



Principal's Pen

The environment enhancement is almost complete. All we need to do now is replant the gardens outside rooms 1 – 7. We decided that it would be nice for children to have some ownership of at least part of the enhancement. We would love parents to sponsor a plant for their child. Children will have the opportunity to choose a plant, dig the hole and plant their plant. Their name will be written on a stick and put beside the plant so they can remember which one was theirs and help with the watering and weeding. The plants will be here in time for the PTA Parent picnic and we hope that parents will bring along \$5 for their child to choose a plant and plant it.

A huge thank you to the following lovely families who came up to school last Sunday morning and ripped out all the scrubby old plants from those gardens and prepared the soil ready for the new plants: the Hattons – Kaye, Len, Alyssa, Jason and Cameron, Karen McClelland and Macy, Bruce Tait, Jackie Ellis, Bronwyn Rhynd with Ruby and Max, Jo Steel, Debbie Roxburgh and Louise Morton.

The man who supplied and installed the new pool fence is supplying the plants. He is another lovely person who supports our school. He has kindly offered to deliver the hundreds of plants free of charge and will supply slow release fertiliser and sheep pellets free of charge as well.

What a great community!

Coming Up Next Week

Tues	Kiwikick, Years 2, 5
Thurs	PTA picnic
Friday	Assembly Room 12

Board of Trustees

At the meeting on Tuesday, the Board co-opted two new members, Chris Parke and Nicola Marsh. The Board elections are coming up in May and Chris and Nicola had expressed interest in getting an understanding of the workings of a Board with a view to standing for election. Both have a great deal to offer the Board; Chris brings a lawyer's perspective and Nic brings her PTA perspective.

Further details about the Board elections to follow.

Years 6, 8 Camp

I visited camp on Thursday and was delighted to see everyone enjoying themselves. The children were buzzing about the new activities that many of them had never tried before. Camp is all about trying new experiences. For many of the Year 6 children, their new experience is just being away from Mum and Dad for the first time in their lives. For the Year 8 children it is about climbing the rock wall or abseiling and the great sense of achievement at successfully doing something new as well as a little scary.

Assembly

Next Friday's Assembly is at noon, led by Room 12. Parents and caregivers of all children are invited.

Congratulations to the following students for receiving a Principal's Award at today's Assembly: Crystal Casey, Amanda Quan, Najla Redzepagic, Lauren Mee, Mere Tulavu, Aron Balazs, Joshua Mayer, Ashton Reed, Caitlin Ward, Maya McEwan, Arwyn Stevens, Darcy Gaskill, Dylan Battersby-Gifford, Danielle Mayer, Jonah Pastiroff, Skye Ratumu, Caleb Heppleston, Wendy Tshuma, Ben Smith, Sophia Barlow, Sean Southall.

HEALTH and SAFETY

Swimming

Swimming lessons are well underway. We really appreciate the 'mother help' especially in the Years 1, 2 classes. Just a reminder that your child can't swim for a minimum of 2 weeks after they have had vomiting or diarrhoea. We also don't allow children to swim if they have a sticking plaster covering a cut or sore.

Nut Allergies

We have some children at St Thomas's who have a potentially life threatening allergy to nuts. We do ask parents to be thoughtful about what they put in lunch boxes. Even a small peanut butter or nutella smear on the playground can cause a child to go into anaphylactic shock. The parents of children with these allergies would really appreciate your support.

Dogs at School

Dogs are not allowed in the school grounds for obvious health reasons. I am aware that many of you bring your dogs before and after school and tie them up at the entrances. There is no problem with that, but please be aware that there are children in the school who are frightened of dogs so choose carefully where you tie your dog up outside the grounds.

BEGINNING OF YEAR REMINDERS

Absences

If your child is going to be absent, please either phone their buddy who will report the absence to the teacher, or phone the office and leave a message on the answerphone.

Bus Stop

The bus stop at the front entrance is for buses! In the morning the school bus needs to park there to safely drop off the children. Please do not park in the bus stop before school.

