

27 September 2019

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

We have had a busy term with lots of exciting learning taking place both in and outside of the classroom. Our students competed in many sporting events including the AIMS Games tournament in Tauranga where our athletes had their most successful year to date year since we first entered the competition seven years ago.

St Thomas's students celebrated our Māori heritage with a performance at Orkaei Marae and also performed at the opening of the Financial Service Council conference in the city. Students competed in the EPro8 engineering problem solving competition, Mathletics, Literature Quiz and a host of sporting events across our cluster of schools. As we look toward Term 4 we expect it will be another busy term as our Year 8 students head off to Camp Bentzon on Kawau Island for their end of year camp.

Keep well over the break and we look forward to seeing our students returning in Term 4 and hopefully some warmer weather.

Michael

Week 10, Term 3 Construction Report

In the next few weeks, quite a lot of work will be done regarding the construction going on at St Thomas's. I personally think that it's progressing very well and is already taking shape.

In the next seven days, steel floor support for the first floor will be installed and welded in. This will create some noise, but we are lucky as it'll be the holidays! The week that follows includes several projects such as erecting scaffolding like you can see on the building, formwork, floor propping and putting up reinforcing steel.

Formwork is when wood is used to temporarily house setting concrete while reinforcing steel is used to help make the concrete stronger after its set. Floor propping holds up the first story until its able to hold itself. So after you get back from the holidays, the building will look like it's verging on being complete.

Have a good holiday!

Alex Heaton, S12, Year 7



To the Year 5&6 Hockey Team who won the Bays Suburbs Hockey Tournament yesterday.

Upcoming Events

September

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
- 21 Year 5 Trip to Howick Historical Village
- 31 ESOL Market Day
- 31 Girls Bay Suburbs Basketball

November

- 1 Boys Bays Suburbs Basketball
- 5 Eastern Zone Touch Rugby
- 8 Athletics Day
- 11 Bays Suburbs Touch Rugby
- 11 &
- 12 Year 1&0 MOTAT STEAM van visit
- 13 Year 7 Youthtown
- 14 Year 5&6 Athletics Sports Day
- 14 Year 7&8 Vaccinations
- 14&15 Year 7 Youthtown



Principal's Awards

Passion

Sophie Fargher – M11

Timothy Tsui – J1

Madison De France – S7

Excellence

Ricky Paris-Williams – J5

Milena Carroll – S4

Connections

Summer Chen – J13

Andy Cheng – J10

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

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 they meet 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.

Social Media and Cell Phones

According to Netsafe research, one in five young people in New Zealand is the recipient of online bullying every year. It happens when someone or a group of people does something online that causes another person distress, fear or other negative emotions. They are doing it on purpose with the intent to hurt the recipient and it's not just a one-off thing. The minimum sign-up age for Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter and YouTube is 13. This is because a child's social and emotional capability is still developing which can make it more difficult to identify and manage challenges that occur on a platform designed for adults and teens. If your child is under 13 and keen to use social media, consider their capability to manage potential online challenges before setting up a profile.

Our experience at St Thomas's School is that some students are on social media platforms either with or without their parent's knowledge. Often issues that crop up on-line and out of school hours end up causing issues in the school setting which school staff must deal with.

We maintain a cybersafe school environment by educating students and the school community about the safe and responsible use of information and communication technologies. We also set guidelines about acceptable and unacceptable use of the technology. Our recent monitoring of Google Hangouts indicated that some students were not using this site wisely and we therefore removed access for all students.

We are also experiencing difficulties with students phoning/texting their parents or parents phoning/texting their child during the school day. During the school day all communication between students and parents is to go via the school office and cell phones (including apple watches) are to be put away while at school or students should not bring them to school in the first instance.

Some local schools are banning cell phones from their schools for similar reasons as explained above. We encourage our students to be competent and confident in the use of digital technology and expect our students to self-manage cell phone use without the school resorting to banning them. However, staff retain the right to ask students to surrender cell phones if they are used during the school day.

Please only make contact or receive contact from your child via the school office between the hours of 8:45 and 3:00.

We appreciate your support in educating your child in the appropriate use of digital technology.

Teach your child what to do if they encounter online bullying so they have the tools to deal with it. Explain that often it doesn't go away but can escalate online and possibly involve others.

