



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.

E te whānau, tēnā koutou katoa,

Meet the new families who have joined our school this term: Selene and Lucas Tan, Adrian Adelaide, Sebastian Link, Ryder Antrobus, Emelia Brooker and Corin Jackson.



We are really thrilled that you have chosen our school to belong to- thank you so much to Mums and Dads who have been recommending our school to neighbours, employees and friends. The best recommendation is from other people who are in the know. You are our best ambassadors. I have included an article from the Bay of Plenty times about the Head Girl from Aquinas- Millie Burton- who made a wonderful impression on the people of Copper Crest on ANZAC Day. It's great to celebrate the achievements of our young people in a world that seems to report sad or bad things all the time.



Congratulations to the Mills family on the safe arrival of Havana Grace on Easter Sunday. Mr Mills has been on leave this week helping out at home. He'll be back next week- thanks for stepping in Mrs Morgan. You've done a great job this week. Thank you to Mrs McHugh for stepping into Mrs Duncan's class this week while Mrs Duncan has been on bereavement leave.

Mrs Morgan is our regular release teacher, working five days a week this term providing continuous teaching and learning in all our teams so that teachers can attend professional development, spent time planning and organising activities for students and completing assessment tasks throughout the term. Mrs Morgan is very flexible, stepping into any teaching level and doing a great job. Thank you Deanna. We are very lucky to have you on our staff.



Our prayers and support go to the Glubb family who are feeling the loss of their pop, Peter. It was my privilege to attend Peter's funeral in Te Puke which was a real celebration of the life of a much loved man. It is apparent that Peter's values and personality live on in his grandchildren- Maggie, Archie and Fergus- care for others, determination, leadership and strong faith. May he rest in peace.

We remember Trinity whose grandma passed away this week. May she rest in peace.

Tomorrow there is a special Mufti Day. All the proceeds will be sent to the Westpac Helicopter Appeal- whenever there is a serious accident on the roads or on farms the helicopter comes to the rescue. Thank God for the wonderful people who fly to all sorts of

emergencies when we need them most. This is one way we can help them. Everyone is being marked off by teachers when they bring in their gold coins and there are stickers for kids who remember.



Congratulations to Ms Lees who has completed the 36 week Te Reo course through Te Wananga o Aotearoa (Tauranga campus). We wish you the best at your graduation tomorrow afternoon at Holy Trinity Church in town.

You might have noticed that our administration block has a new look- thank you to Programmed Maintenance who did a great paint job during the holidays. Our building programme is pushing ahead and the junior block has had some internal walls taken out in readiness for the full makeover treatment with new wall coverings and lino, new ranch sliders and an additional break out space to be added in the next few weeks.

We are starting to tinker with the entrance of the school with the addition of plants and colour, seating and signs. As time goes on you will see earthworks, cobbling, built in seating, a walled garden, mosaics and shade sails added to the front of the school. We had a site meeting yesterday and the draft of the design was formalised and costings will be done by the contractors before the next site meeting when we will find out how much of the design will be funded by the Diocese and which bits we will need to fundraise for.

Thank you to CrestClean and the Mangnus family for the donation of a new backboard and hoop for the basketball teams to use. We really appreciate your support with sports equipment at STM. Winter teams are all organised and practices are already underway at school in the afternoons. It was neat seeing the basketball teams and hockey teams in action yesterday.



Thank you to Paula Farrell and Mrs Thomas for the time spent sorting out uniforms, managers and coaches for the new season.

It's getting colder and there seem to be lots of fleecy jackets in lost property...often with names of past pupils in them. When children take on second hand uniforms it would help us a lot if a new tag was put in over the old one because its hard trying to convince kids to take home clothes which have the wrong name in them (past owners).

The Kina and Paua teams are enjoying their swimming sessions at Baywave this week because they are a combination of swimming and survival activities with lots of fun elements thrown in. Yesterday I heard that lots of kids were walking the plank. ☺

Next Friday Paua are attending a production of Bugsy Malone at Baycourt- the Aquinas College production should be good! Lots of our old pupils are involved on stage and behind the scenes.

The PTFA are hosting a morning tea for new families in the parish lounge on Friday 19th May at 9.00 a.m. Please come along if you are one of the older faces too because our new families would love meet you and get to know some of the families in Paua, Kina and Pipi.



Last night Mr Barton, Ms Lees and Mrs Pirini really enjoyed sharing their experiences in Kina with parents who came along to find out how things are going in the new learning space. There were about twenty parents in total and there were plenty of questions and loads of positive feedback about how well the children have adapted to the new way of learning and also how much quality learning is happening. Thank you for coming along to support our teachers in the partnership we share as first educators.

