



6 December 2019

Hello all,

The end of 2019 is almost upon us, and what a huge year it has been for the school community. This is the final newsletter for 2019 and on behalf of the Board of Trustees of St Thomas's we'd like to say thank you for your confidence and trust and allowing us to represent the school and to help shape it's future.

As a Board we have focussed our strategy and discussions on how to make St Thomas's the best it can be for:

1. The students - How can the school best serve and develop its students.
2. The teachers - How can St Thomas's support, nurture and develop our teachers.
3. The community - How can St Thomas's include and connect best with our community (Parents, caregivers).

So many highlights this year - these are just a few:

- A growing and clearer focus on learning outcomes, learning progressions and learning development.
 - This is about helping our kids become good and self-directed in some of their learning.
- Fantastic focus on the diversity of the school community and allowing this to shine through.
- A broad focus that learning and wellbeing is connected, and that wellbeing is about many parts of learning - this includes:
 - A strong and key focus on academic outcomes.
 - A clear program that focuses and celebrates cultural diversity.
 - School campus - design and layout and how the new buildings are used.
 - Kapa Haka, sport, theatre, music, the arts and the environment - all play a big part in how our kids connect, learn and build connections and confidence.

The Board is just finalising the 2020 Strategic Plan. Thank you to the parents who joined us at the open sessions over the past couple of weeks to discuss this. We will look to sign this off very shortly so we can hit the ground running in 2020.

Finally - a huge thank you to the hard working and committed teachers and staff of St Thomas's ably led by Principal Michael Maher and his leadership team. As a Board we thank you all for a huge 2019.



Year 7&8 Boys Cricket Team for winning the AUCC tournament for the first time in 19 years, and to Graeme Laurence for his awesome coaching.

Upcoming Events

December

- 13 Prize Giving (10.00am at Barfoot & Thompson Stadium)
Summary Report/2020 envelopes going home
- 16 Tabloid Sports Day
- 18 **Last day of term**
(school finishes at 12.30pm)

February 2020

- 3 Meet the Teacher Day
- 4 **First day of term**
- 6 Waitangi Day (no school)
- 10 Year 1 – 5 Swimming starts
- 12-14 Year 6 Camp
- 12-14 Year 7 Youthtown EOTC
- 17 Year 6 – 8 Swimming lessons start
- 27 Parent Information Evening

March

- 5 Eastern Zone Softball
- 11 Year 5-8 Swimming Sports
- 16 Bay Suburbs Softball
- 18 Year 7&8 Vaccinations
- 23 Bay Suburbs Swimming
- 24 Eastern Zone Swimming
- 25 Year 7&8 Catch up Vaccinations

So, as 2020 beckons, its time get ready for our summer breaks, enjoy Christmas and the holidays, recharge the batteries, stay safe and we all look forward to a big 2020!

Regards
St Thomas's School Board



Principal's Awards

Excellence

Nathan Trethewey J5
Jake Findlay M11
Cindy Yu J1
Dylan Vaughan S6
George Duggan S7

Connections

Maddy Whittaker J15
Freya Burke J11
Jade Mason S7

Prize Giving 2019

Prize Giving is taking place at the Barfoot and Thompson Stadium, on Kohimarama Road on 13th December at 10.00am. If you are attending can you please ensure that you are seated before 10.00am so that you can experience the full programme.

Last Day of School

The last day of the school year is Wednesday 18th December at 12.30pm. There will be no school bus at 12.30pm so please ensure that your children are either collected on time or know how they will be making their way home.

Staff Moving on at the End of the Year

At the end of the year we have staff moving on to other schools and indeed other cities. I would like to acknowledge and thank these staff for their work in educating our young people and in helping to make St Thomas's School the special place it is.

Michael Lonsdale-Cooper moving to Meadowbank
Irene Yu moving to Remuera Intermediate
Melissa Gainsford moving to Churchill Park
Dan Morris-Adams moving to Hamilton
Tony Peck moving to Sacred Heart
Victoria Pickworth moving to Melbourne

Construction Report Week 8 Term 4

Hello again, welcome back! This will be my final property report of the year, so I'll have to make it a good one! On the topic of the building site, you can see it looking more like the billboard than ever. Most of you have noticed that a glossy, stylish fence has been put up along the front of the building on the first floor. This reminds us that it's the end of the year and it has come a long way.

The School Board and Senior Leadership Team recently visited the site and are impressed with its progress and learning spaces. Also, over the course of the rest of the term, the office and Pohutukawa Centre will be shrink wrapped. The exterior wall framing is also being put up, along with pre cladding.

