

Nau mai , Haere mai

Sports.

Today our Year 3-6 students are participating in our annual athletics skills day. The smooth running of the events is due in part to our volunteer army of Aquinas old girls and boys and the parents who are helping with recording and supervision. The planning and preparation for whole school events like Athletics and Cross country fall on the shoulders of the teacher in charge of sports (Maree Thomas) and our Sports co-ordinator (Paula Farrell). As we come to the end of another sports filled year it is important to acknowledge the extra time and commitment that these two ladies have put in on behalf of all sporty children/families. Mrs Thomas has been sports co-ordinator for the last three years and doesn't get any extra time in her working day specifically to organise sport. Instead she does this out of work hours as well as doing an excellent job as classroom teacher in the Paua team.

Paula Farrell is paid for 10 hours a week as our sport co-ordinator/teacher assistant but does double that time in real life. We are fortunate that Paula is keen to continue next year. Mrs Thomas will be passing the baton on to one of our new teachers next year. Thanks very much for your fine efforts in making sports accessible to so many children at St.Thomas More.

Changes in teachers for 2019.



You may have seen on Facebook this week that there have been four changes in teachers for 2019.

Mr Mills is moving to St. Mary's Tauranga, on promotion, as Assistant Principal starting next year. Mr Mills has been a full time member of staff for 13 years, having completed his Teacher registration in Hamilton. During the thirteen years Mr Mills has been part of our staff he has had many roles: classroom teacher for Years 3-6, team leader, science teacher, boys' class teacher, acting Deputy principal, Director of Religious Studies, band leader, choir trainer, extremely successful Rippa rugby coach, conference presenter, sacramental programme teacher, colleague and friend. He's got engaged, married and has four beautiful daughters after meeting his wife here when she was training to become a teacher. Wow- a lot has happened in thirteen years, Anthony.

Mrs Meredith has resigned and will be spending more time with her family. Linda started teaching at our school the same year Anthony arrived. She shared a new entrant class with Jo McCabe from the Isle of Man. During the thirteen years Linda taught at St. Thomas More she trained as a reading recovery teacher and was particularly focussed on the first three years of schooling, especially the transition to school. Linda has a very strong faith and she was an important member of our Special character team. Linda has always put family first and as a grandmother and foster mother she has lived out her faith in action.



Ms Lees has announced that she will be moving to Kea Street Special School, Rotorua in the new year. Sylvia has been part of the staff since 2002, coming from Napier to teach in our senior school and to be mentor teacher to our new staff members. Sylvia has contributed to our school in many ways as we have grown and developed. She has been team leader, hockey coach, girls' class teacher, classroom teacher from Year 0-6, she was Deputy principal, sports co-ordinator, literacy professional development leader, Special education co-ordinator and support person. During her time at STM Sylvia has studied and completed her Te Reo Maori/tikanga qualifications. It is

wonderful to see all these experiences and new learning being applied to support children with particular learning challenges and their families. Ms Lees is looking forward to becoming a nana before the end of the month and starting a new chapter in her career. We wish you, Kayleigh and Charmaine, many blessings to come.



Mrs Dragovich will not be coming back at the start of 2019 (but maybe I can convince her to come back in the future). Mrs D completed her two years of teacher registration with us and has been teaching this year in the new entrants. There are some very gifted people who are born to teach and Leanne is one of them. Next year Mrs D will be working alongside her husband on their new business ventures. We wish Leanne the very best for the future and hope that it will only be a short break ☺.

Of course with four teachers moving out there will need to be four more found to complete the STM team. Please don't ask me who the new teachers will be because I don't know. It will take a few weeks of interviewing and trialling before we come up with the actual team (where they will be teaching and who with). As soon as this important search has been completed then I will be the first one to tell you.

School will be closed on the 13th November, along with all other primary schools. – Strike Action.

The BOT has decided to close the school during the strike because there will not be teachers available to care for our children.

We regret the inconvenience. Teachers are striking to highlight the lack of teachers being trained to come into the workforce, the lack of sustained support for children with special learning needs and the continued increase in workload without sufficient time for planning and assessment. It is becoming a crisis. The average age of primary teachers in the workforce is 55. What's going to happen over the next 5-6 years as more and more teachers retire? Where are the new teachers going to come from if the government doesn't take notice? Teachers want to send a message of urgency to government because it is almost too late. Thank you for understanding our perspective. We do know how much of a hassle one day out of school can cause parents. We're really sorry but there doesn't seem to be any other strategy open to us.

Prize assembly for Knowledgeathon.

Thank you to parents, PTFA ladies and everyone who came along to celebrate the great fundraising achievement which was the knowledgeathon. This year students studies all about New Zealand/Kiwiana...which is a great theme for a quiz. Thank you Kyra, Bridget, Kirstie and Cathy for the efforts you have put in to organise this great event. I heard someone say that about \$7,000 has been raised- her, it's you, our school families who have made this happen through your support. Thank you very much. The PTFA will announce the winners by facebook so we know when pizza lunches and mufti days are happening.

