



St Thomas More Catholic School

School Newsletter

Panui

Week 6, Term 3

August 30th, 2018

Nau mai , Haere mai.

This week we welcome Jacob Hodge who has turned 5 and joined Tuatuas and we farewell Gianna and Mayra Russell who are moving to Blenheim. All our best wishes go with you.

Kaboom percussion

Our middle and senior students had a great time hosting our Kaboom percussionists. The concert was really fun with lots of interaction, games and musical items. Our Paua students particularly benefitted from talking and experimenting in their workshops. The instruments that Year 5 and 6 have made are really exciting and are a credit to the time and patience our students have put into them. You will be able to see these instruments in action during the Paua Celebration of Learning evening in the last week of term.

Kina Funky Fun Day

Our Year 3 and 4 students really enjoyed participating in Funky Funday yesterday. For people who don't know what Funky Fun day is...our children travel to ASB arena by bus and then join in with activities organised by SportBOP and the ASB Arena sports co-ordinators. Lots of parents go along to help. Our children are sorted into teams and then they play games with other schools. The cost is covered by your parent contribution and so there isn't any extra charge. The benefits of this funday are that children get used to being at a big sports venue and therefore are more confident when they join basketball and volleyball teams in the middle/senior school. It is a good way to connect with our local community too- kids meet up with other kids from other schools that they might already know. There are excellent coaches and sports people at these special days who inspire our children to do great things.

Father's Day Breakfast tomorrow.

All Fathers, grandfathers and uncles are invited to the little Pipi and Tuatua breakfast from 8.00 – 8.30 a.m. tomorrow. There was a great crowd for the Mothers' day festivities and we want to make sure our Dads and Grandads have a great start to the day too.

Sacramental preparations

Thank you so much to Ruth Dunne - for being there every Tuesday and bringing such yummy, healthy after school snacks for our classes. The children are very lucky to get the freshest fruit, little cookies and cakes as well as sandwiches...just what they need to help them last through their sacramental hour. Ruth helps with set up and tidy up too. You are a real diamond! Thank you Ruth.

Choir Festival – come along to tomorrow's Hui as our choir will be performing their item 😊

On Monday night our school, Aquinas College and four other schools will be performing in the Combined Schools Choir festival at Baycourt. Our Year 6 class of 46 students will be representing us and the theme of the songs this year is TIME. Thank you to Mr Mills, Mrs Pirini and Magda James for all the extras and hours you have put into bringing our children to performance level. Our items are always outstanding- last year when the children performed their Fireflies item you could have heard a pin drop, everyone was fascinated by the singing and choreography. Tickets have sold out. Looking forward to a great night. 😊

Dates for your diary

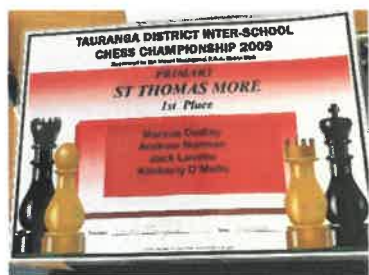
TERM 3

Aug

Tomorrow Aug. 31 st	Pipi Grandfathers/Fathers' Day Breakfast
Sept. 3 rd	Choir Festival all day rehearsal @ Baycourt & evening performance
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 everyday for two weeks.
September 23rd	Sunday Mass with the Bishop - Our children are receiving the sacraments. ☺
Sept 25th	Kina team's Celebration of Learning- all parents and families invited.
Sept 26th	Paua team's Celebration of Learning – all parents and families invited.
Sept. 27 th	St Mary's Tauranga, St Mary's Rotorua Sports Exchange (Paua students)
Sept 28	Last day of term & Mc Auley ice cream treats (Green House)

