

We have been so lucky with the weather this term with so much sunshine and crisp clear days. Now the seasons have turned the corner from Autumn to Winter this week with rain, rain, and more rain. The number of children who have been absent due to ill health has started to climb. Last Monday we had 36 children absent due to illness- some with a virus which gives children a very hot, burning sore throat and high temperatures and also Strep throat which has been identified in several cases and is very contagious.

Teachers were speculating that last year we had high numbers of sick children and perhaps it was a result of 40-50 in one space? The monitoring of hand washing and the use of hand sanitisers was stepped up during the winter of 2017 to try to counteract this.

Looking at the trend so far this year perhaps everyone needs to be vigilant about training children to wash their hands after they've been to the toilet (especially little boys) and about coughing into your elbow rather than your hand.

There is a huge pile of polo fleece jackets in our lost property box...and lots of children running around in tee-shirts. Every day we send the jackets back to class if they are named correctly.

Also I am investigating whether we can print surnames onto the bottom of the jackets in bold print so that we know who they belong to. If we do this of course, there will be additional cost added to uniforms. I'd appreciate your feedback on whether this is a good idea or not. kjoblin@stm.school.nz



New Baptism/Communion and Confirmation programme for Year 4s.

This year Father Darren is trialling a new approach to supporting children in their sacramental journey.

The number of classes has been reduced dramatically and condensed into 7 sessions over one term.

The day of Communion/Confirmation Mass is Sunday 23 September- when the Bishop will be in the parish.

To prepare our children the teachers have volunteered to take classes after school on **Tuesdays**.

Paula will arrange for Basketball games to be scheduled from 4.20 p.m. onwards to fit in.

Children will stay after school: have a play and afternoon tea provided by the parish then start a class from 3.00-4.00 p.m. There won't be a parish camp this year so this will help families who found extra costs difficult and who couldn't get off work in the weekends.

The first class will be for children who have **not yet been baptised** and who want to go on and complete the sacramental programme so they can take part in Communion with the rest of the school.

This class will be **in the last week of school this term**.

Then all the Year 4s, Year 5s and Year 6s who are joining the Communion and Confirmation classes will begin in Term 3.

More information will be available from the newsletter and from letters sent out by Father Darren.

What should you do?

- Check that your child has been baptised.
- If they haven't then let the school know that you do want this to happen this term.
- Put your child/children's names down on the list for Communion/Confirmation at the school office- and we will make sure that you get information as soon as it comes out.

For Mums and Dads who are thinking about becoming Catholic- this is for you.

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

Do any of these describe you?

- Are you interested in learning more about Christianity and the Catholic Church?
- Are you a baptised Catholic who has not yet received First Holy Communion or Confirmation?
- Are you married to a Catholic and attend Mass, but just do not know what the next step is in becoming Catholic?
- Would you like to better support your children at a Catholic school.



An introduction meeting will be held on Thursday 21st June at 7:00pm in the St Thomas More church centre, 17 Gloucester Rd, Mount Maunganui to begin this journey through RCIA. Please express your interest by contacting Heidi Nield (RCIA coordinator) 5754807 Ext 6 or

Email: pastoral@allsaintsbythesea.nz

When the school is closed would you like your children to be involved in fun activities at the parish lounge?

From 13-15 June our school is closed so that the teachers can attend the Catholic Convention in Wellington. They are staying at the Home of Compassion in Island Bay where Blessed Mother Aubert is buried.

While the school is closed Janice Basile (from the Italian Doughnut family) and Father Darren are organising a team of 16 people to cover three days of activities for our children. The team is part of the Mission coming to our parish during that week. They are proposing that there be one day for each school team.

Wednesday for PAUA Year 5+6; Thursday for KINA Year 3+4 and Friday Family Session

There will be no cost and children will need to bring their lunchboxes as usual with morning tea and lunch like they do at school. The kids will really enjoy being with their friends and sharing the activities that will be provided. If you are interested in having your children take part please sign up at the school office.



The afternoon of the 20th June. We are asking you for another favour. The teachers from this school will be attending a NZEI Te Riu Roa paid union meeting regarding the *Kua Tae Te Wā* - It's Time campaign. The campaign aims to free teachers to teach and principals to lead,

by getting the additional support and staff that schools need. The meetings will allow our teachers to discuss how the Ministry of Education has responded to changes that the union is seeking.

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. Our teaching staff are members of NZEI and legally entitled to attend this meeting. The NZEI can only call two paid union meetings a year so this will be the last one for 2018.

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

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. While there are many more children coming into the school system, there are not enough new teachers being trained. Urgent and significant changes are needed to ensure that the teaching profession can attract the people it needs and to ensure class sizes do not start to increase.

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.

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.

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.

I appreciate that this creates some inconvenience for families. However, I encourage you to support your teachers as they strive to achieve the changes which will safeguard quality education for all children and ensure we make teaching an attractive profession for graduates. Anyone who may need help with arrangements should contact Jane at the office.

