



6 November 2020

Lockdown Practise Carried Out

In the event of a threatening situation that would require the school to go into lockdown and/or evacuate, St Thomas's School wanted to feel prepared and confident on how to respond. The school previously engaged Harrison Tew® Consultants (NZ) Ltd to design a robust and easy to implement Emergency Management Plan for this purpose.

On Thursday the 29th of October, St Thomas's School along with Harrison Tew®, completed an audit of our Emergency Management Plan training and conducted a full lockdown exercise. The audit consisted of an update of the current plan to reflect best practice and to ensure it is current and relevant especially with the opening of our new building. Staff were spoken to as part of the training along with the students prior to the exercise.

The lock down exercise went extremely well. Staff were calm and pro-active and the team in the incident control room followed the procedures calmly and confidently. Students were also quick in responding and followed all the instructions very well.

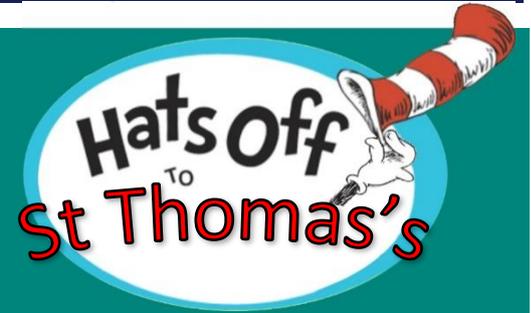
Each year, Harrison Tew® enhances the training to take into consideration not only events that are topical and have the potential to impact a school, but any changes that may occur to legislation affecting any of the response procedures for either lock down or evacuation. For this training, a classroom of students was moved successfully to another classroom and a full evacuation occurred afterwards.

Harrison Tew® Consultants (NZ) have assured the Board that they should have full confidence that St Thomas's School is equipped with the knowledge, expertise and self-assurance to deal with a wide range of emergency situations

and incidents, and keep their students, staff, and visitors safe and well and follow a clearly defined communications plan.

Photolife – Class and Individual Photos

Class and individual photos will be taken on Monday, 9th November and Tuesday, 10th November, if they are not completed on Monday. If you have not completed a sibling form and would like to still do so, this must be done by 9.00am on Monday.



Dancesport Comp Winners

Y8 Rock n' Roll – Jasmine Foster & Sam Howe
 Y8 Cha Cha – Erin Lawler & Jackson Foster
 Y7 Rock n' Roll & Cha Cha – Caleb Wilson & Mieke Moller

Upcoming Events

November

- 9-10 Class and Individual Photos
- 10 Y7&8 Social
- 10 Bay Suburbs Touch Rugby
- 11 PTA Meeting (7.00pm in Staffroom)
- 12 Y5&6 Athletics Day
- 13 9.30 Official Opening New Building
- 17 Bay Suburbs Athletics
- 18-20 Y7 at Youthtown
- 19 Y3 Kohi Beach Trip
- 19 Eastern Zone Athletics
- 21 PTA Quiz Night

December

- 8 Board of Trustees Meeting (6.30pm in the Staffroom)
- 9 PTA Meeting (7.00pm in Staffroom)
- 11 Prizegiving at Barfoot & Thompson Stadium
- 14 Tabloid Sports Day
- 16 Last day of school (School finishes at 12.30pm)
 NB. After school bus will not be running

Principal's Awards

Excellence

Erik Ludvig – S2
 Sofia Handley – S3

Leadership

Clara Bruce – J11
 Leonardo Simionato Soares – J8

Passion

Nathan Trethewey – J10
 Liam Gallagher – J3
 Jack Lienert – S10

Congratulations Anjan

Hi, my name is Anjan and I am in Year 8, S11. In September I competed in an Education Perfect worldwide competition. The competition was based on maths and we got 7 whole days to compete. When the competition started, I was very nervous, but mostly excited. Whilst competing in the competition, I learned some valuable maths skills that will help me in the future such as complex algebra. I earned 11,625 points in the whole competition and earned an elite award, which is very special and a first for St Thomas's School. Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed my experience competing and would definitely do it again.



Gates

During weekdays, gates will be opened at 8.15am each morning and locked again at 9.00am. Access to the school during the day will be only through the front office where you will be required to sign in if you are coming into the school.

Gates will then be open at 2.55pm and left open until dusk when our security company will lock them.

