



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 3, Term 2
May 17th 2018
Nau mai, Haere mai



We have our new school sign in place thanks to Steve from Powerhouse signs and graphics. Steve is one of the few 'old school' signwriters who paint directly onto surfaces. It's wonderful to watch an artist at work as the design pops out of the wall.

The final stage will be installing the mosaics on the long wall...still in the development stages.

This week we welcomed lots of our parents for many interesting activities. It all started on Monday when our seniors stepped up and took on their roles in the powhiri. Ineka Cartwright was our kaikaranga and she handled the

responsibility with quiet confidence. Our house captains spoke for each side and the whole school chanted our whakatauki: Ka ngaro ka ngaro, ka ea, ka ea, te toka a Tirikawa. When you're lost, you will be found, look for the rock, our guide. Thank you Mrs Pirini for your important role in training our students in kawa and tikanga.

The Kina team hosted small groups of parents each morning during the week- to provide first hand experience of maths and literacy learning in Year 3 and 4. Thank you to the parents who took up the invitation- it was a very affirming experience for our students and our teachers.



An enthusiastic group of parents attended the Reading together evening run by Mrs Duncan- everyone who has joined in with this programme has commented on the great learning they have had about supporting their children in reading at home. Paua team have been learning about cycling safely- the TCC supports the Kids can ride programme and provides coaches for a week in every school in the district. We are very fortunate to have Iris Thomas and the team here each year, building children's confidence and fitness. Thank you to the parents who have come along to supervise

the long bike rides around the Arataki/Bayfair streets.

With cross country and cycling, after two weeks of swimming, our Paua team is getting fit!

Yesterday the principal of Aquinas, the dean of Year 7 and two students came along to share their experiences of Aquinas College with Year 5 and 6. Thank you to the parents who came along to find out more about their school of choice. The enrolment process is explained on the Aquinas Website.

Enrolment forms are accessible from the website to download and each student will need a preference card from our parish priests and also a school report. Our mid year reports will be available from 25th June. The application forms need to be dropped off at Aquinas by July 5th. So there is plenty of time. 😊

Pentecost

This Sunday the church around the world celebrates the feast of Pentecost.

The apostles were gathered together upstairs in a house inside the city walls (Jerusalem), hiding from the Romans who had sentenced Jesus to death. The apostles were fugitives, frightened and confused because their leader had left them so abruptly. No one was prepared to take the lead. Each individual was thinking about escaping from the city and keeping ahead of the patrols.

As they discussed their fears and argued over what they could do the Holy Spirit came to them as a great gust of wind. Looking around they could see tongues of fire burning above their heads and they were filled with courage. They left the sanctuary of the upper room and went out to the people, preaching and speaking in many languages, sharing the message that Jesus had given them. Many of the apostles were martyred over the coming months/years but their mission had taken hold and churches were established within Christian communities as far away as Corinth and Thessalonica through the work of Paul.

The feast of Pentecost celebrates the birth of the Christian church.

Would you be interested in joining our Board of Trustees?

Steve Scott and Peter Deering have resigned from our Board of trustees and we are looking for two people who would like to be part of the strategic development of our school.

Steve signed off at the end of last year because Henry was the last of the Scott children to leave for Aquinas and it was the right time to step down. Peter resigned from our Board last month due to family commitments which require him to travel, making attending meetings more difficult.

Our co-chairs are Janine Bollee and Matt Adsett. The Bishop has appointed four people to represent his interest in our school and our special character. The Bishop's appointees are: Therese Ford-Cartwright, Cathy Bywater-Lutman, Colin Heeney and Father Darren MacFarlane.

We have Maria Mooney, Janine and Matt who are our elected parent representatives. The staff representative is Richard Webster.

Why should you consider putting your name forward for nomination to the Board? What is involved?

One business meeting a term and one project meeting a term. At business meetings we check the expenditure, the achievement of students across each year level, review employment related items, discuss special character activities and plan for ongoing development e.g. landscaping the entrance of the school.

At project meetings we brainstorm ideas for communicating with the community, sign off policy and procedure manuals, prepare for visits from ERO, the Catholic review team or combined meetings with our COL schools, meet with members of the PTA, address issues like the school buses and supporting families who need financial support.

An excerpt from a letter received by the BOT:

"It has been an absolute privilege and honour to be on the board with you over the years. The constant improvement of the School has brought us great personal and professional satisfaction and I extend my sincere thanks to the STM More Teachers, BOT, PTFA and our Parish for their valued contribution, collaboration, faith, continued support and wisdom.

