

14 May 2021

Welcome back to Term 2 and an especially warm welcome to our new students and families.

With the completion of our new classrooms the school is picking up momentum on introducing new programmes and bringing back some old favourites. Our Music in Schools programme is off to a great start with 31 students now attending music lessons during the day while our STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, maths) centre has fired off the term with a space topic and a visit to school by a Starwars Storm Trooper (thank you to Ms Gwyns partner for taking a day off work to do this).

We have revamped our assembly format and are now introducing 6 formal assemblies each year to further acknowledge our students learning attributes and add some rigour to the assembly. Our regular assemblies will also continue and we are looking forward to once again having the parents of host learning areas joining us for shared morning tea or lunch. Details of assemblies are outlined below.



Starwars Storm Trooper, Mr Fox and Mr Winter

## Students' Safety Online

Students often become involved in unhealthy on-line activities in out of school hours which unfortunately end up impacting on learning in the school day. Please read the Cybersafety information contained in this newsletter to support your child to remain safe online.



**Thank you to our amazing  
PTA for all their  
contributions to our school.**

## Upcoming Events

### May

- 18 Board of Trustees Meeting (6.30pm Staffroom)
- 27 Y2 Trip to Zoo
- 28 New Staff and Whānau Powhiri

### June

- 2 Y7&8 Immunisations  
PTA Meeting (7.00pm in the Staff Room)
- 4 **Teacher Only Day (School closed to students)**
- 7 **Queens Birthday (School closed to all)**
- 9 Y7&8 Immunisation Catch Ups  
Bay Suburbs Football (Y5&6)
- 15 Board of Trustees Meeting (6.30pm Staffroom)
- 24 Y3 Trip to Tiritiri Matangi

### July

- 1 Y7&8 Social (6.30pm – 9.00pm in the Hall)
- 7 Bay Suburbs Netball (Y5&6)
- 8 PTA Sausage Sizzle Lunch
- 9 Pizza Lunch Fundraiser  
Last Day of Term

## New Whānau Pōwhiri

Kia ora whānau

The date for our Term 2 New Whānau Pōwhiri is Friday 28th May from 9.00am. If your child is new to the school, you will receive an invitation by email to attend. We are very much looking forward to welcoming you into our wonderful school community.

Ngā mihi mahana

## New Assembly Format

Now that our building work is complete, we have all our classroom spaces back and good access around the school site as well as into the school hall, we are eager to implement a new assembly programme.

Starting from next week, there will now be two types of assembly:

### FORMAL AWARDS ASSEMBLIES

There will be 6 full school Formal Awards Assemblies per year. These will be held on a Friday at 9.45am as per the schedule below.

Awards at these assemblies are focussed on our Learner Attributes (resilience, collaboration, creativity, curiosity) and there will be just 1 award per year level per category at each assembly. Parents of award winners will be invited, by email, to attend the assembly.

At each Formal Awards Assembly, we hope to have our Kapa Haka group perform as well as whole school singing, an address from Michael Maher and at least one other item which could be a guest speaker, musical showcase, video presentation, student speech, etc.

### REGULAR AWARDS ASSEMBLIES

There will be 10 Junior and 10 Senior Regular Awards Assemblies per year as per the schedule below.

- Junior Assemblies (Year 0 – 3) – held on a Friday at 9.45am
- Senior Assemblies (Year 4 – 8) – held on a Friday at 11.45am

All students will receive an award at one of the Regular Awards Assemblies throughout the year. These awards are given out for anything of merit for each individual student. Parents of award winners will be invited to attend the assembly by Classroom Teachers.

Each learning space will 'host' one assembly per year. Hosting enables students to share their recent learning with a wider audience. Parents of host learning spaces will be invited to attend the assembly as well as the shared morning tea (Junior) or shared lunch (Senior) that will immediately follow the assembly.

