



## Principal's Pen

Another busy term!

16 Feb	BOT meeting
17 – 19 Feb	Years 6, 8 camp
19 Feb	Assembly Room 23
25 Feb	Yr 5 to Mairangi Bay
25 Feb	PTA picnic
26 Feb	Assembly Room 12
1 March	New parents' morning tea
3 March	Years 5, 6 Bay Suburbs softball
3 March	Bible in Schools starts
3 March	PTA AGM
5 March	Assembly
10 March	Years 7, 8 Bay Suburbs softball
16 March	BOT meeting
17 March	Years 5, 6 Bay Suburbs swimming
19 March	Assembly Room 19
22 March	Year 1 'Stepping Out' programme
22 March	Sports Leaders workshop
26 March	Assembly Room 10
30 March	Parent interviews
31 March	Parent interviews
1 April	Portfolios home
1 April	Last day of term

NB There is a new organisation for the Bay Suburbs competition for Years 7, 8. Events and dates are still being finalised so parents will be informed when we have the information.

### Term Dates 2010

Term 1 ends on	1 April
Term 2	19 April – 2 July
Term 3	19 July – 24 Sept
Term 4	11 Oct - 16 Dec

### Board of Trustees Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 16 February at 6.30 in the boardroom. Parents and caregivers are invited.

## Welcome

Welcome back everyone and welcome to our new families. It is lovely to have all the children back looking happy, healthy and relaxed after a long break. I am delighted that the teaching and learning programmes are well underway and so far the standards being achieved in all the rooms are of a very high level. It was great to see so many of you at the Meet the Teacher evenings this week. Please remember that teachers are only too happy to talk with parents about their children at any time. It is best though, to organise a time beforehand so that the teacher can give you their full attention.

Due to roll growth we have employed some additional teachers as well as new teachers to replace the ones who left at the end of the year. Welcome to:

Mike Hudson	Room 2	Year 8
Charlie Powner	Room 4	Year 7
Claire Fromow	Room 6	Year 6
Elizabeth Graham	Room 9	Year 5
Amy Thurston	Room 20	Year 2
Sarah Best	Room 25	Year 4

### Mandarin

This year we have employed a teacher of Mandarin, Jessica Tan. She will work in Years 5 – 8 classes in terms 1, 2 and we will extend this to Years 1 – 4 in terms 3, 4.

### Congratulations

Tim Heslin in Year 6 represented Eastern Athletics Club at a number of events during the holidays. His relay team won three gold and two silver medals at these events. Great work Tim!

## National Standards

National Standards are new for all of us. We will be assessing children against the Standards this year and report this information to parents. We aren't expecting this to be an issue for us as we regularly assess children using robust assessment tools and our reports have always included the 'Well Above, Above, At and Below' categories. As we get to grips with the Standards I will keep parents informed so that we all learn about them together.

### Parents Chatter

As you know, we love to have parents in the school. However there are times when your chatter is disruptive. If you are waiting outside rooms 17 – 20 to collect your child, please be mindful of your noise. It is very difficult to teach if there is a lot of chatter happening right outside the classroom.

At Assemblies, we really appreciate it if you could turn cell phones off and not talk during the Assembly. We are teaching our children how to be a respectful audience and need parents to be role models. Thank you for your support with this.

### Prizegiving 2009

It was great to see so many parents at Prizegiving at the end of last year. We realise that it was very long, we tried a slightly different approach and it didn't work! Rest assured it will be a streamlined Prizegiving in 2010.

If you missed the Newsletter sent home with the names of the prize winners, please contact the office.

## Selwyn College

I was invited to a presentation on Wednesday. Colleen Roche the Commissioner and Sheryl Offner, principal shared the 2010 ERO report with invited guests from the community. Selwyn have received an excellent report from ERO, it is worth looking at it [www.ero.govt.nz](http://www.ero.govt.nz) Sheryl has made some great changes in teaching, learning, sport and property at the school and the efforts of staff appear to be paying dividends.

### PTA Update

This year we'll be raising funds for more interactive whiteboards so every classroom has one, a sound system for the hall, and an outdoor sound system.

The first events of the year are:  
School Picnic: A fun, social evening with some activities for the kids and food on Thursday 25 February, 5.30-7.30.

PTA AGM: Our annual general meeting will be held in the staffroom at 7.30, Wednesday 3 March.

New Parents' Morning Tea: This is for all parents who are new to the school.

### Coming Up Next Week

Tues	Board of Trustees meeting
Wed	Years 6, 8 at camp
Thurs	Years 6, 8 at camp
Friday	Years 6, 8 at camp Assembly Room 23

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

Are you ... kind? caring? patient? Do you enjoy working with children?

### Join the Parent Tutor Reading Programme

It is a wonderful programme that provides extra support in reading.

It doesn't involve much ... just one hour one morning a week of your time to listen to children read.

This programme has enormous benefits for our students and is extremely rewarding for tutors. Anyone can become a tutor—parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles or friends.

If you are interested or to find out more come and see Jenny Harman in Room 17 or email [jharman@stthomas.school.nz](mailto:jharman@stthomas.school.nz)



### Uniform Shop Hours (until further notice)

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday  
8.30—9.30 am  
Wednesday  
2.30—3.30 pm

*Please remember to ensure all uniform items are clearly named.*



**CAR KEY FOUND**  
after the meet the teacher evening this week.  
Please claim at the school office.

### 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

### Chaos at the School Gate

St Thomas's is participating in the Auckland City Council's Chaos at the School Gate programme. It involves placing parking officers on patrol outside schools to observe non-compliant

behaviours and issue tickets to those illegally parked.

The Chaos at the School Gate programme has been very successful and is helping to reduce the danger to children as well as improve traffic flow around schools.



### GUITAR TUITION

Learn from guitar teacher & songwriter/performer with 20yrs experience at home studio in Kohimarama.

**Booking now for 2010**  
Phone Peter 575 9228 or 021 479 182

### BRAZIL FUTSAL ACADEMY

Term 1—Wednesdays 8.00—8.55am  
7-13 years, in the St Thomas's School Hall  
1st session is FREE (Come and try)  
To register: [craigdinho@brazilacademy.com](mailto:craigdinho@brazilacademy.com)  
or Craig 021-322-522



### TAMAKI INTERMEDIATE MUSIC SCHOOL: 2010 Enrolment Day

Saturday 13th February, 9—11 am.

For more information please ring: Sylvia Fausett 570 9351

Friday 12th February 2010

Newsletter

Term 1 Week 2