

Dear Parents, Caregivers, Students, Friends & Supporters

We are already at the half way mark for Term 1! It has been very pleasing to see how our students have settled into their routines and classwork over the past few weeks. Special congratulations go to the new students at Year 7 (and other levels) who have quickly taken up the expectations of the college. We trust that they will continue to take up the challenges in both their classroom and co-curricular activities as the year progresses.

### St Thomas Aquinas Development Strategic Planning

The Hamilton Diocese (through Graeme Roil, the Schools Property Manager) is developing a long term plan for the development of the Aquinas College site. This includes the future growth of the college and the potential use of the property adjacent to the college which was purchased by the Diocese last year.

As part of this planning strategy the planning group wants to engage all of the major stakeholders over the next two months. This will include the staff and students, and the parents/caregivers of our current and future students. Staff and student meetings will occur over the next two weeks. For the parents and caregivers the group is planning a workshop where there will be background information provided and an opportunity for interested people to take part in discussion around the potential development of the college and adjacent site. **This workshop is planned for Thursday 23rd March at 6.00 – 7.00pm in the college staffroom.**

Ray Scott  
Principal

### A newly refurbished Food Technology room makes space for more students.

**It has been in the design and development stages with the Diocese for over a year, but in Week 5 this term the keys were handed over to a refurbished Food Technology facility in Room 7.**

This teaching space was previously a mix between a commercial kitchen facility and a theory room for both junior and senior classes. The major constraint was the need to share one full kitchen facility between all Foods classes, which at any given time of the year may consist of two Year 7 and Year 8 classes, three Year 10, two Year 11, two Year 12 and a Year 13 class. It's fair to say that we have grown over the years. With class sizes at Year 7 and 8 at 30, the need for a bigger room with more kitchen stations has become a necessity.

The new layout has eight stations compared to the five in Room 6.

As we continue with the unpacking and setting-up phase, one of Mr Webb's Year 11 classes christened the room with a round of pizzas for lunch.

This facility has been long awaited and augers well to be an exciting teaching and learning space for the Technology Faculty.



Inside the newly refurbished Food Technology Room.

### Parish of St Thomas Aquinas Family Mass and Picnic Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2017, 10am

#### Aquinas College Action Centre

Bishop Steve will celebrate Mass. Two years in the administrative process, the Parish of St Thomas Aquinas is now official! The 2017 student leaders will be invested during the Mass. The joy of such an occasion will be celebrated afterwards with a family picnic. Bouncy castle, sausage sizzle, doughnuts and coffee to supplement your picnic lunch.



### BOT Policies for Review ~ March 2017

- 5.7 Cyber Safety
- 5.13 Sexual Harassment
- 5.14 Traumatic Incident

These policies can be viewed in full on the school website <http://www.aquinas.school.nz/policies>. Policies up for review are highlighted - simply click on the policy name to view it. Any amendments/comments should be made on the Review Response Form (download from the same website page) and returned to the school by Monday 20th March.

Culture & Ethos Committee

### MISSION STATEMENT

*To educate students in the Catholic tradition of faith and love, recognising the uniqueness of the individual, and challenging them to realise their potential in a multicultural environment that constantly strives for excellence.*

# View from the Bleachers

*A new initiative from an anonymous student, will see an article written each month on an issue of the author's choice. You can look forward to some stirring stuff....*

## Participation versus Perfectionism

Your high school years. Some claim the best years of your life. Others the worst. How do you make the most of it? At the beginning of every year there is a noticeable increase in motivation and determination. Perhaps this stems from a blazing New Year's resolution, maybe fear after bad NCEA results, or the chance at a fresh start. An inkling theory I have is that our modern society breeds perfectionists. Everyone wants their lives to be as squeaky clean as their instagram theme or as edited as their profile picture.

We as a school have such a culture which, in my opinion, results in over-achieving, well-rounded young adults. However on our Athletics Day last week, I noticed the culture shift from perfectionism ..... to participation. More people focused on getting involved with the intention of having fun, interacting in healthy house competition, and making the most of an otherwise ordinary school day. Instead of focusing on being the best with the intention to win.

The emphasis on fun and social connections combined with the raucous inter-house competition may be the balance needed in our lives.

A recent Berkeley University study has just been released to say that the happiest and most successful people in the world are those who are socially connected. Social connections not judged on how many snapchat streaks you have, but the closeness and trust you have with the important people in your life.

Similarly Alfred Naquet said "A society devoted to perfectionist principles will never produce happy citizens". Therefore we should attempt to find a middle ground in our lives. There is always a place for striving for goals and a little competition but dedicating our whole selves to the perfect transcript will never produce happiness.

