



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 it's been wet. We have found several leaks in our new staffroom which have baffled the plumber and roofers...hopefully there will be a quick fix before winter really sets in. Meanwhile our children are warm and happy in their classroom spaces and learning is going full steam ahead.

You won't believe the number of children who head into class before the bell goes so they can get ahead on their Daily Five. The teachers are definitely doing great things with our children. Yesterday I was in the staffroom with a group of Paua students and Mr Webster. They were having a fun time experimenting with capacity. They had a syringe (large and harmless) filled with water and a digital device to measure how much they needed to add to the plastic bucket to get the whole thing to balance...or I think that is what they were doing.

Kina have had visits from Emma Richardson to help them in their study of marine life...you can see by the photos of the baby shark on the walls that they found out lots of fascinating facts. The science club on Tuesday afternoons is proving to be a great success - this week they got to observe and draw a chicken...there were two pecking on the grass outside the parish centre. Emma has a lot of enrolments for Term 2 and 3 already.

School Mass

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Sunday morning celebration...musicians, readers, offertory children, altar servers, data projectionists, cake bakers and sellers, feijoa collectors, cup of tea/coffee givers, Father Stuart and Deacon Vince. It was a lovely Mass and our children sang beautifully and with a lot of heart.

Thank you PTFA people...the school is lucky to have over \$900 from the cake stall in the bank. What generous parishioners/families we have.

Message from the PTFA

The PTFA want to extend their thanks to all the parents/families and parishioners who baked and purchased, and of course to the children who thoroughly enjoyed spending their coins at the individual table. With your help we raised an amazing \$989.60 which of course will be put to excellent use within the school. Thank you, thank you, thank you ☺



Dates for your diary

3 rd April	Funky Fun Festival – Year 3 & Year 4
4 th April	Pipi Mauao Trip i.e. Year 0-2
5 th April	Kina Information Night – 5.30 pm to 6.30 pm
11 th April	ANZAC Assembly (Kina & Paua) @ 1.30 pm Church Foyer
13 th April	Last day of Term 1
1 st May	Start of Term 2

Pick up and go



With the wet weather coming we are trialling pick up and go for the children whose parents are keen to do a drive through after school. There are many people who have babies or dogs that they can't leave in their vehicles at home time...so rather than going through the setting up of the pram etc. to come into school we offer a delivery service....using the drop and go idea.

This week there have been some technical hitches e.g. the bus turning up when it needs to stay at Baywave; not opening the gate on the Baywave fence

and so making it difficult for people who park there (we're sorry about that...from now on the gate is open from 2.15 come what may); children not getting out of class fast enough; parents driving through too early.....however I am dedicated to finding a solution to all of these problems because I know that drop and go has been very effective in making sure children are safe getting from the carpark to their classrooms and also it is quicker so less children are late to class. Drop and go also builds independence for children as well as increasing their confidence when they say hello in the morning. Often I can tell when someone is going to have a bad start to the day and this is useful for teachers to know...so that class time is less stressful. I want pickup and go to be just as useful and safe (particularly in wet weather conditions when things go crazy).

Pickup and go.

1. Children will wait with the teacher at the cones (if dry) and on the staffroom verandah (if wet).
2. Cars need to start arriving at 2.35-2.40, giving time for children to get out of class.
3. Children need to know that they are going to be picked up.
4. The Baywave gate will be open from 2.15-2.45.
5. Everyone needs to take a big breath and smile (it's going to take a while to catch on).

6. The Schools Out van will park in one of the disabled carparks in front of the parish centre for pickups.
7. Science club members need to follow the yellow lines to the parish centre.

The bike stands will be moved in the holidays to the end of the administration block- easier access for when the scooter track is ready to go (P.S. you'll need a crash helmet if you are going on the scooter track).

Thank you for coming to the meeting last night.

We had a get together in the new staffroom last night with anyone who was interested in throwing ideas around for the landscaping of the front of the school.

Twenty people came along, even though the weather wasn't great. We had a very interesting question and answer session about the future development of Aquinas College for the first hour. Boffa Miskell and IDS sent two people to share the information about the changes that are going to be happening over the next 25 years in the Tauranga South area. Aquinas might look like it is in the country right now but it will be right in the city by 2040. The talk was around the ideas proposed for the Aquinas College site- which included an early childhood centre, a primary school, a church, a bigger College...lots of things that were of interest to the people who came along.

The second hour was talking about what we need in the front of our school- things like shade for kids and parents, seating areas, extensions to the learning pods (outdoor/indoor flow), protection from traffic, a defined entranceway, signage, gardens, green areas, bicultural items (sculptures and designs), contemplative spaces, religious symbols.....

Outside the staffroom on the sheltered deck you will find a plan proposed by the architects at the meeting. Please take one of the copies away and put ideas down on it....and then return the plan to the box so we can get some inspirations to add to the ideas we have heard already. We will be leaving the display out for the remainder of the term (2 weeks) and then the ideas will be sent through to the architects to consider.



PTFA fundraiser next term.

Following on from her very successful Brainwave Talk Tour, Kathryn Berkett is visiting us again on the 22nd June, Thursday, to provide practical suggestions for when our children are just not easy to live with...when they are moody or argumentative or not having much fun with their friends, or when friends are difficult to find.

The PTFA are arranging for Kathryn to speak to a wide audience of parents and grandparents. The venue is Mount College, the date is 22nd June. Time and other details to come....this is to give you the heads up and so you can put the date in the calendar now before anything else jumps into that timeslot.

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