



## St Thomas More Catholic School

Nau mai, Haere mai, it's the final countdown... Bayfair had their big opening of the new shops today causing traffic

problems everywhere, retail therapy is ramping up and the kids are feeling the excitement of change/Christmas and holidays. Following on from camp the seniors are looking tired but it seems to be the Kinas who are having the accidents and finding it hard to focus.

The PIPs are delighted that they have elves mysteriously appearing in funny places in their room...it's very magical when you are five. I can tell by the big eyes and the smiles every time a new elf suddenly appears.

The teachers have completed the number crunching and the Y3-6 reports are here ready for you to share. I have read all the reports and the teachers are to be commended on the high quality of their writing. I know that our teachers know their students very well just from reading the comments in the reports. If you are wondering about next year and who will be in what learning space then this is the newsletter for you.

### Presenting the Tuatua and Pipi teachers: Year 0-2.



Starting with the Tuatuas....**Mrs Dustin** is teaching the new entrants in the Tuatua classroom and she is starting with 12 children on day one. Mrs Anderson and Mrs Oxenham will be assisting at different times during the day. Mrs D is retiring for the time being. She is stopping teaching to assist her husband with the new businesses they have established. We are going to miss Mrs D, such a gentle, happy soul. Any child who has had Mrs D is very fortunate.

Mrs Dustin has had plenty of experience as the new entrant teacher at St. Thomas More. She is one of the most popular teachers our school has ever had. Whenever past pupils drop in they always try to catch up with Liz. Thank you for being our new entrant teacher for 2019.



**Mrs Rachelle Hodgson** or Mrs H is joining us from Northland. She is an experienced junior teacher with wonderful knowledge of playbased learning, PMP, junior curriculum and in particular literacy. Mrs H is looking forward to being the homeroom teacher for 24 little Year1+2 children in the PIPi space.

Mrs H has taught in several regions including Waikato, Bay of Plenty and Northland. She brings a depth of knowledge and understanding of the early stages of literacy and mathematics- ideal for her classroom and for sharing with others. Mrs H will be working alongside Miss Ashton.



**Ms Courtney Ashton** has just completed her teaching degree and is looking forward to working in our collaborative school, having the chance to share in our special character and our family focussed values.

Ms Ashton will be teaching Year 1+2 in our PIPi space. She particularly likes maths and wants to share her love of maths with her students. Later on in the year Ms Ashton's son will be joining our Tuatua class.

Ms Ashton has been coming in each Wednesday morning and spending time getting to know her 21 students. I know how excited she is to start next year. Welcome to our school family Courtney.

### Presenting the Kina teachers : Year 3 and 4

**Miss Kath Fielden** is teaching the new entrant class at Omanu School this term. She is returning to St.Thomas More next year as teacher of Year 3 in Kina. The last time Miss Fielden was here was 2002 when she was a student in Year 6. When she was Year 7 she moved to Aquinas where she was a foundation pupil. It is wonderful for us to be able to work alongside such a calm, conscientious teacher – a graduate of our school and a person who values everything we hold dear. Miss Fielden has had a varied career including cheffing at Nosh and working in accounts at Omanu School. Miss Fielden absolutely loves maths (can you see a theme emerging?), cooking, growing your own food, and travelling. Miss Fielden has spent a day in our school getting to know our children and how things happen here. It was a weird feeling I'm sure walking around the places she used to play in- but was all different too. Welcome back, Kath.



Alongside Miss Fielden in Kina will be **Mrs Donna Eckstein**. Originally from Rotorua, Mrs Eckstein has travelled the world teaching in international schools in the Middle East and Indonesia. Most recently Donna has been teaching in Nelson and she's spent two days here at St.Thomas More getting to know the children in Year 3+4 a little better. Mrs Eckstein has a Masters in Educational Leadership and has a particular interest in maths, having been lead curriculum developer in her International school in Indonesia. Donna was a chef in a previous work life and absolutely enjoys the arts- dance, drama and creating. Mrs Eckstein was involved in creating masks with her Year 3 and 4 class so they could participate in a wonderful mask parade in Nelson this term. Welcome to the team, Donna.

