



12 June 2020

As we come to the end of our first week at Level 1, it certainly feels like we are returning to a more normal environment in the wider community and our school. Work continues at pace on our new classroom block and there is increased traffic flow with more contractors on the site. On Monday, the builders accidentally activated our fire alarm system just before 3:00 and we had to evacuate the school onto our field and the evacuation went smoothly. On Wednesday, the drainlayers dug up a cable in the carpark and again activated the fire alarm but luckily this time it was 5:00 and only staff were on site. We have had disruptions to our internet and phones as builders hook up different systems so if you have trouble phoning us it will likely be because of the new build.

As we continue to adapt our systems with the move to Covid Level 1, we have had four afternoons where parents were welcome to come onto the school grounds to pick up their children. We have asked parents and children to leave the school grounds by 3:15pm because of increased construction activity currently on site and once construction is complete then the school will reopen after 3:00 for community use. Parents may have noticed the extra construction fence which was recently installed at the front of the school. This is because the builders are working on the walkway which will connect the staffroom to the new block and for safety reasons access to the office area from the netball court area will be closed off. During the school day, staff and students will enter the office area from the front door and the temporary fence is to stop students going out onto the street. Parents will still be able to access the office from Allum Street.



Temporary fencing to school while construction underway at rear of office area.



**To the House Captains and Vice Captains for creating the St Thomas's School News and  
To Divesh and Sports Leaders for kicking off the inter-school house soccer tournament.**

## Upcoming Events

### July

- 3 Real Time Reporting
- Last day of Term 2
- 20 Beginning of Term 3

### Student Led Conferences Week 4 Term 3

## Principals Awards

### Excellence

- Jessica Fielder – J13
- Anjan Pradhan – S11
- Olly Lough – S4
- Troy Firth – S8

### Leadership

- Mia Trethewey – S6
- Sofia Nigro – J4

### Connections

- Daniel Walker-Randall – J14

### Passion

- Henry Keh – J8
- Lucy Martin – M8
- Riya Fifield – J3
- Chloe Xu – S1
- Tommy Chapman – J5
- Laith Al-Jubbawey – M9
- Cohen Holmes – S2
- Lola Beange – S10

## School Value-Connection

Many schools across New Zealand are now opening their gates at 8:30 in the morning to allow only students to enter the school. Heather du Plessis-Allen from 1ZB, interviewed the president of the Primary Principals Association Stephen Lethbridge, where he noted that schools were noticing how settled students were in the morning when they could enter the school grounds on their own. Link to interview [Stephen Lethbridge: Primary schools ask parents to consider staying at the school gate](#)

As noted in our previous newsletters we have noticed:

- Students independence has grown
- Students organisation and self-management have improved
- There is virtually no separation anxiety
- Relationships between teachers and students have strengthened
- Negative incidents between students which might have occurred before school have disappeared
- Incidents of students becoming injured before school, when there was no staff member in the sick bay have stopped
- No noise outside the classrooms during learning time
- Grounds staff can use noisy machinery before 8:30 with no students to worry about
- Staff have uninterrupted time to organise learning for the day and respond to parental emails
- Students arriving at school from 7:30 in the morning has stopped.
- There is a general air of calmness across the school

These are the advantages we have noticed of parents dropping their children off in the morning at the school gates. However, as a staff we feel that we need more opportunities for parents to engage with teachers and their child's learning within the classroom. With this in mind, we have a survey which we would like parents to complete. 'Connections' is one of our key values as a school and we wish to maintain and strengthen this with our parent community while also building the resilience and independence of our young learners.

Please complete the short survey below by Sunday as we welcome your feedback.

<https://forms.gle/Po5euUnzbXh7Gd2Q8>

**Michael Maher  
Principal**

## Canopy of Junior Playground

Contractors are delayed in installing the canopy and we have moved the fencing panels to allow our young learners to access the playground. Canopy installation date is now end of Term.



## 40Hour Famine

Last weekend, students from across the school participated in the World Vision 40hour Famine. Whether it be going without food or devices, selling lemonade or completing 40 push ups - there were many ways our students participated! As a part of our school fundraising, students were also asked to wear something orange to school on Friday and bring a donation. We raised \$4,911.50 altogether which will be an amazing contribution to struggling communities in Malawi. Thanks to all who supported this fantastic cause!



## Kapa Haka

We need you!! Our Senior Kapa Haka group has expanded this year and we have outgrown our current uniforms. We are in the beginning stages of planning our new uniforms and are now reaching out to our community for your help. If you or someone you know is a dressmaker, hobby sewer, machinist or designer, please email Amy Thurston at [athurston@stthomas.school.nz](mailto:athurston@stthomas.school.nz) to discuss what support you could offer. We really appreciate the support of our community.

