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In 2020 we moved our daughter to Marsden Primary at age 6 and we haven’t looked back. She loves school and has thrived both inside and outside the classroom. Marsden has the ability to connect and work with each child’s uniqueness and ensures that there is no opportunity missed. We have since started our youngest daughter who is also thriving.

Marsden is more than just an education for our girls, it provides a proactive learning environment that encompasses life skills, sport, music and cultural activities to help them shine in the way they would like.

The staff are connected and interested in each child’s outcomes, both educational and personal. Most importantly, our girls are happy and engaged in their schooling and look forward to each day.

We highly recommend Marsden to anyone considering investing in their children’s wellbeing and education in this way.”

Mark and Francesca Jurgeleit

Welcome to Marsden Primary



At Marsden Primary we prepare our girls for life. We build resilience, confidence and emotional intelligence.

A balanced curriculum complemented by our Visible Wellbeing approach and specialist classes in Music, Physical Education, Te Reo Māori and Library/ Information literacy skills, creates lifelong learners who are passionate about their work and play.

But the most special thing is seeing happy girls every day who form supportive relationships and enjoy coming to school and learning.

After her time at Marsden Primary, your daughter will be ready for middle and senior school, and for whatever life brings.

Jo Burns
Head of Primary

The Marsden Difference



At Marsden, we’re very clear that the ultimate goal of education is preparing students for lives of meaning, accomplishment and genuine happiness.

Starting that journey early makes such a difference. When they reach our middle and senior schools, Marsden Primary students shine.

That’s because of the focus on Excellence, Resilience, Creativity and Service: the four pillars of our Marsden Spirit.

Parents choose Marsden because of the exceptional educational environment we provide. Right from the start, we’re helping their wonderful children flourish and thrive.

Paula Wells
Principal



Marsden Primary

Girls Years 1–6

At Marsden, we believe that the ultimate goal of education is to prepare children for lives of meaning, accomplishment and genuine happiness.



Marsden Primary girls radiate confidence

It’s an outcome of our holistic approach: we do more than deliver the New Zealand curriculum, we’re supporting the development of our girls as the individuals they are.



We can do this because classes are smaller

We are able to take a close personal interest in every girl, nurturing and encouraging her.



We foster children’s innate curiosity

We enable and encourage our girls to develop the love of learning so essential for their future success and happiness.

So much depends on what happens right at the very beginning.

Parents and children choose Marsden for our high academic standards and this begins at Marsden Primary. We concentrate on Literacy and Numeracy, but Science, Digital Technology, Social Sciences and the Arts are all part of the classroom programme. Specialists teach Physical Education, Music, Library and Information Literacy skills and Te Reo Māori. We are the first in the world to introduce principles of the well-established Arrowsmith Program® to Primary students in Years 2–5. The Whole Cohort Program is designed specifically to enhance the brain’s neuroplasticity and strengthen cognitive function.



Sport, Music, Speech and Drama

Beyond the classroom we continue our focus on building resilience and confidence. As well as our Physical Education programme, girls participate in team sports – netball, hockey and miniball – and take part in badminton, athletics, Cross Country and swimming. Our girls can participate in speech and drama, instrumental lessons and tennis lessons: all designed to give them the ability to extend themselves physically, culturally and socially.

Personal attention

Not all children learn at the same speed. Marsden’s small class sizes make it possible for teachers to know each girl well and to cater for her individual needs. This is the key to keeping every child challenged: both gifted and talented students and those needing extra support.

We have implemented the iDeal structured literacy approach, which is systematic and evidence-based teaching based on The Science of Reading. iDeal is developed with all students in mind but is particularly relevant for those who may present with reading difficulties such as dyslexia.

Facilities

Marsden Primary has light, airy, architecturally designed classrooms, a purpose-built library, and music room, and is surrounded by beautiful gardens within the Marsden Karori campus. Our students climb and swing on the jungle gym, hide in the trees, become engineers in the sandpit and enjoy the freedom of our green play spaces and sports facilities. The girls also enjoy the use of the upper school facilities: the science labs, Art House, gymnasium, artificial turf, auditorium, sports fields and the Waihanga space.

Technology

Marsden Primary girls are tech savvy. They bring their own devices, are encouraged to use age-appropriate social media, learn coding from the age of 5, and the Primary girls use the upper school Waihanga space. This is our makerspace, an exciting hub of making, creating, developing and testing; a dedicated space for teams of students to work on problems without disciplinary, industrial or social boundaries.

Visible Wellbeing

Our whole school Visible Wellbeing™ approach is based on strength-based science and positive psychology. It’s a proactive, preventative approach to mental health to help students flourish psychologically and socially, as well as academically. We invite you to come for a tour or a conversation to find out how we do this in the Primary School.



Physical and emotional wellbeing

As an Anglican School, Marsden is committed to imparting the Christian values which are part of its special character. Marsden Karori has its own Chapel and pupils of diverse religious beliefs are welcomed, tolerance of difference is encouraged and diversity is celebrated. We teach strategies from the field of Positive Psychology, to instill resilience and build wellbeing.

Holistic approach

At Marsden, we take a holistic approach. Our specialist healthcare team includes a nurse, two counsellors and a chaplain. Our ‘Circle Time’, ‘Friendship Stop’ and ‘Buddy System’ help shy girls become confident and teach all students to be considerate of others. Parent/student events are run regularly and parents can be actively involved in their child’s learning.

