



## Principal's Pen

I attended a Remuera Primary Principals Association (RPPA) meeting at Dilworth Junior School on Wednesday. Firstly, it was a great experience to eat breakfast in the dining room with all the boys. What a wonderful atmosphere and environment for their students.

Secondly, and most importantly, a number of local Principals took along their mid year report formats to share and discuss. We are all in the same position of reviewing our old formats to accommodate reporting progress against National Standards.

What an interesting meeting! Every single report format was completely different. I had expected some commonality but the only common element was a section included about how parents can help at home. However, even how this was shared was treated differently across schools. There was so much valuable discussion around the various components of the reporting based on the information we are getting from the Ministry. All of us are interpreting these requirements differently for our schools, whilst still trying to maintain the integrity of reporting progress against National Standards.

The formats we used this year to report progress are a combination of our old report with new aspects. I know we will be reviewing it and making changes. Certainly the end of year report will look different as we discuss the formats as a staff, ask for feedback from parents and students. We want to ensure that the reporting we do, meets the needs and is useful to St Thomas's parents.

## Coming Up Next Week

Tuesday ICAS English  
 Wednesday Parent teacher interviews  
 Thursday Parent teacher interviews  
 Friday Assembly Room 4  
 Years 3 – 8 cross country

## Farewell and Welcome

Michelle Ogier left today to start her maternity leave. Michelle started here as a beginning in teacher in 2000 and has made such a fantastic contribution to St Thomas's. We will all miss her but are excited for her as she starts this new phase in her life.

We are pleased to welcome Garland Punler back to St Thomas's for the remainder of this term.

## Old McDonald and the Bionic Bouncing Bunny

On Monday 25th July the whole school went to see a play called Old McDonald versus the Bionic Bouncing Bunny. It was marvellous to watch and absolutely hilarious. Everyone enjoyed it, especially when two teachers were called up on stage to be sheep. Now I'll tell you who some of the characters were: Jip the sheepdog, Old McDonald, Farmer Jane, the bionic bouncing bunny, and much more. After the show, we asked the performers some questions. But the show, I tell you, was DAZZLING!

*By Frankie Pastiroff, Room 25*

## Congratulations

The following children were awarded Distinction in the recent ICAS Computer Skills exam:  
 Year 5: Alexandra Forman, Emma Uren  
 Year 6: Brooke Clark, Alyssa Hatton, Nikesh Lala, Tate McGregor  
 Year 8: Min Hui Chuah, Sierra Naraghi Keiper

35 children sat this exam and we were awarded 8 Distinction certificates; ie 23% of participants. This is a fantastic result!

## Cultural Festival

The practices have begun and everyone is very enthusiastic. A notice has been sent home with every child who has joined a group. We need you to sign that you are happy for your child to participate in this wonderful Festival and that they will be available for the 2 performances on 21, 22 September.

## Parent – Teacher Interviews 4, 5 August

You should have received details of your interview times. If you have not yet received notification please contact the office.

We have tried very hard to allocate time slots that parents asked for, but for some people this was not possible due to the numbers of parents requesting the same time slot. Please be patient with us, we have done the very best we could to accommodate people's wishes.

## Footpath Replacement

This work around the school seems to be taking a long time to complete. Please ensure that your children have alternate routes to and from school while the footpaths are a mess.

## Assembly

Next Friday's Assembly is at noon, led by Room 4. Parents and caregivers of all children are invited.

Congratulations to the following children for receiving a Principal's Award at today's assembly: Rohann Mackrell, Jamie Skinner, Samuel Chan, Liam Fisher, William Bilitaki, Wilson Lin, Boston-Kenzo Azuma, Ilumbo Gaula, Xin Hai Hu, Victoria Booth-Stanley, Nakira McGaw, JC Remedio, Eloise Murgatroyd, Jake Howard, Myles Wardley, Maxim Graham, Kiran Singh, Robert Haffeiki, Sophie McKeown, Chloe Dove, Eva Wood, Grace Morgan, Elliot Dibley, Jonathan Straka, Matthew Downey, Mercy Gorero.

## Senior School Uniform

Have you seen some of the students wearing the new senior shirt? This was developed from design ideas from the students and is intended to give our Year 7 and Year 8 students a special profile in the school. They look very smart.

Janice Adamson  
[jadamson@stthomas.school.nz](mailto:jadamson@stthomas.school.nz)

**P.T.A.**  
**QUIZ NIGHT & AUCTION 2010**

Preparations are well underway for one of our major fundraisers for the year and a fabulous excuse for a great night out! Join us on **Saturday 28 August**—tickets are now on sale. If you didn't go to the library this afternoon to book yours you can email Justine [justine@pjsolutions.co.nz](mailto:justine@pjsolutions.co.nz) to reserve your table of 8. Tickets are \$30 each with nibbles provided and a cash bar will be operating. Teams are invited to theme themselves and their table and dress accordingly! A great night is promised with a quiz, auctions, prizes and then dancing until midnight!

DON'T DELAY—this event always sells out!

**RUNNING CLUB**

**Running Club** is offering an intensive 8 week **SPRINTZ** programme for the upcoming athletic season. Focus is on running stance, speed acceleration, stamina, power and nutrition. With correct technique, training, practice and nutritional advice, participants will become fitter, faster and stronger.

**SPRINTZ** is for children year 5-8 who show **greater ability** as an athlete. Programme cost \$65 includes personalised diary, 3 individual progress assessments, sprint and relay coaching.

Running Club's motto "better than before" aims to develop greater athletes.

**Start date is Friday morning August 6th at 7.50-8.40am.**  
**We meet at Madills Farm, Kohimarama.**

To find out more or register at [www.runningclub.co.nz](http://www.runningclub.co.nz) (indicate that your child will be in the SPRINTZ division). Need more info call Debra McNee 021 100 6953 or Debbie Crowe 021 122 8556.

**South Pacific Tournament : Futsal—Indoor Soccer**

Saturday 31st July—Sunday 1st August  
ASB Stadium, Kohimarama  
**FREE ADMISSION**

This weekend come and see NZ's National team the *Futsalwhites*, Queens-town, Wellington, Hawkes Bay, Palmerston North, and local teams from Auckland play in the South Pacific Tournament.

Go to [www.ecisc.org.nz](http://www.ecisc.org.nz) for the draw and times.

Friday 30th July 2010

Newsletter

Term 3 Week 2

**Why there should be a Universal Law  
AGAINST whaling**

**Think hard. Imagine you were a whale being fished out of the sea onto land by a huge net, not knowing what is coming next for you. Did you like that? Just like I thought, NO. Imagine that for a real whale—torture!**

**I strongly believe that whaling should be banned. If there is a law that children can only drive at the age of 18, then there should definitely be a universal law against whaling! We could be (probably are) killing whales at a young age, giving them no chance to live their fullest, healthiest life!**

**Whales are endangered already, and we don't want to take that risk of making them extinct, do we? Whales are like us, intelligent and unique. We don't want to lose such a beautiful thing, that would be horrible!**

**Extinct or not extinct, people should care for whales!  
Universal law, get ready, because there will be no more whales in the future!**

**By Tali Blumgart, Room 6**