



Whānau Pānui – 8 August 2022

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Tumuaki / Principal's message

It has been a dynamic start to Term Three, overall, with a positive tone in the school.

I am happy to say that the requirement to wear masks inside has gone smoothly, with good understanding and support. The requirement is in place until the end of week four, Friday 19 August. Any change to that will be advised.

While I have previously written about the response to the hoax threat, I would like to reiterate that our response was good, and we appreciated the support both during and after the incident.

Social media is a complex platform that both strengthens and challenges good relationships. I encourage parents / caregivers to maintain open communication with their child / children. Netsafe has an [online safety parent toolkit](#) – a step-by-step on keeping safe online and some great informative articles. They help parents / caregivers understand some of the risks and the steps to take. Please do keep the school informed if there are students who are inappropriately using social media to harass others or involved in other unsafe behaviour, and we can investigate and contact parents / caregivers

and help resolve issues. In many cases our counsellor is involved as it is often about how to repair relationships or build strategies to stay safe.

As in all instances where well-being matters, whether online or in-person, we encourage reporting and problem solving, as sometimes we find out about situations too late. We all have a role to play in making sure harassment and bullying have no place in our school and community.

Michael Hart
Tumuaki / Principal

Board Chair's message

Thank you to all those who put themselves forward for the triennial board elections. We have thirteen (13) candidates for six parent-elected positions on the board. Having a large pool of candidates is a great indication of an engaged community. Voting will happen in September. This year, whānau will have the opportunity to vote electronically or on paper. Full information about the election will be emailed by the returning officer.

The board is currently considering the redevelopment of the old netball courts on Richmond Street. This area has become less and less used as the surface has deteriorated. We have an opportunity to upgrade the service and create an outdoor playing surface that will not only service our students/taiohi but also the wider community. Mr Hart is currently consulting with young people in our school and in the wider community, on behalf of the board, as to what their views and aspirations are regarding the area. If you have thoughts about how it could best be developed, please let Mr Hart know.

Mary Hamilton
Board Chair

Well-being

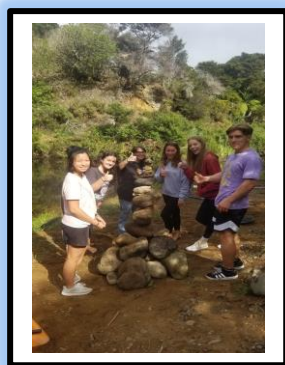
The Ministry of Health has put a range of information together to support schools manage the impacts of winter illnesses and COVID-19. There are some key messages for parents, caregivers and whānau into one document:

- [Winter wellness guide for tamariki](#) including:
- [Tips to help keep our tamariki well this winter](#)
- [Ministry of Health: Monitoring illness in children](#)
- [Ministry of Health: Tips on when to keep your child at home](#)



E.A.R.S Programme

Education And Resources by Students (EARS) is a programme facilitated by our Guidance Counsellor, Ngaio Repia. The EARS tiao / students respect confidentiality while walking beside other tiao through their problems showing support and understanding. EARS validate other tiao in a sincere way realising not all problems can be solved and not all tiao want to be helped and can refer on to professionals where necessary. EARS receive training to be a support and resource person to the tiao of Thames High School



Ngaio Repia
Guidance Counsellor

Spirit Week

Spirit Week is Week 3 Monday 8 August to Friday 12 August. We are looking forward to lots of fun, creativity, sport, culture and house spirit. Our houses will be competing together in lunch time activities which will culminate in an Amazing Race on Friday afternoon. It's a great time for our junior and senior students to mix and get to know each other a little more, as well as build school spirit. Spirit Week is student led and a special thank you goes to Millar Morton (Year 12) and Alanna McKee (Year 13), who have both worked really hard to put together some fun activities for our tiao. Friday will be a muffi-day and the theme is TWINS in house colours (pairing up with another student and dressing as TWINS).

Penny Keet
Tumuaki Tuarua / Deputy Principal

TAMSO (Te Ao Māori Strategic Ohu)

We have invited TAMSO to the second of four hui to be held on Monday 8 August from 6.30 – 8.00 pm for the strategic ohu. The aim is to continue the korero to strengthen our ongoing partnership with mana whenua.

Parents' Forum

The parent forum is a rōpū which meets once a month. The purpose of the forum is to provide information about Thames High School and to connect with whānau. Due to bad weather, we had to cancel our last meeting. We have rescheduled our meeting to Monday 22 August at 6.00 pm. The format of our meetings are a 20 minute presentation of a topic with time for questions and then 30 minutes of an open forum.

