

Whānau Pānui (Newsletter) Update – 21 July 2023

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Tumuaki / principal's message

Naumai hāere mai, naumai hoki mai – welcome and welcome back to the third term.

We held a special assembly on Wednesday to start the term, welcoming everyone back and new students who have joined us from Germany, Japan, and France, presenting a Kākahu (Māori cloak) to Kartiana Lee (manukura Māori), recognising Matariki, and farewelling our wonderful tumuaki tuarua (deputy principal), Mrs O'Neil.



Term three is packed full of activities including Spirit Week and the Northcote College sports exchange next week.

Mānawatia a Matariki

Ngā mihi o Matariki, te tau hou Māori, happy Māori new year, a time where we honour those who have passed in the last year, reflect on the past and look forward and share kai with whānau and friends.

At our assembly, Whaea Rawinia spoke of the importance of Matariki to Pare Hauraki. Mātai Whetū and other places in Hauraki were used to study the stars, Pare Hauraki has a narrative of seven stars (Te Paki o Matariki – The Widespread Calm of Pleiades) – Matariki, Waitī, Waitā, Waipuna-ā-rangi, Tupu-ā-nuku, Tupu-ā-rangi, and Uru-rangi.



Te Paki o Matariki

Ka kite / Farewell Mrs O'Neil

After 8 years at our school, Mrs O'Neil was farewelled warmly. She leaves us to focus on whānau and farming. Mrs O'Neil has built great relationships with taiohi and whānau and our contributing schools, ensuring that transition to high school is as smooth and supported as possible. She has overseen significant changes in the junior school curriculum and our pastoral care network.



Kia kaha, Kia māia, Kia manawanui

Be strong, be brave, be steadfast.



Acting Deputy Principal

While the board completes the recruitment of a new deputy principal, Ms Slee (Head of Health and PE) has stepped up for extra responsibilities, along with Ms Green, and Ms Yorke.

Ms Slee – will oversee the junior school and pastoral team at the school and Ms Green (Year 9 Kaiāwhina) will be responsible for several areas, including the transition / enrolment process of our incoming Year 8s for next year. Ms Yorke (Year 10 Kaiāwhina) will assist Ms Green in this role.

For us to allow this to happen we have had to make some changes to classes and other responsibilities for term three and possibly into early term four.

Mr Harrison will be acting Head of Health and PE, and Mr Watson will be teaching in the Health and PE department along with a Year 9 digital technology class.

Have your say!

Many thanks to the many parents / caregivers and taura (students) who have completed the surveys, from the last pānui (5 July 2023).

The surveys will close **Friday 28 July**.

- **Uniform guidelines** – [LINK TO Uniform Guidelines SURVEY](#)
- **Phone use in school** - [LINK TO PHONE USE SURVEY](#)

Parent Forum

We invite whānau to the next Parent Forum hui to be held on **Monday 24 July** at **6.00** pm in our staffroom; enter via the main entrance.

The topic for Monday 24 July is an opportunity for us to hear parent voice on our developing 'graduate profile'. This will be in the form of a mini-workshop lead by deputy principal, Mrs Keet.

What aspirations do you have for your child? What qualities and competencies do you expect them to gain from or develop at school? How can we ensure we meet your expectations?

Our aim is to gather perspectives, alongside those from teachers and students to make a clear vision for our young people, one that we can display and say – this is what we aim to achieve.

Looking ahead to Monday 21 August we are looking forward to a Netsafe / Police presentation.

NetSafe and Police Education

For your calendar – **Monday 21 August 2023 at 5.30 pm**



- We are working with police (Senior Constable Brian Connors and [NetSafe](#)) to run an information / education session for parents / caregivers / whānau.
- We will invite parents / caregivers from all local schools.



Whānau and Community Presentation (60-90 minutes)

In this presentation, Netsafe Education and Schools Team cover key online safety messages for parents and whānau. We provide information and tools to support tamariki in navigating online environments and safely managing the challenges and risks.

We will explore:

- Quick starter tips for parents, whānau and young people.
- Information to enhance your digital parenting knowledge.
- Details about the online risks and challenges your child may face.
- Advice about how you can help your child if something goes wrong online.

We will also run a session for staff at school that covers important information for safety.

Staying Safe Online in Learning Environments (60 minutes)

In this session, we unpack what a digital citizen is, how this relates to school values and culture, and the resources available to support learning opportunities for ākonga. We also explore how the learning can involve whānau, caregivers, and members of your school community.

