

## Whānau Pānui – 4 July 2022

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### **Tumuaki / Principal's message**

Mānawatia a Matariki!

It was a great privilege to join other staff members and a significant number of our community at the Matariki Celebrations at Mātai Whetū in the early hours of Sunday 19 June. While the weather meant the stars of famous cluster were not visible, we 'knew they were there'. The manaakitanga and rich mātauranga Māori that we experienced were incredible. I warmly encourage our community to join in next year.



As befitting this time of the year, we look back on our progress and recommit to the opportunities of the year ahead.

Many thanks to the parents and caregivers that were able to join with taura (students) and discuss progress at our recent report conferences. Many parents spoke with me and said how much they appreciated the opportunity and how well their teachers knew their child. If you were not able to make these conferences, then we still encourage you to contact teachers. While older young people (teenagers) may say they are reluctant to have their parents involved in their learning, we know that it is vital that they are connected, encouraging and know how to help. And deep down, your teenagers will value that too!

As noted below, the upcoming board elections are an opportunity to contribute to our school. I encourage you to consider standing and make sure we have as diverse a representation as possible.

Michael Hart  
**Tumuaki / Principal**



## Board chair's message

The board would like to welcome Mrs Kiryn Curnow who replaces Mrs Selina Eagle as staff trustee. Mrs Curnow has been co-opted onto the board for three months until the triennial board elections are held in September.

Congratulations to all the students / taiohi who have been steadily working away at gaining credits during the first half of the year. At the board hui this week, tumuaki Mr Hart highlighted the progress students/taiohi have been making towards gaining qualifications this year.

Thank you to those caregivers and whānau who attended the parent teacher conference last week. Student / taiohi progress is achieved in partnership between the student / taiohi, teacher / kaimahi and whānau. For those caregivers and whānau who were unable to attend, please make contact with your son or daughter's teachers / kaimahi to find out how you can support their learning.

## Board Elections

Board elections happen every three years. This year is an election year so we will need to vote for a new board in September. We have lost a few board members over the past year and many of our current board members will not be standing again as their life circumstances have changed. Please consider whether being on the board is something you could do.

**We will be calling for nominations next month. If you have any questions about what's involved in being on the board, please text or call me on 027 5035505.**

Mary Hamilton  
Board Chair

## Triennial Board Elections

As the board chair has noted above 2022 is an election year. **Here are the key dates:**

### Parent and Staff election timeline:

Call for Nominations by	Fri 15 July
Nominations close (12 noon)	Wed 3 Aug
Voting forms/link sent out	Wed 10 Aug
Election Day	Wed 7 Sept
Board Takes Office	Wed 14 Sept

Our board seeks six (6) board members that are nominated by and voted on by the parents or caregivers as recorded in our student enrolment database (this is the electoral roll for this election).

If you are a parent / caregiver this is another great time to check we have your details (name, address,

email) correct. More information will be sent out about the nomination and voting process in due course. To check your details and to inform us of any changes [go to the web portal](#) or contact the school office.

The board has resolved that the 2022 election will be by electronic ballot with a paper-based option for those that request / need it. That means the board have appointed a returning officer who can run the election in this way, using information provided by the school about those eligible to vote.

The student board member election (annual election) will be held on Wednesday 21 September 2022.

## "Get on board for 2022 elections"

The next thing you can do is either consider standing and/or nominating someone to stand for election.

There are some great resources available about being a board member. We need our board to reflect our school community, and that ideally means we have a diverse range of candidates ready to "get on board".

1. [Becoming a board member](#)
2. [Get on board for 2022 elections \(video\)](#)



## Head Students' message

We have enjoyed getting back to normality and building strong connections with students at our Kura. It has been a privilege to talk to many students and offer help, when needed, to create a positive and safe environment within our school. We have valued our chance to watch our junior and senior students perform at high levels and see the amazing sportsmanship that Thames High School has to offer within our winter sports codes.

