

4 December 2020

STEAM Centre Opening in 2021

We are now in our busiest time of the year with student reports, class placement and general planning for the start of 2021. One of the changes happening in 2021 is the opening of our science, technology, engineering, arts and maths (STEAM) centre. This will be operating out of what is currently known as the Pohutukawa centre and an ex staff member of St Thomas's, Miriam Gwyn, is returning to lead the STEAM team. Miriam led all our fabulous musical productions when last here, while also completing her Mindlab qualification.

There are a few reasons why we are now opening a STEAM centre. Historically we did not have the spare rooms to have a specialised centre and our Year 7 and 8 students would walk up to Selwyn College for technology. Students and staff had a lot of down time as they walked back and forth to Selwyn and the programme on offer was very stand alone and not integrated into our school curriculum. It also cost St Thomas's school financially and in staffing which we had to provide to Selwyn for them to teach our students. Selwyn has a growing roll, and their priority is catering for their own students. The programme on offer was limited to Year 7 and 8 while we believe that all ages should be accessing these areas of learning if students are to develop creativity and problem-solving skills. Though it will take a while to establish and bed in the STEAM programme, and no doubt we will have challenges along the way, nevertheless we are really excited to be starting off on this journey.

Michael Maher
Principal

Prizegiving Friday 11th December 2020 at 10.00am

Prizegiving this year is on Friday 11th December from 10.00am to 12.00pm at the Barfoot and Thompson Stadium. All parents and family are welcome to attend.

Please make sure that your child is dropped off to school at the normal time as they will be walking up to the Stadium with their class.



To our Y3/4 Girls and Boys
and Y7/8 Boys cricket
teams for winning the AUCC
Cricket Tournament.

Upcoming Events

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
- 15 2021 Class Visits
- 16 Last day of school (School finishes at 12.30pm)
NB. After school bus will not be running

February 2021

- 2 Meet the Teacher Day
- 3 First day of Term 1

Principal's Awards

Excellence

Conor Fergusson – J4
Sasha Wrigley – S4

Passion

Alex Bull – J13
Julia Rattenbury – J6
Jessica Leong – M9

Connections

Medha S – M10

Leadership

Daniel Hann – S9

Year 8 EOTC Week

Instead of going to Kawau Island for Year 8 camp, we had EOTC week in Week 6. Each day of the week we went to different activities, from white-water rafting, to rock climbing, to fun days at school.

On Monday you could choose to go to either rocket ropes or white-water rafting. I chose white water rafting, and it was so fun! We had an amazing instructor who told us what to do and went around the course a few times in the boats. We stayed until lunch and then caught the bus back to school. When we got back everyone chilled, played games outside or had fun playing board games.

On Tuesday we stayed at school and did fun challenges in groups. Some of the activities included:

Building a catapult

A scavenger hunt

Building the tallest tower out of newsprint and tape

On Wednesday we climbed up Rangitoto. Shayan and Sean have written a piece about our iconic Year 8 trip to Rangitoto Island.

On Thursday we went to both Gravity and Extreme Edge rock climbing. At Gravity everyone had a lot of fun jumping around, playing dodgeball and going on the ninja course. At Extreme Edge we had a mini briefing and then got straight to climbing. Samuel McKnight gave us a quick show of him climbing up one of the really difficult walls with his dad belaying for him. After school some of the Year 8's stayed back for an evening hangout, where they played games, had a pizza party on the field and more.

On Friday we were tasked with creating our own superhero or villain. We all got into groups and set to work on creating costumes using the materials provided, or the ones we brought from home. In the last block, the whole of Year 8 went to the hall to have a mini runway fashion show, presenting our superheroes or villains to the judges. Then the judges Ms J, Glen and Ms May decided the top three winners. What a day!

That rounded off a wonderful week for the Year 8's. I had so much fun hanging with all my friends and doing activities I wouldn't normally do. The experience was amazing, and it was a great way to celebrate Year 8. Overall, everyone had so much fun, but there are some thanks in order. Without the help from the teachers and parent helpers this wouldn't have been possible, so a big round of applause to you. They made this experience possible and the best it could be.

Erin Lawler, S7



Year 8 Rangitoto Trip

On week 6, Wednesday 18th of November all the Years 8's went to climb Rangitoto as a part of their EOTC Week.

Starting the day early at 8:00, we headed on to the luxurious buses, they had air conditioning, leather seats and even a toilet! Once we arrived at the Auckland Ferry Terminal, we waited for our ferry to arrive, took a few photos and Mr Heat was pooped on by a seagull (epic moment).