So before we get wrapped up in the busy-ness of the year we need to remember to take time for participating in things with a social aspect; we need these connections for our success. In the battle of perfectionism versus participation, the dark house, middle ground is the winner. For success, for happiness, and for the best chance at making the most of your high school years.

*see you on the bleachers.....*

## REQUIRED URGENTLY FOR AN AQUINAS FAMILY

**A rental property for a mother and son - short or long term. Contact the school on 543 9032 or admin@aquinas.school.nz if you, or someone you know, can help.**

## Peer Support

Peer Support kicked off on Day 1 of the school year with Year 11 student leaders connecting with our new Year 7 students.

The Peer Support Programme ran for the first four weeks of school and is designed to help our students achieve success at school by developing relationship skills, self-esteem and a sense of belonging. **Topics covered have been the AC respect, resilience and responsibility approach, effective communication, active listening, values and getting in touch with our own feelings and recognising feelings in others.**

This year's Peer Support Programme concluded with a super fun 'Grand Finale' session full of team building activities to see how well the Year 7's and their leaders had connected. The energy, cooperation and positive support for each other in the Grand Finale was not only clearly visible but huge FUN!

Thank you to the Year 11 leaders for making the Year 7's feel they are an important part of our school and are very valued members of our community. **AC is a great place to be!**

Kristen Gilbert (Guidance Counsellor)

## Year 7 Forest Discovery Trip

Week 5 saw the Year 7 classes head to McLaren Falls Park for a day of conservation education. The students had the opportunity to measure trees in order to calculate their age, build pest control boxes, undertake a bird survey and check a pest line to see which pests are found in the park.

Students worked in groups, supported by parents to learn about how our forests have changed with the introduction of pests which are destroying our trees and birdlife. The bird survey highlighted how quiet our forests are now since the introduction of rats, stoats, possums and other pests which are eating eggs and birds, and destroying the habitat.

Huge thanks to our wonderful parents who came along to tramp through the bush (sometimes in the rain!) and to our fantastic students for their excellent behavior and participation.

## Corporate Team Building Experience

Year 12 Business Studies students had the opportunity to participate in a corporate team building experience on the Waiari River. Students underwent a series of navy seal challenges followed by a white water tubing experience on graded 2+ rapids (photo below shows a bit of the action).

Students were organised into their Business Groups with the goal of improving group dynamics and preparing teams for the challenges and successes of running their business. Students will soon form teams and run their own businesses with a community wellbeing focus over the year.





**Performance dates May 11<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> at  
Baycourt Theatre**

**Director: Toni Henderson**

**Musical Director: Mrs Lynda Cooney**

**Choreographer: Laura Mansell**

This pint-sized, pinstriped classic is a tongue-in-cheek tribute to the gangster films of the 1920's.

Based on the hit 1976 film starring a preteen Scott Biao and Jodi Foster and featuring a catchy, swinging score by the composer of The Muppet Movie, Paul Williams. Bugsy Malone is good, clean, comedic fun! Two gangs comprised completely of children, square off in a 1920's rivalry of Capone-ian standards. Dandy Dan's gang has gotten the upper hand since obtaining the "splurge" gun (a weapon that shoots whip cream). Now Fat Sam and his bumbling buffoons are in real trouble! Bugsy Malone, a one-time boxer, is thrust not-so-willingly into the gangster limelight, when he becomes the last chance Fat Sam's gang has of surviving. All Bugsy really wants to do is spend time with his new love Blousey; but that just isn't in the cards for our hero.

Bugsy Malone is a master class in musical comedy. The libretto tosses the reader into uproarious laughter without even being staged. Imagine how delightful it is when it's brought to life.

## BECOMING A SPONSOR

Would you like to donate, or become a sponsor of, this production. School productions are a large and demanding undertaking, both financially and time-wise for students, staff and school boards. Your financial support is really needed for us to successfully mount this show at Baycourt. Without our own school hall, this venue gives our students the opportunity to experience performance to large crowds in a superb facility, with high quality technical and performing arts equipment.

This is a major production involving a 66 very talented students and a large backstage crew. It is the culmination of months of planning and intensive rehearsals by this large group, The budget for this show is tightly-run and as such the school will only break even if we have support from sponsors and receive advertising revenue, as well as good ticket sales.

If you are interested in sponsoring this production in any way please make contact with the Principal's Assistant, Moira Ramsbottom, [admin@aquinas.school.nz](mailto:admin@aquinas.school.nz) or phone on 543-9032.

## SHOW TIME!

**A number of 1920's - 1930's style props are needed for our upcoming school production of Bugsy Malone.**

If you or someone you know have any of the items listed below which we would be able to borrow or you could donate for the show, please contact me via e-mail [jlivingstone@aquinas.school.nz](mailto:jlivingstone@aquinas.school.nz) or leave a message at the school office. I am still looking for the following items.