At the moment the gates are remaining locked at weekends until all building work has been finished. After this the main gates by the administration block will be open from dawn to dusk during weekends. A notification will be sent out to notify the community when the school will be open during the weekends.

Dancesport Competition

On November 5th the Year 7 and 8s came together after weeks of practise for a dance competition. In our practises we learned two dances: Cha Cha, and Rock 'n' Roll. The Year 7 and 8s dressed up in stunning outfits and all took part. There were three beginning heats for each dance, in the first heat the Year 8s performed the Rock 'n' Roll, and the Year 7s danced the Cha Cha. Halfway through the competition, our two judges performed a marvellous dance for us as the Year 7 and 8s were having a break. The next half of the competition the Year 7s did the Rock 'n' Roll, Year 8s did the Cha Cha. We had many outstanding winners for each competition having 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes for the Cha Cha and Rock 'n' Roll.

As a Year 7 who took part in the competition, I think I can speak on behalf of quite a few of us. Dressing up and dancing was just half the fun - since all the Year 7 and 8s took part, it gave us a chance to have fun as a syndicate and get to know each other more. It was really fun and I'm sure most of us Year 7s are excited to take part again next year.



Amara Looi and Mieke Moller



Mathex 2020

On October 29th, two Year 7 and two Year 8 teams competed in the 2020 Casio Mathex competition at the Barfoot and Thompson stadium in Selwyn College. It was an action-packed evening with over 81 schools and 340 competitors frantically racing against the clock to solve 20 challenging math problems in under 30 minutes. No STS team ended up on the podium although we all had lots of fun and felt proud of our scores!
Year 8 Mathex Teams: Samuel M, Aidan, Anjan, Sam H, Daniel H, Lily B, Jackson, Joel and Sophie B.
Year 7 Mathex Teams: Jack, Annabelle, Hayden, William M, Raya, Gabe, Youvraj and Connor.

By Aiden and Samuel M



Outdoor Adventure Group - Karamatura Falls Trail Walk

After planning and cancelling so many walks this year, we were finally able to get out into nature and embark on our first Outdoor Adventure Group walk for 2020. On Wednesday this week, an enthusiastic group of 43 Year 7 & 8 adventurers headed off with Mrs Kroonenberg and Mr Buchanan to the Waitakere's to the recently re-opened and renovated Karamatura Falls Trail walk. The weather was kind and the rain held off until the end of the day luckily!

It took an hour to arrive at our destination from school where we made the most of the good weather and enjoyed morning tea at the start of the trail. Before entering the track, we first had to spray and clean our shoes at the cleaning station to help prevent Kauri dieback. We then started walking along the gravel path heading upwards on windy trails with lush nature all around us that was totally amazing. After a while we reached the tallest of the astonishing Karamatura waterfalls. Once we had all seen the waterfall, we started our hike up all the stairs (and there were a lot of them) to the top of the hill where we had lunch sitting along a wooden bridge. After a filling lunch we all enjoyed walking back down the masses of stairs along the breathtaking track until we finally reached the cleaning station and the carpark.

It was a great adventure out which was made possible with the help of eight parents who gave up their day to walk with us. Thank you!

By Maddie and Chelsea

"Changing Learning for a Changing World"



New Parent Communications App - Hero

We have been working on finding a communications app that will suit the needs of our community. Considered within this decision, was feedback from parents in recent surveys relating to:

- Request for a single app for all communication including reporting on student progress
- More visibility of the school calendar and term dates
- Reporting on student progress against learning progressions rather than the New Zealand Curriculum
- More timely text contact in the event of unreported student absence

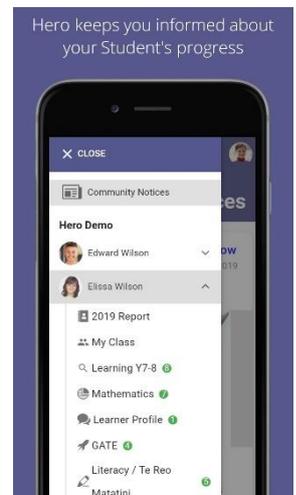


We are pleased to announce that we have decided to go ahead with the Hero app which can be downloaded for both Apple and Android systems from the App Store or Play Store.



From the beginning of Term 4, we will use the Hero app to provide important communications to you including school newsletters, sports notices and important classroom communications. Once the app is set up and customised for us we will send out further instructions about how to download the app and how to register to access your child/children's accounts.