The Schools three "Touchstones" Head, Heart and Hands provide a wonderful context from which to promote, educate, strengthen personal relationships and the Catholic faith of the students, staff, parents and community. I have valued the family atmosphere and the positive culture that STM portrays.

I know I will miss the people and the atmosphere of STM, (it is a very unique school) and I will carry with me many special memories. In the meantime, as we work through the By-election process, we'll maintain the momentum and congeniality of the board to continue the further improvement and development of our special school. I wish the STM School, Board and Family all the very best in the future."

The school roll will be available to view/check next week and nomination forms will go out in the next two weeks and voting needs to be completed by 22nd June.

Mid year reports and parent/teacher interviews.

Our teachers will begin compiling reports over the next few weeks and they will be available to print from the 25th June. We will be posting out reports on the 25th June so it is essential that we have your correct mailing address- if you have moved, please double check.

An interview schedule will be put on line for you to book an interview with your child's team of teachers- Jane will let you know when this has been set up...it won't be ready for a two or three weeks so don't worry, this is just letting you know that bookings will be available.

Interviews will be held on three afternoons starting at 3.00 p.m. i.e. 3rd July- 5th July. Each home/pastoral teacher will be able to share data about reading, writing and social skills/key competencies. If a child is in another teacher's group for maths then you can also book in to talk with this teacher. We will ensure that you know which teachers your child is working with and for what.

Movie night- was a great success.

Thank you to the PTA for a wonderful evening of fun and laughter. The movie was hilarious and the raffles, nibbles and drinks went down well. Lots of people put their time in to gathering prizes, packing goody bags, selling tickets and getting everything ready.

The afternoon of the 20th June.

We are asking you for another favour. Thank you so much for collecting your children last term when the teachers' union called a meeting of members and we didn't have enough staff to supervise children for the afternoon session. You were so supportive that we only had 40 children who stayed for the afternoon and we were able to send two relievers home. The NZEI has set down the afternoon of 20th June as the next paid union meeting, starting at 1.30 p.m. at Baypark stadium.

Do you think you can manage to collect your children by the end of lunch (1.15 p.m.) on the 20th June, please? All the other primary schools in the Mount, Papamoa, Te Puke and Tauranga will be doing the same. We will still be able to look after about 40 children for the afternoon and if needed we'll call in relief teachers as before. Sorry about that!

Why is NZEI (the NZ Education Institute) calling these meetings?

There are three issues which are forcing teachers to industrial action:

- The need for support for increasing numbers of children with learning and behaviour challenges...how do we manage extremes of behaviour in our classrooms without teacher aides?
- More time for teachers to plan and meet with specialist agencies? To access help for teachers and children with learning difficulties we need to release teachers out of class to talk to the specialists as the specialists don't work outside school hours.
- Recognition of the growing work load. Whenever the government wants to bring in a new initiative in answer to a social crisis they bring it into schools e.g. programmes for civil defence, moneytalks, nutrition, anti smoking, anti sugary drinks, food safety regulations, health and safety regulations, sustainable practices, recycling- it is hard to fit everything in. We actually need more teachers per school.

The teaching profession has been struggling over these issues for several years and making the best effort to cope but it's gotten too hard to go on the way things are. More and more is being expected with less and less support. Our teacher aide numbers have reduced from five two years ago to three and a half this year while the number of children who need support with English, with behavioural challenges and development delay have increased.

We are hoping that there will be funding in the budget to make a real difference for schools and our children. Fingers crossed!

St Thomas More Catholic School Cross Country 2018

Venue: Grenada Park

Date: Thursday 24th May.

Equipment: Please ensure your child has

- blue/black sports shorts
- their school polo shirt
- sneakers
- school polo fleece
- water bottle
- Plenty of food to snack on over the day

American Hotdogs and Juice are being organised by the PTFA so make sure you have pre-ordered these.

Course Outline:

The map provided below and the approximate course indicated relates to the path the Year 3-6 students will run. The **year 3 & 4 students will not run the internal loop of the field**, and the Year 1 & 2 students will run a much shorter circuit staying within the field boundaries only.

This is an overview of how we would like the day to proceed, please remember this serves as a guide only.

11am – Assemble on Grenada Park in class groups

- 11:10 am: Y1 Girls
- 11:15 am: Y1 Boys
- 11:20 am: Y2 Girls
- 11:30 am: Y2 Boys
- 11:35 am: Y3 Girls
- 11:45 am: Y3 Boys
- 11:50 am: Y4 Girls
- 12:00 pm: Y4 Boys
- 12:05 pm: Y5 Girls
- 12:15 pm: Y5 Boys
- 12:20 pm: Y6 Girls
- 12:30 pm: Y6 Boys

NB: Y0 will run with Y1



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