When we docked at the port of Rangitoto, we had a small food break then we left off towards the summit. The path was very rocky, and a lot of people were slipping every now and then. Midway towards the summit, the rain started to kick in, but we kept on walking towards the top. After a massive climb, we made it to the summit of Rangitoto! A true peace it was to reach the top. We stopped there for lunch, took a few photos, hung out in the little hut and had a bongo ritual, and after all that, we had to go back down. On our way we stopped for a break to check out the lava caves. Going back down was easier, but with all the steep steps people were falling twice as much as going up.

When we arrived back at the port the tide was out so not many people went swimming, though a lot of us skipped rocks at the foot of the ocean as we waited for the ferry to return. All out the day was super fun and adventurous, not just Rangitoto but the ferry and all the little moments we had made that day a very momentous day and thank you everyone and all the parents who helped us out with our Rangitoto climb.

Shayan Aminzadeh and Sean Wilson



Year 3 Kohimarama Beach Trip

Last Thursday the Year 3 students, teachers and lots of parent helpers went on an adventure to our local beach. Along the way we had to spot some landmarks and local places for our photo scavenger hunt. We walked down to the beach in the lovely sunshine and enjoyed time at the beach making sandcastles, playing sports games and having a picnic morning tea and lunch. After leaving the beach we were treated to an ice block before heading to Madill's Farm park. We played on the playground for a while before walking back up the hill to school. We finally got our beach trip which was cancelled in Term 1. A big thanks to all the parent helpers who shared our day. What a great day!



Year 4 Enterprise Project

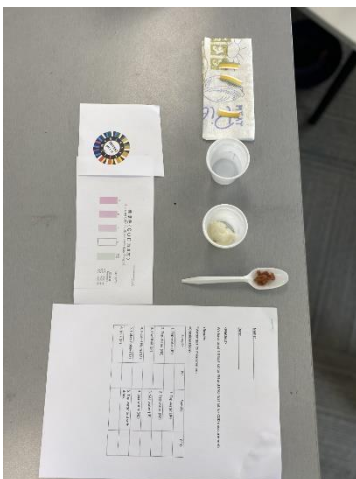
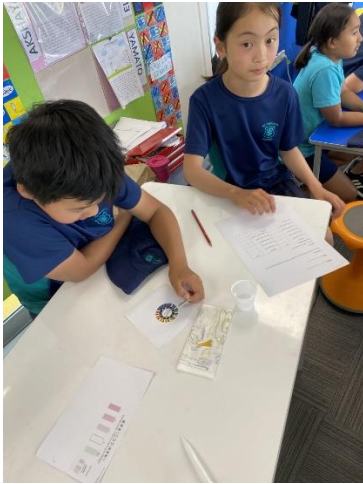
Year 4 have been working on an enterprise project to help Te Waipuna Puawai. A few weeks ago, we had two visitors come in to tell us about what they do as their job. The visitors told us about lots of families that need help and resources! The next day we planned what we would do to help these families and we decided to send Christmas boxes. Each class in Year 4 got five different items to try to collect. We earned the items by doing chores. Each class was trying to get 30 of the same items. We also made some Christmas cards to go with the boxes and we decorated them with gold and silver wrapping paper to make them feel jolly and Christmassy. The next week all the boxes were ready to give to Te Waipuna Puawai. They came to collect them, and we felt amazingly happy and great that we had helped 30 families less fortunate than us.

By Sofia Nigro and Zofia Wells - J4



Japan Experiment

On Monday the 22nd of November, S6 did a zoom call with a class in Japan. On the call, we did multiple experiments including a COD test to figure out how clean our waters are, as well as a PH test to figure out the PH level of hokey pokey ice-cream, pickled plum/umeboshi, tap water and kiwifruit. We explained what Kiwi fruit and hokey pokey were and they explained what pickled plum/umeboshi was.



Junior Readers Amnesty

Can you please check to see if you have any Junior Readers that have not been returned to school and if you do find any can you return these to your child's teacher. It would be great to start 2021 with a full collection of readers for our students. Thanking you in advance.

Minor Change to the S547 School Bus Service in 2021

Auckland Transport have notified us that the S547 which takes students between Selwyn College, St. Thomas Primary and Panmure via Stonefields in the morning and afternoon is currently run using a large bus. Due to increase in the numbers of students the S547 will now run using an extra-large bus from the first day of **Term 1 2021**. There will be no changes to the route or timetable.

Year 8 Road Patrollers Trip to Rainbow's End

On Monday the 30th of November all the Year 8 road patrollers went to Rainbow's End. We did lots of rides including the Fearfall, Power Surge, Stratosphere and many more. On the bus everyone was excited and couldn't wait to arrive, it was a fun day going on all the rides with our friends. Once we got our wristbands, we put our bags in our meeting spot by the stage and all ran to the rides to line up.

