



St Matthew's Primary School Annual Report 2011

2011 was another successful year for St Matthew's Primary School. We operated with six classrooms again, with our years 1 to 4 all being in small classes of less than 18. This significantly adds to the teacher effectiveness.

Our staffing has continued to be very settled, with an extensive professional development programme operating that has supported our schools needs very well. It is also tied in with the two other schools in our cluster – Patoka and Pakowhai.

The Anglican School's Conference is now held biannually. Rev. G. Pilgrim and our Principal, Tim Anderson attended this in Christchurch. We are served very well by the Anglican School's Network and this conference was no exception. A British expert on Faith Development in Children ran a very powerful series of workshops that have impacted heavily on the programme we now provide for Christian Living.

Our Christian Living programme is based on the Christian Religious Education resources produced for the Churches Education Commission. Our Vicar works weekly with our three junior classes, while our Principal works with the three senior classes every week.

Our special relationship with the Anglican Parish of St Matthew is one that we treasure. The continued support, prayers, interactions and faith shown to us by the parishioners is a very special element of our school.

Being a small inner city school, we are very fortunate to be able to make use of the central city area and resources. Our 'school library' is just ten minutes' walk from us and each class visits it weekly – being able to use Hastings District Council Central Library Branch is great, such a magnificent resource right on our doorstep. We also use the indoor pools (Flaxmere Waterworld) for our swimming programme.

As a school we are exploring the ways in which we can better relate our curriculum to our local setting, our Special Character and Anglicanism, as well as interweaving into the rich cultural heritage that Te Ao Maori provides us within our Waiapu setting.

We are continuing to see our roll grow steadily at the New Entrant level as well as in the senior school where we provide a small school alternative to Intermediate (year 7 and 8) education. We were affected however with a number of our school families moving into other areas of Aotearoa New Zealand chasing work. While we are sad to see them go, the economic realities do make us grateful for the time that we can share each child's educational journey.

As a Board of Trustees we are very excited about the growth and development that is occurring within our school setting and we are looking forward to the challenges and achievements that 2012 will bring.



Ash Wednesday Service



Face painting Autumn Fair



Top Parish, Rotorua



Tree Planting at Pekapeka