All in all, it's been a great and productive year in our construction, and I hope those of you who will be moving to different schools have enjoyed these reports, as I'm likely to do this again next year. Anyway, cheerio and Happy Holidays.

Alex Heaton, S12, Year 7



YEAR 8 CAMP BENTZON

As the 2019 Year 8 St Thomas's students walked into the hall on the Monday morning excitement and nervous energy was in the air. Bags were ready and we were all in our groups ready to go. We said our last goodbyes to our parents and loaded onto the buses ready to go to camp. This year was the very first time our school has had a WEEK long camp and the first time we have had a camp on KAWAU Island. After an hour-long bus ride, we arrived at the wharf and loaded our suitcases onto the ferry. Midway through the boat ride, someone spotted fins in the distance and we realised it was dolphins. Everyone rushed to watch them skim the waves and ride the bow waves with us.

One of the main highlights for the Year 8s was the Burma Trail which was the night walk where we all held onto a rope and walked a trail in a line in the dark. People would jump out of bushes and scare us, and the teachers would like to make spooky noises for fun. You could hear people at the top of the line screaming and giggling while walking the track in pitch black. Another highlight of camp was the 9 kilometre walk to the beach. For me personally the walk was the best part, not the beach. It was just to catch up with your friends and tell them about everything you did with your camp group and just joke and have a good, laid back time.

Some of our highlights were:

- **Kayaking:** Being soaked by Mr Putty on the kayaks
- **Sailing:** The wind blowing your boat really fast and racing your friends while occasionally crashing into each other
- **Archery:** Hitting the target and feeling accomplishment while having your group cheer you on
- Earning **camp money** for the daily auctions
- **Raft building:** bringing it onto the water to see if it would float, most of them sank but it didn't bother us
- For me one of my favourite memories from the camp activities was my group and I being too impatient to let our **damper** cook properly, so we just ate slightly cooked flour, milk and sugar and just adding a bunch of syrup on them and getting it everywhere! Oh, and then all the ducks and Wekas came over for us to chase away

Mealtime was always a favourite for us. It was a time to sit down with your regular friends and have a chat about the things we had done that day and the funny moments we had witnessed. It was also a time to rest and refuel after our activities. We did also have a half-hour downtime between activities to change, re-apply sunscreen, use the bathroom and take a small break because we were all tired.

Camp taught us a lot of responsibilities. We were trusted to get up at six every morning to be ready by six-thirty and get ready for bed at nine for nine-thirty lights out. Camp also taught us how to take responsibility for our own messes with our daily chores and responsibilities to keep camp clean and running smoothly.

Each and every activity was amazing and enjoyable no matter whether it was kayaking, sailing, raft building, confidence course, archery or something more laid back like photography, bivouac building or damper making. The activities took teamwork, strength, friendship, and trust to complete it. Without your group by your side supporting your every move it just wouldn't be the same or as enjoyable.

On behalf of the Year Eights, I would like to say thank you to all the parents who came to camp with us, Ms Gainsford and the Year 8 teachers, the chefs and the instructors on the island for taking time out of their busy lives to come to camp and make it happen. Without your efforts for planning and making this trip happen, we wouldn't have made the memories we did or build the friendships we now have.

Camp left us with so much it gave us new friendships and bonds and of course memories, we will never forget and will cherish forever.

Written by Kayla Burke

"Changing Learning for a Changing World"



Year 0/1 Assembly

On Friday the 29th of November our youngest students had their chance to shine. This was the culmination of many weeks of fun and hard work from everyone. During term three we all explored some of the many dimensions and interesting characters in our favourite fairy-tales and this was the inspiration for our assembly item. The children from all six classes created a collaborative fairy tale castle art display that was the backdrop for our performance. Each student across Year 0 and Year 1 was given a special part to colour. It looked fantastic! Collaboration and fun for all was our motto, and we certainly had lots of fun on the day.



Talent Show

Over 170 students auditioned over 6 lunchtimes to be a part of the final talent show but only 14 performances got through to the Junior and 11 performances got through to the Senior Talent Show.

The St Thomas's School Senior Talent Show was held in the hall at lunchtime on the 27th of November and the Junior Talent Show was held on the 28th. Everything went pretty smoothly thanks to the Year 1-8 performers amazing talent and the awesome work by the Year 6 stage management team (Kelsey, Maddie, Sean, Troy, Christopher, Jessica and Milena).