Olive Tree Kindergarten, across the road, have come up with a wonderful idea to build community in our neighbourhood. They have arranged for kits of go karts to be delivered so that Arataki, St.Thomas More, Olive Tree and Somervale can join together to build, race and play with go karts. Each group is being given three go kart sets to build and design. We get to keep one of the go karts and the others are auctioned off so that proceeds can be given to the Salvation Army to support people in need in our area. Thank you to Shannon Stowers, Scott Little and Richard Webster for getting behind this project and providing our boys with the chance to hammer in nails, construct with wood and wheels and to design at school.

Shannon is project manager for the GREAT STM SCOOTER TRACK PROJECT. In the holidays Shannon and Wayne Goldsbro came to school to check out the area which we think will make the best track. The builders are giving us all the topsoil they have spare and also they are keen to help with shifting tyres and setting out obstacles along with a group of keen Dads. We have your contact details (from volunteering on our facebook post last term) and Shannon will be in touch with you all once a weekend is sorted out for the build. We need to wait until Mitchell Construction have completed their building project first- just so we are following health and safety guidelines correctly. So the project will probably kick off at the beginning of June, hopefully.

Which reminds me, I should introduce you to our support staff who are assisting students and teachers in all teaching teams. It's great to have such a caring, supportive group at STM.



Carol, Linda, Te Rau, Scott, Simone and Shannon.



(Magdalena generously takes our new entrants for music appreciation 😊)



A sense of war, pride and love

Posted on 30th Apr 2017 07:05



They're precious ANZAC Day moments. Moments that linger long after.

Hairs on necks bristled as two Harvard airplanes roared across Memorial Park at 1000 feet. And hearts ached as a maudlin bugle call drifted on a new dawn at Mount Maunganui. And across town a 17-year-old Aquinas College student held another Anzac audience spellbound.

"Loved it," says Jan Garrett, chair of the Carmel Country Estate residents committee. "There were tears in my eyes" says another. Who they loved was Millie Burton. And what they loved was her understanding of war and sacrifice.

"I didn't want them to think I knew how they were feeling. Because I have no idea" says the year 13 student.

"I just wanted them to know how much I appreciated their sacrifices, what they have delivered for us. And I will tell my children and they will tell their children. It's that great sense of national pride we have in New Zealand."

Millie was invited to talk to about 150 friends and family at an Anzac Day service at the retirement village. She was the youngest by more than half a century. And those she addressed had lived through wars, lost family in wars, and at least one man, Richard Mead, his chest heavy with medals, had been to war.

"My great grandfather Jack served in two world wars. He was lucky he came home" says Millie. "A lot of people my age have great grandfathers and great uncles who fought, so it is very personal to us. It hasn't gone. It is still very relevant and we feel it."

She also thinks it's very important children continue to be taught about it so they fully understand the effects of war on soldiers, families and countries. I think it's really cool. I just think Anzac Day is such a really cool day for New Zealand."

Her audience thought it was "really cool" too. They needed to know that, they still needed to feel appreciated.

Millie Burton has studied war – the holocaust, Nazism and Vietnam. "It was shocking the way those men were treated."

She hasn't been impacted by war but she has a sense of war. On a school trip she has trod the ridges and trench lines of Messines, the Belgian battlefield south of Ypres where 700 New Zealand soldiers died and another 3000 were injured.

"At about six o'clock in the evening I went for a walk across a field. The sun was setting and it cast a beautiful glow over the hills and ridges of Messines." Millie Burton was transporting her audience to a far off battlefield and they hung on her every word.

"I walked towards a tall cross perched on a hill and surrounded with white plaques. What caught my eye was the silver fern etched on white stone with the words 'Here are the names of the men and officers of New Zealand who fell at Messines and whose graves are known only to God'."

She says it was beyond her comprehension that across the other side of the earth, our soldiers, our blood, our fathers, our brothers, our grandfathers and great grandfathers, our heroes were being recognised for their service.

"Being able to physically see and understand where these men fought, the conditions and the climate they had to battle was mind blowing. As Divisional Commander Sir Andrew Russell said, the mud is a worse enemy than the German. The fear and the loneliness these men must have felt is something I will never be able to understand."

And she was shocked by a passage from a personal diary written by a young Irish soldier called Patrick McGill. "I wish I were back in the glens of Donegal. But they'll call me coward if I return, but a hero only if I fall."

Millie says they were the words of a man parted from his loved ones and whose life had been turned upside down. And yet he knew the only way he could be at peace and to be deemed a hero was to die for his country.

"I walked away from those graves and memorials with a new found sense of understanding – that to me Anzac Day isn't about history or the politics of war. It's about remembering the supreme sacrifice so many of our men made.

"It's not about remembering military successes or failures. It's about patriotism and national pride and, frankly, Anzac Day keeps that alive. Our fallen men have taught us we all have one thing in common and that is we can proudly stand shoulder to shoulder celebrating the love we have for New Zealand."

About 150 senior New Zealanders and one 17-year-old Aquinas College student stood shoulder to shoulder at a retirement village on Tuesday. There was a lot of love and pride.