



St Thomas More Catholic School

School Newsletter

Panui

Week 2, Term 3

August 3rd, 2018

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

Father Darren

Father Darren really enjoyed his send off last week, especially as we were celebrating with our grandparents and the Mass was such an uplifting experience. Father Darren is heading off to Hamilton to take up a position at the Cathedral but on the way he is spending time in Whakatane relieving for Father Gerard who is on pilgrimage. So if you are down that way you might see him. ☺

Sacramental programme

Every student who has enrolled for Confession, Communion and Confirmation will be enjoying a great first lesson in the parish lounge with Mrs Morgan and Mrs D this coming Tuesday. There will be afternoon tea straight after school and then the lesson will start at 3.00 promptly, finishing just before 4.00 p.m. when many people need to be leaving for their basketball games.

This week's lesson is all about baptism...and I hear there will be lots of opportunities to baptise babies in class - really hands on stuff.

Board News

Our meeting included an educational segment on Autism and the many ways our Board and school community can support students with autism. We were fortunate to have the Manager of the Resource teachers of learning and behaviour present to answer any questions and sort out any confusions on our part.

Following this presentation our BOT discussed the upcoming teachers' strike action and we decided that the school needs to close on August 15th (St. Mary's is also closing). Teachers will lose a day's pay, the day will not be made up at the end of the year, there are issues about the safety of any children or teachers left if we were to stay open. The decision is not taken lightly because we realise how much hassle this will be for families.

The next important piece of business for the BOT was the analysis of student achievement data from the student mid year reports. We reviewed the results and the recommendations of the teachers on how we could support them and our students to improve their learning outcomes.

Based on the recommendations of the teachers there will be another teacher aide position advertised in the next week or so. There may be one teacher aide working for 30 hours a week in total, supporting students with reading, writing and maths in each of the three teams or there may be two teacher aides working for 15 hours a week in each team i.e. three hours a day between 9-12.

If you are wanting to know more about teacher aiding and what is needed at school please contact Kath Joblin, our principal. Kath is very happy to talk through what the positions include.

At the moment we have four teacher aides: two full time and two part time.

The final item of discussion was the state of the netball courts. For sometime we have been worrying about the rough surface and how slippery it is when you are playing, running or jumping on it. The surface has not been maintained for the last 18 years- when it was first laid- apart from sweeping by a commercial cleaner each term. The courts are also a weekend carpark for the parishioners- a requirement of the Resource Consent Act.

A subcommittee has been formed to investigate and make recommendations to the BOT. Ultimately we need to get approval from the Diocese (and the Bishop) to make any major changes since the land belongs to the Bishop/Diocese.

Further discussions are needed and more quotes before a final decision is made because ultimately the cost will be massive...and we need to be sure that the investment in the courts is a smart one for the future.



Only a few tables left for the STM Quiz Night next Friday 10th August – if you have booked a table but not yet paid please do so and collect your tickets from the school office. You can pay by cash at the office or direct credit to the PTFA bank account number 12-3217-0149926-00 (please remember to put your name as the reference). If you want to come along but do not have a full table, please give your names to the office and we will add you to a table with some other fab people. Remember to bring LOTS of cash for the bar and raffles. We have the fantastic “Will” from THE HITS as our Quiz Master, a free drink on arrival, cash bar, supper, great prizes – so come along for a fun night. Dress Theme: “Anything Goes” and a prize for the best dressed table (costume that is!) but

costumes are not compulsory!! Don't miss out!

Coding club started last Friday and there were 16 girls and boys here after school beginning their adventure with coding, robots and technology...fantastic fun.

Dates for your diary

Aug. 7 th	Choir Festival Rehearsal (year 6 only) @ Tauranga Int. 9-11
Aug 8 th	Ice cream day for Yellow House because it's Mary MacKillop's birthday. YAY!
Aug. 20 th	Pipi Funky Fun Day @ ASB Arena
Aug. 31 st	Pipi Father's Day Breakfast
Sept. 4 th	Cricket awareness – Pipi Team
Sept. 17-28 th	Pipi Syndicate Swimming programme
Aug. 10 th	STM PTFA Quiz Night

Holy Day on 15th August- the Assumption of Mary.

If you have time it would be good to see our children at Mass on Wednesday 15th August- we will be there even when we are in strike.

Thank you to **Daly Construction** for the sandpit which has been built in the courtyard are for PIPI. We're looking forward to a fine day so it can be filled and so our little ones can get outside and build/create.

We are really excited to have **Jess Phayer** here for three Mondays- part of Aquinas College' gateway programme which encourages senior students to work in a chosen vocational field so they have a better idea if this job is really for them before committing to big debts and time in tertiary. Jess had a great time in Paua on Monday observing our Paua team in action. This coming week she will be visiting Kina space.



Gardening- spring is just around the corner.

Katie Horrocks is motivating our student and teachers to get into gardening. She has sourced compost and other equipment for our gardening projects, including sponsors for an apple tree and a passionfruit vine (thank you Bridget and Narzyna). Thank you Kolush for gifting us bags of compost to help us with our gardening project. It's magic.



Thank you to Quinn and Katie Photography for the lovely photos...these are only a few. More will go into future newsletters.

It's wonderful to see our children getting their hands dirty and learning about how precious the gift of life is and how fortunate we are to be close to nature.



Congratulations to Harper Shaw and Kristopher Mangnus they have been practising hard 2x per week for the Tauranga City U11A Basketball team. The team played in a tournament on the weekend in Morrinsville. They played 2 games and had wins against Rotorua and Waikato Country! Well done Harper and Kristopher for your commitment to practices each Tuesday and Sunday, the hard work paid off.

Please remember to mention St Thomas More School when you make a purchase at Baker's Delight @ Owen's place as the school is part of "The Dough Raiser Program". Thank you.

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