



26 February 2021

School Roll

The introduction of the Unitary Plan has caused significant changes across Auckland in the types and density of housing which can be built in the city. These changes have impacted schools in a variety of ways with some schools facing significant population increases in their In-Zone catchment area as single houses are replaced with multiple dwellings. Other schools having falling rolls as houses are replaced with apartment blocks for retirement age people.

In 2018 St Thomas's School had a roll of 800 students with the roll forecast to grow to approximately 900 in the coming years. This roll growth was expected to come from new green field developments, especially the site next to Selwyn College which had a proposed 150 house development and another at Donnelly St which had 80 house development. However, St Thomas's School will not have students coming from either of these developments as Ryman Healthcare are building on the Selwyn land and the Ministry of Education have decided that as the Donnelly St development has access towards Stonefields, students from these houses will be zoned for Stonefields School.

Staffing allocation from the Ministry of Education and funding to operate a school is based on the school roll, the larger the student numbers the more staffing and funding a school receives. We believe that the 'sweet spot' for St Thomas's School roll would be around 750. This number provides the school with adequate staffing which allows us to have small classes and provide extras such as reading support teachers, English language support teachers and specialists such as sports coordinators. It also provides funding to allow us to have adequate teacher aide numbers, library and ancillary staffing. Additionally, it allows our students to have lots of green space and outdoor learning spaces without the feeling of being crowded.

In 2020, we accepted a small group of Out of Zone students and will continue to do this going forward with the aim of maintaining our roll over 700. If you have friends who wish to have their child attend St Thomas's School, then please have them contact the front office staff and we will include their names on our ballot system.



To Madeleine Green for her record-breaking catch!
(see article further down)

Upcoming Events

March

- 3 PTA Meeting (7.00pm Staffroom)
- 4 PTA Picnic (5.00pm – 8.00pm)
- 11 Parent Information Evening 6.30pm – 8.30pm
- 12 Y5-8 Swimming Sports Day
- 16 Board of Trustees Meeting (6.30pm Staffroom)
- 17-19 Y1 Safe Walking with Constable Gordon
- 22-24 Y2 Safe Walking with Constable Gordon
- 22 Y7/8 Eastern Zone Swimming
- 29 Y6-8 Cybersafety Talks with Constable Gordon

April

- 2-6 Easter Break
(NB School is not open on Tuesday 6th April)
- 7 PTA Meeting (7.00pm Staffroom)
- 13 Board of Trustees Meeting (6.30pm Staffroom)
- 14-15 Student Led Conferences
- 16 Term 1 Pizza Lunch Day
- 16 Last Day of Term 1

Principal's Awards

Excellence

Miya Xu – M2 AN
Matthew Self – S3

Passion

Adam Lu – J13
Victor Morelli – J5
Olivia Gargiulo – M5 FR

Leadership

Millie Duggan – S11

Application for Out of Zone Enrolments for 2021

The board has determined that a limited number of places are likely to be available in the following year levels for out-of-zone students for this year (2021).

Year 0 students who are turning 5 after 1st May 2021

Year 3

Year 4

Enrolment at the school is governed by an enrolment scheme, details of which are available from the school office and on our website. Application for places must be submitted on the application form available from the St Thomas's School Office – 528-3938.

The deadline for receipt of applications is by **3.00pm, Wednesday 17th March 2021**.

The ballot will be held on **Friday 19th March 2021**.

Applicants will be informed within three school days of the ballot being held.

St Thomas's School Board of Trustees

Michael Maher

Principal

Parent Information Evening

This year our Parent Information Evening will be taking place on **Thursday 11th March 6.30-8.30pm** in the school hall. This evening is about us sharing with you the schools' key goals and initiatives for 2021 and what learning will look like for your child/children. Below are the themes that will be presented:

- Strategic Goals and Initiatives
- What Learning Looks like for a St Thomas's School child
- Learning Progressions (Reading, Writing and Maths)
- STEAM Centre
- Learning Through Play
- 2021 COVID Action Plan
- Well-being (Positive Behaviour for Learning)
- Vision for our Outdoor Environment
- PTA initiatives

We are really looking forward to seeing you all and sharing with you what 2021 has in store for our school community.

Important Note Regarding Absences

Just a reminder to parents that reporting absences **before 9.00am** is very important for the safety and wellbeing of students.

Our preferred option to receive an absence is through our new Hero app.

You **must** give the reason for your child's absence, otherwise the absence will be marked as unjustified.

If your child is going to be late, you still need to advise the school and give a reason i.e Doctor or Dentist etc.

Counselling at St Thomas's School

In 2019, St Thomas's School introduced a free counselling service for students as part of our wellbeing programme. This service was very well received by our student and parent community and has been in big demand since it started.