TERM 4

Tonight	BOT meeting at 6 p.m. in staffroom
13 th Nov	School closed – Teachers' Strike Action
20 th Nov	Aquinas' principal, Matt Dalton, is coming to talk with Year 5 and Year 6 parents starting at 5.30pm in the Paua space. Please come- we need you there.
21 st Nov	Evening of Puberty talks for Year 6 girls at St. Thomas More @ 6.00 p.m. in Paua
22 nd Nov	Evening of Puberty talks for Year 6 boys at St. Thomas More @ 6.30 p.m. in Paua
26 th Nov	Only Year 5s go to camp
27 th Nov	Year 6 transition day for Aquinas College 2019
28 th Nov	Year 5 return from camp and Year 6 go up to camp
30 th Nov	Y6 Camp kids return home
7 th Dec	Final reports posted out
14 th Dec	Last Mass and prize giving for Year 2-6 @ 6 p.m. evening in church
18 th Dec	Last day & Final assembly for Year 6 at 11.00 in church

TERM 1 2019

The school will close at 12.30...buses will leave at 12.15
29th January , Tuesday First day back

Beautiful Artwork

The school is participating in the "Kids Artworks Calendars" again this year and the children have created beautiful artwork in class – have a chat with your child's teacher they can tell you all about their creations. You can have your child's own piece of art made into superb calendars, cards, diaries or mouse mat. Alternatively, you can submit a family photo to have printed on these items – perfect for Christmas presents for family and friends overseas. The calendars and diaries include public holidays and term dates, plenty of space for writing appointments. Order as many calendars, diaries, cards or mouse mats you wish from the same piece of artwork. The original artwork/photo will be returned to you with your order.

Costs are as follows:-

Calendars \$14 each Cards (pack of 8) \$14 Diaries \$18 each

Order forms have been sent home – please check your child's bag! Orders and payment need to be handed into the school office by **November 16th**. Delivery is expected to be at the beginning of December. There are also samples in the office ☺

NEW SCHOOL POLO SHIRT: Please let Jane know what size you need – please refer to attached order sheet.



It will take two years before all the school shirts are in the new style because there are lots of old style shirts still in circulation. It's just that Jane will only be able to sell the new style from the start of next year because that is all we will have in stock.

Seedling sale.

There was a great deal of support from the neighbourhood and local community for the seedling sale held at the back of the ambulance station beside the swings in Arataki Park on Saturday. The weather was wet and drizzly but our staunch sales girls- India, Summer and Alba were very successful in spreading the word about seeds, plants and how to grow them. There was a band, sausage sizzles, vegetarian options, jewellery and plants available for sale. It reminded me of the Tauranga Farmers Market in the good old days when they were just starting out. A great vibe was happening. Our garden club is only little. We would like more kids to join in. Every Friday morning we plant out more seedlings. We gave away our first lettuce yesterday. If you would like a free lettuce there are three ready for gifting in the garden- just let us know in the office and we will happily gift you one. If you have seeds or watering equipment/ little plants that you would like to share then please drop in on Friday mornings. Our vision is to have a citrus orchard (mandarins, lemons and oranges) to give away, raspberries to make jam out of, vegetables and fruit organically grown...it might take three or four years to get up to that level so we are getting the foundations started this year.

NEW POLO SHIRT ORDER FORM

Size	K4	K6	K8	K10	K12	K14
Chest	34	39.5	42.5	45.5	48.5	53
Body	50	56	60	64	69	73

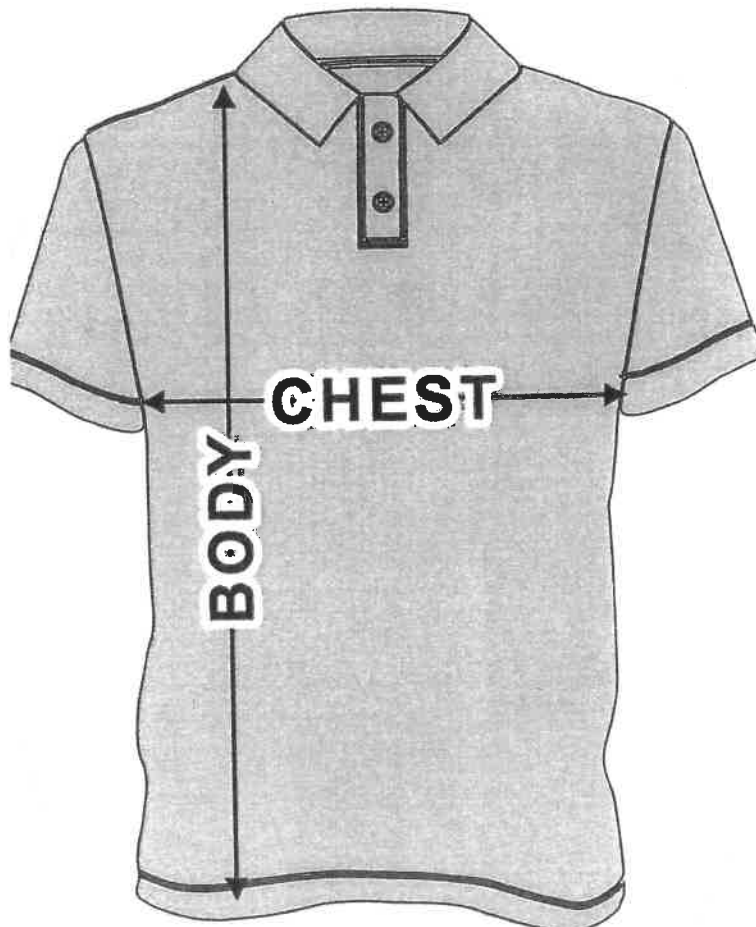
Approximate measurements. Please be aware that manufacturers tolerance are + or -2.5 cm

We are hoping to have samples available to try very soon 😊

Name: _____

Size: _____

Quantity: _____



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