



# Newsletter

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022

101 Kuranui Street, Thames \* Phone 07 868 6504 \* Email [office@moana.school.nz](mailto:office@moana.school.nz)



*Kia ora tātou*

*Please find attached to this newsletter information about our new writing programme, The Writer's Toolbox.*

*Welcome to our new student, Bhavyaben Baldania, who joins us in Room 4. It's great to have you in our Moanataiari School family.*

*David Brock, Principal – Tumuaki*

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### Coming up:

Thu 17 Feb HPV talk R7 9am  
Mon 21 Feb BoT Meeting at 5.30pm

### 2022 Start Date & School Terms

Term 1: Wednesday 2 February to Thursday 14 April  
Term 2: Monday 2 May to Friday 8 July  
Term 3: Monday 25 July to Friday 30 September  
Term 4: Monday 17 October to Wednesday 14 Dec

Weetbix, milk and fruit are available from our kitchen for anyone wanting breakfast **between 8.20am and 8.50am** each school day morning.

### Moanataiari School Bank Account:

**ANZ Thames 01 0455 0108122 01**

### HPV Immunisation Talk

This Thursday at 9am the public health nurse will be talking to our Year 7 students about the HPV immunisation programme. HPV immunisations will take place here at school on Tuesday 1 March at 9am.

**Te rerenga korero: Whakamaua tō potae** *put on your hat*

## Community Notices

### Music Lessons

are beginning this week here at Moanataiari School.

Guitar, Ukulele and Drum lessons will be available. Each lesson is \$10 in a group or \$20 for one-on-one.

Email [contact@playwithmusic.net](mailto:contact@playwithmusic.net) to sign up.



### Moanataiari After-School Care

Bookings can be made through our school office (868 6504) or by contacting Donna directly on 027 547 9407. Casual or regular bookings will cost \$7.00 for the first hour from 3pm, up to \$14 for 2.5 hours per day per child.

## Thames Junior Hockey

Stick with us 2022!

### Interested in playing hockey in 2022?

check out our Facebook page for registration information

email [thamesjuniorhockey@gmail.com](mailto:thamesjuniorhockey@gmail.com)

*\*Proposed date for muster 2nd March 2022,  
venue/time TBA*

*\*All games played at Ngatea turf.*

*\*Years 7 & 8 play midweek, all other years  
Saturday morning.*



### Fundraising for Tonga

The Tongan Communities of Thames and Paeroa are requesting assistance for Tonga after the tsunami struck in January.

Donations can be made to:

Thames & Paeroa Tongan Community

A/C No: 01-0755-0185170-01

Reference: your name

For further information contact Alipate (Alby)

Tukia on 022 392 9101 or email

[thamespaeroatongancommunity@hotmail.com](mailto:thamespaeroatongancommunity@hotmail.com)

### Northern District Cricket

#### Super Smash Hub

Year 1-4

for 6 weeks

Rhodes Park, Thames

**Friday 25 February - 5pm**

Dear parents and whanau,

In response to our learners' needs and the increasing trend of students struggling with writing throughout New Zealand schools, we are implementing The Writer's Toolbox writing programme in our school starting this year.

We had a free trial of the online component in term 4 last year so you may have heard of it or seen it through your child's account already, but this year we are properly underway, implementing the toolbox into our classroom practice. All our teachers and some teacher aids are participating in the three year writing professional development programme they provide also.

### **About Writer's Toolbox.**

"Unlike other writing programmes, WTB starts from the top down. Dr Hunter, a former university professor at Auckland University, developed WTB with the key writing skills a student would need to excel in tertiary education and worked backwards: charting year-by-year the 20 key writing skills that should be taught in the life of the student.

No other writing programme in the world takes the student from Year 1 to their final senior year in an explicit, structured programme of incremental skill development. Students learn the rules of great writing—anchored in 150 years of writing research—and are taught to write well across all their subjects."

This programme also comes highly recommended by ERO and has been mentioned in a few of their articles about improving writing results in schools. In an article titled 'Novel Approaches to Improving Writing,' ERO talks about the notable success of the Writer's Toolbox programme for both students and teachers when implemented in Northcross school in Auckland. 'One Year 7 teacher told ERO he was now much more confident when helping students with writing. He had learnt a lot about the 'nuts and bolts' of the craft, and really enjoyed seeing the students make such great progress.'

