

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

This week we welcome Jackson Wallis and Brooke Vorwerk who have turned 5 and join Mrs D's Tuatuas.



Our yellow House celebrated Mary MacKillop's birthday yesterday with Mrs Whippy icecreams. It was great fun. Mary MacKillop opened her first school in 1856 in a barn in rural Australia. Unlike other Catholic schools of the time, this was a school where all were welcome, even families who couldn't pay. In her spare time she visited Aboriginal communities near the barn, administering to the sick. People heard about her good works and soon other women came to help her. This is when she decided to start her own religious order. She took her vows in 1867. She then started a convent in Adelaide where she and her sisters opened a school, a women's refuge, an orphanage, a homeless shelter and visited the local hospitals and jails.

Mary MacKillop visited New Zealand in 1897, bringing her sisters with her to establish schools in many parts of the country. If you travel to Arrowtown you can visit Mary MacKillop's cottage. You can see what it looks like by "copy and pasting" this address into Google.

<https://youtu.be/ob-1kdjeOBg>

Sacramental programme

We had a great time on Tuesday afternoon with almost 35 Year 3-6 students from four schools coming together to learn about the Sacrament of Baptism. Mrs Morgan and Mrs D introduced the ideas and gave our students plenty of opportunities to contribute their experiences to discussions and group activities. Father Stuart explained the ceremony of Baptism and he baptised a babydoll with the assistance of Lucy, Xanthe, and the godparents. Afternoon tea was a real bonus.

Every student was given a diary and a pack of coloured pencils...there are a few easy follow up pages for everyone to fill in and decorate. These diaries are being collected next week so that Mrs Morgan and Mrs D can check to see how their teaching went (by reviewing the responses). Miss Joblin and helpers are preparing next week's lesson on Reconciliation...something we do every day with our families, friends and classmates that makes our lives happier. See you there.

Board News : our School will be Closed next Wednesday due to a strike.

Just a reminder to families that following last week's BOT meeting it was 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. If the strike is cancelled then school will be open. We will email you all if this happens.

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

If you have time it would be good to see children at Mass on Wednesday 15th August @ 9.00 a.m. It is a special day for mothers and grandmothers as we remember the special role Mary had in the life of Jesus.

STM Quiz night tomorrow – Friday August 10th

There are 13 teams keen to win the school quiz tomorrow night, sorry I mean to enjoy the social night organised by our wonderful PTFA. Thank you to everyone who has spent time collecting prizes, advertising, preparing questions and setting up the room. It's going to be brilliant...and all funds raised will contribute to big projects like a new court surface for our school. Doors open at 7 pm with a free

drink on arrival. The Quiz will start at 7.30 pm. Come dressed in costume if its your thing ... but you won't be turned away if you are not! Please have PLENTY of cash on you for the bar and raffles and of course if you want to buy your answers!! Prizes for the Winning Table, Best Dressed Table and the Most Catholic Team!! If you have not paid for your ticket yet, please do so today. (The PTFA's bank account number is 12-3217-0149926-00 please put your surname as the reference or by cash at the office).

Visitors from Aquinas and St. Mary's, Tauranga.

Yesterday we hosted 16 teachers from Aquinas (Year 7+8); St. Mary's Tauranga (Y5+6) and two teachers from Rotorua. This was the first of three mornings called reciprocal visits. Teachers teach, teachers observe and ask questions and then they discuss strategies and new ideas that they can introduce to their own teaching. Today our teachers are visiting St. Mary's Tauranga with Aquinas and on Friday it is Aquinas' turn to host. Our school's focus was how to integrate science thinking with maths and literacy.



This is a Community of Learning initiative which we started last year - we want our teachers in our Catholic schools to be the best they can be and we see that this will happen the more we learn from each other. If we can bring the primary and secondary schools closer together then our students will transition more easily and with more confidence. Children learn more when they feel supported and confident, especially in a new environment where risk taking happens every day.



Next Monday Pipis and Tuatuas are having a visit from the firemen who will be talking about keeping ourselves safe from fire.

On Monday this week they had a visit from a police dog handler, Tiny Taylor, who taught the children how to be safe around dogs. It's all part of our learning about people in the community who help us.

Dates for your diary

Aug. 10 th	STM PTFA Quiz Night
Aug. 20 th	Pipi Funky Fun Day @ ASB Arena
Aug. 20 th -24 th	Tauranga Foodbank Schools Appeal
Aug. 28 th	Kaboom Percussion – Concert & Workshops – whole school
Aug. 29 th	Kina Funky Fun Day @ ASB Arena
Aug. 31 st	Pipi Grandfathers/Fathers' Day Breakfast
Sept. 3 rd	Choir Festival (year 6 students)
Sept. 4 th	Cricket awareness – Pipi Team
Sept. 17-28 th	Pipi Syndicate Swimming programme
Sept. 27 th	St Mary's Tauranga, St Mary's Rotorua Sports Exchange (Paua students)

We are running our Schools Appeal and need your help!!

