

APRIL 2019

MĀORI PASIFIKA SUPPORT GROUP



*Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi.
My strength is not the strength of one. It is the strength of many.*

COMING UP IN TERM 2...

**Week 2 (Friday 10th
May @ 9.00):** Junior
Kapa Haka performing
@ Junior Assembly

Week 2 (6 - 12 May):
NZ Sign Language
Week

Week 4 (22 & 23 May):
Student Led
Conferences

**Week 5 (26 May - 1
June):** Samoan
Language Week
+
(28 May @ 6.30pm)
Māori Pasifika
Support Group
Whānau Hui

PASIFIKA LUNCH

Term One, 2019

We held our very first Pasifika Lunch during Week 9 last term. It was a huge success with the children. Our learners were sent invitations and asked to bring along something they were proud of.

Most of the children were pretty unsure what to expect and a bit shy coming in. They mixed into small groups of different ages to share their learning or item they were proud of. Michael Maher, Ingrid May, Claire Fromow, Emma Johnson and Amy Thurston sat with groups and gathered their ideas and thinking about school: *What do you love about St Thomas's School? What is one thing we could do to bring more of your culture into the school? What can we do to help you in your learning?*

Students said they love sports, the people and the playgrounds. They would like more Pasifika songs, greetings and groups and a Pasifika night market would be great! Overall, it was a huge success with huge smiles all around. We have learnt a lot and look forward to doing it better next term.



UPDATES ...

KAPA HAKA

We have split Kapa Haka into Junior (Year 0-3) and Senior (Year 4-8). The Junior group is being lead by Amy Thurston and meets once a week. We aim to have one in school performance each term.

Our Senior group will be lead by a Kapa Haka specialist teacher who Amy Thurston will work alongside. This will also develop the foundations for holding regular pōwhiri for new whānau and special visitors in our school.

We will be updating the uniforms this year with support from the PTA. We would like the uniforms to be similar to a navy or teal shift dress with a detachable patterned waist panel for the girls. The boys would have similar rapaki with matching patterned waist band.

If you're pretty handy with a sewing machine or a pair of scissors we would love your help at our sewing bee once we have finalised patterns and fabric. Let Amy know if you could lend a hand.

DID YOU KNOW?

We have dual language books here at St Thomas's School. They come in English and a range of Pasifika Languages. If you would like to have these books coming home with your child, please ask your child's teacher or contact Amy Thurston directly.

FEEDBACK FROM WHĀNAU

We love and value your feedback. At our recent hui we were discussing things we would love to see more of at St Thomas's School:

- * Cultural Days
- * Learners sharing cultural artifacts
- * Grandparents coming into the school to share their knowledge
- * Using waiata to learn the language
- * Having a focus country for the learners Pasifika lunch with dishes from the culture

CONTACT

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If you no longer wish to be part of our mailing list, please email Amy to be removed.

Privacy issues mean we can only help if you ask!! Tell your friends and family about us. Join our support group. Offer your help. We grow stronger together. Arohanui.