Ngā mihi mahana

## Alex Heaton Week 9 Term 2 Property Report

Hello and welcome back to my fortnightly property report! While we've reached Level One, we still have a bit more work to do on our new block. Let's see what's changed since last time!

A group of drainlayers (that's a tradesperson who specialises in drains and sewers), are currently ripping up the teacher carpark to make way for a sewage pipe that will allow us to use taps and bathrooms. The grids that collect rain water and stop it from creating a big puddle have been installed and GIB stopping continues (for those who can't remember from last term, that's plastering the walls and getting them ready for painting). Electricians are still working on the wires in the building and painters are still painting, so those continue as normal. On top of that, the workers have started to join the building roof with the Pohutukawa Block (that is the block with ESOL and the library).

On a different note, the canopy over the junior playground has been postponed until the holidays so the juniors are allowed to play on it again. Yay!

Gosh, those workers do have a lot on their hands. Join me in two weeks' time for another load of info.  
Byeeeeee!

## **The Board Need Your Help**

There are numerous Grants and Funding available for New Zealand Schools. These can range from sporting grants to academic related funding to community initiative funding. These can really help us improve what we offer our kids by providing the additional funding required. The hardest part is working out what is available and how we gain access to it.

In order to maximise this opportunity, we are looking for someone in the St Thomas's community to work alongside the Board to research and identify potential funding and then to help complete any necessary applications.

This could have a huge impact for our school so if you or anyone you know would be perfect for this please let the Board know by emailing us at [BOT@stthomas.school.nz](mailto:BOT@stthomas.school.nz).

## **Welcome to the Following New Students**

We would like to welcome the following students who have started at St Thomas's this term.

Reddington Chen - J12	George Coyle – J12	Emilie Fechney – J12
Christiaan Goosen – J12	Eddie Hill – J12	Nina Ho – J12
Joshua Im – J12	Adam Lu – J12	Aaron Nguyen – J12
Harlem Brooking – J12	Isaac Bruell – J12	Joseph Dimes – J12
Alice Gawith – J12	Ollie Hitchcock – J12	Aryana Hollett Smith – J12
Georgia Martin – J12	Triera Sejdiu – J12	Tara Caffrey – M8
Jayden Xin – J3	Enzo Ihaka – S3	Tishani Karaka – S6
Allen Xin – S6	Phillip Ngo – S8	Ayanna Karaka – S11

## **Welcome to Ricky Buchanan**

We would like to welcome Ricky to our year 7 and 8 teaching team and will be teaching in S7.

Ricky joined us on our return to school after lockdown. He has four years teaching experience and was most recently teaching in London before returning to New Zealand before lockdown.

Ricky has lots of hobbies and enjoys keeping busy in his spare time. He plays a range of sports and coaches' basketball. He has a love for the outdoors; camping, water sports, tramping and biking. He likes to embrace new cultures whenever the chance arises and enjoys keeping up to date with new technological changes and ICT that can be used in the classroom.

## House Football Tournament

While we waited for sports and interzone competitions to slowly find normality we came up with a plan of our own to have fun and enjoy! This term in replacement of our Eastern Zone and AIMS tournaments the House & Vice Captains introduced a school football tournament. We were split up into our houses (Rangitoto, Pohutukawa, Kohimarama and Hauraki) and a mini tournament was organised by all the student leaders. We played nine-aside on the field and if it rained before lunch, we played six-aside on the astroturf.

The tournament is now into its final stage and till now the quality of football and excitement shown towards it is amazing. Some houses even brought white boards to the field to work on gameplays. This fun tournament was to brighten up players' moods with an enjoyable lunchtime activity and it surely has done a lot more for everyone involved.

Here are the results from the previous two weeks (winning team highlighted):

Rangitoto vs Kohi - 7 - 2

Pohutukawa vs Kohi - 4 - 2

Hauraki vs Rangitoto - 2 - 4

Hauraki vs Pohutukawa - 1 - 1

Rangitoto vs Pohutukawa - 4 - 0

Hauraki vs Kohi - 1 - 1

The 1st place final will be played on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> between Rangitoto & Pohutukawa. The 3rd and 4th playoff will also be played on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> as well, between the other two houses just before the big final. This will be a tough match for all the house teams, as all teams have put their best foot forward for the final's day!



**By Ella O'Brien and Sophie Barry (Rangitoto House Captain & Vice Captain)**

# PTA News

## Issue #5 2020



ST THOMAS'S SCHOOL  
KOHIMARAMA, AUCKLAND



### PTA FUNDRAISING EVENTS COMING SOON!



PIZZA LUNCHES



2ND HAND UNIFORMS



CALENDAR ART



A THOUSAND  
Rectangle



QUIZ NIGHT



DISCO



CHRISTMAS HAM

Our biggest social & fundraising event for the year is our Annual Quiz night. This will be held in September and we will also be running our usual Auction alongside the Quiz night.

