



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,

This week we farewell Kimberly and the Dobbie family who has moved across the bridge to St Mary's. All the best from us all here - I'll miss your smiley face and happy good morning at the gate each day, Kimberly.



Saying goodbye to our teacher aides

Today is Shannon's last day and tomorrow is Carol's last day. Shannon and Carol have been very valuable members of our support team since Term 3 last year. Shannon has supported Austin in the Kina team and Carol has been supporting a group of children in the Pipi team. Carol is remaining on our standby list though in case teacher aides are away. She is very keen to stay involved with our school as much as possible. Unfortunately our hours for teacher aides have been reduced and so the school budget can't afford the extra help. You will have read about this issue in the papers recently. The Government's budget did not recognise the very important role teacher aides have in all schools – there wasn't enough extra funding provided to increase hourly rates or to provide support for the children with learning needs and behavioural challenges in our school or any other school in the area. The NZEI (teachers union) has been publicising the issues around this matter in the media. I don't usually get political but this is a serious situation for schools throughout the country. Fortunately for us we have Linda O, Simone, Scott and Cath Robson on the team for the remainder of the term.



Thank you, Shannon, for all the work you have put into the go kart project. This Monday we will be hosting Olive Tree and Arataki in our carpark - which will be transformed into a race track for the morning. Set up starts at 9.30, participants will start arriving at 10.30 and the racing will take place between 11.30 and 12.30. There will be three races altogether. More details to come via Facebook. You are very welcome to come along and join in the fun.

Dates for your diary

12 th June	Go kart race
13 th June	Paua Choir Festival Rehearsal @ Tauranga Int. 9-11
26 th June	Funky Fun Day @ ASB Arena – Pipi Team
29 th June	Kina Trip to Rotorua – we've had to change the date
3 rd July	Funky Fun Day @ ASB Arena – Kina Team
7 th July	Last day of term – Mufti mania for Catholic schools in the Solomons.

Cross Country – Mount Clusters

Congratulations to all members of our school team who gave it their all yesterday at Blake Park. Maggie Glubb and Sophie Plunkett are going on to represent the cluster at the Western Bay of Plenty cross country next week. Thank you Paula, Mr Webster and all parents who volunteered to provide transport for the morning. We couldn't do it without you.

School photographs - class photos are coming! (Should be with us next week). It's not too late to order class/individual photos – just send Dean an email dean@lifebylens.co.nz last day to order is **Monday June 12th**

Please note that from tomorrow, Friday June 9th there will be no more ASB Student Banking through the school – only one family remains banking through the school so this has proved to be ineffective ☹

Kina and Paua mid year reporting and conferences - reporting on your child's progress

Now that Kina has moved into their collaborative space and things are really working well. Kina will be adopting the same approach to reporting assessment and progress as the Paua team have used so successfully. You will receive your child's mid year report by the start of July. The report will include Reading, Writing (Literacy) and Numeracy progress in relation to the National Standard, and next learning steps. It will also include a general comment about your child's progress as a Learner with regard to 'Managing Self' and 'Relating to Others', key components of independent learning and positive relationships at St Thomas More. Included in the envelope will be booklets printed by the Ministry of Education giving more detail about the expected levels of progress for your child's class.

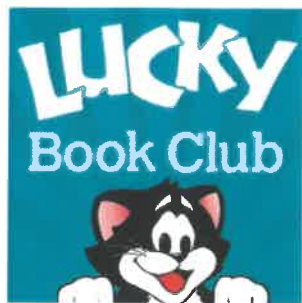
While each child still has a home group teacher your child may go to different teachers for their Literacy and Numeracy. When the mid year reports are written, the assessment information from those subject teachers is entered into each child's report, as well as the home group teacher adding a general comment. So there may be up to three teachers contributing to one child's report.

As a result, we feel the best way for you to conference with teachers is to book a time on www.schoolinterviews.co.nz for whichever aspect of your child's report you wish to discuss. This means you **may** need to book an appointment with more than one teacher - for example for Numeracy with Mr Barton, Literacy with Mrs Pirini and numeracy with Mrs Lees. This means you can speak directly with the teacher who has been teaching your child for that subject. This has worked well in other primary schools, and of course is similar to secondary school subject interviews.

The conferences will be **Tuesday July 25th and Wednesday July 26th** and the www.schoolinterviews.co.nz code will be sent with your child's report for you to book.

Of course, we meet and/or contact some parents regularly to keep each other up-to-date on learning or other concerns and achievements. If you read the report and are satisfied with the clarity of information provided, you may not need to book many, or any, individual conferences.

We welcome feedback on this approach and any questions. The Kina and Paua Teams



Lucky Book order forms have been sent home – if you'd like to order please drop off your order with payment to the School Office by Monday June 12th – we have extended it to Monday as this is a short week. This is the only Lucky Book order this term.

Very important date to keep.

June 25th at 9.30 a.m.

Our Term 2 School Sunday Mass is on June 25th at 9.30 a.m.
(we only have one school mass a term - what makes us different from the state schools? Going to church together!)

Please ensure that you are there with your children.
St.Thomas More children will need to wear their school uniforms and will be seated with their class and teacher.

It is really important to be there early because parking and seating gets harder the closer it gets to 9.30 a.m.

On this day our annual St.Thomas More play happens – to commemorate our founding saint.

We'll see you there. 😊

If you are unable to attend because of very important obligations please email the school office (secretary@stm.school.nz) we need to know for organisation purposes (e.g. cups of tea/drinks for kids).

We'll let you know if the cake stall is on - once we've confirmed with the PTFA Mums

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