### What about Paua? Year 5 and 6.



**Mr Richard Webster** is continuing his inspirational work with the integration of science in maths and literacy. This year our senior students have been involved in estuary studies, data collection, tree planting and conservation, biosecurity activities, water testing and so many more science based experiences. Mr Webster really always challenges his learners to push themselves out of their comfort zones and into new territory. We were so fortunate this time to have Mr Webster in camp all week keeping things ticking over. He was in his element, especially in the bivouac challenge, and here is a comment from the Camp Administrator and Senior teacher (Gerry)...” **Richard and Marie were fantastic and you can be proud of your kids. Awesome Parents as well.**” Thank you for a great year Richard. Mr Webster will be teaching 25 students next year.



Mrs Maree Thomas has just accepted a position as Across Schools Co-ordinator for our Kahui Ako (Community of Learning). What does this mean? Using her skills in data analysis, cultural awareness, accelerating student achievement and digital integration Mrs Thomas will be coaching teachers two days a week in our own school as well as the other eight schools in our Kahui Ako. Mrs Pirini will be teaching Te Reo Maori, The mantle of the expert (inquiry through drama) and core curriculum subjects in Mrs Thomas' learning space on Tuesdays and Wednesdays throughout the year. Congratulations Maree on being recognised as an excellent teacher. Mrs Thomas will be teaching 23 mostly Year 6 students next year.

### The question on everyone's minds is who will be joining Paua as the third teacher?

We are fortunate to have Mrs Pam Robertson in Paua next year. Mrs Robertson is from Whakatane St.Joseph's where she was teaching and leading a team of Year 5+6 teachers. Mrs Robertson is bringing her guitar with her and her love of outreach. Pam is planning on travelling with the Bethlehem College group back to Kenya at the end of Term 3. They will be returning to the village and school that was supported by the College until recently when there was a traffic accident which killed one of their

students. Pam and her husband are travelling to Kenya as part of their mission and our students will be able to follow their journey as well as gain a sense of mission in another continent. Pam has also spent two days in our school getting to know us and our students.



Mrs Robertson will be teaching 24 students mostly Year 5 and some Year 6. I know she is very happy to be joining our team for the year. Curious fact: the Robertson live on a yacht in the Marina so they have a Matapihi address 😊



As I mentioned before **Mrs Elicia Pirini** will be teaching all our students during the year. On Tuesdays and Wednesdays you will find her in the Paua space sharing Te Reo and her drama/inquiry skills and she will also be spending a day a week in Kina supporting Mrs Eckstein and Miss Fielden. There will also be a day a week when Mrs Pirini visits Pipi and Tuatua.

Mrs Pirini has been chosen as our **Within school teacher for the Kahui Ako** which means that she will be coaching and mentoring our teachers on how they can develop their teaching practice even further. She will be working alongside Mrs Thomas in this role and will network with other Within school coaches in our community.

Mrs Pirini has developed several expertise in very advanced digital tools for improving teaching and learning. We are very fortunate to have her support going forward.

**Mrs Deanna Morgan** is going to be teaching in all classes throughout the year in her role as Classroom release teacher two days a week. She is looking forward to being able to join Mrs Dustin in the new entrant space when our enrolments reach a level to establish a new class later in the year. Thank you very much Deanna for your care and encouragement for the students in Year 1 this year and for assisting Mr Mills with the Director of Religious Studies role.



**Mrs Kerry Duncan** will be continuing her role as Deputy Principal with a particular interest in Year 0-3. Mrs Duncan is assisting me in our work for the Kahui Ako by taking on the responsibility for the school at least two days a week so that I can continue my leadership role of the Kahui Ako.

What are the benefits of belonging to our Faithbased Kahui Ako/Community of learning?

Our school is staying at the cutting edge of education reform through our connection with the Kahui Ako. We interact with eight Catholic schools from Rotorua, Tauranga, Opotiki, Putaruru and Tokoroa, building our special catholic character as well as raising the bar of student achievement for our schools.

