

Whānau Pānui - 30 September 2022

Kiā ora e te whānau

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Tumuaki Message

Thanks

It's been a busy term; many thanks to everyone who has supported taiohi in their learning and everyday wellbeing. Events and activities that make school more than in-class lessons wouldn't happen without the support of staff, parents, our student leaders, and many others. Activities like Spirit Week, Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori, Thames Art exhibition, music, and drama performances, hosting international students, and so much more, have been highlights. Thank you very much.

It has been brilliant, after years of covid-19 disruptions, that we have got back to relatively normal. That means that events like winter sports tournaments, the Northcote Sports Exchange and the Careers Expo all happened for the first time in years.

Northcote sports exchange



It was a privilege to visit Northcote College and see our teams represent us so well. We look forward to hosting next year. I discovered that we have some similarities about the two schools:

- Our traditional mottos - Thames High: *Ut prosim patriae* (to be of service or worthy to our country) and Northcote College *Ut prosim aliis* (to be of service to others)
- Our ages – Thames High 1880, Northcote College 1877
- Our colours – uniforms both dark navy blue and blue / gold as sport colours.



Northcote College is a school of almost 1200 and we are a school of 400 so it is a big challenge for us. While the results meant Northcote took out the exchange, the Senior A Netball meant we had a great win on the board. The senior Rugby team had two very close seven's matches, with margins of only two and five.

It was exciting to see a school which is about to undergo a huge transformation to modernise their buildings and cater for large roll growth as a local special housing estate is developed. At Thames High we continue to invest in the improvements in our buildings, with the next five-year plan being approved this year. Much of this work will begin next year, and includes significant roofing improvements, ongoing maintenance and refurbishments in the music and technology areas.

Attendance and pathways

It's been challenging with ongoing absences that makes continuity of learning difficult – many thanks to teachers for doing their very best to help taiohi to catch up and to be flexible with assessments this year. We know that we, like many other communities and schools, have a lot of work to do to make regular attendance at school. Hence the national campaign, "[Every School Day is a Big Day](#)". Times are challenging and I encourage you to contact me, or others in the school to help with anything that can make coming to school easier or better.

Having the Kickstart breakfast has added an extra dimension to the start of each day. Thanks so much to Ann Hoover, Lisa Barnett, Shannon Paki and all the volunteers for making this happen.

Many of our young people are working part-time and several seniors have successfully transitioned to employment and apprenticeships; these are great successes to go with the increasing numbers of students who are completing their NCEA qualifications. Keeping our eye on the future we want the best for all taiohi whatever their pathway.

While it is about to happen, the Senior Ball is another event to look forward to, and many thanks to the senior leaders who have worked with many others, and supported by our senior kaiāwhina, Ms Fletcher and Business Manager Mrs Baker.

Have a refreshing and safe spring break, connecting with whānau and friends.

Michael Hart
Tumuaki / Principal

Board Matters

Thanks to parent representatives

As announced in the [last pānui](#) we have a newly elected school board. Being a board member is an important service to our community as many hours are spent contributing to, setting, and monitoring the strategic direction and progress of the school. The board stay up to date with the school business, reading long reports, staying informed about financial, property and employment matters along with achievement outcomes. They are committed to [their governance role](#), to keep the 'big picture' in mind and meeting their legislative responsibilities, as set out in the Education and Training Act 2020 (Section 127, in particular). They are called upon to address matters of discipline and many complex issues.

On behalf of our community, many thanks to the parent representatives' board members who have served this term (2019-2022), many of whom have served more than one term. In alphabetical order:

Krishna Duffin (to 2021), Whaea Mary Hamilton (presiding member or board chair); Bruce Hinson (deputy board chair); Whaea Mel Reidy; Martin Rodley; Jared Stein; Murray Wakelin (to 2022).

They achieved significant changes to the vision, mission and strategic plan and many improvements to the school. Highlights include the redevelopment of A block (Science / mathematics), the Jack Mclean Community Recreation Centre, Te Puna o Te Pito Mata (the Wharenuī), the international block, refurbishments of C block (English) the improvements to the front of the school and the library courtyard, the hall foyer toilets, and kitchen, as well as make significant improvements to the ICT infrastructure of the school. They strengthened connection and partnership with Mana whenua, Ngāti Maru, and our commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Many of the improvements were recognised by the [ERO evaluation in 2021](#), having addressed areas for improvement noted in 2019. This progress has also been in the context of dealing with covid since 2020.