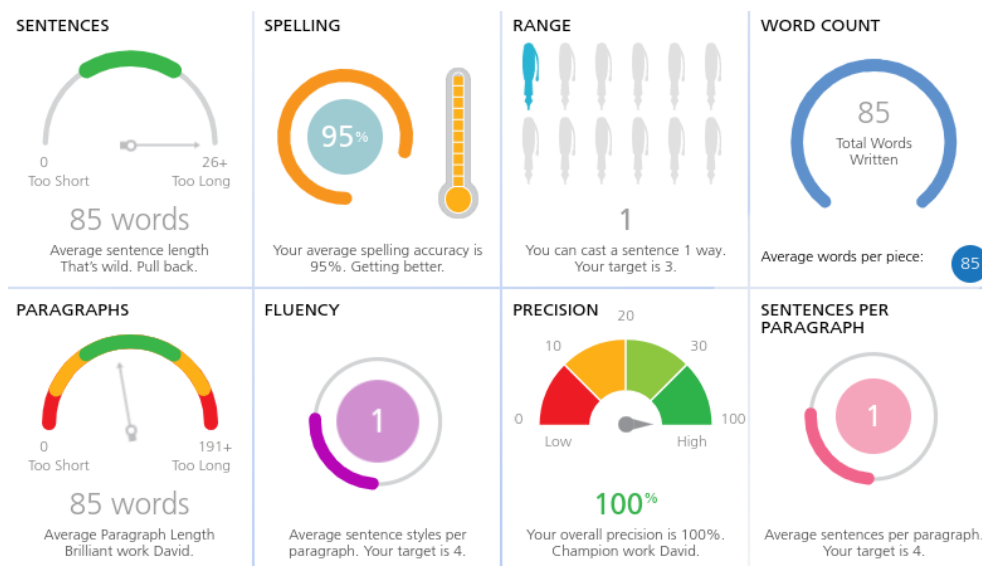
### **Some of the main advantages of the programme include:**

- It is a programme that progresses through the year levels
- It has easily accessible classroom and school wide tracking and information
- Efficient planning formats
- Excellent resources for the teachers
- Excellent student engagement and motivation for improvement
- Personalised student programmes
- Explicit, immediate feedback for students.

There is an online component for students from year 4 up in which the children have their own licence and work in the Toolbox when learning new strategies for writing, completing daily challenges and writing tasks prepared by teachers.

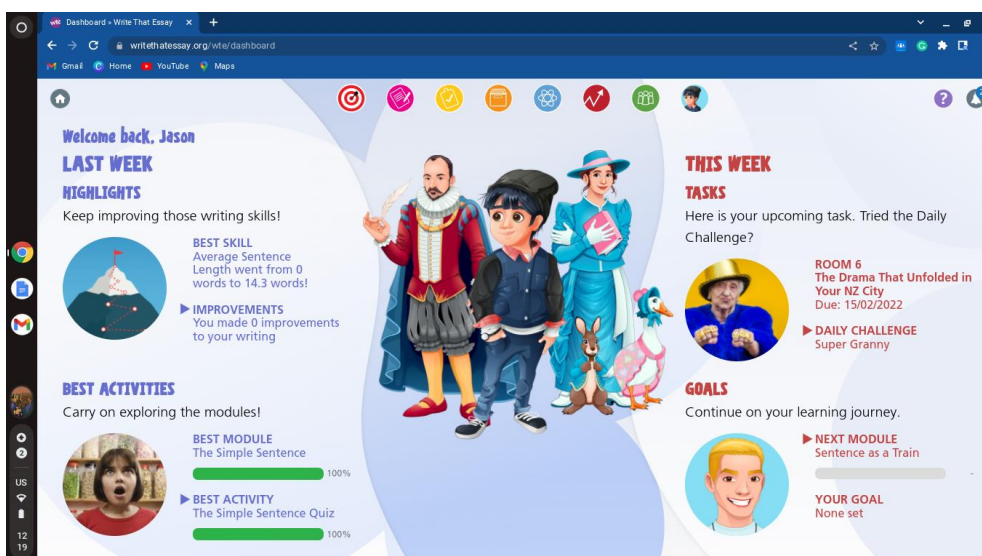
The junior classes can also use the Toolbox as a teacher-led resource for teaching sentence structures and shared writing activities. Starting Writer's Toolbox in the junior rooms means the children are introduced early to the language of the programme which will help them adapt well to the online tool and teaching style from year four onwards.

Here are a couple of photos to show you what each child sees in their personalised programme where they access their work and monitor their progress.



Above is a photo of the feedback screen the children see everytime they write in the Toolbox. The feedback is instant and informs the children about their strengths and areas they need to work on. This screen is very motivating for the children and they will happily go back and edit their work to increase their scores.

Definitions for each of the areas assessed are on the back of each tile when you click on them so the students understand what the feedback means. We also discuss this in class.



The above screen is what the students' home screens look like. On the left hand side, it shows the student's highlights and improvements to date.

The right hand side shows the Daily Challenge, which is a quick write for students available everyday relevant to their writing level. It also shows the writing tasks their teacher has set with the date for completion.

The student's latest goal and where they are up to in their learning journey is also visible on the screen so the students are always aware of what writing aspect they are to focus on and their progress so far.

You can have a look at your child/children's Toolbox at home and they can show you around so you can see what they are working on.

We have only just started but as teachers we're excited about the opportunity to increase our knowledge and develop new, successful teaching strategies for writing.

We are also looking forward to seeing our students' progress in their writing ability and become more confident and accomplished writers across the curriculum. The feedback we have received so far is that this programme and professional development we are receiving will really make a difference in the learning of your children.

Yours sincerely,  
 Debbie Trenwith  
 (Literacy leader)

[David Brock](#)  
 (Principal)