- Any old wooded dining chairs that would suit the style of the era
- A small Art-Deco style sofa and matching chair
- A small Art-Deco style office desk
- A narrow Art-Deco style drinks cabinet or side-board that would be fit for purpose
- An old cork noticeboard
- A director's chair (black, brown or neutral shade)
- Old wooden baseball bats or any other baseball bat that you wouldn't mind it being painted to look like wood.
- Tin baths and/or washboards
- A vintage candlestick telephone or replica
- An old mop and/or a galvanised mop wringer bucket
- A vintage halo dynamic microphone (round) and/or anything that would make a good microphone stand.
- A vintage photo viewer
- A huge square or rectangular cane basket
- An old tea chest or wooden packing crates
- Ostrich feathers
- Long length of red rope
- A half-finished piece of knitting still on the needles

I would still welcome the donation of any large pieces or large flat sheets of polystyrene, large sheets of corflute (old signs), foam chip, Dacron filling, packaging peanuts or beanbag filling to use for prop making.

Jenny Livingstone  
[jlivingstone@aquinas.school.nz](mailto:jlivingstone@aquinas.school.nz)

## Year 12 Bio Ecology Trip

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February saw both Year 12 Biology classes head to Beach Road, Matua to undertake the annual cockle and whelk count.

Once the tide had receded past the sea lettuce we were underway!

Students sampled approximately 250 metres of beach using quadrats to count all the organisms found there to establish if there were any patterns amongst the populations.

This data will be used to write a comprehensive report linking the environmental factors with the

organisms and how they exploit their niches.

The early calm as we waited for the tide was replaced mid-morning by rain and an enthusiastic sprint to 3pm saw the day finish in style!



## Tarawera Trip – 11ScienceB

Last Thursday 23rd February, the 11B Science class visited Mt Tarawera to take a close up look at the area as they work towards their first internal NCEA standard.

The students have spent the first part of the year investigating the 1886 eruption, its causes, and how it affected the local people. The field trip was a great opportunity to link the

geological theory and history of the area with the diaries and eye witness reports of the people who were there and experienced the eruption first hand.

One highlight of the day was running down the massive scoria slope and in to the crater itself. The scoria and 17km fissure have to be seen to be believed. Special thanks to Mrs McManaway for coming with us and to our amazing students who were a pleasure to share the day with.



## From the Careers Desk

Welcome to 2017 from the Careers Department. We are looking forward to a very constructive year. Our team is: Mr Mikaere Smith our Careers Advisor, Mrs Wendy Consedine, who specialises in Gateway and STAR and Mrs Boniface, the Careers Assistant.

### Availability for appointments:

Mike Smith: (see Careers Noticeboard or School Website for timetable details)

Wendy Consedine: Monday, Tuesday & Thursday mornings

Desiree Boniface: Monday & Friday

### Facebook Page

Please "**Like**" Aquinas College Careers Department and you will receive regular updates of career-related events and interesting information about jobs and study. Remember to also keep an eye on our Careers Noticeboard in H Block and the Careers Department Window. Another important website [careers.govt.nz](http://careers.govt.nz)

Our featured careers from '**Just the Job**' this month are **Automotive** and **Diesel Mechanic**.

## Term 1 Careers Dates

Canterbury University	First School visit	Mon 13 <sup>th</sup> March 1:30	Room 36
Otago University	Liaison School Visit	Mon 13 <sup>th</sup> March 1:30	Room 36
Waikato University	First School Visit	Tues 14 <sup>th</sup> March 12:45pm	Room 36
Massey University	First School Visit	Wed 15 <sup>th</sup> March 11am	Room 36
Defence Careers	Information Visit	Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> March 1:30	Room 36
Cultivate your Career	Industry visits	Wed 29 <sup>th</sup> March 9am	Off site

## Gateway

Our Gateway Programme has started for the year, with 3 students being placed already. We are funded to place 44 students. The rationale behind the Gateway Programme is to "strengthen the pathway for senior students from school to the workplace". It provides a fabulous chance for students to experience real life work (unpaid) and industry relevant training whilst still remaining at school. We recommend the first half of the year is easier than the second half of the school year when students' work loads get heavier.

The Gateway programme ensures students have the opportunity to have their career and qualification pathway well established before they leave college. It provides an opportunity to meet potential employers and to eliminate unsuitable careers. Students are placed with employers one day a week for a minimum of 8 weeks. Gateway positions are always highly sought after. We accept students on a "first in first served basis".

All Gateway students must be involved in the OSH training programme. This two day is highly regarded by all employers, whether for full-time or casual part-time work situations. Students are able to attain 14 credits at level 3 for their attendance at this course.