School Driveway and Staff Car Park

These two places are not drop off zones. Please do not park across the driveway to either drop off or pick up your child. Please do not drive into the carpark to drop off or pick up your child. This is a significant safety issue as there are always very young children around.

Neighbour's Driveways, Grass Verges

Please remember that these areas are not carparks. Our neighbours do not like being unable to access their house because one of our parents is parked across their drive and has left their car unattended. Yes this has already happened this year!

Year 8 HPV Vaccination Programme

The Public Health Nurse for our school has been in to talk to all Year 8 female students about this vaccination. These pupils were given an information and consent form to take home to complete. Please be sure to return the form to school to let the nurses know your decision.

Janice Adamson

jadamson@stthomas.school.nz

SCHOOL DONATIONS REFUND

Pay your donations by
31 March
and go into the draw
to get a refund!!



If you pay your school donation by
March 31st 2010, you will be entered
into the draw to have your
school donation refunded.

For your convenience we also take
Eftpos, Auto Payment, and Direct Credit:
ASB Bank, St Heliers
123027 0303718 00

PTA UPDATES

St Thomas's School Picnic

*Thursday 25 February,
5.30pm-7.30pm*

Join us for this annual social evening.
Meet others in your children's classes
and relax with friends.

Bring your own picnic or food
available including Sushi, Candyfloss,
Chinese Food, Sausage Sizzle, Drinks,
and Ice creams

Games: Playball, Mission Impossible
Obstacle Course and DJ Music

We'll be planting new gardens outside
room 1-6. You can purchase a plant
and have it planted with your child's
name next to it.

Family and friends welcome!
(Rain date Thursday 4th March)

Helpers Needed!

If you are able to help for half an hour
please phone Pats 528 4002
or email otkinnaird@xtra.co.nz

Dates for your Diary:

21 February—Weetbix Tryathlon
7 March—Top Schools
14 March—Round the Bays
28 March—Soapbox Derby

21 February—Weet-Bix Tryathlon

Fantastic Kids Tryathlon at St Heliers this
Sunday from 9am. You can still register
or just come down to support the more
than 60 St Thomas's kids who are
participating. After the race and
prizegiving please join the other St
Thomas's families on the beach close to
the playground for a picnic. This is a
great way to wait for the traffic to clear.
Note for participants: If you are an ASB
customer you can get your try photo for
free. If you have already paid give the
try people a call.

Sunday 7 March—Top Schools 2010

If you have a child in years 3, 4, 5 or 6
you will have received a note about this
event to be held at Glover Park. An
enormous amount of fun for the whole
family. We hope to enter 4 teams.
Enquiries to Lisa Nelson
lisa@nelsons.co.nz or phone 521 6271.

Sunday 14 March—Round the Bays

Teachers, kids and parents register your
participation for this event online
www.roundthebays.co.nz. We have
booked a tent space for St Thomas's
School at Madills Farm for a casual
gathering afterwards.
More information will follow.

The Auckland Boys' Choir is celebrating its 40th
Jubilee this year and to mark this occasion it
has been decided to increase the number of
boys from 30 to 40, giving 10 additional places
for boys aged 9 to 12 years.
For further information phone 522 4227.

INLINE ROLLER HOCKEY

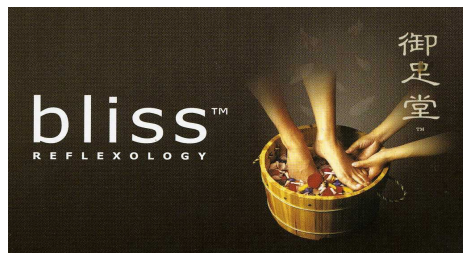
Learn to play at

Skateland

66 Mountain Rd, Panmure
All gear provided!

Only \$7

Fridays 4.30—6.00pm
Call Richard 021 2527600



The PTA want to thank
Bliss reflexology for their support
and recommend their luxurious
treatments—their Gift vouchers
make a fantastic gift.
Details can be found at
www.blissreflexology.com.

Friday 19th February 2010

Newsletter

Term 1 Week 3