More help is available at:

- [Staying Safe Online Guide](#)
- [Information for parents from Facebook](#)
- [Information for parents from Instagram](#)
- [Information for parents from Twitter](#)
- [Information for parents from YouTube](#)

Year 6 Assembly

On Friday 20th of September, Year 6 performed our assembly. We showed all the exciting things we had been doing throughout the year. With such a range of learning covered, everyone got a chance to be involved to a level we were comfortable with, either showcasing our acting or presenting skills, or managing the production. Apart from putting a humorous take on our year's learning, many of us had fun imitating our Year 6 teachers at every opportunity. Our assembly concluded with a special surprise performance from the STS rock band, Seconds till Saturday. Some of us had been nervous during rehearsals but the smiles and laughs from our appreciative crowd helped make the actual show a fantastic experience. Thanks to all our Year 6 and support teachers who helped put the show together including Mr Hansen, Mrs Jackson, Mrs Somaratne, Mr Platt, Mrs Fairley, Mrs Leonard, and Mrs Lawson, and a special thanks to Mr Smith for including the Rock band's debut 2019 performance in our assembly.

By Amelia Self and Lola Beange with credits to Mr Hansen.



Year 2 6 R's

In Year 2 we have been studying the 6 R's Recycle, Reuse, Repair, Reduce, Repurpose and Rethink. As a part of this, each class has been working together on a class project. See what they made below.



J6- Carboard castle



J8 Milk bottle Igloo and plant holders



J7- Reusing old t-shirts to make mats



J 5- Wax paper wrappings

Chess Club Champions

School Chess Champion 2019: Matthew Xu

School Chess Championship 2019 2nd place: Ricky Paris-Williams

School Chess Championship 2019 3rd place: Oscar Wu

Tiritiri Matangi Trip

In Week 9, the Year 3 students ventured to Tiritiri Matangi Bird Sanctuary, meeting very early in the morning to go on the bus and then a ferry ride to the island via Gulf Harbour (and an hour and a half on the boat). Luckily, the weather was stunning on both days and one group even got to see a pod of dolphins jumping out of the water on the way. On the island we walked with guides and got to enjoy seeing many native birds and trees that we had studied during the term for our Topic 'Native Wings'. We were especially interested in learning about how to keep a sanctuary safe and to keep it pest and predator free.

Here's what some of the student groups had to say about their trip:

*Our favourite part was when we went up to the Lighthouse and saw the Takahe and Pukeko walking on the grass. **Sofia, Layla and Chris.***

*The Kereru was big and bold and the dolphins we saw on the ferry were bobbing up and down. It was really exciting. **Eva, Madison, Huxley and Alex.***

*At Tiritiri Matangi we saw a Bellbird in a feeding station and we saw baby penguins at Hobbs Beach. We also saw an egg starting to hatch in the nesting box. **Aryan, Pippi, Belle and Ribaal.***

*Our favourite part was when we had the educational talk and we learned about pests and predators. We also loved seeing the dolphins when we were on the ferry. **Naairah, Joseph and Lily.***

*On the ferry we saw blue dolphins in the shimmering ocean and everyone raced to the left-hand side of the boat to see them. **Sienna, Madoka, Skyla and Cooper.***

*Seeing the blue penguins was the best part of our trip to Tiritiri Matangi because they were so small and cute, and very blue. Sometimes people call them Dwarf Penguins. **Ben S***

Thank you to all the parents and teachers who came with us – it was such a fantastic day!



Hauora (Hoe-oar-rah) Week: Focus on wellbeing

This week all of the Year 7s learnt about Hauora. This relates to wellbeing and there are four parts to it, physical, mental & emotional, social and spiritual wellbeing. You need all these stations in your life. For example, a building has four sides, if you didn't have one you would not be a stable building. The same thing with a body, if you don't have one of the four stations, you would not be stable.

The Year 7s had to pick two tasks from each category. We came up with the ideas in a brainstorm and voted for the activities that we liked. Some activities were independent, some were collaborative. Also, most of the activities were off devices. Here were some of the activities that we came up with.

Social: Letter writing

Letter writing people got to write letters to each other using fancy fonts, like old school hand-drawn letters.

Physical: Hunter and old school games

A few Year 7s lead a massive game of Hunter around half of the school. Hunter is tag but when you're tagged you stay in with the person who tags you. The last one to get tagged wins.

For old school games we had puzzles, knuckle bones, elastics, marbles and spinning tops. Everyone enjoyed it because they got to play some of the games our parents played, and we never realized how fun they are. It was a collaborative activity.

