



13 September 2019

TE WIKI O TE REO MĀORI

As an acknowledgement of this important week in Aotearoa, we decided to fly the Tino Rangatiratanga flag on Rāmere. Whilst this flag does not hold official status it has been through a nationwide consultation process and is widely regarded as the Māori flag. We were unable to fly both flags together as recommended due to the rigging of our flagpole. For more information, please visit <https://www.tpk.govt.nz/en/a-matou-kaupapa/crown-iwi-hapu-whanau-maori-relations/the-national-maori-flag>



Te Wiki o te Reo Māori has been a huge week for our Senior Kapa Haka rōpū. On Rātū (Tuesday), we combined a final dress rehearsal with a performance in our school hall in preparation for the biggest gig we have ever been a part of. On Rāapa (Wednesday) morning, we arrived at school at 6.15am to prepare. Then it was off into the city to perform at the Financial Services Council & Workplace Savings NZ, Towards Wellbeing Conference at the Pullman Hotel.

We are so grateful to have had this experience. The tamariki were dazzled by the huge tour bus and the delicious spread before we went on stage...we felt like Kapa Haka rock stars!!!



To all the Year 7/8 students who have participated in The AIMS Games this week. We are all so proud of you. A special mention to Samuel McKnight for coming 1st in the Year 7 Boys Rock Climbing

Upcoming Events

September

- 17 ICAS English
- 17 Board of Trustees Meeting
(6.30pm Board Room)
- 18-19 Year 3 Trip to Tiritiri Matangi
- 19 ICAS Maths
- 20 Year 6 Assembly
- 25-26 Student Led Conferences
- 26 Bays Suburbs Hockey
- 27 Last day of Term

October

- 14 First day of Term 4
- 15 Festival of Oral Language Inter-School Finals
Year 5&6 and Year 7&8
- 16 PTA Meeting
(7.30pm Staffroom)
- 17 Collaboration and Flexible Learning Space
Parent Information Sessions
(8.30am – 9.30am and 2.00pm – 3.00pm)
- 21-25 Year 8 at Camp Bentzon, Kawau Island



Our crew adjusted beautifully to the last-minute position changes, performed with all their heart and mana and were consummate professionals for the entire trip. The standing ovation they received at the end was well deserved.

Principal's Awards

Passion

Sophie Fargher – M11

Timothy Tsui – J1

Madison De France – S7

Excellence

Milena Carroll – J10

Ricky Paris-Williams – J5

Connections

Summer Chen – J13

Andy Cheng – S4



A huge thank you to Whaea Vikki, Ms Witika and all our whānau who have given their time and energy to allow this rōpū to grow into the polished, professional group of performers they have become. We won't stop here. We can't wait to see what new opportunities will be coming next.

Visit our website <http://www.stthomas.school.nz/te-ao-m257ori-and-pasifika.html> to watch a video of all their hard work this year.

A Report by J4 students about St Thomas's "Birdsong Day"

We had a fabulous Birdsong Day on 11th September. As a school we thought it would be wonderful if we had lots of native birds and trees in our field down the bank. If you're wondering how St Thomas's School did it, read on! At the beginning of this term some keen NZ native bird loving students wrote to Nicky Elmore who is responsible for promoting Enviroschools at Auckland Council. These students requested help to fund the purchase of some native trees via the Auckland Council. Our request was granted, and Auckland Council gifted us 90 native trees via the Eastern Bays Birdsong Project and NETR funding

In week 5 St Thomas's kids wrote to their parents to request help with the digging and planting. Anyone from school who wanted to come to dig holes and plant the trees. Our families decided to help dig the 90 holes for 90 native trees. We dug the holes on Saturday 7th September. Our families made a wood path from the left-over wood from an old pine tree which was hazardous, so it was chopped down. We also helped pick up pinecones. We had loads of fun seeing our friends and my teacher on a Saturday at school. It was such a good idea to make a bird sanctuary down the bank at school.

Planting day was four days later on Wednesday 11th September. We blessed the land with a karakia before planting. On plant day we got in our house groups and joined other year groups and we rotated around the classes. We made origami birds, bird hats, bird headbands, bird badges, bird masks, collage birds, pottery birds and paper plate birds.

St Thomas's plan is to build bird houses, bird feeders and set traps for predators so we can achieve our goal to attract NZ native birds. We are planning to make our native bush a play area as we improve our environment, add play structures and outdoor learning areas. We are currently monitoring some Eastern Songbird rat traps to keep our environment predator free.

During the "Birdsong" process we learnt that birds are dying due to predators killing them and their eggs but hundreds of people like us are helping to bring back the birdsong.

We would like to thank Nicky Elmore, Netr Funding, Eastern Songbird, Auckland Council, management, teachers and parents of St Thomas's who supported us.



Flexible Learning Spaces and Collaborative Teaching and Learning at St Thomas's School Parent Information Sessions

As we look toward 2020 and the completion of our new teaching block, we would like to invite you to hear how we are preparing for the move into this new space.

These sessions will be facilitated by our Senior Leadership Team as well as Lisa Horton and Jacque Allen. We are holding the sessions twice on **Thursday 17th October 8:30am to 9:30am** and again at **2:00pm to 3:00pm**.

