



Our Mission: STM school community will develop the gifts and talents of each individual for the good of all through the transforming power of God's word.

Nau mai, Haere mai. Kia ora tatou. It's been a very hot and sticky week as you all will know...and this takes its toll on the day as children get tired and touchy in the afternoons.

Yesterday we celebrated Ash Wednesday with a beautiful Mass. Thank you so much to the Mums, Dads, Grans and Grandads who stayed to share Mass with us.

Yesterday afternoon Mrs Farrell and her fantastic team of parent helpers swung into action at Baywave, marshalling, timekeeping, recording and encouraging our school swimmers. Thank you so much for keeping things on track and for giving the children a great opportunity to show off their skills and determination.





Courtesy of Don Schwager and Presentation Ministries. Daily Scripture Readings and Reflections available free on the Laudate App from Google and Apple Store.

The forty days of Lent is the annual retreat of the people of God in imitation of Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness. Forty is a significant number in the scriptures.... We are called to journey with the Lord in a special season of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, and penitence (expressing true sorrow for sin and wrongdoing) as we prepare to celebrate the feast of Easter, the Christian Passover of Jesus' victory over sin, Satan, and death.

The Lord gives us supernatural food and supernatural strength (faith, hope and love) to seek his face and prepare ourselves for spiritual combat and testing. We too must follow in the way of the cross in order to share in the victory of Christ's death and resurrection.

Through the Church, Jesus invites us to accompany him on a 40-day retreat into the desert. The Lenten desert will test us to our limits. Do we want Lent to be a drudgery or a time of growth in grace and power? Do we want an "easy" Lent, or do we want the strongholds of evil to be thrown down by the power of our fasting and prayer (Mt 17:21, NAB).

Lent is a spiritual Boot Camp - a time of renewal, both for ourselves and the world. Let's get into shape!

Parent Contribution – reminder for end of tax year

Please remember you can pay weekly, monthly or termly – whichever suits you best. The parent contribution covers all swimming costs, choir festival buses, school trips or concerts, photocopying costs/calls to parents and internet used to support learning programs, kapa haka tutors and sports co-ordinator. Costs not covered include: Camp for Year 5 & 6, sports fees for middle and senior students, school photos (always optional). Jane will provide you with a receipt "Donations" to be used for tax rebate purposes – don't forget the end of the tax year is **March 31st** 😊

Reminders and deadlines ...

February 24 th	Flippaball & Waterpolo subs due
February 28 th	Stationery invoices due
March 2 nd (2.30 pm)	Future Champions for Year 5 & Year 6 cut off for applications
March 3 rd	Rippa Rugby Fees due

School Photos – March 8th

If you wish to purchase individual or sibling photos you must register before March 6th
To order please go to www.schoollife.photos.co.nz

DRAMA CLASSES FOR YOUNGSTERS!

CONFIDENCE, GOOD COMMUNICATION SKILLS, SELF-EXPRESSION, TEAM WORK AND SOCIAL SKILLS..... these **LIFE SKILLS** can be developed in ALL children, through a comprehensive **SPEECH AND DRAMA** programme.



The **HELEN O'GRADY DRAMA ACADEMY** offers after- school classes for children from 5-17 years.

Not sure? Try 4 week trial! Lessons include speech, music and movement including mime and creative improvised drama in an atmosphere that emphasises cooperation and fun.

For further information on session times and locations, or to discuss how the programme could benefit *your* child, please phone Camilla May (Academy Principal) on **576 4400**, e-mail hogradybop@yahoo.co.nz or visit the website www.helenogrady.co.nz to enrol online. Visit us on Face Book www.facebook.com/Helen.OGrady.Drama.Academy.NZ

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