

Nau mai , Haere mai.

Kia ora tatou, whanau, it's been a funny week with heavy showers, tornadoes down the coast and sunny spells. It's hard to know what is coming next. This is what spring is all about, unpredictability and the promise of new life.

This week Kina and Paua teams prayed for Mahli and Romy's Dad who passed away last week and who's funeral was on Wednesday. Thank you for all your prayers which mean so much to Emmi and the children. Thank you for the offers of food and support too- Emmi called in to school to say that it is okay because there has been a lot of food sent down by family to tide them over.

Congratulations Stella Edwards.

Stella competed in the Trident Inter-Schools Motocross Event on Friday. She placed 5th overall - from a field of 21. She was the only girl and the only primary school student in her class. She had 4 races and placed 7th, 7th, 7th and 2nd. Congratulations, Stella.



Competing in the Rugby 7s schools competition.

Good luck Shelby and Nathan. Both boys have made it into the Mount Primary team to compete against other local schools on tomorrow. Next week Mrs Thomas is taking three of our girls (Shaelyn, India and Maddi) to the rugby 7s - they are playing in a combined team with Arataki primary, our neighbours.

Monday - Funky Fun Day with Pipis.

The Pipis and Tuatuas had a great time at the ASB arena on Monday taking part in the local Funky Fun day sports skills day. Thank you to all the parents who came along to support the children- it was an amazing turnout. Next week it's Kina's turn.

Tuesday – was Allergy awareness day.



We were fortunate to have Jackie from Allergy Awareness Australia here to share a short presentation on the challenges that children have when they are allergic to their environment or certain types of foods.

Thank you Emma Norton for putting us in touch with Jackie and encouraging us to set up this opportunity. The messages were short and to the point - just great for kids to remember and internalise.

Jackie's son Thai is severely allergic to certain foods which prompted Jackie to write two books for children to build understanding ...and our students really enjoyed hearing about them.

Coming next week.

Kaboom percussion is coming to our school on Tuesday morning. Kaboom are two musicians and entertainers from Perth who are touring around Aotearoa New Zealand sharing their love of percussion. Our middle and senior school students have been learning all about sound, the properties of sound, the way musical instruments produce sound and also composing using percussion instruments made at school. If you would like a preview of the show then try this link. It looks like a lot of fun.

<https://youtu.be/Rz7IWqagWqo>



Gardening HQ.

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

<https://www.podlife.co.nz/> Have a look on their website.

If you need a small space for a granny of a business or a teenager have a look at these easy solutions.

Here's a tip from Katie: before you plant your fruit tree soak in a bucket of Seaweed Plant liquid fertiliser for about 30 mins. Then dig in organic compost to the soil while it is soaking. When you have planted put a form of mulch like pea straw or hay around the base to keep weeds at bay and retain the water in the soil. Be careful to leave space around the plant base though for it to stay dry otherwise it can rot the bark.



Just a thought: Pickup and drive through.

If you need to get out of your car to put your little five year old in their carseat then maybe the drive through is not the best option and parking up would be a better idea?

Sacramental preparations.

Do you still have Holy Communion clothes from previous years that you could lend or sell to the children who are making their Holy Communion on 23rd September? If you can help then please contact Jane to let us know. As well as our 30 children from St. Thomas More there are 20 from St. Patrick's, Te Puke, Kiribati community who are joining us with Bishop Steve for their special day.

If your child made their Holy Communion last year Phillippa Murrell will be in contact with you soon about coming down to the parish lounge on September 22nd to decorate and set up the after Mass party for this year's children.

Dates for your diary

Aug

Aug. 20 th -24 th	Tauranga Foodbank Schools Appeal - last day tomorrow.
Aug 27 th	BOT/PTFA sub committee for the resurfacing of the courts project. Imbibe at 7 pm
Aug. 28 th	Kaboom Percussion – Concert for Year 3-6; workshops for Y5-6. Sacramental class- Confirmation (Mr Mills, Mr Webster and Mrs Thomas)
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 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.

This week is speech week in the senior school.

We have been impressed by our students who have additional learning needs. They have stepped up to present their speeches and the audience support has been tremendous. Kapai nga tamariki ma. One of the important learnings we have gained from going through the speech making process is that our children are thinking with evidence.

Instead of presenting a speech which is just their opinion all the speeches have been backed up with information and data.

Our conclusion is that the science focus we have introduced to the school over the last three years is having great benefit. Our senior students are thinking critically and using evidence very effectively. They are doing this as part of the way they do things and not because the teachers are having to remind them.

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 Programme". 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. Your child will be bringing a pamphlet home today with more information to help us win. We have a really good chance of winning. 😊

LOST PROPERTY.....PLEASE CHECK For NAMES.



A lot of the junior children pick up the nearest polo fleece and take it home without checking to see if it is theirs...and then the fleece ends up in the laundry and comes back to school a few days later. In the meantime, parents come in and go through the lost property waiting for the polo fleece to appear again.

It would be fabulous if every Pipi fleece could be checked and returned if the wrong one

has come home by accident. The Pipi teachers are checking name tags at least once a week at the moment trying to keep track of misplaced items. The lost property is located in the corridor beside the staffroom.

If you are waiting for children on the deck at the end of the day why not pop in and have a look.

TIP: how about sewing a coloured wool into the front of the fleece so your child can recognise it more easily or put a string of beads through the zip..... like luggage on a carousel...the black bag with the green ribbons is easier to spot amongst the other thirty black bags. LOL.

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