### ASSEMBLY SCHEDULE 2021

	Week				
	3	5	6	9	10
<b>Term 2</b>	<b>Regular Assembly</b> Junior Host: J13 /J14 Senior Host: Y8	<b>Teacher Only Day</b>	<b>Regular Assembly</b> Junior Host: J5 Senior Host: M6	<b>Regular Assembly</b> Junior Host: J15 Senior Host: S3/S4	<b>Formal Assembly</b>
<b>Term 3</b>	<b>Regular Assembly</b> Junior Host: M2/M3 Senior Host: M4	<b>Formal Assembly</b>	<b>Regular Assembly</b> Junior Host: J7 Senior Host: S5/S6	<b>Regular Assembly</b> Junior Host: J8 Senior Host: S7/S8	<b>Formal Assembly</b>
<b>Term 4</b>	<b>Regular Assembly</b> Junior Host: J16 Senior Host: M5	<b>Formal Assembly</b>	<b>Regular Assembly</b> Junior Host: J12 Senior Host: STEAM	<b>WEEK 7</b> <b>Regular Assembly</b> Junior Host: J6	<b>WEEK 8</b> <b>Prize Giving</b>

## **Cybersafety – Do you know what your child gets up to online?**

Schools regularly receive communication from concerned parents expressing their distress over online bullying or friendship issues that are affecting their child. Usually, these incidents occur out of school hours (at home) and on social media platforms.

St Thomas's School's WIFI network is managed by N4L (Network for Learning) which ensures access to social media sites is blocked and inappropriate content is filtered. Despite these efforts, with increasing frequency we see students using their own data allowance to access content from personal devices brought to school.

While student wellbeing is a major focus for schools, it is very difficult to unpack these issues because of the nature of social media, the devices being personally owned, and the issues happening while students are at home, usually in the evenings or over the weekend. Additional to this, **it is important for all parents to be aware, that the minimum age to open an account on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest, TikTok and Snapchat is 13. YouTube requires account holders to be 18, however a 13-year-old can sign up with a parent's permission.**

Most primary school children will only turn 13 at the end of their Year 8 year. However, schools are seeing serious issues with students in year levels as young as Year 4.

As a parent, if you choose to allow your child to engage via social media before they are 13 years old, it is vital that you have complete visibility over what they get up to online. It is also important that you take responsibility for teaching your children how to manage themselves online and what to do should issues arise. Agreeing on rules and guidelines for internet and app usage is a good idea.

The fall-out from online incidents and general social media issues, including cyberbullying, inappropriate and late night messaging, drastically impacts teaching and learning time within most schools.

To work together as a team towards online safety, parents are encouraged to consider how the issues mentioned might affect their families. Netsafe has put together the following tips for parents and whānau to begin the conversation.

### **SEVEN STEPS TO HELP YOU**

The seven steps from Netsafe's [Online Safety Parent Toolkit](#) are designed to enhance your digital parenting knowledge and have been developed with parents in mind.

1. **Understand:** Read about the potential online risks, challenges and sometimes illegal behaviour young people face to understand what may happen
2. **Learn:** Ask your child about what they do, how they use devices and who they talk to learn about their activities. Check in regularly to see what has changed
3. **Explore:** Take the time yourself to explore the sites, apps and technologies your child uses to improve your knowledge and understand their experience
4. **Agree:** Create a family code with your child to agree on what they can do online including sites to visit, appropriate behaviours, privacy settings and limits
5. **Teach:** Recognise each child has unique needs, but some online safety concepts are universal. Start by teaching yours the Five tips to help your child thrive
6. **Model:** Be a good example to your child. Make sure you role model the sort of behaviours you want to see your child use online and offline
7. **Plan:** Make a plan so everybody knows what to do if something goes wrong and where you will be able to get advice and support in challenging times

## Reporting Student Absences

We would like to remind all parents/caregivers that reporting absences is important for the safety and wellbeing of students.

We aim to deal with all unexplained absences as quickly as possible each morning.

To minimise the number of unexplained absences, it is helpful if parents/caregivers take a few moments to advise the school of an absence in one the following ways:

- Through our Hero App (preferred)
- By telephone and leave a message 09 5283938 select option 1
- Text message to 0277580542

***It is not necessary to email the class teacher.***

Absences must be reported each day, unless the office has been advised in advance of the duration of an absence. You must state the reason for absence i.e. sick, doctor's appointment, holiday or bereavement.

