



Whānau Pānui – 23 February 2023

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Mufti Day Fundraiser

We are having a Mufti Day Fundraiser on **Friday 24 February** to raise funds to help those affected by the devastating storm caused by Cyclone Gabrielle.

Taiohi / students are encouraged to give a donation of at least \$2 where proceeds raised will go to the Red Cross and/or Mayoral Relief Funds. Red Cross is on the ground dealing with immediate welfare needs and supporting people's emotional, practical and social needs. Mayoral Relief Funds help local communities support whānau, community organisations and marae after an emergency.



The dress code for Mufti Day is clothing, although casual, that must be appropriate for a school workplace environment. This includes, but may not be limited to:

- No slogans referring to smoking, alcohol and drugs, any sexual connotations.
- Footwear is to be smart/casual. School shoes will be issued to taiohi / students who wear inappropriate footwear. Suitable footwear i.e. enclosed shoes must be worn for practical classes (Health & PE, Science and Technology)

- The normal expectations of hair colour apply, so please do not colour your hair for this day.
- Do not bring any props or costumes, as they may be inappropriate or be a distraction to learning in the classroom e.g. no onesies, no themed outfits, or costumes.
- No bandanas are to be worn.

Should clothing that is deemed as not suited to the school workplace, the school reserves the right to ask students to change either into provided school uniform, if available, or the item(s) may be corrected with the help of caregivers / whānau. For consistency, decisions about what does and does not meet the standards above will be decided by members of the Senior Leadership Team. Parent and caregivers / whānau support is expected and appreciated.

Whanaungatanga – Making Connections

On Wednesday 22 February we held a meet the Rōpū kaitiaki / teacher of our Year 9 taiohi / students and meet other kaimahi / staff. This afternoon was about making connections **Whanaungatanga**. The afternoon was enjoyed by all with a BBQ and questions asked and answered. We enjoyed meeting you and your whānau.

Sports Day

On Wednesday 1 March all taiohi / students will be participating in Sports Day.

Thames High School Athletics is about participation for all taiohi / students who will rotate through the Athletics events in their age groups. Everyone needs to have a go at each event and those that wish to improve their result will jump/throw/run more.

Top eight in each event will be recorded and gain house points for their result and you could also be named as the Age Group Athletics Champion.

From each event, if you meet the Thames Valley qualifying mark, Mrs Fletcher will see you about attending Thames Valley Athletics in a few weeks.

Taiohi wear their House colours, bring water bottles, snacks, sunblock, sunhat. The school canteen will be open for the morning and lunch breaks.

Sausage Sizzle for \$2 will be available with funds going to the Flood Relief.

Selected Athletic Events

On Monday 6 March we will hold the selected Athletic events **1500m, 3000m Javelin and Discus** for taiohi / students who have signed up. See Mrs Tess Watts, Sports Coordinator if you require help with signing up.

SPORTS DAY Terrific Surprise

400m Run Triple Jump
Shot Put 200m Sprint

800m Run High Jump
100m Sprint Long Jump
Vortex Throw

Wednesday 1 March
All Students
Wear House Colours
Sausage Sizzle -
proceeds to Flood Relief



Swimming Sports

The 2023 Swimming sports was held on Friday 10 February. A special thank you to parents and the community who helped on the day.

Plenty of fun was had by all and congratulations to our Year 13 taiohi / students who managed to take out the teacher vs students' race. Well done to our Sports leaders and House leaders for the awesome house spirit, enjoyment and participation by all taiohi / students.

Congratulations to our 30 competitive swimmers who participated in the majority of the 12 events. We have some very talented swimmers.

Congratulations to our Age Group Champions

Junior Champions

Isayah Boyd
Nova Sawyer
Nakiesha Peter **runner up**



Intermediate Champions

Austin Court
Lexi Rohrlach
Lorenzo Yamamoto **runner-up**
Romie Dargaville /
Milla Sawyer **runners-up**



Senior Champions

Eric Langeneckert
Jess Sara
Millar Morton /
Kyla Wilson **runners up**

Thames Valley Swimming champs is being held on Wednesday 8 March. Good luck to THS swimmers who will be representing our kura.

Tessa Watts
Sports Coordinator

Upcoming Careers Events

- Drivers Licence all day course on 27 & 28 February to be held in the THS library.
- University of Auckland visit for Year 12 & 13 students on 10 March in the Careers Centre.
- University of Waikato visit for Year 12 & 13 students on 15 March in the Careers Centre.
- First Aid all day course to be held on 20th & 21st March in the THS library.
- Canterbury University visit for Year 12 & 13 students on the 24 March in the Careers Centre.

Leanne Donovan
Careers Advisor

Homestay Families Wanted

Thames High School is pleased to welcome back international students in 2023. We are now on the lookout for more homestay families.

Term 2 (2 Terms)

- 3 Host families for German female students
- 1 Host family for a Japanese female student

Click this [link](#) for more information or contact Pauline text 027 536 1001 or email internationalsupport@thameshigh.school.nz

Industrial Action

The proposed employment contract for teaching staff has not been agreed between the Ministry of Education and the PPTA Te Wehengarua members (the secondary teachers' union).

