



It's autumn and we are really blessed with crisp mornings and bright sunshine here in the Bay. Hamilton is my turangawaewae and when I was little I thought that cows didn't have legs. I thought they floated on clouds because all through winter the fog was so thick down Tramway Road. Our children mutter and pull faces because they are

practising for cross country each day.... at least they aren't running through swampy mud puddles like the children I taught in Te Aroha when I started my first teaching principal position. One thing about cross country, it is amazing how fit children become over the winter term by participating in regular jogging sessions each day. And as we all know starting something new is challenging but with resilience and practise we come out the winners.

Paua and Kina have started their swimming programme and the really exciting part is next Friday when our Paua team will be learning to snorkel. Mr Webster has gathered together qualified and experienced parents to run a snorkelling training session at Baywave. We are looking forward to meeting with the gold medal winners from the Rugby sevens/Comm games. We have been contacted to see if they can come next Friday morning - so lucky Kina will be hosting four players with their management.

This week Pipi welcomed Sophie Fitzgerald from St Mary's and it was Brylie Warner's fifth birthday so she has joined Jack and Dylan here at STM. Jian Lee has joined Paua from Hamilton and he's made a wonderful first impression already. We farewelled Ryder Matthews who has joined our neighbour's Arataki Primary School this term.

### **School Camp.**

It is about this time of the year that we ask parents to apply to attend school camp. The reason this happens so early in the year is because each applicant is required to be police vetted - a long process because of the demand on the police services from all over the country. School Camp is happening from Monday to Friday : 26 November to 30 November. This year we have made an organisational change to accommodate the 96 students in Paua. Ngamuwahine Lodge cannot cater for such a large number of students so we have set things up for Year 5 to spend Monday to Wednesday at camp and then for a changeover so that Year 6 spend Wednesday to Friday at camp. Both groups will have two nights at camp - and we can adjust the programme to suit the age groups. Year 6 have traditionally had an overnight stay in the bush under bivouacs and they have experienced a Burma trail so these activities will go ahead as usual.

The advantage of attending for 2 ½ days is that the cost will only be \$75 per student (incl. GST), half that of previous years.

I have already been approached by three families who have children in both Year 5 and 6 who would like to stay for the full week. This will be great because it means there will be continuity and the running of the camp will be familiar to our core parent team. We will need a team of ten adults for the whole week. A letter will be going out to all Year 5 and 6 parents tomorrow inviting people to register their interest in attending as a camp parent. Thank you.

## Our teaching staff.



This term we welcome Mrs Julia Phillipps to Kina team. Mrs Phillipps is a talented teacher with a particular interest in drama and music. Mrs Phillipps will be working with Mrs Pirini and Mrs Lees until lunchtime each day. Each teacher is teaching their home group for the core subjects. In the afternoons from 1.15-2.15 p.m. Mrs Pirini and Mrs Lees will be running an integrated programme centred around science, drama, art and technology. There are 58 students in Kina so in the mornings the ratio of teacher to student is 1: 19 (the same as Pipi) and for an hour in the afternoon the ratio is 1:29 (the same as Paua).

Mrs Phillipps will be contributing to assessments and reports this term. Julia is available for meetings with parents before school from 8.00 a.m. if you would like to make an appointment through Jane in the office.

Mrs Amie-Lee Mills is teaching in Paua on Tuesdays and Wednesdays so that Mr Mills can share his expertise with our Catholic Community of Learning schools. Mr Mills is an Across Schools Co-ordinator in our COL and will be able to bring back new learning and ideas from his interaction with our community schools. Mrs Mills will be planning and reporting as a full member of the Paua teaching team. You can contact either Mr Mills or Mrs Mills if your child is in their home group and they will get back to you.

Mrs Tenielle McHugh is releasing teachers throughout the term (as each teacher is entitled to two planning days a term). Mrs McHugh will be working Wednesdays and Thursdays.



This is an open invitation to our next Reading Together programme.

Reading together is a programme that enables to support your children more effectively when they bring home their home readers. The programme is suitable for parents and caregivers of children in the Pipi team or if you have children who are about to start school.

We would like to invite you to a series of informal workshops (4), which last for approximately 1 hour. These workshops will give you strategies to help you become more involved in your child's reading.

The programme, Reading Together, was developed in New Zealand, and has had very positive feedback from parents when they have completed the workshops.

This term we are running the programme in the evening. The first workshop will be on Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May at 6.30p.m., in the Pipi learning area.

A reminder will be sent the week before the first workshop. But please mark this date on your calendar.

We look forward to seeing you.

Kerry Duncan



<b>Meetings:</b> May 7 <sup>th</sup> at 7 pm - Parent, teachers and Friends meeting at Imbibe restaurant. May 10 <sup>th</sup> at 6 pm Board of Trustees meeting in the staffroom.	
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 (current year 6 students only) @ STM PTFA Movie Night Fundraiser
May 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Rippa Rugby World Cup Competition
May 24 <sup>th</sup>	Whole School Cross Country @ Arataki Park
June 4 <sup>th</sup>	School Closed – Queen’s Birthday
June 6 <sup>th</sup>	School photos
<b>June 13<sup>th</sup>, June 14<sup>th</sup> &amp; June 15<sup>th</sup></b> <b>School closed teachers attending Catholic Convention in Wellington</b>	

**PTFA Movie Fundraiser**

Its "Life of the Party" with Melissa McCarthy

Wednesday 16 May at 8pm

Nibbles start from 7.15pm

Rialto Tauranga - \$20 a ticket

There will be spot prizes and a raffle too - so lots of goodies ☺

Tickets can be purchased through the school office.

If you would like to pay for the tickets on line, please direct credit the money into the PTFA’s bank account - 12-3217-0149926-00 and put your surname as the reference. Thank you ☺

Tickets first come first served - don’t miss out!!



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