We would love to hear from you if you have a service or a product donation that could go toward the Auctions on the night.



Please email us at [stthomasschoolpta@gmail.com](mailto:stthomasschoolpta@gmail.com) if you can help in any way. It is only through the generosity of our school community that we can make this event happen and raise precious funds for our school.

We will be holding a 2<sup>nd</sup> Hand Uniform Sale this term (date TBC). Please donate any unwanted, clean & tidy uniforms to the school office for us to find a new home for.

House T-shirts will be available to buy via the Online shop again this term. Just \$20 each & they will be delivered in Term 3.  
More details to follow via FlexiBuzz.



We're always looking for more members. If you'd like to know more, contact us at [stthomasschoolpta@gmail.com](mailto:stthomasschoolpta@gmail.com) or come along to the next PTA meeting. We'd love to have more members, many hands make light work!

Join the



We encourage you to contact us with your thoughts & suggestions any time at [stthomasschoolpta@gmail.com](mailto:stthomasschoolpta@gmail.com) and don't forget to Like us on Facebook!



Facebook/StThomasSchoolPTA

## **Message from Auckland Transport**

**Kia ora**

### **Speed limits are changing across Auckland**

On the 30<sup>th</sup> of June this year speed limits will change on many of the high-risk roads across our local road network.

#### **Why are the speed limits changing?**

Auckland Transport is working through a multi-year programme (the ‘Safe Speeds Programme’) to review speed limits on roads across our local road network to ensure they have a speed limit that is safe and appropriate for the function, design and use of the road. Safe and appropriate speed limits will support our transport network to move people and goods effectively, efficiently and safely across Auckland.

At the end of 2019 the Auckland Transport board passed a bylaw to set new safe and appropriate speed limits on approximately 10% of the network and the first of these changes will come into effect on 30 June 2020.

#### **Where are speed limits changing?**

Most of the changes in this first phase are in Rodney, Franklin and Waitemata, including the city centre. Plus on 98 other roads across the region. A full list of the changes can be found at [at.govt.nz/speed](http://at.govt.nz/speed)

#### **What are the limits changing to?**

The new limits vary according to the type of road. E.g. urban or rural. The city centre roads will have 30km/h and 40km/h speed limits. These new limits recognise there are a growing number of vulnerable road users like pedestrians and people on bikes in the city centre. Details of all the roads and changes can be found on our website. [at.govt.nz/speed](http://at.govt.nz/speed)

#### **What happens next?**

New speed limit signs will be installed in the coming weeks and will be uncovered on 30 June 2020, the date from which the limits will be legally enforceable by NZ Police. From the 1<sup>st</sup> of June there will be a public information campaign letting people know of these changes.

This is the first phase of tranche one. This tranche will be completed by November 2021. We are in the process of planning the second tranche of roads to assess.

#### **Background to the Safe Speeds programme**

Auckland has had a growing problem with death and serious injuries on our roads and at Auckland Transport we’re serious about tackling that problem. We’ve developed a Safe Speeds Programme to review speed limits as required under the Land Transport Rule: Setting of Speed Limits 2017 to support our transport network to move people and goods across our region effectively and efficiently, without compromising people’s safety. We believe everyone deserves to get home safely.

We’ve also adopted a Vision Zero approach to support our target that no one dies or is seriously injured on our roads by 2050. Setting safe and appropriate speed limits, particularly on our high-risk roads and intersections, is one of the fastest and most cost-effective ways of stopping unnecessary deaths or serious injuries occurring on our roads.

In March 2019, Auckland Transport consulted with the public on the then proposed speed limit changes. Close to 12,000 feedback submissions were carefully analysed over the following months. In October 2019, the Auckland Transport Board passed the Speed Limits Bylaw 2019 to set new speed limits, including those coming into force on 30 June 2020. This first phase of changes targets high-risk roads where there has been a history of deadly crashes (extracting data from the Crash Analysis System maintained by Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency with input from NZ Police).

More information about the changes and the Safe Speed programme can be found at [at.govt.nz/speed](http://at.govt.nz/speed)

If you would like to sign up for any future email updates around the Safe Speed programme [Here's a link](#) to the form

## Soccer Skills with Billy Harris

Billy is an ex All White and has been coaching children all over Auckland for 18 years. His fun classes for boys and girls of all ages and abilities are designed to improve confidence, coordination, and ball skills. Billy coaches at St Thomas's on Thursday lunchtimes.

For a free trial class or to enrol for the term, call or text Billy on 027 2799042 or visit www.billyharris.co.nz



### **Do you want to play rugby?**

Grammar Juniors rugby U12 boys are looking for new players.

If you are under 12 years old on the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020 and under 52kgs and want to play rugby, please contact the coach, Andy McGregor on 021 625914

We train on Wednesday nights on Shore Road, Remuera from 5-6pm

It's a great family club and very welcoming.