

Welcome to Zyon Tzanakos Dixon, Shon Thankachan and Ailee Simpson who have turned 5 years old and joined Pipi and Jenny Nguyen has joined Paua from Vietnam. Lucky five year olds – they have Funky Funday at Baypark today...what a great start to school.

#### IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR EVERYONE.

*“School is closed Friday March 30<sup>th</sup>, Monday April 2<sup>nd</sup> & Tuesday April 3<sup>rd</sup> – we are back at school on Wednesday April 4<sup>th</sup>. Thank you”*

*“Walang pasok simula Biyernes Santo hanggang Martes (ika-30 ng Marso hanggang ika-3 ng Abril). Balik iskuwela sa Miyerkules. “*

*“A escola vai ser estar fechada nesta sexta-feira dia 30 de março ate terça-feira 3 de abril .As aulas voltam ao normal na quarta-feira dia 4 de abril. Obrigada”*



#### Miss Jasmine Turnbull

Today is Miss Turnbull’s last day at St.Thomas More. Jasmine has been with us on her practical experience 6 week placement which is part of the third year teaching degree at Bethlehem Institute of Education. Jasmine has been a bright light in Kina, always positive and thoughtful, very motivated and prepared. Ms Lees and Mrs Pirini are going to miss Jasmine and I know the Kina children certainly will. We wish you all the very best in your future teaching career.

#### Mrs Meredith

Mrs Meredith will not be returning to school this term however Mrs McHugh is continuing to teach in the Kina space- this will guarantee continuity of planning and organisation for teachers and students. Thank you Mrs McHugh- it’s great to know you are there.

#### Stations of the Cross

Our Year 6 students performed exceptionally well yesterday when they presented the drama of Jesus’ journey to the Cross. Many parents commented on the prayerful and reflective way the actors carried out their roles. Today we are presenting the drama to a group of fifteen students and two teachers from the Philippines, part of the Sister School programme.



*Outside the Walls of Jerusalem Old City waiting to walk through the Jaffa Gate*

Last September I travelled with a group of fifty parishioners and teachers from around the Diocese on pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

One of the most important days for us was the day we visited the Church of the Holy

Sepulchre (a very big church which covers the land where Jesus was crucified and was laid in the tomb).

We woke up at 4.30 a.m. and walked the same route as Jesus took as he carried his cross to his death. Bishop Steve led us in prayer as we took turns to carry the wooden cross through the very narrow streets/alleys of the Old City.



While we were squeezing ourselves through the sleepy houses on either side of the alleys, the Moslem citizens were going to the Temple to pray and the Jewish men were heading to the Western Wall to commemorate the Festival of Sukkot ( the feast of the Tabernacles when they recalled the time the Jews were wandering in the wilderness). The alley ways were very crowded with groups pushing past each other and the tractors driving through collecting the city's rubbish. It was very hard to keep our focus as we were warned that Christians were often spat on and pushed around when they followed the Stations of the Cross through the city.



I was given the cross to carry just outside the walls of the church- and holding the cross while Bishop recalled how Jesus was ridiculed and jeered made everything very real. I felt like I was the only one there and tears were streaming down my face- and I didn't even know. We walked into the church which is very cavernous and kneeled on the spot where Jesus died- Calvary, then climbed down to the place where his body was laid and anointed with oils, then we moved to the tomb where Bishop Steve celebrated Mass with us.



The Franciscan friars sang the Mass in Latin accompanied by a beautiful organ that filled the whole church with it's sound and we tried to follow along as best we could.. Bells were ringing, a group of Coptic monks were shaking incense

behind the tomb, waiting for their turn to start their liturgy. The cacophony was so distracting. So many images, chants, rituals and people pushing to get in- some tourists and some pilgrims from all over the world. All in one day- it was overwhelming.

On the slab of rock where Jesus was laid and rose from the dead, Bishop Steve placed the pieces of paper which had list of names of all the people we had come to pray for- our relatives and friends who had passed away. It was an incredible experience and life changing for all of us.