Mental and emotional: Scrapbooking and Wreck It Journal

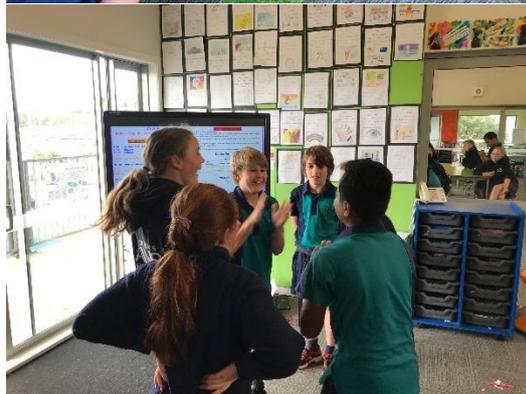
We had to make a book and put fun stuff to wreck the book. We also made some scrapbooks with pictures and drawings.

Spiritual: Time capsule

We made a time capsule out of a bottle and put photos and stuff. We are looking forward to opening it in the future.

Overall, Year 7 really enjoyed this activity because they were a little different and we got to take care of our wellbeing. Ryder enjoyed the Wreck it Journal, and William enjoyed exploring video magic.

By: William Rattenbury and Ryder Foster, Year 7



AIMS Games Round Up

2019 saw St Thomas's best ever performance at the AIMS Games. We were well and truly punching above our weight, up there with the big Intermediate Schools from across New Zealand. While we are very much of the "good sportsmanship is better than good results" mindset here at St Thomas's, we have to say that we are extremely proud of our teams and our individual competitors for both the sportsmanship they displayed during the week and their outstanding results. As always, we received many compliments on our teams' manners, respect, humbleness in victory and composure in defeat during the course of the week. Being selected for AIMS is not all about skill level, we look for the very best in attitude and sportsmanship combined with skill. So if you're an aspiring AIMS Games athlete of the future, be sure to work on being a fantastic all-rounder with a great attitude.

Girls Football

See following article.

Boys Football

Our best ever placing at 26th out of 56 teams competing! The boys had a fantastic week with SuperCoach Dan Morris-Adams selecting the following team awards:

- Jake Laurence - Most Valuable Player
- Eldor Murati - Most Improved Player
- Ricky Kobayashi - Most Determined Player
- Pratik Patel - Most Positive Player

Some comments from the boys:

"The best week of my life." *Sam Howe*

"I loved hanging with my mates the most. Oh and when we won our matches." *Jake Laurence*

"Where do I begin, AIMS has been the best experience ever . . ." *Cooper Agnew*

Waterpolo

The 1st ever St Thomas's Waterpolo team had a blast both in the pool and out of it. With a collection of new and some experienced players they went from strength to strength.

They started the tournament playing the eventual overall winners AIMS. Over the course of the 5 days, they beat some strong teams and got mighty close and competitive with others. It was a roller coaster ride with many learning opportunities. The team managed to go only 3 goals down to the team that came 3rd overall and had a brilliant win over Albany another very strong team.

Great team spirit was displayed at all times despite some very rough physical play and tough experiences. Congratulations to Sami Lawler who was awarded the team Most Valuable Player award.

Gymnastics

Daniel Miller placed 3rd overall, competing with an injury to his foot.

Monique Kelly placed 13th equal in the tumbling, and 20th overall out of 114 competitors in artistic gymnastics. She placed 14th in the beam event.

Rock Climbing

Samuel McKnight placed 1st overall in the Rock-Climbing competition. It was a very tough, close final and Samuel had to use his clever thinking as well as his fitness, strength and technical skills to pull off the win.

BMX Racing

Ocean Wikaira was lucky enough to draw a place in the memorial lap line up alongside World Champion Sarah Walker. This started her AIMS campaign well and she went on to place 5th in the BMX time trails, then after a bike malfunction the following day, and a mercy dash to Waihi to get it fixed, Ocean managed to place 6th overall in her MOTO finals.

Swimming

Sophie Barry, our star swimmer, managed to make the finals for every event she entered. She won 2 bronze medals (50m and 100m butterfly). She placed a very close 4th in the 100m backstroke and picked up 5th, 6th and 7th overall placings in her other events. These are outstanding results considering only the best of the best can qualify for AIMS swimming with some blistering paces set as qualifying times for the event.

Cross-Country

All of our 8-competitor strong cross-country team raced outstandingly well this year. It was a tough, wet course with an unbelievably strong level of competition. Zara Pomfret placed 20th overall out of 180 competitors in the Year 7 Girls event, and our 6km Open Relay team placed 9th overall.



AIMS Girls Football

After a year of training and commitment it was finally time to go to AIMS, the national sporting event for all Intermediate schools. We all woke up nice and early arriving at school at 6:45am. The first thing we did when we arrived at Tauranga was to support our STS Cross Country runners. After that we went to set up our tent at Gordon's Spratt Park. We then went to our accommodation which was Mt Maunganui Surf Club.