Any students arriving late to school must report to the office and sign in, so that their safe arrival can be recorded. Please note all late arrivals are recorded, should your child be late on a regular basis follow up action will be taken.

Please note that while we may try several alternative phone numbers to contact a parent/caregiver, if calls are not answered, where possible we will leave a voice message. If your phone numbers change, whether it is a work, home or mobile number, can you please advise the office.

Should you wish to collect your child early from school, please come to the office and sign your child out. Please note: we do not let your children go home with someone that is not on the child's record card. Students cannot be signed out during morning break or lunchtime so if they have an appointment, please pick them up before morning break (10.30am – 10.50am) and lunch (12.30pm – 1.30pm).

If your child is unwell during the school day, they should go to sick bay. They must **not** phone or text their parents/caregivers themselves.

## Nathan Wallis – The Developing Brain

On Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May, Nathan Wallis – Neuroscience Educator, visited St Thomas's School to address the community with his Developing Brain presentation. Nathan's presentation was a sell out and it was fantastic to see so many of our parent community there to listen to Nathan sharing his expertise on child development and the practical implications of the last 30 years of research into the workings of the human brain.

Throughout the presentation, there were lots of tips and tricks to make parenting easier, to help open up communication with children in a way that encourages them to listen, develop and grow, why we have a growing epidemic of highly anxious children and how to grow resilience in our young people to counter this anxiety and successfully navigate life's challenges.

If you missed out on this opportunity to listen to Nathan, we highly recommend looking out for another of his presentations that you can get along to – [CLICK HERE](#) for a calendar of Nathan's upcoming events.



## Sign Language Club

During Terms 1 and 2 New Zealand Sign Language Club began at lunchtimes for Years 5 to 8. This lunchtime club has become more popular through the weeks with over 30 students attending, along with some staff members. New Zealand Sign Language is an official language in New Zealand, and it has been heart-warming to see the children's enthusiasm and commitment. In Week 3 we will be displaying our sign song in assembly to show some of the signs that we have learnt. Skyla M5QU – "I love learning new things especially learning new languages". Amalya S3 – "I joined NZSL class because I wanted to learn something new, and I really enjoy taking on challenges". Melody S6 – "Learning NZSL is important to me because it is the only way deaf people can learn, communicate, and participate in society. Using sign language means you can bring the culture out of the deaf community". Lunchtime club for years 1 to 4 will happen in Term 3 and 4 with Miss Evans.



## Norsemen Visit - Y7&8 Time Travel Topic

On 10th of May three Vikings from the Norseman Club came to visit the Year 7 & 8's, a special treat (no, not ice blocks or anything like that)! They gave us a briefing on Viking history like when the era of Vikings ended and showed us how to say, "IT'S COMING!" in Viking. It was a real blast! Well except for me... Yeah, when you're a person who likes safety and control like me, chaotic blade fighting is not the first thing that comes to mind as "enjoyable". Don't worry nobody was harmed because of the safety measures taken. It was still packed full of information and very interesting.

*By Reilly, Year 8*



On the 10th of May 2021, three Vikings came to school with swords, shields and armour getting ready to battle. They taught us about Vikings and where they originated from. They used chainmail to protect themselves on land, chainmail might be good for protecting yourself, but it is heavy. Next, they showed the Year 7&8's how they battled with swords and shields, how they marched and their signals. They showed us what it would have looked like if Vikings fired an arrow, but of course, they didn't use a real arrow, they wanted to keep everyone safe. They're good friends!

*By Elliot, Year 7*



## Year 6 Trip to Howick Historical Village

You may have seen some of the Year 6 students and teachers dressed in 1850s clothing on Thursday. That's because we had to journey in a time machine (that looked a lot like a bus) to 1850s Howick. We emerged from our time machine in the 1850s to see ladies in long dresses with white aprons and bonnets. They were our teachers for the day! In the 1850s, children were seen and not heard, which meant we had to be silent in the classroom. When lining up, girls clasped their hands in front of them and boys held their hands behind their backs. Girls and boys sat on opposite sides of the classroom and never played together. Children didn't have many toys, and those they did have were home-made. As well as exploring the village, we experienced school in the 1850s, played old-fashioned outdoor games, and made the most delicious butter we've ever tasted!