These will be held in the staffroom followed by visits to our existing spaces.

Introducing

Lisa Horton

Lisa is an Interior Architect and Educational Planner who is the Director of On-Paper from Melbourne. Over the last few years Lisa has been working with several schools and universities throughout Australasia supporting them to design and develop their learning spaces for both the learners and teachers.

Lisa will focus on how St Thomas's school are approaching and designing our flexible spaces to ensure it meets the requirements of learners and teachers alike, as well as the impacts of our choices on the environment.



Jacque Allan

Jacque is an education consultant for Cognition Education in the area of Innovative Learning. She is working with many schools, both with new and existing learning spaces and has worked with St Thomas's School over the past 4 years.



Student Led Conferences

Just a reminder that Student Lead Conferences are taking place on Wednesday 25th and Thursday 26th September. You have received an email this week with information about these. Please make sure you book a time as I know your child/ children are really looking forward to sharing their learning with you.

Link: www.schoolinterviews.co.nz

The Event Code : fphww

Where is the 12 Classroom and Library Project up to?

This week saw a lot of activity with the precast concrete walls lifted into place and the structural steel almost completed.



What is expected to happen over next week?

Continue with structural steel installation, install perimeter scaffold and pour concrete foundations to base of precast panels at end of week.

Year 2 Trip to MOTAT

On Thursday 5th September the year 2's went to MOTAT to gain further knowledge on the 6 R's – Reduce, rethink, refuse, recycle, replace and reuse.

We saw lots of exciting things, including the water pump house, which pumped all of Auckland's water and some stage and some very old tools that they used in the olden days. We loved the little village. We saw an old school house, we couldn't imagine learning like they did!. The team ride was very special, some of us had never been on a team before. We would like to thank all parents for coming with us on the day.



Year 7 and 8 Dance Sport

On Thursday the 29th of August the Year 7 and 8s competed in a tough dance competition that took place in the school hall. Before this, we had been attending weekly Dance Sport lessons from weeks 1 to 6 and learned all that we need to know about the Cha-Cha and Rock n Roll. On the day, we changed into our fancy clothes and headed to the dance floor with our competition dance partners. The boys all had numbers on their backs so that our special guest judge could call their number if they were moving on to the next round.

First up, the Year 8's took to the floor, dancing Rock n Roll in their heats, followed by the semi-finals and the finals. Heat by heat each pair led their dance partners onto the floor, the stakes were high, but we came competition ready!

While the judges tallied up their scores it was time for a bit of fun with the Cotton Eye Joe. Everyone gathered in a circle and took part in this fun and energetic dance. Congratulations to all those who participated, we had a great time! It was a great way to spend a Thursday afternoon and I can't wait to do it all again next year!

By Sara Revell



EPRO8 Challenge

EPRO8 Challenge was extremely popular this year with 15 teams representing St Thomas's over Years 5,6,7 and 8.

It was a tough competition with lots of electronic and mathematical problems to overcome. There was the Rat Wheel, The Ball Pit, The Thunderstorm and The Elevator all with their own difficulties. All teams participated and worked together extremely well.

We are fortunate to have two Year 6 teams go forward to compete in the semi-finals. This will be held at Stonefields School on the 20th of November and we wish them well.



Parent Communication

If you have any concerns or queries relating to your child's learning or incidents that occur at school, please follow the procedure outlined below:

- In the first instance, contact your child's classroom/home room teacher.
- If you feel you need to discuss the matter further, please make an appointment to see the appropriate Team Leader.
- If you feel your concerns are still unresolved or you wish to seek further advice, please make an appointment with the appropriate Deputy Principal.
- Matters still unresolved after following this process will be escalated to the Principal by the Deputy Principals.

We are all here to work co-operatively towards the best possible education for your child, so please do not hesitate to contact us.

Team Leaders

- Year 0/1 – Carolyn Agoston
- Year 2 – Michelle Fisher
- Year 3 – Maria Kroonenberg
- Year 4 – Dan Morris-Adams
- Year 5 – Janet Rothery
- Year 6 – Matt Hansen
- Year 7 – Nicky Brickland
- Year 8 – Melissa Gainsford

Deputy Principals

- Years 1, 4, 5 and 7 – Claire Fromow
- Years 2, 3, 6 and 8 – Ingrid May

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 8:00am and we discourage children being dropped off before 8.15am. Please Note: Classrooms may be locked until 8:30am 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.

Interzone Auckland Cross-Country Championships

Tuesday September 3rd, 2019...what a day for St. Thomas's Cross-Country as our school has six outstanding student athletes competing at the Interzone Auckland cross-country championships and boy...did these students ever put on a running clinic!

These students are Sophie Barry, Sami Lawler, Zara Pomfret, Lily Smith, Katelyn McKay and Liam McLachlan.

These six runners have been training tirelessly with our very own Mrs Kroonenberg who prepared them very well for their final cross-country showdown.

Our year 7 girls' team, stunned the rest of the schools, led by Zara Pomfret who placed 2nd overall in all of Auckland and who also went to AIMS games, where she placed 19th overall.