The dates and topics for our next meetings are:

☐ **22 August** – What extra-curricular activities are available at THS

☐ **19 September** – Learning Support

☐ **7 November** – Topic to be confirmed

Tracey Hinton is the facilitator of the Parent Forum.

Please forward any questions to email thsparentforum@gmail.com

Ann Hoover
Parents' Forum

KickStart Breakfast Programme

Our kura is proud to accept a wellbeing and nutritionally joint initiative between Fonterra, Sanitarium and the Ministry of Social Development to provide the KickStart Breakfast programme in schools. The programme is designed to positively impact child well-being through providing access to nutritious food at school.

Breakfast will be available Monday to Friday from 8.00 am – 8.45 am in the school hall from Wednesday 10 August. The menu is weet-bix, toast, milo and milk.

The breakfast is **free** for everyone and all are welcome. We would appreciate having whānau to help serve breakfast. If that sounds like something you would be interested in, please contact the Learning Support Coordinators, ann@thamescol.nz or lisa@thamescol.nz

Ann Hoover and Lisa Barnett
Learner Support Coordinators



Sports News

UNISS

Thames High School Senior A Netball team will be competing in the UNISS (Upper North Island Secondary Schools) Tournament in Pakuranga, Auckland from Monday 29 August to Saturday 3 September.

2022 Thames High netball were the fortunate recipients of an ANZ courtside netball grant.

Special thanks to ANZ for sponsoring 25 new uniforms, two sets of bibs, four balls and three gear bags.

Our Senior A netball team will look extremely smart taking the court in their new uniforms.
(Photo is the old uniform)



Senior Football Tournament

Thames High School senior male football team will be competing in the Secondary Schools Football Tournament in New Plymouth from 29 August to 3 September. We have been working hard getting ourselves in preparation for the tournament including fundraising with a quiz night at GBD, drive through movie evening at Rhodes Park and raffles. They will compete against 16 other schools across the New Zealand.



Thames Valley U16

Congratulations to Ellie Johnston, Troy Costello, Aidan Murphy and Brodie Jones who represented Thames Valley U16 in a quad series against Hawkes Bay, Auckland and Waikato last week in Hamilton. Special mention to the Thames Valley boys team who took out the penalty shoot-out competition. A great development opportunity for our players. Well done! Photo credits: Sarah Jamieson and Te Aroha College.

Thames Valley U18 Female Rugby Team

Well done to Kartiana Lee who was selected for the Thames Valley U18 female Rugby team.

During the term break the U18 team started their campaign down in Whakatane where they did not come away with a win. Kartiana thoroughly enjoyed the experience and has learnt so much over the time she was away.

We wish her all the very best for the remainder of the season and look forward to hearing the results.



Sporting Representatives

Well done to the students who have either represented Thames High School or who have been selected to represent Thames Valley in a particular sporting code.

1st in U18 Auckland female Chess Championships
Emma Thorburn

Thames Valley U18 female Rugby
Kartiana Lee

Thames Valley U18 Netball
Izzy Fox, Sienna Hall, Kyla Wilson

Thames Valley U16 Netball
Leiana Tukia, Maddison Brown

Thames Valley U16 Rugby
Kayne Rapana, Logan Smith, Hunter Growden

Thames Valley U16 male Hockey
Troy Costello, Brodie Jones, Aidan Murphy

Thames Valley U16 female Hockey
Ellie Johnston

Congratulations to **Ellie Johnston, Troy Costello, Aidan Murphy and Brodie Jones** who represented Thames Valley U16 in a quad series against Hawkes Bay, Auckland and Waikato Week 2 in Hamilton.

A special mention to the Thames Valley male team who took out the penalty shoot-out competition. A great development opportunity for our players. Well done! Photo credits: Sarah Jamieson and Te Aroha College.

Tess Watts
Sports Coordinator

Careers / Gateway Department

Rural Health Career Promotion

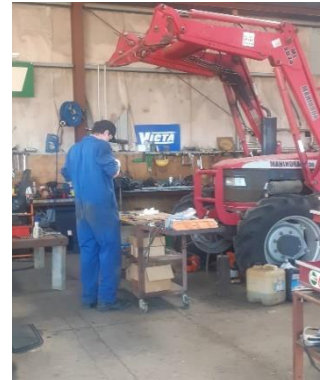
The students of Rural Health Aotearoa, who are a club of tertiary students majoring in a range of health professions, from dentistry, nursing and physiotherapy and have all come from rural backgrounds. They will give a 1-2 hour interactive workshop with fun activities teaching our Year 10 to Year 12 students on Thursday 8 September about human anatomy, and what it's like studying medicine and health – all through practical techniques that they had used in real rural health careers.