Next morning, we woke up bright and early to eat breakfast, get changed, do some yoga and then drove to the football pitches and warmed up. We were off to a great start by winning all three of our first games which placed us first equal on the leader board. In our game against Papamoa College we scored a whopping 11 goals. This gave us a great advantage in our goal difference.

Tuesday, we won our first game but sadly lost the other two. Lucky for us there was a mall right down the street from the pitches and we went to KMart in our free time which definitely lightened our mood after the loses.

Wednesday, we had 2 games to play and in order to get into the quarter finals we had to win or tie one of those games. We played St Peter's Cambridge who were one of our toughest opponents. It was a very close and hard-fought game, but thankfully we managed to score an amazing goal straight from a corner! We ended up winning this game 1-0. As a celebration for getting in the top 8 we got a frozen coke and 40mins worth of foam rolling.

Thursday was the big day we were going to find out where we were going to place within the top 8 teams in the country. Sadly, we lost both games that day and so on Friday we would be playing off for 7th and 8th.

We had finally made it to the last day of AIMS. With only one game left in the tournament we would make one final push against Evans Bay Intermediate (Wellington). We scored an early goal in the second half from a great strike from distance. A great team goal beautifully worked into the oppositions goal was a great way to end our tournament. Final score 2-0.

Overall, we placed 7th out of 34 teams which was the best STS has ever placed in a team sport. Special thanks to Lisa Morgan, Natasha Holland, Tanya Laurence, Mr Silver, Miss Fromow and all our supporters that came down during the week, this would have never happened without you.

By Jade B



Bay Suburbs Hockey

On Thursday 26th September, 23 Year 5/6 students went to compete at the Bays Suburbs Hockey tournament. This year the event was at Lloyd Elsmore Park which meant more teams could enter. As a result, we took 2 teams to the event, one entered in the development grade and the other in the A grade.

All the St Thomas's students taking part seemed to thoroughly enjoy their day and showed excellent teamwork. The players in the development team showed improvement throughout the day and the A grade St Thomas's Team won the event for the third year in a row. They demonstrated resilience to come back from 2-0 down to win 4-2 in the final verses Glendowie Primary.

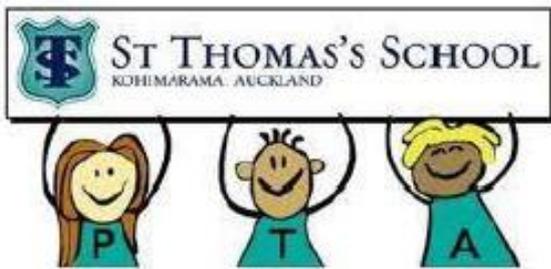
The St Thomas's players attending were:

Luca Morton, Roxy Pastiroff, Lily Pastiroff, Jack Baillie, Gabe Davidson, Hayden Hills, Zach Woods, Connor McKay, Amelia Hitchcock, Tiffany Quan, Louis Harland, Mitchell Smith, Julia Tukuitonga, Jessica Litchfield, Abigail Lord, Thomas Stafford, Leonardo Pecsy, William Meleisea, Euen McNaught, Ella Klipin, Harry Wood and Samantha West-Walker.

Thanks to Natalia Holst, Amber Thomas and Sara Revell who umpired at this event who were praised by the organiser of the event for the way they handled themselves on the day.

Thanks also to the parents who transported students to the event and supported the teams on the day.





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

NEWS

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

House T-shirts

Thank you to all who purchased a house t-shirt.
Delivery will be week 1 of term 4.



Birdsong A-thon

Please support our children in learning their A-thon tests, and helping them collect sponsors over the holidays.

There are prizes (including drones!) for classes and individuals who do well and all profits from sponsorship money collected go towards our 2019 fundraising goal of more shading and seating around the school.

Testing on Friday 18th October -Term 4.

Yummy Sticker Collection

Thank you also to all the whanau who collected stickers which converts to sports gear.
Well done!



Calendar Art Orders

Don't forget to place your order for your child's calendar art.

Website shuts down 9am Monday morning!
You can view and order your child's artwork by visiting www.artworks.com and entering your unique code.

Payment can be made over the website using a credit card or directly from your bank account.

The perfect gifts for busy parents, customised with each child's artwork and ready to go for Christmas. Don't miss out!



Learning music can keep your kids off their screens and engaged all the way through the summer

Learning an instrument with MEC is a fun and educational way to keep your child busy and their brain active. Learning music aids cognitive development, teaches coordination and improves mathematical ability. Also, it relieves stress in a fun and relaxing way.

Why not try something new?

We teach piano, guitar and bass guitar at your school.