"My favourite ride was definitely the Fearfall because it was my first time riding it and it feels like you're flying. I also loved the full stratosphere because you go upside down." - Maddie

"My favourite ride would have to be the corkscrew roller coaster. It was really fun going on the fast turns, the ups/downs and the loopy loop." - Mia

All the rides were so fun that even Miss Thain went on them!!! It was a really great day and we all enjoyed it!

By Maddie Dillury and Mia Montgomery



AUCC Cricket Tournament

On Monday 23rd of November, St Thomas's School took a number of teams to the AUCC cricket tournament at Colin Maiden Park. There were four teams from St Thomas's School that were competing in the tournament. Throughout the day our teams faced a number of games which were all played with a lot of passion. By the end of the day, we had come back to school with three teams finishing first place and one team finishing third. Our Year 3/4 girls' and boys' teams both won their grades, same as with the Year 7/8 boys. The Year 7/8 girls team achieved 3rd overall in the tournament. The 7/8 girls had an unlucky 3 run loss in the last pool game to the eventual champions which was very hard to accept. However, our teams showed true sportsmanship and represented the school with pride, overall the teams had a great day out and were happy with their placings.

By Molly Willis and Roxy Pastiroff



NOTIFICATION OF WORKS

ALLUM STREET



Thursday 3rd December 2020

Dear Resident / Property owner,

Auckland Transport's maintenance contractor Liveable Streets will be undertaking kerb and channel renewals in your area. The works will take place on Allum Street between the Tarawera Terrace intersection and 134 Allum Street, we have included a work location and staging map overleaf.

The works are scheduled to start at the Tarawera intersection on Monday 7th December and will be between the hours of 7:00 am and 6:00 pm (Mon to Sat) and the entire job is expected to take 6 weeks to complete (weather permitting). A one-way traffic system will be in place for the duration of this project, please follow the signs and allow yourself some extra travel time during this period.

Due to the nature of the work on-street parking and footpaths will not be available, please ensure no vehicles are parked on the road after 6:00am Sunday morning.

Temporary vehicle access to your property will be maintained, however, this access won't be available on the day of concrete pours and overnight while the concrete cures. Residents will be contacted 24 hours prior to the concrete pours to help accommodate any specific needs.

Please take extra care while the work is underway. Rubbish collections will continue as usual and if you need any help getting your bin out to the road please call on the number below and we will be happy to help.

Auckland Transport and Liveable Streets will ensure that these essential maintenance activities will be completed as quickly as possible and appreciate your patience and understanding.

For more information please contact Auckland Transport on 09 355 3553 or email info@at.govt.nz
Alternatively, you can contact the Liveable Streets Stakeholder Advisor, in the details below.

LIVEABLE STREETS CONTACT DETAILS:

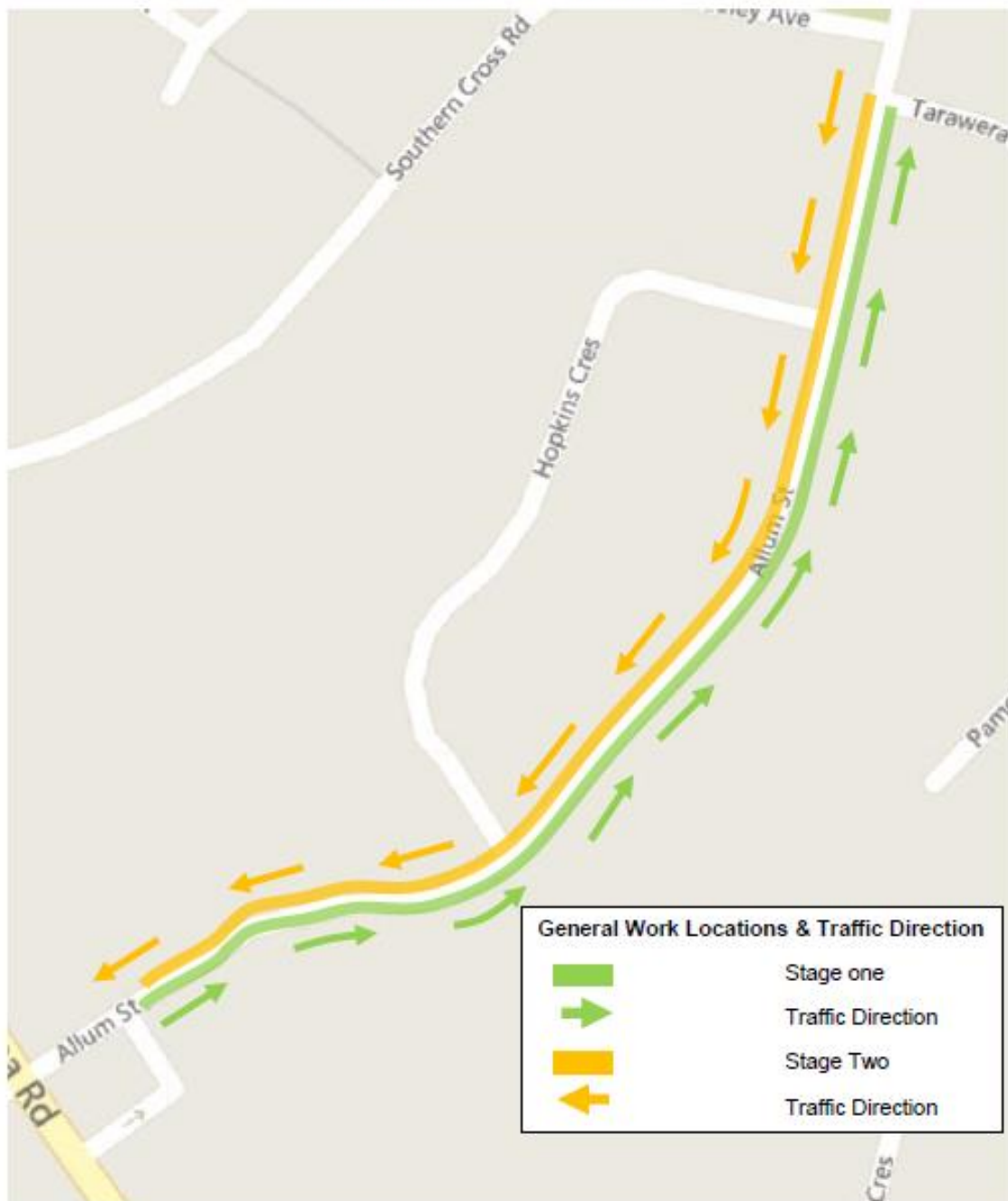
Stakeholder Advisor:	Rachel Burns
Mobile Phone:	027 403 1551
Email Address:	stakeholder@liveablestreets.co.nz