This year our school will continue to provide an in-school counselling service and indeed we are one of the few primary schools to do so. However due to reduced income related to Covid-19, we will be asking for a fee from parents of students who avail of this service to offset some of the actual cost of this service.

The cost of the programme is \$25 per session.

The initial consultation with parents who feel their child would benefit from this service is free and the expectation is that once students start counselling, they would commit to 3 sessions at a total cost of \$75. The idea of 3 sessions is that it often takes time for students to feel comfortable to discuss what is really going on for them. The counsellor, parents and students could then decide whether to stop the sessions, continue the sessions or move on to external professionals for more specialised help.

Counselling Referrals

Charlotte Letcher is our school Guidance Counsellor for 2021.

Charlotte has a Bachelor of Education, has taught as a primary school teacher for 13 years and has two years of counselling training experience from Laidlaw College and the University of Auckland where she is completing her final two papers in a Postgraduate Diploma in Counselling Theory before starting her Masters in Counselling.

Referrals for our counsellor can be made by parents or teachers and are made to Emma Johnson our SENCo. Emma then contacts the parents to discuss referrals and then sends out a referral and a permission form to the student's parent or caregivers.

Once permission has been received our counsellor Charlotte will contact the parents and caregivers to arrange an initial meeting with them to discuss their child's needs. After this Charlotte will meet with the student on a weekly basis. At the end of the first 3 sessions Charlotte will again make contact with the whanau to discuss the next steps.

Please note: We do not want any of our students to miss out on this opportunity due to genuine financial hardship. If you would like some support in regard to this service and/or payments, please contact our school Special Needs Coordinator Emma Johnson on 528-3938 to discuss options.

Dr Seuss Dress Up Day Next Tuesday

We are extremely excited to announce that we are having a **full school Dr Seuss themed mufti day on Tuesday 2nd March** to celebrate the birthday of Dr Seuss and do something fun for the middle of Term 1!!

Students can either dress up as one of the characters from your favourite Dr Seuss book, or just dress in bright and fun clothing like top hats and funky socks. Along with a mufti day, we will also be dedicating a few days to fun and quirky Dr Seuss themed activities including read aloud, colouring competitions and treasure hunts throughout the week! So, get ready, because things are about to get crazy and colourful!

- The Year 8 Dr Seuss committee



Nathan Wallis – The Developing Brain – Presentation at St Thomas’s School

St Thomas’s School is proud to announce that Nathan Wallis, the host of the documentary “All in the Mind”, and co-host of the TV Series “The Secret Life of Girls”, is coming to our community with his talk – The Developing Brain.

This is a paid, ticketed event.

Tickets are available now at www.eventfinda.co.nz Search “Nathan Wallis Auckland”

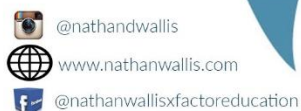
Limited early bird prices are available and the opportunity is open to the wider community, so be in quick to ensure you secure your tickets.



The Developing Brain

St Thomas’s School - Kohimarama/Auckland
Thurs 6 May 2021 : 7.30-9.00pm

Tickets at eventfinda.co.nz
Limited Early Bird tickets available



Auckland School Girl Reels in Record Breaking Striped Marlin!

10-year-old Madeleine Green, a St Thomas's student, is the new NZ Junior record holder for biggest marlin on a 37kg line.

Here's Madeleine's account of her exciting adventure:

It was like adrenaline as soon as the marlin hooked on, it was chaos. All the other rods had to be cleared before I could start fighting the big fish. While all the rods were being cleared, I was putting my fighting harness on. 40 minutes into the fight the fish was now 20 meters away from the boat, but this is when they get stroppy. The marlin dove back down and took another few hundred meters. I wound it back up and a family friend on board grabbed the leader which is a 6-meter line attached to the lure and hook as my dad rushed down from the flybridge and gaffed the fish to bring it on board. 20 minutes after that my little brother caught a yellow fin tuna.

After that we drove back to the weighing station and celebrated with a raspberry lemonade.

By Madeleine Green Y6



Year 7 and 8 Trip to Stardome

On Tuesday 23rd, The year 7 and 8's went to Stardome and climbed One Tree Hill. It was for our topic which is 'To Infinity and Beyond!'

The year 7 and 8's were divided into two groups. Group 1 climbed up Maungakiekie first, and at the top we stopped to look at the memorial and the incredible view of Auckland. By lunchtime all of group 1 was back down the hill, and group 2 finished their segment in Stardome.

When group 1 entered Stardome after our lunch we were greeted by a lovely staff member, Josh, who taught us about orbital paths and living conditions on other planets. We were also shown the landing of Mars rover, Perseverance. Then, we went into the Planetarium to watch a film called 'To Space and Back', about space technology and how it affects us on a daily basis.