Term one enrolments will be snapped up in an instant, and existing students are always offered the first choice of lesson times, so beat the rush and action that new year's resolution one term early!

0800 89 39 39

www.musiceducation.co.nz

Enrolments are now open for Music lessons at School through Music Education Centre!



Term 4 2019: PLANT MANIA

mixed media collage, drawing & painting on wooden board

Exploring rich and powerful colours and quirky tropical plant forms you take a detailed look at various painting techniques, the art of perspective and layering to produce a fabulous painting.

**8 weeks Tuesday 22nd October to 10th December 2019
3:15pm-5:15pm in Weka Room with Antonia.**

ART CLASSES

AT SCHOOLS, AFTER SCHOOL

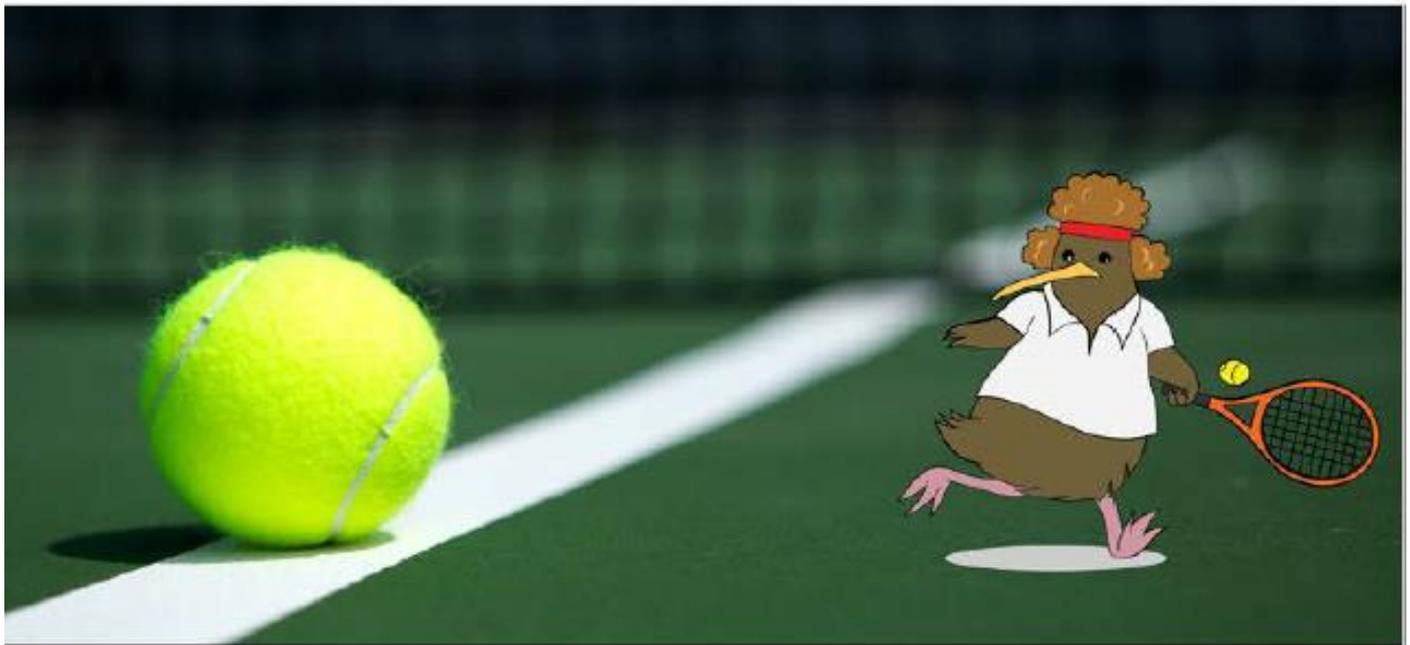
Term 4 2019 @ St Thomas's School

Fine Young Artists is an inspirational **fine arts programme** designed for children who are **passionate about art.**

Every term, children take part in an exciting new programme based on the works of well-know local and international artists. Our 8-week course is the perfect way to develop your child's artistic potential.



ENROL NOW! www.fineyoungartists.co.nz P: 09 6341995 E: enquiries@fineyoungartists.co.nz



OCTOBER HOLIDAY CAMPS at Orakei Tennis Club



Where:

Orakei Tennis Club
2 Kupe Street, Orakei

When:

30 September - 4 October 2019

Half Day:

9am-12.30pm, drop off 8.30am

Full Day:

9am-4.30pm, drop off 8.30am

Cost:

Half Day \$45, Full Day \$80

All ages welcome

Discounts available for club members!

Book online at

www.kiwitennis.co.nz

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