



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.

Wow! The top four students in NCEA1 at Aquinas College are Lilli Scott, Jackson Fowler, Jessica Phayer and Jordan Oxenham. Yippee....all your hard work and determination has paid off. Congratulations from your old teachers! We're all so proud.



Lilli Scott



Jackson Fowler



Jessica Phayer



Jordan Oxenham



We are also celebrating with Brianna Gauldie and her family. Brianna scored the highest marks in NCEA2 at Aquinas College. This is a major achievement Brianna and the teachers are very proud of you.

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

Catholic Cookies - Preparing for Lent

For those of you new to St Thomas More, this section of the newsletter is written by the proprietor's representatives on the Board of Trustees (we include parents of past and present students, and Fr Darren). Our role includes a particular focus on the Catholic Character of the school. Our semi-regular writings (yes - we are busy people who forget sometimes :-)) often focus on the particular times of the year in the Church calendar.



This week, we're preparing for the beginning of Lent. Lent is a preparation for the celebration of Easter. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (this year this is the 1st of March) and ends at the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday right before Easter. On Ash Wednesday people "receive a mark on the forehead made with ashes as a reminder that we are dust and unto dust we shall return". The ashes symbolise our mortality and need for the mercy of God."

During Lent the Church asks us to pray, fast, and do good works.

Lent is 40 days, which commemorates the forty days Jesus spent in the desert, and the forty years the Israelites spent in the desert. For those of you who are mathematicians amongst us, you might have realised that 1st March to Easter is more than 40 days. Sundays are excluded from the calculation, so you can break your fast during those days.

Some families have lenten traditions. In my family growing up we "gave up" sweets for Lent.... although in practice, they went in a jar, and then we ate them all at Easter - which is probably not really the gist of what we are aiming for 😊

Here are some ideas for things to do with your family for Lent (taken from this website <http://www.catholicicing.com/simple-lenten-traditions-for-families-with-little-to-no-prep-work/>)... and yes, I am loving the "little or no prep work part!"

- Go to Mass as a family on Ash Wednesday. This is so great because even the smallest members of the family can have ashes. *At St Thomas More this will be at 9 am on Wed 1st March. There is usually an evening service too - check the church website for details.*
- Attend stations of the cross at your church. We especially love to do this on Good Friday.
- Lenten cleaning- rather than the idea of "Spring cleaning", clean 1 area of your home every day during Lent. Your house is beautiful and clean for Easter! *(Let's be honest, it probably won't happen in my house...)*
- Set up an almsgiving box- you simply set out a box, and take 1 thing from your own pantry every day of Lent. At the end of Lent, take the box to a food bank - *STM church has a food bank collection every Sunday - leave goods in the basket to the left of the entrance.*

- Decide 1 day of the week during Lent to go “screen free” as a family (*ouch - that might be a hard one!*)

Another Lenten option might be to attend BELIEVE (Reflections on the Creed)/ This is a six-part series exploring the treasures of our faith expressed in the Nicene Creed, and is running in our parish soon.

TUESDAY Morning sessions @ 10.00am beginning 28 February

THURSDAY Evening sessions @ 7.00pm beginning 2 March

At STM Centre, Mt Maunganui. Please register your interest Ph: 575 4807 Ext 6 (Heidi) or email heidi@mtmaunganuicatholic.org.nz

Message from Wayne – 2 spaces left for students wishing to learn the ukulele! Please contact **Wayne Mortensen** www.musiqhub.co.nz
E: wayne.mortensen@musiqhub.co.nz P: 027 271 7685



ASB Student Banking is up and running again – drop your ASB deposit envelopes in to the box in the school office every Friday morning. If you’d like to participate, please pick up an application pack from the office 😊

NEW

Pita Pit lunch at St Thomas More School

Available every Friday starting on 10th February

It is simple all you need to do is register at
www.lunchonline.co.nz



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