NOTIFICATION OF WORKS

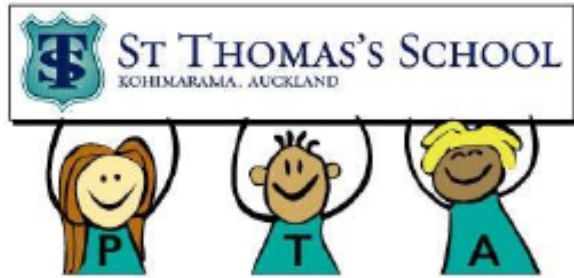
ALLUM STREET



Work Location Map



PTA News Issue #11 2020



CHRISTMAS HAMS – AND TURKEYS

SAINT JOHN'S BUTCHERY

Thanks to Saint Johns Butchery, we are offering Hams again this year – and we've added a boneless Turkey roast as another option as well.

- 4-4.5kg free range, naturally cured & smoked ham - \$75 each
- 2.5kg boneless Turkey roast - \$65 each

Orders can be placed via the Online shop until 12pm Fri 11th of December and then will be available to pick up from Saint Johns Butchery from the 16th – 24th of December.

PTA OPEN NIGHT

We have our very last PTA meeting for the year next Weds, 9th December.

We'd love to invite anyone to come along for a glass of wine and a chat – see what it's all about and maybe even consider joining us, we're always recruiting – and having fun!

YOUR PTA NEEDS YOU

SCHOOL POOL

We are very pleased to advise that the School Pool will be available for use over the Summer holidays, and during Term One of 2021.

Details of how and when the pool gate keys will be available to purchase will come out via Hero & email next week.

\$160, including a \$40 bond, refunded on return of the key.

WATCH THIS SPACE

School Picnic 2021 date coming soon – plus we have a **new event** coming in 2021!

ICEBLOCK FRIDAY'S

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

\$2 for one or 3 for \$5



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 1 2021: IT'S ALL ABOUT ME

(Mixed Media on Wooden Board)

Using contemporary graphic techniques from the world of advertising, comics and graffiti, combined with some fun new painting techniques, we create a bold modern and very personal statement.

**8 weeks Tuesday 16th February to 13th April 2021
3:15-5:15pm**

ART CLASSES

AT SCHOOLS, AFTER SCHOOL

Term 1 2021 @ 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

HOLIDAY SOCCER WITH BILLY HARRIS

Get the kids to run off some calories before Christmas!

21, 22, 23 December at Okahu Bay, 9am-midday each day.

Contact Billy on 027 2799042 to enrol

SOCCER 2021

Billy's classes start at lunchtime on Thursday 4 Feb on the field.
For all ages. Contact Billy on 027 2799042