From violin to gymnastics to magic to piano to singing to guitar to rap to mime to ukulele to dancing, there was so much variety and so much talent on the stage. Almost the whole school showed up to support the performers and the cheers were deafening when the certificates were handed out by the judges (Mr Peck, Miss Thain, Mr Smith, Miss Fromow, Mrs May and Mrs Deynzer). The overall winners were:

Senior Talent Show

1st place Matthew Xu Year 6 -piano

2nd place Sitei Liava'a Year 6 -traditional Tongan dance

3rd place Ryan Smith Year 7 -singing

Junior Talent Show

1st place Leila Paris and Messina Hand Year 4 -singing and gymnastics

2nd place Bella Black and Benedetta Oyaka Year 4 -dance

3rd place Melody Xu Year 4 -piano

Big thanks to everyone that supported the performers, the stage managers and the judges.

By Madeleine and Kelsey Year 6



Outdoor Adventure Group Finishes on a High for 2019

This week the Outdoor Adventure Group headed to the Beveridge Loop Track and the Arataki Nature Trail for our last and final walk for 2019. We were very lucky to have a beautiful fine day to enjoy the stunning views of the Waitakeres once we climbed to the top, and then enjoyed some time in the Arataki Visitors and Education Centre as the rain started to fall.

Our Year 7's had a great day out – here's what some of them had to say:

I really enjoyed OAG group this year. I saw heaps of interesting things on the walk and in the visitors centre. I enjoyed reading the signs and learning more about nature – ***Amber Thomas***

I really enjoyed getting outside of the classroom and seeing all the nature around me – ***Mia Montgomery***
I thoroughly enjoyed the hike in the scenic Waitakere Ranges and appreciate the teachers and parents who made this possible - ***Ella O'Brien***

The walk had many parts of beautiful nature and viewing platforms, this was by far the most stunning walk – ***Sophie Barry***

The walk was really fun; I loved going to all the site seeing and I would love to do more in the future – ***Tyler de Reuck***

The walk was really fun and the nature around us was very pretty – ***Jackson Foster***

The walk was brilliant, there were loads of different trees and some big hills. Loads of students attended this walk, some from William Pike and some not. Thank you Mrs Kroonenberg and Mrs May for this great walk! – ***Jasmine Foster***

The Beveridge track was fun and a challenge up and down the stone path hill because everyone slipped at least once. It was a great track to walk – ***Cade Nicholas***

I really enjoyed the Arataki Visitor Centre, because I got to learn some interesting facts about the trail and Maori Culture – ***Mace Cadwallader***



Cricket



Junior Athletics Day Round-Up

A spectacular day out for all our budding athletes in Year 2, 3 and 4 for the Junior Athletics Day on Thursday this week. Smiling faces were about as students participated in Long Jump, High Jump, Softball Throws, Sprints, Relays and a fun obstacle course. A huge congratulations to all those children who placed in their events for which they were presented with their certificates at Junior Assembly on Friday. Thank you to all the mums, dads, grandparents and whanau who came to support on the day; the children just loved your encouragement and suggested that maybe we should include the parents to compete in some of the activities next year!



Baking up a Storm for the Kakapo

Last week I organised a bake sale for only M9 and M9 brothers and sisters. I wanted to organise a bake sale to fundraise for the Kakapo Recovery Programme. During our Native Wings project in Term 3 I learnt that Kakapo are an endangered bird native to New Zealand. There are only 211 left and they are only in New Zealand. They live on a small island called Whenua Hou Island where there are no predators. I wanted to do something to help the Kakapo Recovery Programme. Me and my mum, and nana worked hard on the baking and I made a poster to advertise. My brother Orson and neighbour Olly helped with making signs with prices on. I raised \$146 dollars from the bake sale, from staff donations and \$10 from my nana. One day I hope to see a Kakapo in real life.

Huxley Fowler, M9



Shine Speech and Drama

Congratulations Shine students in your performing arts exams. Fantastic results!

Mia Morrison Grade 3 - Distinction
Diseni Ratnayake Grade 3 - Distinction
Holly Ferguson Grade 2 - Merit
Conor Fergusson Grade 1 - Credit Plus
Sasha Wrigley Speech NZ - Grade 1 Credit Plus
Vida Devine - Initial Merit Plus

Billy Harris Soccer – Important Info

The last day of soccer this term is Thursday 12 December. We'll start back again in 2020 on Thursday 13 February. Contact me if you'd like to come along and try out a class.

Holiday Camp – I'm running a camp from 9am-midday on 19, 20, 23 and 24 December at Orakei Basin in Okahu Bay. Come along for one or all the days!