Any student wishing to enter Nursing or Teaching is strongly advised to have some Gateway experience as the interviewing panel will ask questions about previous experience in the field.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Aquinas College has a number of students who require reader/writer support for assessments. We are looking to increase our pool of volunteers who would be prepared to assist these students several time per term as well as during examinations in September and November.

If you read fluently, with no strong accent, can write legibly and with reasonable speed and would like to help out, please contact Justine Roberts, Special Education Needs Coordinator for more information.

[jroberts@aquinas.school.nz](mailto:jroberts@aquinas.school.nz)  
Ph 543 2400 Ext 235

## TERM 1, KEY DATES

March	5	St Thomas Aquinas Parish Mass & Picnic 10am, AC Gym & Grounds
	7	BOP Athletics, Y9-13, Tauranga Domain
	8	Y9 Science, Rotorua
	9	PTA Twilight Festival, 4-7pm, College grounds
	11	Athletics Waikato Champs, Hamilton
	11/12	BOPSS Volleyball Champs, QEYC Tauranga
	12	BOPSS Touch Champs, Rotorua
	13	International Students Mayoral Welcome
March	15	Y9-13 AC Swimming Sports, Baywave
	15	Staff Consultation Aquinas Parish Land Use
	17	Polyfest, Auckland

20-24	Caritas Week
21/22	Sport Science Expedition
21	Student Consultation Aquinas Parish Land Use 12:45-1:35pm
21	Y10-13 Drama students, Ugly Shakespeare
22	Shakespeare Pop-Up Globe Y10/11
23	Y7/8 AC Swimming Sports, Greerton Pools
23	Parent Consultation Aquinas Parish Land Use 6-7pm, AC Staffroom
24	Geography Trip Coastal Processes
24	Y10 Touch Tournament, AC fields, 12:30-1:30
26-31	Summer Tournament Week
28	PTA Lunch Fundraiser
30	BOT Meeting, Boardroom, 5:30pm
31	Y7/8 Future Cfhampions
April	4/5 Y13 Biology Trip Tiritiri Matangi Island
	6 Y7/8 Attitude Health Presentation
	7-9 SET FREE WEEKEND
	8/9 NISS Athletic Champs, Inglewood
	9 Palm Sunday
	11 Swimming BOP Zone Y7/8 Greerton Pools
	12 Swimming BOPSS Champs, Taupo
	12 HPV 1st Dose Y8
	13 Cross Walk and Easter Liturgy, Last Day T1
	13-17 Hui Aranga, AC
	16-23 New Caledonia Trip



Congratulations to Shaun Campbell on his selection to the NZ Golf Team to travel to the Australian Boys' Amateur. This tournament is to be played in Wollongong from 5-7 April. Outstanding effort Shaun.

## WELCOME TO AQUINAS COLLEGE NETBALL 2017

All netball trials will be held on the netball courts at Aquinas College at the times designated below.

Trialists are to wear appropriate PE gear or an alternative and netball shoes. A filled water bottle is also required courtside and nails must be cut and jewellery removed before starting.

<b>YEAR 7</b>	Mon 13th March	3.30 – 5.30pm
	Sun 19th March	10am -12.30pm
<b>YEAR 8</b>	Mon 13th March	3.30 – 5.30pm
	Sun 19th March	10am -12.30pm
<b>YEAR 9/10 (Junior)</b>	Wed 15th March	3.30 – 5.30pm
	Sun 19th March	12.30 – 2.30pm
<b>YEAR 11 – 13 (Senior)</b>	Wed 15th March	3.30 – 5.30pm
	Sun 19th March	2.30 – 4.00 pm

**Please click on the link below to register for 2017 Netball at Aquinas College**

<http://www.aquinas.school.nz/sports/netball/>

## AQUINAS COLLEGE ATHLETICS SPORTS 2017

The annual Athletics Day was held on Friday 24th February at the Tauranga Domain. A superb day was held in hot, dry conditions, that tested the resilience and resolve of all competitors.

It was great to see the level of competition throughout the day, and the numbers of athletes who took up the challenge to bring home House points for their various teams. The staff were really impressed with the manner in which a keen but competitive spirit was enjoyed by all. Certainly there were some great races and the Field Events saw some special performances.

Several records were broken and a full list of these and final House points will be announced once a final few events have been held. So too will our various age Group Champions. Watch the college Website for these.

To the House Leaders who rallied their troops throughout the day a big "Thanks!!" To the staff who so willingly recorded results, measured throws and jumps, controlled the masses and generally made things work, you rock!

From our school event, a strong team of athletes has been selected to represent Aquinas at the BOPSS Athletics Championships which are to be held at the Tauranga Domain on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March. As usual we look forward to some success here.