It is one thing to qualify and compete at an interzone championship, and it is another to be as poised, humble, a great sport and a respectful athlete.

If only my camera could have taken some more pictures, but you runners were just too fast.

Massive congratulations to our year sevens: Sophie, Sami and Zara, you three rocked!! And to our year eights: Liam, Lily and Katelyn...."Let It Go"



Application for out of zone enrolments for 2020

A number of out of zone places may be available at Year 0 and Year 1. Only Second Priority applications will be accepted, which is a sibling of current students at the school.

Enrolment at the school is governed by an enrolment scheme, details of which are available from the school office.

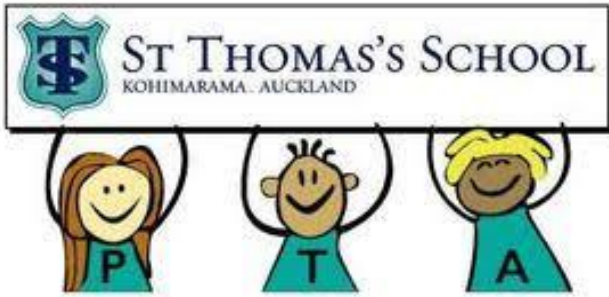
Application for places must be made on the application form available from the St Thomas's School Office – Ph 528 3938.

The deadline for receipt of applications for out of zone places is Tuesday 15th October 2019.

The ballot will be held on Tuesday 22nd October 2019. Parents will be informed within three school days of the ballot being held.

St Thomas's School Board of Trustees

Michael Maher
Principal



NEWS

Yummy Sticker Collection



We are still collecting yummy stickers for sport gear, please drop off completed sheets to the office by week 9. Go to www.yummyfruit.co.nz to download a sheet.

House T-shirts on sale now for \$20

Place your orders through the online portal, sizes 4-16.



Next PTA meeting 16th October 7.30 in the staff room, all welcome!



Remember to join our St Thomas's School Community Facebook page for regular updates and event reminders.



SCHOOL DISCO
Save the date
15th November

St Thomas's Inaugural Tasting Event

Save the date – 9th November



SECOND-HAND UNIFORM SALE

Friday 20th September

We are still collecting second-hand uniforms for this sale, please drop off your preloved uniforms to the office. Thankyou.

Most sizes are available but 4's and 8's is what we have most off

We are looking for a second-hand piano in good working condition for the school to purchase as an upgrade for the hall piano.

Contact us if you have one?



This year's Athon is coming soon.....

Bird Song Athon it is!

Working alongside with all the song bird project. Look out for more information coming soon

"Changing Learning for a Changing World"



HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

Mon 30 Sep to Fri 11 Oct



Join us for a fun-filled School Holiday Programme including a Detective Day, Crafts, Cooking, Sports, Games **& MUCH MORE!**

Some activities may need to be swapped for other exciting ones! Go online to check out a full, up-to-date timetable for your school.

**OSCAR
PROGRAMME
SUBSIDIES
AVAILABLE!**

**Conditions apply*

BOOK ONLINE NOW AT
www.kellyclub.co.nz



Providing fun ways for kids to understand relevant social topics and enjoy making positive changes in the world and in the lives of others.

Sign up for 1 day or the whole week

October 7 - 11, 9am - 4.30pm

Crafting for a Cause

Monday 7 October

Today the children will create hand loom knitted beanies and machine sewn fabric marble maze games to donate to Foster Hope, who will give them to children going into foster care placements around Aotearoa.

Cooking for a Cause

Tuesday 8 October

Today the children will cook healthy meals for people in need - the meals will be collected at the end of the day by the charity.

Art for a Cause

Wednesday 9 October

Today the children will spend the day at St Andrews Retirement Village in Glendowie meeting some of the residents and creating works of art for them based on their life stories.

Growing for a Cause

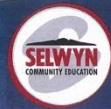
Thursday 10 October

Today the children will have fun collecting and learning about the traditional uses of plants flax weaving and making beeswax wraps to give to friends and family.

Drama for a Cause

Friday 11 October

While having fun the children will play drama games, experience improvisations and work as a group to create a presentation that is grounded in values of empathy, compassion and kindness with an understanding of diversity.



To enrol, phone **09 521 9623** or go to:

www.selwyncomed.school.nz

or www.getreal.org.nz



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www.facebook.com/akaranayoungmariners/

Contact Toni: 0275850656: info@akaranaym.co.nz

Skills of Soccer with Billy Harris

Billy is away for the first two weeks of term 4, so his classes will resume on Thursday, lunchtime, 31 October. To enrol, contact him on billyharris2000@hotmail.com



\$5
PER CHILD

Come and join Kori for a fun filled party in the pool.

KORI'S
POOL PARTY

2nd and 9th October | 12.30pm - 2.30pm

Each child must have a parent or guardian supervising.

CLM THE BAYS
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EST. 2014

Find out more: CLM The Bays
135 Morrin Road, St. Johns, Auckland
Ph: 09 570 7820 | www.clmthebays.co.nz

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