Happy holidays – Billy
Billyharris2000@hotmail.com or 027 2799042



A big thank you to everyone from our St Thomas's School community for your continued support of all our fundraising and social events. See you all again in the new year, and have a wonderful summer.

FUNDRAISING GOAL FOR 2019

"Improving the amenity value of our outdoor environment with new facilities such as shading and seating."

We had so many successful events this year, raising more than \$57,000! Look out for a new large shade structure over the junior playground in 2020.

School picnic	\$3,500+	School Disco	\$2,800+
Birdsong-a-thon	\$12,700+	Entertainment Book	\$1,800+
Musical Showcase	\$1,500+	Calendar Art	\$5,000+
Lantern Walk	\$200+	Movie Nights	\$400+
Quiz Night	\$24,000+	Ice-blocks & Pizzas	\$4,300+
House T-shirts	\$600+	Christmas Hams	\$800+



If you've ordered a Christmas Ham, remember to collect it from Saint John's Butchery on the day you nominated for pick up!



SAINT JOHN'S
BUTCHERY

SCHOOL PICNIC 2020!

Pop the date in your diaries; Thursday 20th February

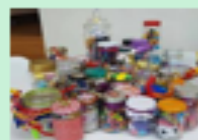
If you could start collecting any old books & toys over the holidays to donate for sale at the Picnic, we'd appreciate that.

We'd also love Jollie Jars & home baking to be donated.

Our fabulous Cultural stalls will be back, by popular demand, as well as the fun and fantastic rides, food trucks and of course DJ Fetu.

More details to follow soon, but if you would like to participate, or help at the Picnic in anyway, please email us with your details!

stthomasschoolpta@gmail.com



A HUGE thank you once again to all our sponsors in 2019!





WILL YOU BE IN YEAR 7 OR YEAR 8 NEXT YEAR?
DO YOU WANT TO PLAY BASKETBALL?
COME AND PLAY THE GREAT GAME WITH YOUR FRIENDS!
GIRLS AND BOYS!!
IF YOU ARE KEEN – PLEASE LET SAM HOWE OR BEN JAMISON KNOW ASAP!!



JUMP START INTO WATER POLO!

BEGINNERS WATER POLO TRAINING CAMP **January Holiday Programme**

Perfect for 9-11 year olds who have not played Waterpolo before but would like to give it a go and are confident swimmers.



We will cover basic Waterpolo skills like "eggbeating", swimming with head up etc, get deep water experience, have some fun and also give players a chance to play practice games, and see how awesome water polo is! .Players can then smoothly transition into the U12 water polo programme starting February 2020 and hit the ground running!

Monday—Wednesday 20—22 January 2020, St Cuthbert's College Pool

3—4 pm plus 15 mins dry land @ 2.45

LIMITED TO 40 PLAYERS

COST: \$55

To enrol go to <https://maristwaterpolo.org.nz/teams/under-12/u12-camp-ian-2020/>

and select : Jump Start to Water Polo

Questions: rachel.ryan@xtra.co.nz.

NOTE: YOU CAN ONLY REGISTER ONLINE UNTIL 18 DECEMBER. AFTER THAT CONTACT RACHEL AT rachel.ryan@xtra.co.nz

MARIST
WATER POLO

WATER POLO TRAINING CAMP

U12 PRE-SEASON TRAINING

Monday—Wednesday 20—22 January 2020

St Cuthbert's College Pool

12.30 —2.30 plus 15 mins dry land @ 12.15

To enrol go to <https://maristwaterpolo.org.nz/teams/under-12/u12-camp-ian-2020/> select : U12 Pre-Season Camp Questions: rachel.ryan@xtra.co.nz

NOTE: YOU CAN ONLY REGISTER ONLINE UNTIL 18 DECEMBER. AFTER THAT CONTACT RACHEL AT rachel.ryan@xtra.co.nz



Marist is running a pre-season holiday camp for the U12 age group.

Get them off their devices and into some exercise!

3 DAYS—2 HOURS A DAY

Cayne Dew will be running the camp, with the help of his U12 coaches.

The primary purpose of this camp is to :

- Provide players with a head start to the season
- focus on basic and extended skills—based on ability
- work on basics
- extend the training season



GET A HEAD START ON THE SEASON!





KOHIMARAMA TENNIS CLUB

SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

16th to 20th December

23rd & 24th December

17th & 20th January – 24th January

28th January – 31st January.

\$180 for 5 half days \$42 Casual

Contact Rick Healey on rickhealey7@gmail.com or 0212861598