



St Thomas More Catholic School

School Newsletter

Panui

Week 4, Term 3

August 16th, 2018

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

This week we welcome Benjamin (Pipi) and Henry Aguilar (Kina) who have joined us from Queenstown.



On Monday the Papis and Tuatuas spent time finding out about keeping safe when there is fire around. We were fortunate that the firefighters from the local Mount Station came to show our little ones how to get down low and to crawl when trying to get out of a smoking building.

Jessica Phayer, head girl of Aquinas College, has been spending three days in our school observing teachers in action so that she can get a better idea of what she wants to do for the future. Jess is going to apply for entry into teacher training at

Waikato University - here she is dressed up as a firefighter. Go Jess.

We are looking forward to seeing the St. John's ambulance officers visiting soon. These visits are opportunities for our students to learn about the people in our neighbourhood who are there to help us and keep us safe.

The Papis and Tuatuas are going to Funky Fun day on Monday at the Baypark/ASB Arena. It's always a really fun day and the kids get so much confidence from joining in with the activities. They come home worn out which is a great sign that they have learned a lot in the process. The Papi teachers will be giving more information out to families about what is happening, who is going and what to wear. Please check your child's bag for notices.

Thank you to the generous people who have contacted me about helping our Papis and Tuatuas with their writing and reading each morning. Sarah Collett, Sophie Aindow and Claire Hahnhausen will be assisting teachers and students this term. It's wonderful to have you on the team.

Quiz night- a great success.

The PTFA had a very successful night last week- hosting the community quiz night in our parish centre. The quizmaster was Will from the Hots radio station. He kept things moving along and really made a difference to the night. Thank you to Austin Manning for arranging for Will to help out- he really admires you, Austin.



"The PTFA have been receiving loads of positive feedback and this is hugely appreciated and recognizes the desire to do this again. Thanks so much to all those that helped make it a great night and to our fantastic sponsors who donated so generously."
Bridget Donald.

The pink ladies were on their feet all night, bringing drinks, selling paddles, collecting quiz sheets and marking. What a wonderful team.

We were treated to a continuous supper and lollies to load us up with sugar to keep us focussed. There were spectacular costumes...the Bond team won the best costume prize- Peter and Marty!



Family Ties were the winners for the second year in a row. Congratulations to the Fords/Cartwrights/Thomas team. (Mike is their secret weapon.)



Regarding the teachers' strike yesterday.

The Board would like to thank parents for their understanding when they had to close the school yesterday during the teachers' strike. They realise that it was hard for many families to arrange childcare however a decision was needed to ensure that children and support staff were not placed in an unsafe position i.e. not enough supervision available.



St. Thomas More staff would like to clarify that the strike was not about getting more money. The most important issues are

- getting more support for students who need it through reducing class sizes, providing more teacher aide hours and access to specialist services for children with additional learning needs.
- Recruiting teachers who want to stay in the profession to cover the positions which are becoming available as experienced teachers retire. The average age of teachers in New Zealand is 55 years of age. The generation that entered teaching in the 80s has been holding schools together.

Thank you for being so supportive of our teachers in so many ways. Thank you to Schools Out who shouted the teachers chocolates on Tuesday - much appreciated and most unexpected.

Gardening HQ.

Lots of work is going into setting up our Garden Shed - the headquarters for activities around our school site. We will be able to grow seedlings, store equipment, open up for students who want to join in activities and connect up parents who want to support this initiative- Katie Horrocks has started this project and would love other Mums and Dads to join in.

Thank you to PODLIFE for donating \$220 to purchase kitset gardens which will be located beside the Garden Shed.

Thank you to TUI GARDENING who have donated soil for our kitset gardens.



The Garden shed started life as our bike shed (2001) then became the sandpit (2004) and then a junk storage place (2012).

Now it has a new life!

Dates for your diary

Aug 17th (this Friday) Reconciliation for our sacramental children, starting at 6.30 p.m.

Aug. 20th Pipi Funky Fun Day @ ASB Arena

Aug. 20th-24th Tauranga Foodbank Schools Appeal

Aug 21st Allergy awareness presentation - Jackie and the whole school.