We are now halfway through the year meaning that there are still many exciting events that are being organised for the students. Term 2 ends Friday 8 July and we wish all students a safe and enjoyable holiday break and look forward to seeing everyone refreshed at the start of Term 3 (Monday 25 July).

Luke Stewart and Nicole Reid  
Head Students



## Year 13 Muffi Day

A Year 13 muffi day is planned for the last day of term (Friday 8 July). The option to wear muffi on this day is for Year 13 students **only** and is not extended to students of other year levels. The next muffi day for all levels will be next term.

The concept is for Year 13 students to **dress up as a character from a movie or TV show, and there will be prizes for the best look-alikes.**

Any Year 13's wearing muffi are to follow the theme while remaining appropriate within an education environment.

Chevy Carroll  
Senior Leader

## Matariki celebration

During term two, departments have incorporated Matariki themes into their learning programmes, at Year 9, and in some Year 10 subjects. This included studying books with a Matariki theme in English and astronomical and geological topics in Science.

### Amazing race

On Thursday 23 June, all Year 9 rōpū participated in an Amazing Race to celebrate Matariki. There were nine stations set up to represent each of the nine whetū (stars) and each station had a challenge to complete which related to the meaning of that whetū.

The stations were positioned in a way to represent the pattern of the whetū as they are seen in the sky.

Taiohi and kaiako enjoyed the afternoon and it was an awesome way to recognise and celebrate Matariki. A time to also rest, reflect and connect with whānau.



## Parents' Forum

The second of the Parents' Forum 2022 was held on Monday 20 June at 6.00 pm in the Thames High School staffroom.

Parents attended a presentation about the changes to the literacy and numeracy requirements for NCEA (as a corequisite). These changes were due to be implemented from 2023, subject to 'sector readiness'. Recently it was announced that the changes will be delayed until 2024, although the trials will continue, and the new standards can be achieved before then.

Following the presentation parents were invited to ask questions and themes included 'opting out' of activities, understanding what uniform items are, and the availability of activities or gear at break times.

We encourage parents to attend the next Forum on Monday 25 July (first day Term 3) from 6.00 pm.

[Parents' Forum pānui](#) by Tracey Hinton, THS Parents' Forum Facilitor

## Gender Neutral Toilets

The school is committed to supporting diverse students. As part of that commitment, we are designating the toilets off the lobby of the library as [gender neutral](#). These toilets are currently designated as wharepaku – tāne and wharepaku – wahine, but they are the same in that they have a regular cistern and lockable door.

This will mean, regardless of gender identity these toilets are accessible to all. They are in a central location, so are readily accessible.

We expect that this change is made for the start of term three with the appropriate signage installed during the break.



We will continue to look for more opportunities to designate gender-neutral toilets where the facilities are appropriate.



## Sports News

### Chess Tournament

Our Kura had a team of five students who went to Hikutaia School for the Regional Chess Tournament.

Four of the team have qualified for the National Tournament in Rotorua in October, along with a team entry. Our senior players were great role models as they helped the junior players to improve their game play.



*From left: Tennyson Mercer, Immanuel Huwald, Emma Thorburn, Porou Sullivan and Sebastian Nassaux*

### Senior A Netball

Congratulations to our Senior A Netball at the Bolton Cup on Thursday 30 June. They may not have been trophy winners but had the winning attitude and played like true champions. Any one of the teams in the top four could have walked away champions.

Our team won two out of three pool games and made top four. We were just pipped 17-18 by Matamata College in the semi-final.



Semi Final  
THS – Matamata 17-18  
3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Playoff  
THS – Paeroa 18-22

These wonderful young women continue to represent their team, whānau, kura and themselves with so much pride.

Congratulations to all teams, but a special congratulations to Mercury Bay Area School for winning the Bolton Cup. We look forward to next year in Whitianga.