A message from the New Zealand Catholic Schools CEO: Dear Schools,

The IRD are now accepting 2018 school donation rebate claims from parents. A number of our Catholic schools have started to make their parents aware of an easier way to claim back their school donations and this has seen a spike in parents making claims. We encourage schools to remind parents of their entitlement to claim back their 2018 school donation and refer parents to SchoolRebates.co.nz by including a note in your school newsletter. SchoolRebates.co.nz is a Kiwi company that helps parents easily claim back school donations.

Yesterday the World Cup Rippa Rugby challenge happened, even in the pouring rain.

Congratulations to our teams who braved the elements and achieved a creditable placing in the competition. The first round was played before the decision was made to defer the semi finals until next week. Thank you to our parents who stepped up to coach and to transport in such miserable weather and also a big thank you to Paula Farrell, our sports co-ordinator, who arranged the whole event for our players.

Here are the photos of the Head, Heart and Hands awards from last Friday's assembly. Congratulations and very well done, team!



Pipi trip to Otanewainuku Forest to see Kiwis.

The Pipi team are excited because they are travelling by bus to Otanewainuku on the 7th June. Forest and Bird Society are coming to school before the trip to show our children what a Kiwi looks like then they are accompanying the Papis on a Kiwi hunt. The buses will carry everyone there and back, leaving at 9.00 and returning by 1.00 at the very latest. What a wonderful experience. Thank you to everyone who pays their parent contribution and makes these trips possible for every child.

Where is Otanewainuku? At the end of the Oropi Road... in the lower reaches of the Kaimais. The track is very flat and even...kindies have visited before and said its an easy walk. 😊

Year 5+6 camp in November.

Thank you very much for all the applications we have received for parent helpers at camp this year. Just to confirm, these are the names of all the people who have forwarded their application for police vetting or who have already been vetted. We will be back in touch with you once we have had clearances in regard to who will be on the list and who will be on the reserves bench.

Year 5 = B Murrell; D Cartwright; H Manning; S Bisley; S Collett; S Donald; D Ballot; M Couch; I Norton; C Latu; K Hardisty; M Churchill; D Young; M Plunkett; D Ormsby; A Matuku.

Year 6 = T Guidera; K Horrocks; N Tutt; K Tabb; B Parlane; S Stowers; C Latu; C Hunt; K Ormsby; S Beattie; P Crouch; B Wood, J Greetham; A Matuku.

Today we enjoyed our School Cross Country Day. Thank you to the Aquinas helpers who volunteered as part of service day. It was great to have you back.

Thank you to Kirsty from the PTA for arranging the hotdogs and drinks...a big job! Also thank you to our Italian Doughnuts family, the Basiles, who have come along again today to give us a donut shot.

ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Due to the resignation of two of our board representatives there will be a by-election to elect two representatives to fulfil the vacancies. The positions will be for the remainder of the board term when full elections will be held.

Nominations close midday on the 8th June 2018.

The election of the candidates will close midday the 22nd June, 2018

All enquires:
The returning officer – K. Duncan
Ph. 021 077 4438

Scooter Track Daily Roster

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Morning Tea	Pipi	Pipi	Kina	Kina	Skateboard Kina and Paua
Lunch	Paua	Skateboard Pipi	Paua	Kina	Skateboard Kina and Paua

1. All equipment must be **NAMED**.
2. The track is for scooters\ Skateboards.
3. Helmets, knee pads, and elbow pads are optional.
4. You can share equipment at your own risk.
5. If you don't obey the rules you will get blacklisted for your next two sessions.
6. Be respectful to others on the track.
7. Kina and Paua can do tricks on the scooter track.
8. Be fair to others.

.....Signed the House Captains/Student leaders.



We are thrilled to announce the St Thomas More Talent Show!
We are looking for dedicated, hard-working, and creative individuals and groups to participate.

The Talent Show is limited to your creativity and talents!

The first thing that needs to be done if you are interested is fill out the form on the next page
and return to school by Friday 8th June.

Please limit your act to 5 minutes or less.

Anyone can participate, however, you **MUST** have a well-
rehearsed act at the time of auditions that can be clearly heard and understood.

The actual date of the show will be Friday, June 22 beginning at 11am.

All those wishing to Participate in the show will need an audition first.

The auditions will be on June 11th and 12th in learning areas. From here 4 items per learning
area will proceed through to the actual Talent Show. The children will be notified on
Monday 18th June who will proceed through to the actual Talent Show.

Ideas for Talent Show Acts:

Play an instrument - short skits/plays - Magic Tricks - Poetry reading - original dance
routines - Comedy/Jokes - Singing - Other creative and appropriate presentations are welcome.

In order to include as many students as possible, group acts are encouraged.

Each student is only
allowed to participate in one act.

Kind regards

St Thomas Staff

St Thomas More Talent Show Try-out Form Due by Friday 8th June

Name: _____

Group Members: _____

Year ____

Teacher _____

What is the title of your act? _____

Describe your Act

Please list the title of your music including the artist.
(You must provide your own music.)

Parent Signature
