

St Thomas More Catholic School



KA NGARO, KA NGARO, KA EA, KA EA, TE TOKA A TIRIKAWA
NO MATTER WHAT, STAY TRUE

School Newsletter
Panui
Week 5, Term 1
1 March, 2018.
Nau mai, Haere mai.



Thank you everyone for your support of our Young Vinnies team. We have been overwhelmed with the baking which has arrived this morning for the food stall at Aquinas this afternoon. It is great to be able to work alongside St.Mary's, Tauranga and Aquinas College to fundraise for the people of Tonga caught up in the devastation left behind by Cyclone Gita.

The twilight Gala is open from 3-7 p.m. at Aquinas this afternoon. The obstacle course will be open from 4-6 p.m. and

you all received a free pass to the obstacle course in last week's newsletter. One of the important goals our Catholic Community of Learning is trying to put in place is: more social justice projects working alongside our neighbouring Catholic schools. It's a great opportunity for our students to familiarise themselves with Aquinas and to get to know other senior students from St.Mary's.

Thank you again, From Tayla, Shan, Fritz and Noella.



If you are keen to join in:
The Reading Together programme is funded by the Ministry of education. You receive a bag of fun games and little books which you can share at home- all designed to give you and your children a great experience. The workshops will be held every Wednesday

afternoons for next few weeks. Mrs Morgan is taking the Little Pebbles group next door in the STEAM room. (Science, Technology, E learning, Art and Maths Room).



There are two times which you can attend...if you miss one you can do a catch up either Friday 9.30 am (crèche available) or evening session on Wednesday February 28th @ 7.30 pm in the Parish Centre. Come along and meet others who want to find out more about life and why we are here.



The Paua team had a great trip to Mauao on Monday, supported by many parents with scientific interests. The purpose of the trip was to collect data on species in rock pools in three sites...to add to the information from past years which is given to scientists and researchers in our local marine area. We also trialled the ARATAKI app which was a great success. This app has been developed by a member of the Timutimu whanau- to share the

stories of significant sites along the Mauao track. We'd like to recommend this app to you and any visitors to the Bay...it's a great way to learn about local history while enjoying the walk around the Mount.



Thank you to Quinn O'Connell for the great photos!



The scooter track is a great success, with the Kina and Pipi teams really enjoying the freedom to ride their scooters around the school. The Paua team are keen to change the rules so they can do tricks but we are keeping things as they are until the end of the term when the student leadership team will review the rules again.

Thank you to the PTFA for their donation which helped us pay for the track and also to Greg Milne and his workers who made such a good job of the whole project.

Scooter racks are on their way so everyone will be able to park up next to the track when it's their day for fun.

Scott Little has built another butterfly house- for Red Admiral Butterflies- these butterflies like the taste of nettles and Mr Webster has planted out nettles in the house- they aren't stinging nettles but native to Tauranga Moana.



Water tanks are the next addition to our ecology area: to collect rain water off the STEAM room roof to water the plants in our gardens. It's amazing how much interest there is every day when our children look into the butterfly houses- there are always new butterflies appearing.

Thank you Mr Webster for your commitment to science in our school. Mr Webster is our Within School lead teacher (Catholic Community of Learning position). He works alongside other science teachers in our nine Catholic schools, focussing on the development of science in writing and mathematics.

Did you know that our school's achievement data shows a lift of 5 % in maths in 2017.

88.3% of our students are at or above the National Standard in mathematics- at the end of 2017. Of that number 28.9% were above the standard. Something to celebrate!

Introducing our newest staff members...



Mrs Mills has joined the staff again- working two days a week in each of the three teams. Amie-lee provides release for teachers so that they have two days a term to do extra responsibilities outside the classroom. She carries on with programmes provided by homegroup teachers as well as bringing her passion for music and the arts into our school.

We are looking forward to Fresh Moves and the choir festival items in Term 3.



Mrs D has returned to our school in the Pipi team- working each morning with our little Tuatuas. Mrs D was fulltime in 2016 but she took a break last year. It's great to see her back again.

Mrs D has a lovely manner with our juniors and they really appreciate her quiet, encouraging smiles.

Mrs D works in a team with Mrs Dustin and Mrs Morgan...the Pipi team.



Meet Mike, our caretaker. Mike comes in most mornings to tidy around the property before the children arrive. Mike is employed for 5 hours a week but it is amazing how much tidier the school is with his care and attention. Thank you Crest Clean- your caretaker programme is a great initiative, especially for little schools like ours that can't afford to take on a caretaker full time.

Today our swimming carnival is being held at Baywave- it's a great event pulled together by our sports co-ordinator, Paula Farrell, and made possible by so many parents who give a hand with timing, starting, recording and organising. Thank you so much for the time and the positivity you all bring to the afternoon. Congratulations to Maddi Greetham (who wasn't able to take part today) but who swam at the St.Mary's Swimming sports to get her official times for selection for the clusters and the Matamata Catholic Swimming sports coming up.



	Dates for your diary
March 1 st	Aquinas Twilight Gala STM Swimming Carnival (optional students year 4-6) 12-2.30 pm
March 8 th	Matamata Swimming Competition (students who have qualified through STM Swimming Carnival) BOT Meeting @ 6 pm
March 11 th	School Mass
March 22 nd	Mount Cluster Swimming Competition (students who have qualified)
March 29 th	Funky Fun Day for Pipi @ ASB Arena – more info to come from teachers
March 29 th	Holy Thursday - we will be at school but away Friday, Monday and Tuesday the following week.
March 30th – April 3rd School closed – Easter	
April 6 th	School Disco – save the date! More info to come!
April 9 th	Funky Fun Day for Kina @ ASB Arena – more info to come from teachers
April 11 th	ANZAC Assembly @ 11.30 am
April 11 th	WBOP Swimming Competition
April 13 th	End of term 1
June 6 th	School photos
June 13th, June 14th & June 15th – School closed – teachers attending Catholic Convention in Wellington	

Friday March 2nd - all welcome

Mass: Paua Syndicate

School Hui: Pipi

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