

Catholic Education Convention last week in Wellington.

Thank you very much for supporting our teachers to attend the triennial Catholic conference in Wellington last week.

It was a fantastic opportunity for us to meet and share with Catholic teachers from schools throughout Aotearoa New Zealand. We heard from inspiring speakers like Dame Theresa Walsh (member of boards which hosted the Rugby World Cup, Cricket World Cup), the newest bishops from Christchurch and Dunedin, the Matariki story and implications for how we teach recognising every child as a star. We heard from a celebrated young Franciscan friar from the US about the wisdom of foolishness in the Scriptures. A brilliant speaker from the UK talked about how the Pope has asked us not to have sourpuss faces (vinegar faces in Spanish translation) and to get rid of the 'sucked a lemon' look that most Catholics have and trade it for JOY. If we truly have heard the Good news we should be showing our joy in everything we do and say- not keeping it to ourselves and judging others who don't know about it. There were many workshops to choose from so each teacher participated in four different sessions- great ideas for our classrooms. Also we were treated to the best secondary school musicians at our Conference Mass which left us feeling very uplifted.

Thank you again, for enabling us to attend the conference...we will make sure that we do an extra three days at the end of the year to make up for it. All the best, staff of St. Thomas More.



Reminder : Talent Show – tomorrow Friday June 22nd 11.00 am to 12.30 pm in the Parish Centre – all welcome!

After our school mass this Sunday 24th June

Could all families please bring along either some HOME BAKING or FRESH PRODUCE for us to sell (if you have an excess of mandarins, lemons, etc). We would also like some gluten free baking so if you think you could help with something like that, that would be much appreciated.

Each family has been sent home a plastic plate today for your baking and you can either bring it before church on Sunday or drop off to the School on Friday morning if you can't be there on Sunday. We will also be having a table for the kids to spend their 50c and \$1 and there will be lots of individual goodies for them to buy. You can either make something as a whole or bring something we can split up to sell singularly.

If you are struggling for time, please don't bring along any store purchased goodies, a donation on the day would be much more appreciated.

Thanks in advance for your help from the PTFA.

Awesome achievements by our STM students at the WBOP Primary School Cross Country Championships yesterday - Oscar 14th, Maggie 5th and Maddi 12th. All 3 of our students progress on to the BOP Champs next week. Well done to all of you!!!

Do you remember when we did the trolley races last year- with the Salvation Army, Arataki School and Olive Tree....

On Tuesday two guys from ICONZ came to share their skills with a group of our senior boys. They showed them how to use power tools and equipment. At the end of the day they had completed a project for the PIFI children - a workbench for action learning made out of pallets.

When we did fundraising last year (at the trolley races) the money was donated to the Salvation Army who arranged for tools and equipment to be given to ICONZ- like the Boys' Brigade organisation, helping boys.

Here are some photos from the action – taken by Scott Little, thanks very much for your help on the day too.



Suzanne Aubert's birthday : Blue House has their ice cream treat. Thank you Mrs Whippy



Thank you for your help yesterday. Thank you to everyone who made a special effort to collect their children from school at lunchtime yesterday. We had 36 children with two teachers for the afternoon – thank you Mrs Duncan and Mrs McHugh.

Why was there a paid union meeting yesterday?

The teachers from this school were 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.

Some facts about the teaching profession that are of concern:

- ❖ Enrolments in teacher training have dropped 40% between 2010 and 2016 while the population grew. <https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/chronic-teacher-shortage-laid-bare>
- ❖ 20% more permanent fulltime teachers left teaching in 2017 than in 2013 (MOE workforce planning data, 2018).
- ❖ Since the early 2000s teacher salaries have dropped significantly relative to the median NZ salary 1.8 times the median (for experienced teachers on the top of the pay scale) to just over 1.5. In effect, this means jobs that used to earn less than teachers now earn more. <http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c id=1&objectid=12004191>
- ❖ Teacher aide numbers are going down while the number of students with behavioural and learning challenges is rising. The increase to the hourly rate for teacher aides was not reflected in additional funding in schools' operational grants. Schools aren't able to afford more teacher aide hours.

Life education was here this week - the whole school took part.

Life Education Trust provides an educator and a specially designed caravan classroom so that children all around New Zealand can learn about healthy living, our bodies, how to make and keep friends, dangerous drugs and behaviour, being part of a family, nutrition and exercise. It's been great having Mac and Harold here all this week. I know the children were particularly thrilled to visit the caravan every day - and some of our new parents met with Mac to find out what Life Education offers.



What's the latest on Paua and Kina mid year reports?

Previously we said we would try to arrange interviews at the end of this term - this arrangement has changed due to the overloading of the Paua calendar this term ... composting, bike safety, swimming, Life Education, sport events, St .Thomas More Day.... Reports will be posted out in Week 9. Teachers will be contacting families new to the school and also families where support with English is needed, to arrange orientation sessions and to share the information from the reports in the last week of Term 2.

After the holidays Kina and Paua will be holding two days of interviews which Jane will set up online. Pipi teachers are continuing to arrange interviews throughout the year so that parents will be able to access information at 20 weeks and 40 weeks, 60 weeks and 80 weeks of a child's birthdate.

27th July is Grandparents day - a special remembrance of Jesus' grandparents St. Joachim and St. Anne.

Please let your grandparents know that they are invited to a day at St. Thomas More School especially for them. We are preparing items and making gifts to share with you on your special day.



Forward planning for Pipi – term 3

Pipi students will be participating in the swimming programme September 17th to September 28th (last two weeks of term 3).

If you are interested in becoming a Gold Group Sponsor, we currently have 2x spaces available and I would love to hear from you. Thanks heaps - Amy :)

GOLD GROUP SPONSOR

The St Thomas More Gold Group is a group of 13 special business sponsors, who make a regular annual, or termly contributions to the school via sponsorship of the PTFA.

The key benefit of being part of this group is free advertising of your business on the sign board in the church carpark. This sign board is seen by parents, teachers and school visitors, as well as all parishioners attending church as well as non-parishioners attending events at the church like funerals etc so gets a lot of exposure and has resulted in a lot of referrals for our Gold Group advertisers.

In addition to this the PTFA and school will promote your business through the school for the duration of the year by;

- Publishing your business logo on every edition of the school newsletter that goes out to families fortnightly,
- A link to your business website on the school website,
- Gold Group sponsors are also able to put articles or promotions in the school newsletters at any time,
- Sponsorship of team uniforms and many other options can also be discussed and tailored to each individual business.

Standard Gold Group membership is an annual fee of \$500, which can be invoiced and paid in a lump sum, or in quarterly instalments of \$125. However the PTFA will take your money in any format you want to give it to us so feel free to get in touch!

As we are a registered charity any donations received are fully tax deductible so this is a great opportunity for your business to pick up some cheap marketing, which is fully tax deductible, whilst also helping the children and school!

If you would be interested in finding out more information about this opportunity then please contact Amy Matuku at amz@slingshot.co.nz

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