Aug. 28th Kaboom Percussion – Concert & Workshops – whole school

Sacramental class- Confirmation (Mr Mills, Mr Webster and Mrs Thomas)

Aug. 29th Kina Funky Fun Day @ ASB Arena

Aug. 31st Pipi Grandfathers/Fathers' Day Breakfast

Sept. 3 rd	Choir Festival (year 6 students)
Sept. 4 th	Cricket awareness – Pipi Team
	Sacramental class- Confirmation (Mr Mills, Mr Webster and Mrs Thomas)
Sept 6 th	BOT meeting at 6 p.m. in the staffroom.
Sept. 17-28 th	Pipi Syndicate Swimming programme
September 23rd	Sunday Mass with the Bishop- Our children are receiving the sacraments. 😊
Sept. 27 th	St Mary's Tauranga, St Mary's Rotorua Sports Exchange (Paua students)
Sept 28	McAuley ice cream treats - Green House.

How you can help our school and other people in our community

1. We are running our Schools Foodbank 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.



2. Collecting points from Baker's Delight- Owen's place.



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.

- 3. Bayfair – points for the school.** Look out for our school box when you go into Bayfair. For every \$20 you spend there you can drop in credits for our school. At the end of the promotion the school that has the most credits per head of students will get a fabulous prize. More information is coming. We have a really good chance of winning. 😊
- 4.** Our seniors won \$60 for entering the Mount Artfest banner competition. When the banner comes back to us we will hang it on the fence by the new Garden club. The \$60 prize is going to buy seedlings and equipment for our garden shed. thank you seniors.

Good luck Stella Edwards in the Motocross competitions this weekend- representing our school.

STM Netball 2018:

Netball is the first winter sports code that has ended for our STM teams.

A huge thank you to Grace Purcell, Kirsty Warner, Hayley Matthews, Theresa Price, Christine Latu, Gary Holloway, Kyra Ormsby and Anna Stowers for coaching and managing our netball teams for 2018. STM is very grateful for all of your time, efforts, sharing of your skills and knowledge with our budding netballers.

A big thank you must go to our Aquinas College students (ex STM students too) Sia Hayes and Sarah Edwards for umpiring our two seniors teams in 2018. Thank you ladies for all of your help and support this season.



STM Rockets (Year 1 team) were coached by Grace Purcell and Kirsty Warner. STM Rockets was made up of 7 enthusiastic Year 1 children. For most this was their first experience of team sports. Everyone enjoyed working together and did very well helping each other learn a new skill each week. It was great to see the children progress and improve every week. Thanks Grace.

STM Angels (Year 1/2 team) coached by Hayley Mathews

It was such a pleasure to work with 'my Angels' last term. They were a lovely bunch of girls who worked really well together. The Yr 2 girls were great role models for the Yr 1's who tried really hard to work alongside the girls who were into their 2nd year of netball. Netball is all about having fun at this stage of their learning and we certainly had bucket loads of that. Thanks Hayley.

STM Magic (Year 3/4 team) were coached by Theresa Price

For first timers and seasoned campaigners this group has grown through the 10 week FutureFerns netball programme. It was awesome watching the girls' netball skills evolve over this time and every one of them improved in some capacity whether it was passing a ball or just catching it. They had a great season where I thought they dominated for most of the term playing a 5 vs 5 shortened format of the game.

A big thank you to the girls for their commitment, to the parents who stood on the sidelines and cheered them on (especially when it was wet and cold) and to Kyra Ormsby for covering for me when I couldn't be there. I hope the girls enjoyed learning and playing netball as much as I enjoyed watching and teaching them and hope to see them return next year. Thanks Theresa



STM All Stars (Year 5/6 team) were coached by Christine Latu

STM All Stars had a good season with all the girls been enthusiastic & keen to learn some new skills. They were great with attendance at lunchtime practises & Saturday morning games. We faced some tough opposition in many of our games, but the girls rose to the occasion and never gave up trying.

By the end of the season they were playing a faster game, their defence skills had improved & they were all adapting to the rotating of positions with confidence & determination to do their very best. They were a pleasure to coach. Thanks Christine.



STM Lightning (Year 6 team) were coached by Kyra Ormsby

STM Lightning had an up and down season this year, with some great games taking out the top teams and then some not so pretty ones when it was wet. We had a great bunch of girls who have all developed their skills in one way or another throughout the year and they also supported each other on and off the court.

As they all head off to intermediate next year, it will be another level again and I wish them all well as they continue their netball careers at their respective schools.

A huge thank you to Anna for being a wonderful manager this year and for the support from the rest of the parents. Thanks Kyra.



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