### **Invitation to a social evening for PTFA mums and dads.**

The Board of Trustees (Matt, Peter, Maria, Janine, Cathy, Colin, Steve, Therese, Richard, Kath Kerry and Fr Darren) would like to invite members of the school Parents, Teachers and Friends Association to a social evening to thank you for all the fundraising that you do to support our children at St. Thomas More. We are bringing the nibbles and drinks...we really want you to relax and enjoy our hospitality.

Where: in the staffroom. Starting at 6 p.m. On Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> April. Please RSVP to Jane for catering purposes either by message or by email [secretary@stm.school.nz](mailto:secretary@stm.school.nz)

### STM Parent Contribution Term 1

We are fast approaching the end of the term! Please ensure that your parent contribution is up to date. If you are having trouble covering this amount please make sure you talk with Jane or Kath so that we can help. The parent contribution covers all swimming costs, school trips or concerts

per child, religious education resources and chromebooks, ipads and big screens used in every learning space – our school is not a Bring Your Own Device school – we provide equal access to all students. Costs not covered include Camp (Year 5 & Year 6), sports fees, school photos (always optional). Our Office Administrator Jane is happy to provide you with a “donation” receipt for tax rebate purposes (end of tax year March 31<sup>st</sup>). Our school community wants to maintain and build on the excellent reputation we have established for academic, sporting and cultural success.

It is the intention of the BOT to support the learning which is taking place in our classrooms through the purchasing of additional resources and the expertise needed to empower our 21<sup>st</sup> century students to reach their goals.



**Kina & Paua swimming for the first two weeks of term 2 – April 30<sup>th</sup> to May 11<sup>th</sup>**

Swimmers will need towels, a warm jacket, everything named, goggles and togs – and a bag to pack them into. Thanks very much. Your parent contribution covers \$70 for swimming lessons so please ensure that your child has everything they need each day for two weeks- we don't want them to miss a lesson as we can't arrange a different time for individuals.

Please note that the school disco is not a drop off/pick up event.

Parents/caregivers must stay to supervise their own children or make arrangements with another parent/caregiver to do so. The PTFA respectfully ask you to keep your children inside the Parish Lounge and not allow them to be running around outside in the carpark and school grounds.

We look forward to putting on another fun evening for our students and hope that again we will have "many hands to make light work" with the few duties required to help run this!



**ST THOMAS MORE DISCO**  
Friday 6 April 2018  
6.30 pm—8 pm  
St Thomas More Parish Lounge

THEME: "CELEBRITY STARS"

Drinks/sweets/glowsticks for sale  
\$3 per person or \$5 per family

The poster features a colorful border of stars and a central illustration of a disco dancer. It also includes a small image of two Minions.

### Estuary data gathering expedition to Matapihi.





March 29 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Thursday – Mass of the Last Supper and the washing of feet at 7.15 p.m. in the church. You are all invited. Tayla Stowers and Kath Joblin will be representing our school at the ceremony tonight.
<b>Good Friday Mass at 3 pm.</b> <b>Saturday vigil at 7.15 p.m.</b> <b>Easter Sunday - resurrection Sunday Mass at 9.30 a.m.</b> <b>No School from Friday to Tuesday We're closed.</b>	
April 6 <sup>th</sup>	School Disco (6.30 pm to 8pm – theme : “Celebrity Stars” @ STM Parish Lounge
April 11 <sup>th</sup>	Funky Fun Day for Kina @ ASB Arena ANZAC Assembly @ 11.30 am
April 11 <sup>th</sup>	WBOP Swimming Competition
April 12 <sup>th</sup>	BOT and PTFA social in staffroom at 6 p.m.
<b>April 13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>End of term 1</b>
April 30 <sup>th</sup>	Start of Term 2
April 30 <sup>th</sup> -11 <sup>th</sup> May	Kina & Paua Swimming
14 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> May	Paua – Kids can ride programme/Bike Week
May 16 <sup>th</sup>	Aquinas 2019 Enrolment Meeting @ 1.30 pm (for current year 6 students only) @ STM
May 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Rippa Rugby World Cup Competition
June 6 <sup>th</sup>	School photos
<b>June 13<sup>th</sup>, June 14<sup>th</sup> &amp; June 15<sup>th</sup> – School closed teachers attending Catholic Convention in Wellington</b>	

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