To ensure that our 2020 reporting system is robust, and that important data is not lost, our current Real-Time Parent Reporting Portal will continue to be used until the end of 2020. From the start of Term 1 2021, reporting on student progress will also move to the Hero app. More information about this will be sent out to you in due course. This is a timely reminder for you to download and save or print any reporting information you wish to keep about your child as all reporting data only remains online until December 31, 2020.



Because it didn't adequately meet our needs, we will not, at this stage, be migrating our Online Shop to the Hero system. For termly invoices and optional payments to school your separate Kindo Online Shop login and password will still be valid.

More Information About Hero

Hero has been designed with the parent experience in mind. Schools provide strong communication for their parent community to keep them up to date on school events, opportunities on offer and celebratory messages. Schools communicate student progress and achievements, next steps in learning, they provide updates on the learning that is happening in the classroom and links to the curriculum to help support those learning conversations at home. School administrators also communicate with parents regarding absences.

The challenge for the busy parent is keeping up and knowing where and how to access all current and past information quickly. Whilst technology has enabled more effective communication, parents can become overwhelmed with app overload, a full email inbox and digging around for paper at the bottom of the school bag.



Our goal with Hero is to streamline communication and create a complete solution - all information accessible, anytime through one app. All notices and student information is targeted to reach the people that need it. Whether the Principal wishes to connect with the whole school community or the choir teacher needs to get a rehearsal notice out to that specific group or a classroom teacher is sharing a window into the learning happening in their class - it's easy through Hero. Parents can then focus on what is relevant to their family and receive the information in the most effective way.

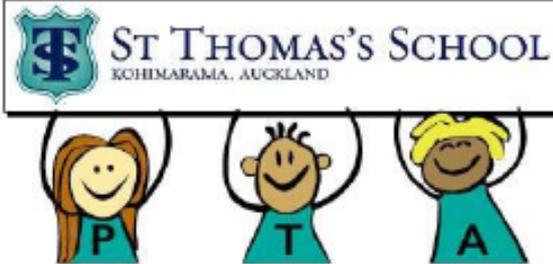
"Changing Learning for a Changing World"

The real power of Hero is what it offers for parents to enable them to keep in touch with their children's learning. We all know that reporting to parents can be one of the most time-consuming tasks for schools and often by the time the parent receives the report the child's learning has moved on. Hero has simplified this process for schools to enable real-time reporting to take place. Our reporting tools give parents live updates of where their children are working in the curriculum and what their next steps are, at any given time. As these next steps are calibrated to the school's expectations, parents can be shown extra detail that helps them to understand more about the school's curriculum and grow a shared language of learning.

Busy parents can download the Hero app, turn on notifications and important information is easily accessed. Parents without the app will receive notifications via email, giving them a secure login into Hero. One of the really exciting things for families with children across multiple Hero schools is ALL school information can be accessed through the one Hero app. The experience when visiting different schools through the app remains unique to the individual school's context. Hero brings it all together.

Parents and schools can be reassured that sharing and permissions are tightly controlled by school approved administration. Student work is private to those who are given access by the school and robust measures have been put in place to protect your privacy and security.

PTA News Issue #10 2020



QUIZ & AUCTION NIGHT – Saturday, 21st November

Don't forget to book your table! Email stthomasschoolpta@gmail.com to secure yours now. We would also love to hear from anyone who has any prize items or services that they would be happy to donate for our auction. All proceeds from the auction go back to the school.

HUGE thanks to our Major Sponsors, without whom we couldn't make this happen.



ICEBLOCK FRIDAY'S

Every Friday from 3pm, under the tree outside the office.



\$2 for one or 3 for \$5

WHENUA A-THON

The A-thon testing took place last Friday, so now it's time to collect your sponsorship money and return it to your teacher! We'll be collecting right through next week.

Huge thanks to everyone who came to the Disco on Friday!



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



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



Term 4 2020: MYSTERY GARDEN

(Mixed Media drawing & stencilling on fabric covered board)

Imagine a sunny day exploring the end of the garden looking into the bushes at ground level. The sun-dappled environment is what you will create by applying dye to a fabric covered board – a mystical garden backdrop in lush colours. Stencilling to create layers, pencils & pastels to enhance your foliage & delicately drawing critters of your own design

Tuesday 3:15-5:15pm

ART CLASSES

AT SCHOOLS, AFTER SCHOOL

Term 4 2020 @ St Thomas 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.



FINE YOUNG ARTISTS
.....ARTISTS IN THE MAKING

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