TERM 4

15 th Oct	First day and also knowledgathon questions being given out to learn.
22 nd Oct	Public holiday for Labour weekend.
23 Oct	Aquinas Orientation evening for Year 5 and 6 @ Aquinas College.
26 th Oct	Knowledgathon testing- PTFA helpers.
29 th or 30 th Oct	General information night for parents of Year 5 and 6 interested in Aquinas College being held at St.Thomas More. TBC
31 st Oct	Hand in fundraising from Knowledgathon.
1 Nov	All Saints Mass at 9.00
5 th Nov	Prize assembly for Knowledgathon
21 Nov	Evening of Puberty talks for Year 6 girls at St.Thomas More- TBC
22 Nov	Evening of Puberty talks for Year 6 boys at St.Thomas More – TBC
26 Nov	Only Year 5 goes to camp
27 Nov	Year 6 transition day for Aquinas College 2019
28 Nov	Year 5 return from camp and Year 6 go up to camp.
30 Nov	Camp kids return home.
7 December	Final reports posted out
14 December	Last Mass and prizegiving for Year 2-6 TBC evening in church.
18 December	Last day. Final assembly for Year 6 at 11.00 in church.



St.Thomas More Chess Club

In 2009 our school team won the Tauranga District Inter-schools Chess Championship and the team travelled down to Palmerston North to compete in the North Island Championships. We haven't had a chess team since then and we are going to reinstate our St.Thomas More Chess Club, starting next week.

We have purchased 10 sets of chess/boards from our parent contribution money and we have 35 students who are interested in being involved. Starting next week the Chess Club will be happening in the STEAM room during wet lunchtimes and at least one designated lunchtime each week. We will have a challenge board set up so that players can arrange their own matches...and after four weeks we will have a good idea of the abilities of our players. We can then look at challenging other schools in our Catholic network, starting with St.Michael's, Rotorua, who have very capable teams. If you enjoy chess and if you have a lunchtime free perhaps we could have a couple of parents helping our players learn even more skills? Just let me know if you are available and we can arrange things to suit.

St.Mary's Fireworks Extravaganza Entertainment.

We've had an email from the organising committee for the St.Mary's Fireworks Concert. They want to know if there are students who would like to perform on stage on the night.

I thought it would be a great opportunity for some of our talented students to participate so I've included the information here and also the Google document you can enter your details on if you do want to be part of the action.

"Hello, It's that exciting time of year when we are getting everything ready for our annual St Mary's Fireworks night!

We are looking for special talents from within our St Mary's, St Thomas More and Aquinas College community to perform on stage on the big night.

If you are part of a performance group (or you individually) that you think would be suitable to entertain our crowd, then please get in touch with your group leader and have them complete the registration form below.

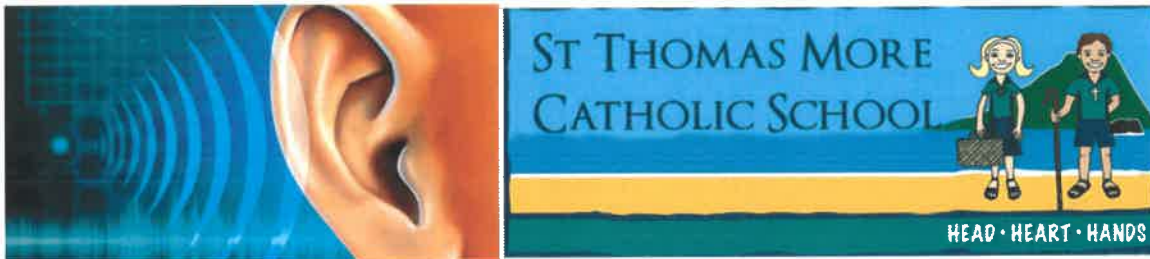
Google Form Registration

<https://goo.gl/forms/jJ98wVcOASCI2LKh2>

This year's event is booked for Saturday 10th November, and it will come around in no time at all, so please get in touch with your group ASAP to confirm if they are available and start planning your performances.

I look forward to seeing your registrations coming through!