Once again, a huge thank you, for setting the foundation from which we will continue to improve.

Michael Hart
Tumuaki / Principal



Co-opted Board Member

With our commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi, the board resolved in August that it would endeavour to have at least two Māori members. If not, it would seek to co-opt, including a representative that was supported or endorsed by Ngāti Maru.

At the first board hui held on Tuesday 27 September for the newly elected board members, the board fulfilled that resolution by co-opting the endorsed member from Ngāti Maru, Whaea Kathy Ngamane.

E te Whaea, kei a tatou te Waimarie

Brendon Wilkinson
Deputy Presiding Member

Tumuaki Tuarua / Deputy Principal Appointed



Kō Mākeo te maunga
Kō Waiāua te awa
Kō Omarumutu te marae
Kō Tutāmure te whare tipuna
Kō Hine-i-Kauia te wharekai
Kō Ngati Ruatakena te hapū
Kō Mataatua te Waka
Kō Te Whakatohea te Iwi
Kō Papuni te whanau
Ano, he tamiati o te Ao Kotoa
ahau!

I am excited to begin a new chapter of my life here in Thames and with Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga whānau. I look forward to meeting you all! – Mrs P Keet

The Thames High School Board is pleased to announce the appointment of Mrs Penny Keet as Tumuaiki / Tuarua Deputy Principal. The board was very appreciative that we had strong interest in this position and are confident that Mrs Keet has the skills, qualities, and experience to provide leadership in our continued journey of improvement and commitment ensuring equity and excellence for all.

Mrs Keet has been in the Acting Deputy Principal role since Term 2. Mrs Keet joined us last year as the Assistant Head of English and then Head of English, following the retirement of Mrs Hurley. In 2021, Mrs Keet returned to Aotearoa New Zealand after many years away and to make a new home. Mrs Keet has established great relationships with taiohi, kaimahi, whānau and community representatives and is committed to strengthening these connections.

Mrs Keet, while relatively new to our kura / school, brings a vast experience of school leadership and excellence in teaching, in a wide range of contexts, both in Aotearoa New Zealand and internationally. These experiences and attributes complement the others in the senior leadership team as we work with the School Board and ensure that our strategic plan is implemented. She has a strong commitment to our Te Ao Māori strategic plan and culturally responsive leadership and pedagogy. With all the changes to curriculum and assessment in the next few years, there is a lot to do.

Please join us to congratulate Mrs Keet on her appointment.

Michael Hart
Tumuaki / Principal

Year 9 Option selections for Year 10 2023

Current Year 9 taiohi will soon complete the first step for option selections for 2023. The first step is for taiohi to use School Point to select the options that they would like to select. This will provide key information for options to be offered and will inform our Timetable team.

The timeline for the option selection has changed as we have set up the options in School Point. So the final selections will be during Week 1, Term 4. Information will be sent to whānau, taiohi and kaiako (family, students and teachers) with options open for selection from Wednesday 19 October and closing on Friday 28 October.

Natalie O'Neil
Tumuaki Tuarua / Deputy Principal

Team / Group Photos

Team or group photos will be available for purchase from Tuesday 25 October. The code for your child's photos will be made available, and you can then email Mark Brown from **One-of-a-Kind Photography** to order. Thanks to Mark Brown for taking these photos for us.

Sharyn Baker
Business Manager

Sports / Tournaments

Tournament week 2022 (28 August - 2 September)

After 2 years of interruptions with COVID 19 and limited sports, we were able to resume tournament week for 2022 seeing two of our senior teams attend.

Thames High School Senior A netball team travelled to Auckland, playing at the Pakuranga Netball Centre. Over the 5 days the girls played 2 games a day, playing teams from all around the North Island. It was a very hard competition and as much as they would have liked a couple more wins, it was certainly an awesome experience for our netball players. The team was placed in the top 65 teams out of 135. We are looking forward to 2023, with many of our players returning.



The Senior Boys football team travelled to New Plymouth, with games being held at New Plymouth Boys High School and Te Mete Park. Playing two games a day against other strong teams saw our boys get some good wins. We finished in 10th place.