The PPTA has advised of two actions.

1. A ban on relief, Term 1 2023.
2. Proposed strike, 16 March 2023.

Ban on relief

When teachers are absent for whatever reason, including sickness, trips, professional development, and many other reasons, we look to employ relief teachers to cover classes.

When we do not have sufficient cover as there may be no relievers available, we ask teachers to volunteer to forgo their non-contact time to cover classes, and we are generally very fortunate that staff agree. It has been especially difficult during covid times to get enough relievers. This is the banned activity – union members are not allowed to agree to use their non-teaching time to cover another class. This may be an issue especially when we have short notice absences, such as sickness.

What this means is that the amount of cover that we have available is less flexible, and that may mean we are short of staff. A range of approaches may be taken, including (but not excluding other ways):

- Combining classes and supervising them with one teacher rather than two.
- Reduce the number of times 'discretionary leave' is granted to lessen the chances of shortages.
- Rostering home a year level to allow more cover for classes that remain at school. This may mean we say school is open for Years 9-11, but not Year 12 and 13s, etc.

We would aim to give as much notice as possible if we are short of staff.

As the action is for Term 1, and sickness is normally lower than other terms, we hope we are not left short of staff, and hope we can manage any shortages of teachers, with having to roster home or combine classes.

We have several relieving teachers, but they are in lots of demand by other schools.

Potential strike day

PPTA Te Wehengarua members have voted for a one-day national strike in Term 1 2023.

They have advised the date for this strike is **Thursday 16 March 2023**.

Formal notice will be given by Monday 13 March.

Hopefully the strike will not go ahead, and the parties will continue negotiations and reach agreement.

As most of our teachers are union members we would be unable to safety staff the school, and would advise students to remain at home. We have some capacity to supervise younger students if needed.

Ngā manaakitanga

Michael Hart

Tumuaki / Principal

principal@thameshigh.school.nz

07 868 8688

Key dates 2023

Dates are **subject to change** and will be advised.

Term 1:	Wednesday 1 February to Thursday 6 April
Fri 24 Feb	Muffi Day Fundraiser
Mon 27 Feb	Board hui 5.30 – 7.30 pm <i>Te Puna O Te Pito Mata (Wharenui)</i>
Wed 1 Mar	House Sports Day (aka Athletics)
Wed 8 Mar -	Year 13 Camp
Fri 10 Mar	
Thur 16 Mar	Potential Strike Day for Teachers
Mon 27 Mar	Board hui 5.30 – 7.30 pm <i>Te Puna O Te Pito Mata (Wharenui)</i>
Fri 31 Mar	Class ID Photos
Thur 6 Apr	Last day of Term 1
Fri 7 Apr –	School holidays
Sun 23 Apr	(Includes Good Friday, Easter Monday, and Easter Tuesday)
Term 2:	Wednesday 26 April to Friday 30 June
Mon 24 Apr	School closed for instruction.
Tues 25 Apr	ANZAC Day (holiday)
Wed 26 Apr	Term 2 – Day 1 starts
Wed 3 May	THS Cross Country
Fri 19 May	Pink Shirt Day & Bully Free
Mon 29 May	Board hui 5.30 – 7.30 pm <i>Te Puna O Te Pito Mata (Wharenui)</i>
Mon 29 May	Senior School Ball
Mon 5 Jun	King's Birthday (holiday)
Mon 26 Jun	Board hui 5.30 – 7.30 pm <i>Te Puna O Te Pito Mata (Wharenui)</i>
Fri 30 Jun	Last day of Term 2
Sat 1 July –	School holidays
Sun 16 July	(includes Matariki 14 July)

Term 3:	Monday 17 July to Friday 22 Sept
Mon 17 Jul	Term 3 – Day 1 starts
Mon 24 Jul	Spirit Week (TBC)
Mon 31 Jul	Board hui 5.30 – 7.30 pm <i>Te Puna O Te Pito Mata (Wharenui)</i>
Fri 25 Aug	Daffodil Day
Mon 28 Aug	Board hui 5.30 – 7.30 pm <i>Te Puna O Te Pito Mata (Wharenui)</i>
Tue 29 Aug	School Photos
Mon 11 Sep	Te Wiki o te reo Māori Haka Wars
Mon 18 Sep	Mental Health week
Fri 22 Sept	Last day of Term 3
Sat 23 Sept –	School holidays
Sun 8 Oct	
Term 4:	Monday 9 October to Friday 8 December 2023
Mon 9 Oct	Term 3 – Day 1 starts
Tues 17 Oct	Sports Awards
Thurs 19 Oct	SLeavers Dinner
Mon 23 Oct	Labour Day (holiday)
Mon 30 Oct	Board hui 5.30 – 7.30 pm <i>Te Puna O Te Pito Mata (Wharenui)</i>
Tues 7 Nov	Senior Prizegiving 7.00 pm
Mon 27 Nov	Board hui 5.30 – 7.30 pm <i>Te Puna O Te Pito Mata (Wharenui)</i>
Mon 4 Dec	Junior Prizegiving
Tue 5 Dec –	End-of-year activities for Years 9 and 10
Thu 7 Dec	
Fri 8 Dec	Last day of Term 4