From August 20th to August 24th please bring an item of food to school to donate to the Community Foodbank.

Here are some suggestions on food items which the Foodbank are running low on and always need – tinned soup, packets of soup, cocoa, baking powder, icing sugar, pasta sauce, pre-cooked servings of rice/pasta, tinned fish, laundry powder, tinned tomatoes, creamed corn & school lunch supplies. The people in our community who get support from our Foodbank are so very grateful for your generosity!!! Thank you ☺

We will have HOUSE boxes in the school office for the next two weeks. Every item collected adds 10 points to the HOUSE POINTS competition. Every bit counts.



Why are teachers striking?

Here is one explanation from the principal of St. Michael's School in Rotorua which really highlights the frustrations building across the teaching profession in New Zealand.

"So teachers have voted for a full day strike – for the first time in 24 years – not a decision any have made lightly. For many teachers losing one day's pay is huge and will make it difficult for their own families.

The media will make this all about the money but it is so much more than that. I hope we can get this message across clearly.

I'm a teacher and I truly give a damn about the kids in my school. I know that the rest of the teachers at St. Michaels's feel the same too.

But waiting 12 months to get a child assessed when there is a problem is NOT acceptable. Having a class split amongst other classes because there are no relievers available is NOT acceptable.

Knowing awesome teachers who are quitting and feeling – I couldn't recommend this career to anyone- is NOT acceptable.

Not having support for the children in a class who need it, is NOT acceptable.

Having the SENCO (special needs co-ordinator) in my school beating her head against a rock, filling in application forms for funding which look like books so we can try to help teachers get support for their class is NOT acceptable.

Our families must come first. Not having time for our own kids at home is NOT acceptable.

Please believe this strike is not just about money – it is about so much more- but mostly it's about the kids in our schools getting the help they deserve! Help us to spread the word! Kua tae te wa! It's time!"

WANTED

We need three people who are interested in children and their learning, who like to read and write, who are patient and encouraging, and who would like to work in one of our three PIPI/Tuatua spaces every day from 8.30-10.30 a.m. This is our Literacy time and our teachers need extra hands to support the little ones in their writing and reading. Are you keen to get back into the workforce for a few hours a day? We will be happy to give you a reference. ☺ We are keen to have you on our team and will be paying you \$18.00 an hour i.e. 10 hours a week this term. Please send in a short letter introducing yourself to me principal@stm.school.nz and I will be in touch. We can't wait so please respond in the next couple of days ... you are the one we need.

Term 4, STM team sports 2018

The following team sports will be on offer for STM students in term 4. Costs are approximate and can change depending on the number of players in a team.

Online registrations for these term 4 codes will be sent out to all families next week. These will be open for a couple of weeks.

Code	Year Levels	Dates / Days	Cost and Miscellaneous
Rippa Rugby	Years 1-6 Rippa Rugby for Year 1 / 2 and Year 3/4 Quick Rip Year 5/6	Friday afternoons at Gordon Spratt Reserve 2 nd November – 7 th December from 4-6pm. For term 4 BOP Rugby have offered all girls teams and all boys teams and mixed teams for Year 5/6. Please note as a small school we will need to either enter all boys and all girls' teams OR mixed teams. This will be dependant on numbers.	Approximately \$15 per player.
Basketball	Basketball (Year 5/6) Miniball (Year 3 / 4) Little League (Year 1 / 2)	Mondays at ASB after school Starts 29 th October Generally runs for 6 weeks	Approximately \$40 per player.
Flippaball (Mini water polo)	Year 2-6 Year 2/3 teams Year 4 teams Year 5/6 teams	Sundays at the Papamoa pool, Parton Rd. Games between 10am – 6pm. Year 2/3 games are first.	Approximately \$50 -\$60 per player. All players must be water confident. Please note Year 2/3 games are likely to clash with Nippers and are played first between 10am – 12pm.
Water Polo	Year 5/6	Friday afternoon – evenings at Toi Ohomai (polytechnic) pool at Windermere. Students play in the Intermediate aged C Grade. The pool is 2m deep and players cannot touch the bottom. A high Swimming ability is required.	Commitment to 1 early morning training a week before school at Baywave. Cost approximately \$50 -\$60 per player. High swimming ability required.

THANK YOU TO OUR QUIZ SPONSORS!

We want to say a huge thank you to the following Businesses/STM families for their donations and support with the up and coming St Thomas More Catholic School Quiz. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

...and STM community, please don't forget to support our School Sponsors by asking them first.

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