Tess Watts  
Sports Coordinator

## From the Careers / Gateway Department

### Learner Drivers Course

The Thames Community Centre along with Gavin Buchanan from AA ran a course to help some of our students achieve their learner's license. This was completely free, with the students in turn completing 12 hours of voluntary work in the community. We had a 100% success rate, resulting in some very happy students!



We will be running another course on 5-7 September and have spaces for 12 students. Please contact Mrs Donovan if you have any questions and/or would like to be part of this group.

Email: [leannedonovan@thameshigh.school.nz](mailto:leannedonovan@thameshigh.school.nz)

### NZDF Airforce Experience

Luke Steward and Graeme Hodgson were invited to Blenheim to participate in an NZDF Airforce experience. They had the opportunity to fly in a flight simulator, tour the base and chat to Airforce staff.



### Upcoming Careers Events for July

For further information on any of the [upcoming Careers events](#) contact Leanne Donovan, Careers Advisor: [leannedonovan@thameshigh.school.nz](mailto:leannedonovan@thameshigh.school.nz)

Leanne Donovan  
Careers Advisor

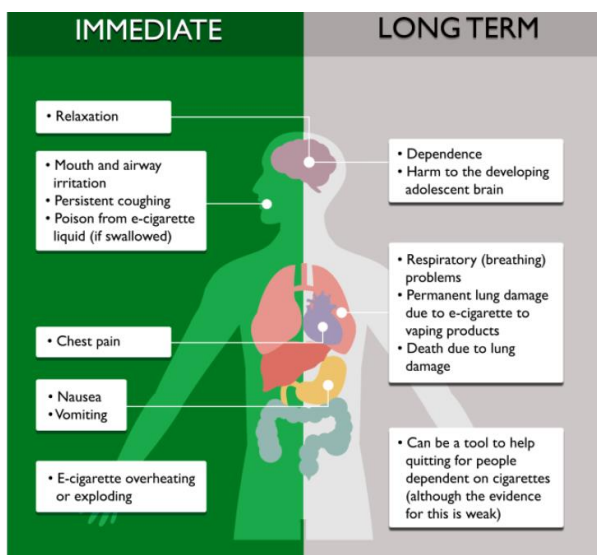


## Vaping at school

As many schools, families and communities are experiencing we continue to have students that choose to vape at school.

Our concern is based on [concern for the effect on health and safety](#) and that [legally the school is a vape and smoke free environment](#). It is [illegal to sell or indirectly supply vapes to people under 18 years old](#). That means most people in our school should not even have them, and certainly not at school. It also means that if we find under 18s with vapes someone has supplied them illegally or they may have been taken without permission.

The health issues include the effect on the respiratory system (lungs) due to the chemicals in the vapour and the addictive effects of nicotine.



Source:

[Electronic Cigarettes and Vaping: Factsheet](#)

You may have seen recent news items that express the concern about how many young people [are becoming addicted to nicotine](#) as many are consuming more than the equivalent of a pack-a-day cigarette

Mostly vaping happens in the toilets as vapers take advantage of the reasonable expectation of privacy. This means there is – as there has always been – more opportunity to do the wrong thing.

We are aware that many students are tired of entering toilets to be faced with vape clouds. Students have expressed via the Student Council that they are frustrated and sometimes reluctant to use the facilities. Parents have also expressed concern that this is happening.

As both a health and discipline issue, we try to help vapers understand the risks they are taking, and we

have taken the stance that use or possession of a vape device may result in stand down or suspension for health and safety concerns or continued disobedience as well as the confiscation of the devices.

We also refer young people to addiction services where that seems warranted, as taiohi / students express that the need to vape at school is a craving that they cannot last a day without.

While many young people accept responsibility for their mistakes, some do not and will try to insist that we must catch them with a vape in their mouth. However, a common-sense approach is taken, for instance, if you are with a group vaping and seen holding the vape then you are participating. We would prefer that students accept responsibility and accept the encouragement by advice, discipline, or health services to not vape.

