



Principal's Pen

Earlier this week I sent out a notice asking parents for their help with the Cultural Festival which is happening at the end of term 3. For new parents to the school, the Cultural Festival is a wonderful celebration of our cultural diversity. We currently have children from 41 different ethnicities at St Thomas's. New Zealand is a bi cultural country and we celebrate our Maori and European heritage. However, Auckland is a hugely multi cultural city which needs to be celebrated as well.

Part of the learning that happens in school is around the acceptance of others regardless of their ethnicity, appearance or mannerisms. I am so proud of our children because they don't see new students in terms of their ethnicity, they see them as a new person to get to know.

I have been reading about the racism which appears to be widespread in sporting codes in Australia. Whether or not it is as widespread as the press would have us believe, racism in any country, including New Zealand, is ugly. Very occasionally we have students who make racist remarks and we immediately deal with it very strongly. Their response tends to be that they were only joking but we point out very clearly that racism is not funny to anyone.

Our Cultural Festival is one of the best ways for us to show all the children how highly we value their backgrounds and how important they are to us. We would love to have lots of parents coming forward to help out with groups. Even the smallest contribution will be gratefully accepted. Please contact Gael Richardson and Peggy Lowe to offer your support.

Coming Up Next Week

Monday	Rooms 5, 6 to Diocesan Science Lab
Tuesday	Rooms 7, 8 to Diocesan Science Lab
Wednesday	Year 7 to Diocesan Science Lab Yr 5-6 Soccer at Madills Farm
Thursday	Years 7, 8 to Diocesan Science Lab
Friday	Years 7, 8 to Diocesan Science Lab Assembly Room 7

St Thomas's BIG GARAGE SALE

The PTA is organising a Garage Sale and Café in the school hall in Term 3, on Sunday 8th August from 10am-2pm. Clean up your cupboards and shelves during the holidays and see what you could sell on the day, or you may like to sell goods that you have made yourself. We are not asking you to donate your goods to the school. All takings on the day will be kept by you. All you need to do is book a space for \$25, bring a trestle table on the day, set up and sell as much as you can.

With the Garage Sale we will be offering culinary delights in our St Thomas's Café, so make sure you enjoy morning tea with the whole family at school that day. To book a space contact Sabine Pocock on jp.sp@xtra.co.nz

Bettjemans Night

Monday night saw a great crowd enjoy a thoroughly good time in the relaxed and friendly atmosphere of our Girls Night Out fundraiser. Goody bags and delicious food and wine were a bonus along with a chance to catch up with friends properly and see some fantastic hairstyles! \$1600 was raised and will go towards the new sound system in the hall. Many thanks to Lisa Nelson for organising.

Assembly

Next Friday's Assembly is at noon, led by Room 7. Parents and caregivers of all children are invited.

Athon Thank You

The PTA would like to thank the Teachers, students and parents for their support of this years Athon. We are thrilled to have raised \$18,550. This money will be used to purchase a new sound system for the hall and an out door sound system.

Coming up Next Term

- Chess Club will continue in Term 3.
- Monday 26 July - Performance for whole school – *Old McDonald (versus the Bionic Bouncing Bunny)*.

Letters will be sent home in the first week for each of the above.

Parent Tutor Reading Programme

At St. Thomas's School we run a wonderful programme that provides extra support in reading for students. For this to succeed we require volunteers from the community. All it involves is:

1 hour of your time each week.

You do not have to teach the children, **just listen!**

You would work with **4 individual children**

Just **one morning** a week from **9am – 10am**.



Anyone can become a tutor – parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles or friends so please pass this on to anyone you know who might be interested! The students make enormous improvements and it is very rewarding for the tutors. If you are interested in becoming a tutor or want to find out more please contact Jenny Harman in Room 17 or email jharman@stthomas.school.nz.