Thank you, Gabby Cardey - St Mary's Fireworks Entertainment Co-ordinator, 022 498 6221....."



Paua Celebration of Learning 'The Science of Sound'

Wednesday 29 August

Kia ora Parents/Caregivers,

In Paua this term we have been learning about 'The Science of Sound'. As part of our program we will be hosting a 'Celebration of Learning'. This is an opportunity for you as parents to see some of the learning that has taken place this term. During the evening our students will share with you:

- The planning and design process used to create their musical instruments.
- A performance of compositions using their instrument.
- Evidence of their understanding of the science of sound.

When: Wednesday 26th September

Time: 5pm - 6:30pm

Where: Paua Learning Space

During this celebration our students will also share:

- Two songs which were part of the Tauranga Primary Schools Music Festival

- Three musical instrument compositions
- Paua speech finalists (Year 5 and Year 6)
- A recording of their speech
- A new maths strategy via Seesaw.

To make the night run more smoothly we will have QR codes set up for your child to show you links to their own learning. We ask that you please download a QR Code Reader to your smartphone so that you can access the content. If you search the App Store or the Google Play Store there will be lots of free apps that will work fine.

If you have any queries, please contact us.

Kind regards,
 Richard Webster rwebster@stm.school.nz
 Maree Thomas mthomas@stm.school.nz
 Anthony Mills amills@stm.school.nz



CODING CLUB....is a great success.

When the Coding NZ people approached me about holding a coding club at our school between 3 and 4.30 p.m. I thought that it was going to be a flop...so many days are already devoted to sports practices, RE classes and so on. I didn't think we would get many people signing up. I set the challenge for the Coding Club people: you can have a classroom for a Friday afternoon class...and guess what, 16 kids turned up and as each week goes by more people are interested in joining. Here's their newsletter.

WE'RE HALFWAY THROUGH THE TERM!

Our facilitators are very pleased with how the students are doing in sessions this term. You may wish to ask your child how they are finding the lessons. If they can tell you the coding level they are up to (and you can see that increasing every few weeks) then you know they are choosing to do the advanced coding levels. We give the students three choices of what to do during each lesson as detailed below. If you wish your child to choose a specific option, then you will need to communicate that with them.

OPTION 1: CODING LEVELS

Our specialised Coding Levels curriculum teaches students technology languages such as HTML, CSS and JavaScript so that they can tell technology what to do (i.e. create real world websites, apps and games). This is where we have primary school students learning University level stuff!

The Coding Levels option is frequently recommended to students throughout the term as it is the most advanced and educational option that we offer. The facilitator is provided mainly to help students with these levels at the help desk when they get stuck. Very few students (those who cannot read English well at all) struggle too much with this option. We find all other students get the hang of learning technology languages within their first three sessions on it.

As a bonus (not included as a "paid for" service) we attempt to provide as many parents as possible with access to view their young person's sample code from this term at the end of the term. We do our best to provide this, but as we are working with children 1 to 3 out of every 100 code pieces does go missing. As such, we do not advertise providing this code sample as part of our "paid service" because we cannot guarantee this to you.

OPTION 2: KODU

This is a fun program that allows students to learn computer logic. Students use drag and drop programming to create a 3D world with various objects and characters interacting with each other based on the logic set out by students.

This option can be as easy or difficult as students make it due to the creativity involved with students programming their own world.

Kodu is a free Microsoft product which can be downloaded and used on any Windows 10 computer if you have one at home.

OPTION 3: SCRATCH

This is an enjoyable program that teaches students computer logic. Students use drag and drop programming to either work their way through tutorials or create their own animations and games.

Similar to Kodu, this option can be as easy or difficult as students make it due to the creativity involved with making their own projects.



Robotics & computer hardware classes are happening in weeks 6 & 7! All the best with the rest of your term!

Get Updates From Us



Contact Details

Use Website Contact Form

Email: contact@codingnz.com

Call: 027 919 9207

How you can help our school



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.

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. 😊



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