We continue to monitor the entry and exits to the toilets by having one entry / exit point where possible. Duty staff monitor the toilets as appropriately and we act on any confirmed occasions where vapers are found. We contact parents and find that generally parents are fully supportive of our stance to treat this behaviour seriously.

### A drug-free workplace

To maintain a safe environment and workplace, one of our requirements is that the school is drug-free and that everyone on site is expected to not be under the influence of drugs. This helps ensure a safe environment in terms of behaviour, and to ensure that learning is possible.

From time to time, as part of our health and safety responsibilities we may conduct searches of the school property.

This involves the use of trained detector dogs and the searching of our site. The procedure involves a trained operator checking the workplace, while students have been removed from the rooms.

There is no searching of people. We ensure that as students leave the room the detector dog is kept in a separate location. If there is an 'indication' in an area, then we will investigate further, and act as required.

Any concerns about this please contact the principal.

## Job opportunities

**Thames McDonald's** is looking for some great part time employees to join their team. This is a great employment opportunity for Year 12 and 13 students.

McDonald's would like to support our community by employing local talent. You will broaden your everyday skills and can gain NZQA credits in some areas.

For more information click [McDonalds Thames QR link](#)

**Aeroview Garden Centre** is seeking outgoing, motivated Year 11, 12 and 13 students for a part-time role. This involves working on a set roster every second weekend (Saturday and Sunday) 8.30 am to 5.00 pm.

This will also include some public holidays and we can offer more full-time hours in the school holidays. Duties will include serving customers, cleaning, watering plants and other daily duties at the Garden Centre, full license would be an advantage but not necessary.

Please email your CV or a cover letter about yourself to Paulette [aeroviewgc@xtra.co.nz](mailto:aeroviewgc@xtra.co.nz)

## Community notices

**Spera Art** in Thames is offering [Art workshops](#) in the upcoming school holidays. There is limited space available and pre-booking is essential at [spera.art@gmail.com](mailto:spera.art@gmail.com) or contact 027 575 7497.

**Thames Art Gallery** in August the Thames Society of Arts proposes an exhibition competition for Year 11, Year 12 and Year 13 students.

**1<sup>st</sup> prize \$1500 - 2<sup>nd</sup> prize \$500 - 3<sup>rd</sup> prize \$250**

Students do not need to be enrolled in NCEA art subjects; the objective being to stimulate interest and opportunity in fine and applied arts.

Click the link for an [Entry form](#)

Contact [Sam Rogers](#)

email: [thamesartgallerynz@gmail.com](mailto:thamesartgallerynz@gmail.com)

## Key Dates

*As always, dates may be subject to change and will be advised.*

<b>Fri 8 July</b>	<b>End of Term 2</b>
<b>Term 3:</b>	<b>Monday 25 July to Friday 30 September</b>
Mon 1 Aug	Full Board Hui – 5.30 pm, Wharenui (Te Puna o Te Pito Mata)
Wed 10 Aug	Sport Team photos
Mon 22 Aug	<b>Teacher Only Day</b> - NCEA Accord Day
Mon 29 Aug	Full Board Hui – 5.30 pm, Wharenui (Te Puna o Te Pito Mata)
Mon 5-23 Sept	<b>Triennial school board elections</b>
Mon 26 Sept	Full Board Hui – 5.30 pm, Wharenui (Te Puna o Te Pito Mata)
Fri 30 Sept	<b>End of Term 3</b>
<b>Term 4:</b>	<b>Monday 17 October to Friday 9 December 2022.</b>
Mon 24 Oct	Labour Day
Mon 31 Oct	Full Board Hui – 5.30 pm, Wharenui (Te Puna o Te Pito Mata)
<b>Wed 2 Nov</b>	<b>Senior Prize giving</b>
Mon 7 Nov-	NCEA Exams
Fri 2 Dec	
Fri 25 Nov	<b>Teacher Only Day</b> - NCEA Accord Day
Mon 28	<b>Teacher Only Day</b> - NCEA Accord Day
Fri 9 Dec	<b>Last day Term 4</b>