We will explore:

- Agreements to foster safe and effective classroom and home learning.
- Developing a learner profile on digital devices to support effective active use online.
- Strategies for ākonga to reduce, minimise, and respond to online harm.
- Leadership opportunities to develop and promote online safety for your ākonga.



Spirit Week

Along with regular classes we can enjoy Spirit Week activities.

Spirit Week 24 - 28 July (second week Term 3) is an explosion of fun, creativity, sport, and culture, builds house spirit. Our senior leaders are very excited about the events they have planned to include lunchtime activities.

- **Tuesday 25 July** is Northcote Sports Exchange (see below).
- **Wednesday 26 July** is Pyjama Day with lunchtime activities.
- **Thursday 27 July** is Dress In Your Future Career Day with lunchtime activities.
- **Friday 28 July** is House Colours Day – with activities in the afternoon.

Taiohi / students are encouraged to dress up on Pyjama Day and Future Career Day and give a gold coin donation (\$2), where proceeds will go to a charity of the Student Leaders' choice.

Muffi Day Dress Code

The dress code for Muffi 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, that may be inappropriate or be a distraction to learning in the classroom.
- No bandanas are to be worn.

Northcote Sports Exchange

Regular classes will be held all day.

Only those students playing sports will be out of class. Two games are playing at lunchtime and students can spectate then.

We invite whānau to come along to the Northcote Sports Exchange held at Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga / Thames High School on **Tuesday 25 July**.

9.30 am Powhiri outside the Te Puna O Te Pito Mata (Wharenui) to welcome Northcote visitors.

Click the [link](#) for the full timetable of the day.

Carolyn Green / Tess Watts
TIC Sports / Sports Coordinator

Reporting to Whānau

Each year taiohi / students receive three reports, one 'interim / progress report in Term One and Two reports, one in Term Two followed by an opportunity to meet teachers, and one in Term Four to conclude the year.

Parents / caregivers are reminded that you can monitor the attendance and achievement of your tamariki / child through the [parent portal](#), as assessments are completed, and results are published.

Changes to Year 9 & Year 10 Programmes

Junior taiohi / students will have all Term 2 grades updated in the web portal during Week 2 on **Wednesday 26 July**. Whānau will receive an email with key login information. Please check out the grades and comments of the mahi completed in Term 2.

Senior taiohi / students, along with their Whānau will receive an NCEA update on **Thursday 3 August**. This is an updated view of credits that have been completed, moderated and entered into our system. Please note taiohi students may have assessments that are not yet showing on this update, please continue to check out the web portal for up-to-date information on NCEA credits.

Natalie O'Neil
Tumuaki tuarua / deputy principal

Open Evening

Prospective taiohi / students and their whānau are invited to attend an Open Evening to be held on **Monday 7 August** at 6.00 pm in the school hall.

Please click the [link](#) for more information.

Careers / Gateway

Get your Learners License

The Thames Community Centre will pay for driver's license test fees and courses [FREE](#) for people who are willing to give some volunteer hours back to the community.

If you are interested, you are invited to visit Mrs Donovan in the careers office or email leannedonovan@thameshigh.school.nz

Leanne Donovan
Careers Advisor

Michael Hart
Tumuaki / Principal
principal@thameshigh.school.nz



Key dates 2023

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

Term 3: Monday 17 July to Friday 22 Sept

Mon 17 Jul	Term 3 – Day 1 starts Te Ao Māori Strategic Ohu (TAMSO)
Mon 24 July	Parents Forum 6.00 pm – 7.30 pm
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>
Mon 14 Aug	Te Ao Māori Strategic Ohu (TAMSO)
Mon 21 Aug	Parents Forum 5.30 pm – 7.30 pm - Netsafe/Police presentation
Fri 25 Aug	Daffodil Day
Sun 27 Aug - Sat 2 Sept	UNISS Netball Tournament / Tournament Week Football Senior
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	Parents Forum Mental Health week
Fri 22 Sept	Last day of Term 3
Sat 23 Sept – Sun 8 Oct	School holidays

Term 4: Monday 9 October to Friday 8 December 2023

Mon 9 Oct	Term 3 – Day 1 starts
Mon 16 Oct	Te Ao Māori Strategic Ohu (TAMSO)
Tues 17 Oct	Sports Awards
Thurs 19 Oct	Senior Leavers 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 13 Nov	Te Ao Māori Strategic Ohu (TAMSO)
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 – Thu 7 Dec	End-of-year activities for Years 9 and Years 10
Fri 8 Dec	Last day of Term 4

School Summer Holidays Begin

