



WELCOME FROM THE SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM AND YEAR SEVEN AND EIGHT TEAM

Welcome back to all our families and an especially warm welcome to new families and staff who have joined us this year. Term One is well and truly underway and staff were back in January in preparation for the coming term including renewing their first aid certificates and having a day to unpack what learning looks like, feels like and sounds like at St Thomas's School. With a change of government comes changes to the education sector and National Standards are now disappearing from schools.



However, I wish to reassure parents that it will make little difference to how we approach our teaching, learning and assessing at St Thomas's School. Sound assessment and the ability to assess and improve educational progress and achievement for all children was and remains a critical part of effective teaching and learning in St Thomas's School. Indeed, one of the changes that the Ministry are proposing to introduce is 'real time reporting' for parents and St Thomas's School is one of the few primary schools which already has this in place.

General Information

School Website

Please visit our school website if you would like to know any school wide information. See the following link:

www.stthomas/school.nz

Communication Plan

Feedback from our community survey last year indicated that parents would appreciate a more cohesive communication approach from the school. We are always looking at ways to increase our home/school partnership and are currently developing a communication plan which will be shared with the community later this term.

Upcoming Events:

February

20 Board of Trustees Meeting
(6.30-8.30pm, Boardroom)

21-23 Year 6 and 8 Camp

26 Year 4 trip to Kohi Beach

28 Year 5-6 Rippa Rugby

March

2 Year 7 Youthtown

6 Eastern Zones Boys Softball

8 Eastern Zones Girls Softball

8 School Picnic

9 Year 2 Beach Trip

12 Year 5-8 Swimming Sports

15 School Picnic
(rain date)

16 Year 7 Youthtown

20 Board of Trustees Meeting
(6.30-8.30, Boardroom)

20 Bay Suburbs Softball

21 PTA AGM
(7.00pm, Staffroom)

26 Eastern Zones Swimming

27 Bay Suburbs Swimming

30 Good Friday

April

2-3 Easter

4 PTA meeting
(7.00pm, Staffroom)

13 Year 7 Youthtown

13 Last day of term



School Hours

Children are expected to be in class, prepared for the day by 8.55am. Please ensure you have your child at school in plenty of time.

For safety and supervision reasons no child should be on the school grounds before 8:00 and we discourage children being dropped off before 8.15am. Please Note: Classrooms may be locked until 8:30 as teachers are involved in meetings and daily preparations.

School finishes at 3pm and for safety and supervision reasons children are expected to leave the school grounds promptly.

Donations

The Board of Trustees at St Thomas's School has an ongoing commitment to ensure quality education programmes and resources are available for all students.

The Ministry of Education Operations grant meets the basic needs but we seek the support of parents and caregivers in ensuring there is extra funding available to enhance our programmes and enrich our student's learning experience.

In 2018 your donations will be used to support funding for the following:

- An extra teacher in the Juniors four days a week to support students in Years 1 -3
- Part time e-learning Co-ordinator
- Learning opportunities in the Talented and Gifted programme
- Extra teacher aides to support literacy and numeracy across the school
- Part time Sports Co-ordinator
- Support of our Te Reo Maori and Mandarin programme
- Programmes relating to enviro, mindfulness and peer support & mediation
- Teachers to support ESOL four days per week
- Part time writing support teacher
- Part time support teacher in Senior school

Without the generosity of your donations we will be unable to continue to fund these extra teachers/programmes. Donations above the suggested amount are very welcome.

Per child	\$395.00
(Third/Fourth child less 10%)	\$355.50

Parking

Please be aware of the parking signs around the school. These are there for the safety of all our children. Please do not park at the bus stop between 8.30am and 9.00am and note that this area is 5 minute parking at any other time of the day.



Staff Car Park

Do not enter our Staff Car Park as we do not want our young students involved in accidents.

Kea Crossing

Ensure your children cross the road either at the Kea Crossing on Allum Street or at the lights on the corner of Allum St and Kohimarama Road.

The Kea Crossing must be kept clear of cars and it is illegal to turn your car near the crossing when it is in operation.

Metro Link operate the School Bus: 09 373 9100. If you have any problems with the service call them.