We learnt that many ordinary things that we use every day have come from the development of space technology.

Thank you to all parents and caregivers who came and helped on this trip.

By Amara, Annabelle, and Mieke from year 8



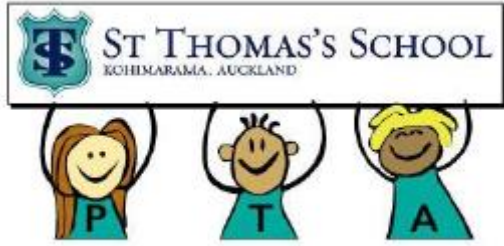
Kiwi Kids Weetbix Triathlon

On Sunday the 14th of February hundreds of kids from many schools across Auckland did the Kiwi Kids Weetbix Triathlon at Point England Reserve. It was a great event where so many kids were able to compete before COVID-19 hit again! In transition everyone had their little spots in their age groups, lots of people stuck things and balloons to their spots to be able to find it, which made it look really cool. At the start you were grouped into age groups and then set off in smaller groups. My adrenaline was pumping at the start and helped me keep going for the whole race. It was a short 100m swim then a 4 km bike finishing with a 1.4km run. It was such a fun day, and I will definitely do it again!

Kate O'Brien - Year 6 Student



PTA News
Issue #2 2021



St Thomas's School PTA Annual

SCHOOL PICNIC!

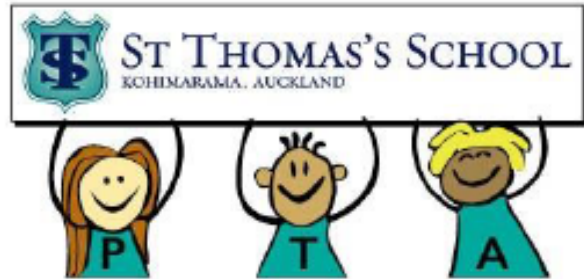
Thursday 4th March, 5-8pm*

CASH & EFTPOS AVAILABLE



*Rain date Thursday 18th March

PTA News Issue #2 2021



RIDES, RIDES, RIDES!

Little Bo Peeps mobile farm & Pony rides /
Laughing Clowns /
Inflatables / Kelly Club games

PTA BAKE SALE

Bring along your home baked (or store bought) baked goods to the PTA stall on the night – please label all items

FOOD & DRINK

We'll have all the usual food & beverage options for you to purchase:

Sausage Sizzle
Pizza
Hotdogs & hot chips
Candy Floss
Crepes
Chips & more!

Please bring Cash with you, limited EFTPOS is available.

2ND HAND UNIFORM / BOOKS / TOYS

We'll be selling these on the night – if you have any you would like to donate for sale, please drop them off to the School office from now up until Weds 3rd March

CULTURAL EXPERIENCES FROM OUR MAORI & PASIFIKA GROUPS

With thanks to.....

SAINT JOHN'S BUTCHERY



PARENT HELPERS

If you are able to donate a small portion of your time to helping on a stall on the night, please email us at stthomasschoolpta@gmail.com

Year 7 and 8 Table Tennis Players

"The Auckland Table Tennis Association is offering two free 3-week after school *table tennis coaching* programs to Year 7 & 8 Intermediate students from Central Auckland Schools. No previous experience in table tennis is required. Students have the option to sign up for sessions run on **Tuesdays starting the 02.03-16.03** or **Thursdays 04.03-18.03**.

The coaching will be **held from 3.45-5.00 pm** at the Auckland table tennis stadium, 99A Gillies Avenue, Epsom. **Registration will be based on a "first come first served" basis.**

For more information or to register please contact Ebi Kleiser (ATTA Development Coach) ph.: 021 083 09994 or email: tabletennisnr@gmail.com "

Drawing Creative Characters and Settings!

This class is perfect for students interested in creating their own **unique characters** and **building exciting worlds!**

Drawing inspiration from contemporary animated films and TV shows, your child will learn how to bring their ideas to life on paper. We will cover the fundamental skills of character creation, drawing movement and facial expressions, illustrating interesting and imaginative worlds, and telling a story through art.

The class will be run by Veronica, a talented and creative teacher who is a graduate of the Yoobee School of Animation in Wellington.

When: The classes will start on **Thursday the 4th of March**, and will run for **seven Thursday sessions, 3-5pm.**

Where: Pohutukawa Building, St. Thomas's School

Age: This class is suitable for children aged 8+

Price: \$195 for seven sessions, including all materials

Please contact Yulia for more information. **Phone: 021 308 207; Email: artyulianz@outlook.com**