We are putting the Common Good and social justice into action through the support we give to our COL schools- students and teachers- as well as being able to gain benefits for ourselves in professional development. Transitioning our students from St.Thomas More to Aquinas means that they are more confident and resilient when they leave us to take on their next educational setting.

We also know from comparison and discussion between schools that our standards of achievement are set higher than the national expectation so that our 'above standard' students are at least a year level ahead of their peers and our students who meet the standard at St.Thomas More are very capable students in Aquinas College. "The St. Thomas More students stand out at Aquinas College because they are grounded, confident and connected to their faith." (from an Aquinas teacher) What a great affirmation of everything we do here.



**Many Christmas Blessings to you all, from Kath Joblin- Principal.**

#### TERM 4

13<sup>th</sup> Dec Pipi Christmas Concert @ 12 o'clock  
14<sup>th</sup> Dec Last Mass and prize giving for Years 2-6 @ 6 p.m. evening in church  
18<sup>th</sup> Dec **Last day & Final assembly for Year 6 at 10.30 am (please note change of time)**  
The school will close at 12.30...buses will leave at 12.15  
TERM 1 2019 29<sup>th</sup> January , Tuesday first day back!

*Calling all Angels, Shepherds and Wise Men! A few of us Mums are overseeing the children's activities/performances at our Church from 4pm on Christmas Eve before the family Mass. We are wanting to invite as many children as we can to take part. We will be running a nativity play, singing carols and other items. We need to know numbers taking part and get your contact details if your child/ren wishes to be part of this. Please email through to [kirsty@kaylee.co.nz](mailto:kirsty@kaylee.co.nz) (Dylan, Jack and Brylie's Mum) and we can keep you posted for when we will be running a practice etc. It will be completely informal, and we will make sure all children who want to, get to take part in this celebration.*

#### **A thank you Message from Paula Farrell and Maree Thomas (sports co-ordinators).**

2018 has been a very busy year with loads on sporting opportunities for our students. STM teams have been registered in Rippa Rugby, Flippaball, Water Polo, Little League, Miniball, Basketball, Hockey, Netball, Cricket, Futsal and the Weetbix Tryathlon. To even qualify for some of the Cluster events is no small task, with very tough times and distances set as a qualifying mark. Our students have achieved amazing results throughout the year at the Mt Clusters (Mt Maunganui and Papamoa Primary Schools) in swimming, cross country and athletics and in some cases have qualified to represent our school and the Mt Cluster at WBOP swimming, cross country, gymnastics and athletics championships. A handful of students also had the opportunity in their codes to represent STM at the BOP Cross Country and Golf Championships. To all of our parents that have assisted STM sports team in a coaching or a managing role in 2018, on behalf of all the students and the school please accept our sincere thanks for all you have done. We are heavily reliant on our parent community to assist with these roles and we are so very grateful for everyone's time and energy. Thank you to all of the parents that have transported our students or assisted in another role at the numerous 2018 inter school sports events as well.

**To our Year 6 parents** that have their youngest child leaving STM this year, Maree and I are humbled by your support and unwavering energy that you've given to STM sport over the years. We wish you, your family and all of our Year 6 students, the very best at their new Intermediate schools in 2019. **Have a very merry, blessed and safe Christmas break. Regards Maree Thomas and Paula Farrell**

#### Sports Shirts:

Can all sports shirts and basketball singlets please be washed and returned in a named bag to the school office by **Tuesday 11th December at 9am.**

'Some of our greatest insight's come from discussing 'Life' with friends. Alpha is open to everyone, but especially suited to those who want to investigate Christianity, who may not attend a church, who are not Christian or just plain curious! Alpha is a great way to introduce people to faith. Who will you invite to Alpha? Alpha begins on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2019 @7.00pm with a 'Wine & Cheese' evening. For more information or to register your interest Contact Heidi 5754807 Ext 6 or email: [pastoral@allsaintsbythesea.nz](mailto:pastoral@allsaintsbythesea.nz). You can also register on the parish website under EVENTS.

