



St Thomas More Catholic School

School Newsletter
Panui
Week 1, Term 3
July 26th, 2018

Nau mai ,Haere mai. Kia ora tatou, whanau.

This weekend we remember **Maria Ngatai** who died on 27th July last year. On her first anniversary we send our aroha and karakia to the Ngatai Whanau as they prepare for the unveiling. Maria was so much a part of our school in the early years and a great supporter of Catholic education in Tauranga Moana. She is very sadly missed.

Father Darren is moving to Hamilton to take up a new position at the Cathedral as administrator of the parish. We are sad to lose Father Darren. After four years we have gotten to know him very well and our school really appreciates his support. This weekend there will be a farewell get together after Mass and you are all invited – Mr Barista and Mrs Whippy will be there!

At this time of the year our Bishop moves the Diocesan priests around- to ensure that every parish is well served and that people will find someone to connect with. Father Stuart is staying as parish priest and we are waiting to meet his new assistant, from India.

Kina and Paua interviews.

After the big mailout we are pleased to say that parents were very positive about reports and we have had several interviews this week. There are further interviews scheduled next week as well.

Mrs Phillipps is in Samoa for the first two weeks of the term attending a family celebration and so Mrs Milne has returned to the staff to support Mrs Phillipps teaching group and also to move into a shared teaching partnership for Term 3. Mrs Phillipps has been teaching five mornings a week up until now and would prefer to teach two full days a week so Mrs Milne is keen to support this by teaching three days a week.

Parents have been commenting on the number of teachers one particular home group has had this year. When Mrs Meredith went on refreshment leave we were required to fill the position term by term because Mrs Meredith has the option to return during the year. We have been very fortunate that Mrs Milne and Mrs Phillipps are familiar with our Kina team - the children and the teachers – so the transitions are seamless and have enabled the learning programmes and activities to go ahead without interruption. After a very successful Matariki celebration we have our Grandparents day tomorrow. Please come along and get into conversation with the Kina teachers - it will become apparent that we have very dedicated team members who are working together for all the children in the team.

THERE WON'T BE ANY PICKUP AND GO ON FRIDAY AFTERNOON THIS WEEK.

Why? We have been notified that there will be a funeral taking place on Friday at 3.00 p.m. The timing is not ideal for the school but it means that relatives from faraway places have time to travel to attend the funeral. Fr Darren and Fr Stuart are always mindful of the school when they arrange times for funerals so we haven't had to change things around for a while now. Please pass this on to anyone who might be coming on Friday afternoon to collect your children. Thank you very much.

Also Thank you for being so supportive of our pickup and go guidelines. We noticed a marked increase in the number of people who are parking when they are early, making the roadway a lot safer for pedestrians.

Sports Shirts:

All sports shirts that have were issued for Cross Country now need to be returned please. Please ensure they have been washed and are in a named bag on return to the school office. The only code that should have a STM sports shirt / singlet or netball dress are our Hockey, Netball and Miniball / Basketball teams.

Classes are starting for our sacramental programme: Tuesday 31st July from 2.30-3.45 p.m.

26 children have enrolled for the Reconciliation/Communion/Confirmation lessons already.

Our teachers are going to teaching the lessons which begin at 3.00 p.m. Mrs Dobson is providing afternoon tea (scrummy treats) between 2.30 and 3.00 p.m. It's all very exciting! The bishop will be here on 23 September to confirm and to officiate at our School Sacramental Mass.



STM QUIZ NIGHT FRIDAY 10 AUGUST 2018, 7 PM FOR

7.30 PM, PARISH LOUNGE

THEME: "ANYTHING GOES" – PRIZE FOR THE BEST DRESSED TABLE.

TABLES OF 8 (Make up your own teams or put your name down at the school office and we will assist!) \$20 PER TICKET (includes free drink on arrival and supper).

CASH BAR

The PTFA have received feedback from many of you that you want a Social occasion for the parents – so here it is! A lot of effort goes into organizing these events so PLEASE do come along and support it, have some fun, catch up with the parents of your kids' classmates, dress up crazy (or not!), enjoy a Friday night drink in a fun, friendly social environment (without kids!!!) and contribute to our fundraising efforts for the students of St Thomas More School. Thank you to Helen and Austin Manning for approaching Will from the Greatest Hits Radio to be our Quizmaster on the night - he's all booked in.