Picking up Children during the School Day

If you need to pick up your child for an appointment during the school day please be aware that you cannot do this between 10.30 -10.50 and 12.30 – 1.30. Please arrange to collect them either before or after these times.

National Standards

The Government has announced that National Standards will be removed from 2018. Instead schools will focus on the progress and achievement of all children across the wider New Zealand Curriculum.

This change will better acknowledge the different ways and pace at which children learn, and support teachers to provide more learning opportunities based on what children already know and can do.

Schools will still be required to report to parents, at least twice a year, on their child's progress and achievement, especially in the foundational learning areas of maths, reading, and writing. But schools will no longer be required to use National Standards for this reporting.

Education Review Office (ERO) reports on a local community's schools will remain the best guide to their performance, the quality of their teaching and school leadership, and the steps they are taking to progress children's learning. These reports provide a much more comprehensive picture of the quality of your local schools than did National Standards data.

Information on the how children, or groups of children, are progressing and achieving nationally, will come from the National Monitoring of Student Achievement (NMSA). These studies test several thousand children each year on different areas of the curriculum. International studies will also help provide parents, whānau as well as schools and the Ministry, with valuable information on student progress and achievement. The new approach will be developed with sector experts, parents,



whānau, iwi and students during 2018. We expect this new system of progress assessment and reporting to come online gradually between 2018 and 2019.

Find out more about these [changes and about the new reporting requirements](#).

PTA

School Picnic

- 5-7.30pm on the school field, Thurs 8th of March (Thurs 15th of March is the rain date)
- Set up your own Picnic and picnic rug on the field and enjoy the view and socialising with other parents and teachers – while the kids have fun!
- Lots of new & exciting entertainment available including Pony Rides & Petting Zoo, Mini go-carts, Vertical Bungy, Mission Impossible inflatable, DJ Fetu, Face painting and lots more!
- Food will be available to purchase; Paella, Sausage Sizzle, Hot chips, Ice-creams, Sushi, Dumplings and Baking
- Keep an eye on FlexiBuzz and the PTA Facebook page for more details soon!

PTA AGM

- Will be held in the school office at 7pm on Thurs 22nd March – everyone welcome to come along and see what is involved with being a part of the PTA, and join if they want to.
- Our regular PTA meeting will follow at 7.30pm.
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Iceblock Friday's

- Are back for rest of Term 1!

Available from under the tree after school; \$2 ice blocks and \$3 ice-creams

Year Seven and Eight Team's Welcome Message



This year we have the largest number of homerooms for our Intermediate Department at St Thomas's EVER! There are three Year 7 classes and three Year 8 classes. The team of teachers are very much looking forward to teaching and learning this year with these

students. All our information for learning, dates due for tasks, sports and trips can be found on our Year 7&8

[Learning Portal](#) (the link is also on the [St Thomas's](#)

Year Seven and Eight Upcoming Events

All our key dates for the Intermediate Department are detailed on our [Portal](#).

Week 4: Year 8 Camp Carey

Week 5: School Picnic, Y7 Youthtown S10

Week 6: EZ Girls Softball

Week 7: Y7 Youthtown S11, School Swimming



[Website](#)/E-learning). All homeroom teachers can be contacted through their school emails (again on the [St Thomas's Website](#)/Our People).

Regards, The Year 7/8 Team – Mrs Brickland (Team Leader), Miss Barkley, Miss Thain, Miss Gwyn, Mrs Somaratne and Mr Putty.

LEARNING FOCUS

The topic this term for Year 7&8 learning is '**The Butterfly Effect**'. Students will be engaged in learning activities which help them to further understand how their actions have impact on themselves, others and the environment. Students will be engaged in a collaborative community initiative during the second half of the term. This will culminate in a 'showcase of learning' for parents and caregivers during Week 11. The St Thomas's value for the term is **Connections** and the Key Competency focus is **Relating to Others**. Our student disposition is around creative **Collaborative** behaviours. More details are on the [Learning Portal](#)

Sports, EZ Boys Softball, Assembly S10

Week 8: EZ Swimming Sports, Assembly S12

General Information

We have begun the school year with a focus around 'Respect'. By introducing the students through a collaborative task both the teachers and students have a solid understanding of what this means. Please view the Slide Show on [Respect](#)