English, it is spoken by more than 1,452 million people. But many of these people, while they can speak English, have another language as their first language. When we look at the language that most people have as their first language, it is Mandarin Chinese.

At the moment, I am studying to learn Irish/Gaelic. The language of my family that was lost between my grandfather and father. I find that I can read and write simple sentences and I can hear words spoken, but to speak it myself is a real challenge.

The Māori refer to Te Reo as a taonga, something that is highly prized and valued. It is only since beginning to learn Gaelic myself that I have begun to comprehend what is meant by this. A language is unique to its place in the world. It will have words that describe in great depth things that are important to the people who have developed that language. They say that the Inuit people have 50 words for snow because obviously snow is so important to their survival and ability to thrive. Research shows us that when students begin to learn a second language, the stronger they are in their first language, the easier they will pick up the second language. So we are very pleased to announce that we have a bilingual support teacher working in our school.

Devikrishna Sanoop will be working in our school on Fridays to support our students. Please see the notice from Devi in the newsletter that explains a little more about her and her role.

Have a grand week.

Ngā mihi nui,  
Mike Brosnahan

## Calendar of Events

1 Mar - Paid Union Meeting  
- school CLOSSES at 1pm  
17 Mar - Assembly: Seniors  
28 Mar - HPV Vaccinations  
Yr 8  
31 Mar - Assembly: Juniors  
6 Apr - Easter Liturgy 2pm  
6 Apr - End of Term 1  
24 Apr - School Closed  
(Teacher Only Day).  
25 Apr - ANZAC Day  
26th Apr - Term 2 Begins

Mission Statement - St Mary's is a Catholic School dedicated to the provision of the highest quality primary education with a special emphasis of Catholic values and attitudes.

I am Devikrishna Sanoop, a Bilingual Support Teacher for 5 Catholic schools in Dunedin. I have been living in New Zealand for 6 years now with my husband Sanoop who is a chef and our 4 year old daughter Shivanya. I am a support teacher for almost 2 years now and I love it. I feel privileged to be able to help our Indian community by supporting the Non-English speaking students at these schools in adapting easily when it comes to verbal, written and comprehension of English language. My support goes out to the families of our students in acknowledging and sharing their individual or group concerns. I will be glad to support your kids with the help of your and looking forward to make our kids feel proud of where we come from.



### Special Character



#### Caritas Tuesdays

On Tuesdays, the children are encouraged to bring coins, to donate to the Caritas Lenten appeal. This year the appeal is to support the people in Fiji.

Caritas Aotearoa NZ is the **New Zealand Catholic Bishops' agency for justice, peace and development** and is involved in various projects around the world that support the most vulnerable people facing poverty and injustice. Your generous donations to Caritas will support others who need it most.

Each class has a Caritas Koha box on their prayer table and are learning about Caritas and Lent during their Religious Education lessons

Your support is appreciated.  
The Teachers of St Mary's School



Thought of the week:  
"One language sets you in a corridor for life. Two languages opens every door along the way."  
Frank Smith

**School Office Hours:**  
Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri 8.45am to 3pm  
On Thursdays - please email teachers directly if urgent.  
General enquiries to:  
office@stmarys-mosgiel.school.nz  
Ph: 03 489 7716

Our Vision: Confident, reflective, risk-taking, lifelong learners in a Catholic School.

# NOTICES

## **School Closing Early Tomorrow 1st March**

Teaching staff will be attending a paid union meeting on Wednesday March 1st at 1:30 pm. As such, we ask that parents please collect your child/ren between 12:30pm and 1pm on Wednesday 1st of March.

If you are unable to collect child/ren at 1:00 pm please advise the school as soon as possible so that supervision until 3pm can be arranged.

## **Teacher Only Day - 24th April 2023**

To support the implementation of the refreshed NZ Curriculum, the Minister of Education has granted schools two Teacher Only Days. These days will be spent on staff becoming familiar with the new national curriculum.

One of these days must be taken in the first two weeks of term two.

Our Board of Trustees have agreed to our taking this Teacher Only Day on *Monday 24th April. School will not be open on that day.*

Term Two will begin on Wednesday 26th April (as Tuesday 25th April is ANZAC day).

PTA AGM: 6th March, 7pm @ School

Our school PTA Agm will be on 6th March at 7pm followed by general committee meeting. The PTA has two positions vacant and we are looking for nominations for President and Secretary, we also welcome any new committee members. If you are interested in one of the positions mentioned or becoming a committee member and want to find out more feel free to contact me [breiga@gmail.com](mailto:breiga@gmail.com).

Look forward to seeing you there.  
Breiga (President PTA)



## **Walk n' Wheel Week 2023**

Monday 27 February - Friday 3 March 2023

"Promoting active transport before and after school"

See more details below.  
Additional information  
and activities have been  
sent home with each child.



# EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

## Walk 'n' Wheel To School Week 2023

Join in the fun and celebrate Walk 'n' Wheel to School Week by walking or wheeling with our different daily themes.



### Move it Monday

Move it your way! Start the week on the right foot and decide to take active travel to school today, whether you walk or wheel.



### Choose it Tuesday

Choose a different way to move to school today! Walk, wheel, hop, skip, or jump! Have some fun as you travel along to school.



### Wacky Wednesday - Walk 'n' Wheel Day

Display something bright; bright shoes, bright socks, bright hair, or bright clothes! Be seen by the cars on the street as you walk or wheel to school.



### Thoughtful Thursday

Think about your carbon footprint and the difference you can make from walking or wheeling. How many eco cars can you spot today?



### Foot it Friday

Put your best foot forward and decorate your shoes (add a bow, pipe cleaners, pom poms, tassels, or wool, go crazy and use your imagination!) or design your dream shoe! (Template can be downloaded from Sport Otago website).



numberfit  
BETTER EDUCATION

## TIMES TABLE GLOBAL CHALLENGE MARCH 8-22

FREE  
5-14s

Help your child learn  
their times tables  
whilst having fun!

In school or at home.



See more

<https://youtu.be/5unn9NSCchk>



### 1. Play

Get the whole family involved and compete with parents, siblings and friends.

### 2. Have fun

Engage your child in times tables in a fun way.

### 3. Improve

Master all the levels as you move up the global leaderboard.



Compete in physically active times tables with mindfulness to win:

- \* One year's Times Table Mastery access
- \* The Times Table Challenge trophy

01494 257737

team@numberfit.com

Register now!

[www.timestablechallenge.com](http://www.timestablechallenge.com)

MAFC JUNIORS  
SEASON 2023

## REGISTER NOW

ONLINE  
BY 3RD MARCH 2023

WWW.SPORTY.CO.NZ MOSGIEL  
AFC JUNIORS

FIRST KICKS INTRO TO FOOTBALL  
AT MEMORIAL PARK. WITH FREE BALL \$50

FIRST CHILD 6TH-YOUTH GRADE \$95  
SUBSEQUENT CHILD REN 6TH-YOUTH  
GRADE \$65

QUESTIONS? TANIA 027 4880784

GIVE IT A  
GO DAY  
DATE  
TBC