Both teams would like to thank their Coaches and Managers for all the hard work prior to and during tournament week - such as organising fundraising events, trainings, equipment, transport, meal preparation at tournament. Tournament week wouldn't be possible without our volunteer coaches and managers.

Special thanks to all our sponsors - without our sponsors we would not have been able to send our players to tournament. We cannot thank you all enough.

Eva Hammond Scholarship Trust Award

Any past students, or students who are within 6 months of leaving Thames High School, who are about to commence a course of tertiary education for that purpose, are eligible to apply.

The purpose of the award is to give financial assistance to eligible current or past students to start a recognised course of tertiary education, and with priority given to university education wherever possible. The assistance should benefit students in financial need and such other deserving qualities that the Trustees may elect.

You can click [here](#) for an application form. Applications close Friday 14 October (4.00 pm)

Tracey Reed
Principal's PA

Careers / Gateway

Great opportunities for our students being provided by local members of our school community.

Special thanks to John Liddell from Liddell Builders who has given **Amber Wenzlick** (Year 13) the opportunity to gain practical skills on the building site.

Amber signed up to BCITO at the beginning of 2022 and she has been working hard with her online modules.

Liddell Builders have provided a work experience placement for Amber to allow her to be hands on and gain more experience in her chosen career path as a builder



Tess Watts
Vocational Assistant

Teachers wanted – government initiatives

You may know people in your networks of friends and family that may be interested in some of these initiatives to get into or back into teaching.

- Career changer scholarships - To encourage people to change career and become a teacher. Course fees and \$30, 000 per year of study.

[Take your place alongside our young people – TeachNZ](#)

[Te Waka Whakareki Career Changer Scholarship – TeachNZ](#)

- Teacher Education Refresh programme - getting people back into teaching. Costs of the refresher course paid.

[Teacher education refresh – TeachNZ](#)

- Overseas relocation grant - you may know teachers overseas who could be attracted to NZ with up to \$10K relocation grant

[Overseas trained teachers relocation grant – TeachNZ](#)

Community Notices

Youth Drama Workshop

Workshop Tutors, Asha Peppiatt and Sherrie Roue-Walker are holding a school holidays youth drama workshop for youth aged 7-15 years of age from Saturday 1st October to Monday 3rd October (inclusive).

Participants will learn basic drama skills - voice, stage presence, self-confidence, improvisation skills, Imagination and creativity.

For more information click [here](#)

Asha & Sherrie
Workshop Tutors



Key Dates 2022

Dates may be subject to change and will be advised.

Term 3: Monday 25 Jul to Friday 30 Sept

Fri 30 Sept **End of Term 3**

Sat 1 Oct Senior Ball

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

Mon 24 Oct Labour Day

Wed 16 Nov to Fri 18 Nov **Junior School Exams** (Y9-10)

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- Fri 2 Dec NCEA Exams start

Fri 25 Nov **Teacher Only Day**
- NCEA Accord Day

Mon 28 **Teacher Only Day**
- NCEA Accord Day

Mon 5 Dec Junior Prize giving

Tue 6 Dec - Year 9 and 10 end of year activities.

Thu 8 Dec Includes Year 10 camps.

Fri 9 Dec Teacher only day
Last day Term 4

Key Dates 2023

Dates may be subject to change and will be advised.

Thu 26 Jan 2022 Staff only days
Fri 27 Jan 2022

Mon 30 Jan 2023 Anniversary Day (holiday)

**Tue 31 Jan Course Confirmation Day
(Years 11-13)**

Wed 1 Feb **Powhiri for new students**
(All Year 13 in support)
School starts for Year 9
Orientation for Year 9

Thu 2 Feb School starts for all Years 10-13
Timetable commences

Mon 6 Feb Waitangi Day (holiday)

Tue 7 Feb School term continues.

Thu 6 Apr End of Term 1

Fri 7 Apr – Sun 23 Apr School holidays
Includes Good Friday, Easter Monday, and Easter Tuesday

Term 2: Monday 24 April to Friday 30 June

Sat 1 July – Sun 16 July School holidays
(includes Matariki 14 July)

Term 3: Monday 17 July to Friday 22 September

Sat 23 Sept – Sun 8 Oct School holidays

Term 4: Monday 9 October to Friday 15 December 2023*.

** Likely to be earlier once teacher only days are confirmed.*