The Parish lounge can only hold 120 people so that isn't a lot of teams...a word to the wise, get in quick. Have a word with Jane in the office if you want to reserve a table. ☺ the teachers have booked a table, so look out!

QUIZ NIGHT SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY

[This is a fundraiser for St Thomas More Catholic School run by the PTFA.]

Would you like to Sponsor a round for the up and coming Quiz Night?

Would you like to donate any of your business merchandise that could be used for prizes for the quiz perhaps?

For a donation of \$50 [or more if you wish] you will get;

⇒Your Logo printed on the top page of a Quiz round.

⇒A Bonus question in the Quiz relating to your business. [This could be multi-choice, about something your business does or something about your business – this is a great chance for you to promote your services!]

⇒A 'shout out' to your business on the St Thomas More Catholic School Facebook page.

⇒One free ticket to attend our Quiz Night on Friday 10 August 2018.

If this is of interest to you, can you please let me know by Monday 30th July and we can discuss it further.

Kindest regards,

Amy Matuku (Gold Group Co-ordinator)

THANK YOU:

- Thank you to Daly Construction for donating and building the Pipi sandpit last term. It's a great spot out in the sun for the kids to enjoy building and creating.
- Thank you to Narzyna + the Black whanau, Bridget + Donald whanau for donating fruit trees to add to the school orchard behind the garage. We are going to source an apple tree and a passionfruit vine. Katie Horrocks- garden co-ordinator.

Sports Subs

- The school has now been invoiced by Tauranga Hockey, Harbourside and Tauranga City Basketball for all of our team subs for the winter season. If you have not done so already, can parents please ensure that your child's subs have been paid before the end of the term 2. Alternatively, please make contact with Jane to in the school office regarding your subs. **Thanks, Paula Farrell (Sports co-ordinator)**

Dates for your diary

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| July 27 th | St. Joachim and St. Anne's feast day (Jesus' grandparents) Grandparents morning at school from 9 – 12 noon. Father Darren's last Mass at the Mount (he's heading over to the Cathedral in Hamilton next term.) |
| July 31 st & Aug. 1 | Kina & Paua Parent / Teacher Interviews (3pm to 7.30 pm) |
| Aug. 2 nd | BOT Meeting at 6 p.m. |
| Sept. 17-28 th | Pipi Syndicate Swimming programme |
| Aug. 10 th | STM PTFA Quiz Night |

Parent Contribution

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. 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 21st century students to reach their goals.

Reminders if your child plays sports:

Communication with Team Managers please:

A friendly reminder please for all of our sports team practices and games:

Whilst we all realise there will be absences that cannot be helped due to sickness or perhaps a weekend away, can I please remind everyone if your child is unable to make training or a game that you contact your team manager to advise them of this ASAP. This enables the team managers to have the most time possible to find a substitute for our teams if the team is short.

If you are unable to get your child to training or game but your child is well. Again can I please ask you contact your team managers and or coaches ASAP, as I am sure there will be another parent that will be happy to give your child a ride to and from a game.

Training's are important to attend so that your child is practicing their skills, having fun (for our senior players - learning any defensive or attacking set ups), as well as the all important team bonding and learning to work as a team. Training's form the basis of learning and practicing skills which gives your child the confidence to be able to go into a game situation and play.

Are your children interested in Coding? We have been approached by a company who wants to set up a Coding Club at our school next term on Friday afternoons.

St Thomas More Catholic School students in years 4 - 6. Congratulations to Alexis Vorwerk who has been awarded a scholarship to the Coding Club. Our classes will increase your child's learning ability and help develop their brain by teaching them advanced coding skills like how to make a computer/mobile/tablet website or application. We also include robots! Children have an amazing capacity for learning and introducing them to technology coding while they're young will help set them up for success in our increasingly digital world. WHEN & WHERE: Term 3 Steam Room at St. Thomas More Fridays 2.40pm to 3.40pm APPLY NOW To give your child the opportunity to learn how to program technology apply now at www.codingnz.com/signup

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