



FRIDAY, 3RD FEBRUARY 2012



The long days of summer holidays are now behind us, and another school year begins bringing with it all the potential and promise that awaits every person in our very special school community. Keeping strong in our faith and close to Jesus is the key to unlocking the great gifts from God that will present themselves each and every day this year. Are you ready? Is your heart open to be surprised? Seize the day and just see what God can do for you and through you and look forward to a very blessed 2012.

Our first **School Mass** for the year is *Tuesday 14th February*, over in the church at 9.15am Please come and join us – as we pray for God’s blessing on our new school year.

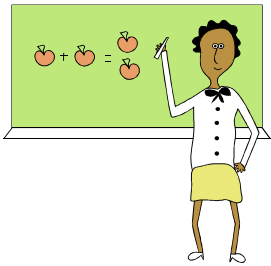
Welcome back everyone, - its wonderful to see so many bright happy faces to begin the school year (*children, - as well as parents that is!*) We would like to make a special welcome to our new students and their families...

- Rm 1 - Juliana Daiber, Ella Simpson-Maisey, Finlay Hinson & Rohan Landy
- Rm 4 - Milly Hinson
- Rm 3 - Grace Allison-Witt

Welcome to you all, we hope you enjoy your time here at St Francis School.

This year, due to our increased roll, we also welcome Mrs Robyn Lawrence, a part time teacher, who will be teaching some of our senior pupils in Room 2 from 9am to 12.30pm each day.

Our staffing for 2012 is...



Viv Lander			Principal
Shelley Johnson	Yr 5 & 6	Rm 3	Deputy Principal
Debbie Trenwith	Yr 3 & 4	Rm 4	Director of Religious Studies
Mel Beaver	Yr 1 & 2	Rm 1	
Sue Jeffs	Yr 7 & 8	Rm 5	
Robyn Lawrence	Yr 7 & 8	Rm 5	
Donna Thorburn			Teacher Aide
Sue Darwell			Teacher Aide
Arthur Harsant			Caretaker
Barbara Lundberg			Secretary



Thank you for the way the students have arrived back to school – a great standard of uniform, with their books and stationery ready to make a great start in 2012.

Visit by Ministry of Health – Arsenic tests

The visits from the MOH and the Ministry of Education was to look at our grounds and to reassure us that our site is safe for students and adults. The key for all of us is regular hand washing - a good health practice anyway. They were very impressed with our students’ bathrooms – we are one of very few schools providing warm water for hand washing.

Our theme for 2012 - GOD CREATES - We CARETAKE

At present we are exploring what this means... From Room 5 ...

- ☞ God makes it and we’re suppose to look after it.
- ☞ We have to keep the earth clean because caretakers look after things
- ☞ God’s done the hard part of creating the earth, now it’s our part to do the easy bit by looking after it.
- ☞ As we care take, we will be rewarded, God made this earth especially for us and in return we need to look after it.



From here we move to the hard part – *what does this now call us to do?*

Belated Thank you

In the rush at the end of 2011 I neglected to say a very special thank you to Peter Quinn who very generously donated the two beautiful National Geographic Books that were part of our prizes for Catholic Character and Citizenship awards. Thank you Mr Quinn!

Teacher Only Day

On Tuesday, 7th February we will be having a Teacher Only Day to allow staff to all participate in Technology Training in particular looking to gain further expertise in the use of our Interwrite boards and teaching stations. We hope this will give you a chance to have an extra long weekend and will not cause you too much inconvenience.

Swimming

The classrooms are getting straight into the swing of things with swimming beginning immediately. If you are available to help out watching the children it would be hugely appreciated, - just pop in and see your child's classroom teacher. Times for swimming are...



Rm 1	Every day	Thames South Pool	1.30 - 2.00
Rm 4	Tues, Thurs, Fri	Centennial Pool	11.30 – 12.00
Rm 3	Tues, Thurs, Fri	Centennial Pool	1.30 – 2.00
Rm 5	Tues, Thurs, Fri	Centennial Pool	12.00 – 12.30



Uniform

As the weather is now very warm (*well some days it is!!*) the girls are permitted to wear their black sports shorts during the day at school. However they must however come to school and go home in their correct school uniform. Also to protect children from the harsh effects of the sun they must have their hats everyday, - those coming to school without hats will have to sit under the shade cloth during morning tea and lunch. Black shorts need to be of a reasonable length, no very short skimpy fashion shorts, please.

Come to school and return home in full uniform – but the girls may change into black shorts during the day.

Summer Splash ~ Rooms 3 and 5

We are again running the very successful 'Summer Splash', organised by Karen Murphy. While this is a fundraiser – we ask the students to gain sponsorship for their swim; it is also about goal setting, setting challenges and striving to meet them, all while gaining fitness and water skills along the way!

Congratulations

To Keenan Alexander who has been selected for the Thames Valley under 15 Basketball Team, - ***well done Keenan.***

We love to hear of the successes of your children so please don't be shy about letting us know the great things they have been achieving.

DATES TO REMEMBER FOR TERM 1

Date	Event
Monday, 6 th February	Waitangi Day
Tuesday, 7 th February	Teacher Only Day
Wednesday, 15 th February	BOT Meeting
Monday, 27 th February	White Cluster junior swimming sports at Moanataiari Sch
Monday, 5 th March	White Cluster senior swimming sports at Moanataiari Sch
Saturday, 17 th March	Irish Fling – St Patricks Day!
Monday, 19 th March	Attendance Dues due into Office
Wednesday, 21 st March	Thames Valley swimming sports
Thursday, 22 nd March	Immunisations for Yr 7 & 8's by Public Health Nurse
Thursday, 5 th April	Term 1 finishes



Community

Drums Lessons at Thames Youth Centre with qualified drum teacher one-on-one, 30 minutes for \$15. Tuesday or Thursday at TYC. Leave contact details on our voicemail: ph. 07-868 6110

Thames Hauraki Ballet Theatre now enrolling boys and girls from 4yrs. Expert training in Ballet and Modern Dance. Royal Academy and NZ Modern Dance, registered teacher. Classes Turua and Ngatea. Ph Pauline Germon 867 8145. email thbtballet@gmail.com

Ngatea Athletics

Season commences on Monday Feb 6th at 6pm @ the Domain. Any queries Rebecca 8677499.

Thames Swimming Club is having a fun carnival day on Sunday the 26th of Feb. Anybody can enter you don't need to be a member of a club it's a fun day to give everyone the opportunity to do some racing in a relaxed environment. Lots of spot prizes and ribbons for 1st, 2nd, 3rd and a Thames towel for overall winners in each age group. Food and drinks available should be a great day at the Thames centennial pool. Entries need to be in by Thursday the 16th, for more information contact Rachel Duncan on (07) 8675444 after 5.30pm or thamesswim@xtra.co.nz or call at the Thames Pool for details.

Thames Junior Athletics Club nights start again 5..30pm, Wednesday 8th February, Thames High School field. Club night registration taken on night - \$20 per family