Students need to contact Leanne Donovan, Careers Advisor, if you would like to participate in this. Email leannedonovan@thameshigh.school.nz

Gateway work experience

Thank you very much to Prescotts Garage for giving Rory Ashworth the opportunity to complete a 10-week work experience placement.

The last 10 weeks has been a fantastic opportunity for Rory allowing him to develop his skills further in the trade and progress one step closer to his chosen career path.



Our Gateway department is looking for an electrician who would be happy to take on a student for work experience. This could be for just one day to give the student a taster, or for one day a week for a longer period of time. The student is currently working on SKILLS Electrical work in class, so is really keen to get out in the industry to do some practical work.

[Future Force New Zealand](#) have got you covered in the way of helping with career planning and tools to up to date sector information and profiles of Waikato young people in work.

Leanne Donovan
Careers Advisor

Driving Education Course

Another driver education course will be run through the Thames Community Centre as the last one was so popular. This will be on Monday 5 September and Tuesday 6 September at school, with testing taking place on the Wednesday 7 September. This is completely **free** and all that is required is for the students to give back to the community by way of volunteering 12 hours of their service. There are only 12 places available for students who would like to sit their learners licence.

Any students interested can contact Leanne Donovan leannedonovan@thameshigh.school.nz.

The Thames Community Centre also provide help for students to sit their restricted license, by providing mentors and a vehicle to students to practice their driving. This is an excellent opportunity for those students who do not have access to a vehicle or have someone to take them for practice drives.



Vacancies

Deputy Principal / Tumuaki Tuarua

We are seeking an educational leader with a strong understanding of pedagogical, curriculum, and pastoral care practices that enhance student wellbeing for success. This is a great opportunity for whole-school leadership, to strengthen your capacity to lead meaningful improvement through collaborative practice.

For more information, please check our vacancy link: www.thameshigh.school.nz/vacancies/

Closes Monday 5 September (4.00 pm)

Check and Connect Mentor

Shannon Paki joins us as our Kāhui Ako Te Hononga Kaihoe (Check & Connect Mentor) working with Year 8 transitioning and Year 9 taiohi / students, their whānau, and school staff, and community service providers, building trusting relationships and implementing strategies that enable taiohi to confidently participate, learn, and achieve.

Apprenticeship

Veolia New Zealand is situated in Thames and has a vacancy for an apprenticeship as a Network Operator responsible for operating and maintaining water, wastewater and stormwater reticulation networks.

Your responsibilities:

- Maintenance of the Thames 3 waters networks; water, wastewater and stormwater
- Complete scheduled Preventative Maintenance on the 3 waters networks
- Act as a point of contact for customer service requests
- Be part of an on-call roster

We offer:

- On site job training and career development
- A great team-working environment
- Competitive hourly rate

If you are a reliable team player with excellent organizational, communication and customer service skills, please contact Jack Macdonald, Thames Area Supervisor. Phone 07 868 000 or email: jack.macdonald@veolia.com

Youth Vaping

Are you concerned about youth vaping?

Concerns over youth vaping and the number of vape retailers are hitting the headlines. If you are concerned, please sign this online petition, and circulate it to your school community and within your networks. This petition is asking the government to restrict the sale of vaping products to licenced R18 specialist vape retailers and develop proximity and density limits to prevent the clustering of vaping retailers to protect young people.

What can you do to help?

1. Sign the online petition.
2. Email the link to your school community.
3. Post link on social media – you can 'turn comments off' if you don't want to deal with online trolls.

[Sign the petition here](#) **Closing** date Friday 12 August.

Please feel free to contact Kate Mason, Health Promotion Coordinator at the Cancer Society email KateMason@cancersociety.org.nz



Key Dates

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

Term 3: Monday 25 Jul to Friday 30 Sept

Mon 22 Aug	Teacher Only Day - NCEA Accord Day
Mon 29 Aug	Full Board Hui – 5.30 pm, Wharenui (Te Puna o Te Pito Mata)
Mon 5-23 Sept	Triennial school board elections
Mon 26 Sept	Full Board Hui – 5.30 pm, Wharenui (Te Puna o Te Pito Mata)
Fri 30 Sept	End of Term 3

Term 4: Monday 17 October to Friday 9 December 2022.

Mon 24 Oct	Labour Day
Mon 31 Oct	Full Board Hui – 5.30 pm, Wharenui (Te Puna o Te Pito Mata)
Wed 2 Nov	Senior Prize giving
Mon 7 Nov-	NCEA Exams
Fri 2 Dec	
Fri 25 Nov	Teacher Only Day - NCEA Accord Day
Mon 28	Teacher Only Day - NCEA Accord Day
Fri 9 Dec	Last day Term 4