Orange Day

Orange day was a huge success. When we went round the classrooms we were amazed at how much was raised for the Auckland City Mission. These very kind donations will help a lot of people in need. Also very nice to see all the people so enthusiastic by showing their support by wearing orange! Such a wonderful day!
By Sierra Naraghi-Keiper, Leadership Team

Bays Suburbs Netball Tournament

On Wednesday 23rd June year 4, 5 and 6 students went to the AMI netball centre on Morrin Rd to play in the Bays Suburbs netball tournament. There were 2 teams in years 4 and 6, and 3 in year 5. It was a fabulous, sunny day and all the coaches and teachers were very proud of their teams. They did really well and although they didn't get into the finals they had tonnes of fun!

By Jacqueline Cox



MANUFACTURERS SALE

SUNDAY 27TH JUNE
10AM-2PM

St Thomas's School Hall

- Designer Fashion
- Jewellery
- Gifts
- Books
- Kids Clothing
- Homeware
- Stationery

SAMPLES - SECONDS - SURPLUS

Occasionally Yours

www.occasionallyyours.co.nz

Mecca Stonehouse, Mission Bay

Style and Designs, by Sera Lilly

7pm Wednesday August 4th

Featuring special guest:

Lorraine Downes

Tickets available from www.iticket.co.nz

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Victoria Phillips is a local Dance Studio
which specialises in Jazz, Hip Hop, Ballet Technique,
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We are currently taking applications for Term 3 2010.

Please visit our website www.jazzdance.co.nz

for further information and online applications,
or call 5284451.

Professional facilities and quality tuition.

We encourage early enrolment to
avoid disappointment.

HOLIDAY PROGRAMMES

A variety for you to choose from:

www.bubbledome.co.nz

www.aucklandmuseum.com

www.fineyoungartists.co.nz

www.artsight.co.nz

www.kidactive.co.nz

www.pasnz.co.nz (performing arts)

www.nextgenerationsport.co.nz
(rugby skills—click on academies)

www.bramly.co.nz

www.hippo.co.nz (animal care)

www.parnell.org.nz

CAN YOU HELP ME PLEASE?

My name is Megan—I am currently teaching at a local school and am also completing a research paper as part of my studies at Auckland University. I am looking for 4 or 5 parents who have children at St Thomas's School who would be kind enough to take part in a 30 minute interview.

My subject area is parents' views and school reports—so I would ideally like to make contact with families who have received 2 or more end of year written reports from this school for the same child.

If you would like more information regarding this research please contact me and I will be more than happy to discuss this further with you. I am hoping to conduct interviews next week at a time that suits you.

Please contact me on 5287993 or 021534400 or email mcgaws@xtra.co.nz ...

I look forward to hearing from some of you soon.
Thank you.

Friday 25th June 2010

Newsletter

Term 2 Week 10

Room 1

As part of our C.S.I. unit in Term 2 we have been writing mystery stories. Below are a few short selections of our writing.

A shadowy figure, of what looked like a man, moved by in the distance. But it was big! Much too big to be a man!

Alan Baker stepped out of his van and looked up at the starry night. He wondered if his expertise was really needed or whether it was just another hoax. Strange sightings of a Yeti had been circulating around town. But then he realized how tired he was and started to search for a motel. It was a small, quaint town, of about five hundred.

Liam Croft

Lasers, alarms, guards and a solid steel door, but still the gold was missing. It was nine in the morning the day after the gold had been stolen. The guards had been knocked out, the steel doors busted open and all the laser beams disconnected. But the alarms hadn't gone off - somehow. The thieves had gotten away with everything. Forensics was already at the crime scene taking photos and scanning bits of broken glass and steel. Frustrated, they couldn't find a single clue.

Adam Music

Reports began to flood in that a thief had stolen precious jewels from the City Museum. In escaping, the thief had badly injured a guard. Clearly, he was a dangerous criminal!

Sameed Ahmed

Upon arrival, the detective was greeted warmly by Carlito, the manager, and shown to his office. The office was not huge and was very cluttered, with bottles of engine coolant along with wrappers and general rubbish. The walls were dressed with the stuffed heads of animals. "I hunt game, a hobby you might say", explained Carlito. In a glass case near the back of the room was an American Army uniform, and next to it was a dismantled remote control car. "Another one of my little hobbies", said Carlito.

Liam Ball