Here are some quotes from Year 6 students:

- "I liked the school classroom because it was exciting and felt like school." – Cohen, S6
- "We loved the butter making because it was interesting, delicious and taught us to make butter."  
- Mitchell, S6; Theo and Isaac, S4
- "I enjoyed the school session because it was cool to know what it was like back in the 1850s." – Abby, S3
- "I enjoyed the school session because walking inside was like a flash back in time." – Zoe, S3

Thanks to all our wonderful parent helpers, who made our day possible.





## Eastern Zone Orienteering Competition

On 11<sup>th</sup> of May over 60 students from St Thomas's attended the Eastern Zone Orienteering competition at Western Springs Park. Most of our Y7&8 teams did well and also had qualifications into Auckland Interzone Championship. Jack Lienert, Freya Burke and Ethan Liu also finished with the quickest time out of all the schools doing the same course as them and qualified to Interzones as well. Alongside our Year 7 & 8 students we had our Year 5 & 6's running the same courses as well in a non-competitive race. They learnt a lot from this experience, and this surely left many of them excited to be back next year. The only thing that troubled us was the finish line which was slippery and almost half of us finished with a slide. Thank you to all the parents that made this possible by transporting and helping out on the day and special thanks to Mrs Kroonenberg for the training and wise advice before the actual day.

*By Ben Crabtree*

Connor's opinion on the race: "I thought that this experience was wonderful, and I really enjoyed it. It was a great opportunity for the Year 5 and 6's to have a taster of orienteering."

Youvraj's opinion on the race: "It was lots of fun, but it was confusing because of the number of bushes and trees on the course."

Lily's opinion on the race: "It was confusing at times, but I was very satisfied when I finished."

Jack's opinion on the race: "The race was very enjoyable but at times very tricky but overall, it was very fun."



## PTA News Issue #4 2021



### OLYMPIC A-THON

Our A-thon this year is based on the Tokyo Olympics, postponed last year due to Covid. Our children will be learning about the sports being played, and the history of the Olympics.

We encourage you to support your child's learning by helping them to learn their A-thon questions and sponsoring them for the test.

A-thon pledge cards will be coming home next week, and testing will take place on Friday the 4<sup>th</sup> of June.

### MORE PTA FUNDRAISING EVENTS COMING SOON!



SAUSAGE SIZZLE Fri  
2nd July



QUIZ NIGHT  
September



ICEBLOCK FRIDAY'S  
Every Friday at 3pm

Our next PTA meeting is **Weds 2<sup>nd</sup> June** from 7pm, upstairs in the School Staffroom. All welcome! 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](mailto:stthomasschoolpta@gmail.com) and don't forget to Like us on Facebook!



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*"Changing Learning for a Changing World"*

ENCORE THEATRE COLLECTIVE'S  
PRODUCTION OF

Starring St Thomas's School Students  
Elodie Austin-Murray & Freya Burke

# SEUSSICAL

## THE MUSICAL

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JUNE  
4-6

Music by  
**STEPHEN  
FLAHERTY**

Lyrics by  
**LYNN  
AHRENS**

Book by **LYNN AHRENS** and **STEPHEN FLAHERTY**

Co-Conceived by **LYNN AHRENS, STEPHEN FLAHERTY** and **ERIC IDLE**

Based on the Works of **DR. SEUSS**

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All performance materials supplied by Hal Leonard Australia.

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GLENDOWIE COLLEGE PARENTS ASSOCIATION FUNDRAISER

# ⚡ STAND UP COMEDY ⚡

PAUL  
EGO



NICK  
RADO



TARUN  
MOHNABHAI



SILENT  
AUCTION  
ON THE  
NIGHT!

# LAUGH CLUB GLENDOWIE COLLEGE

FRI 25TH JUNE  
DOOR 7PM  
SHOW 8PM

CASH BAR  
& SNACKS

TICKETS:  
TABLE \$45/\$450 (10)  
SEATED \$35

21 CROSSFIELD RD, GLENDOWIE  
TICKETS: TRYBOOKING.CO.NZ



[WWW.LAUGHCLUB.CO.NZ](http://WWW.LAUGHCLUB.CO.NZ)

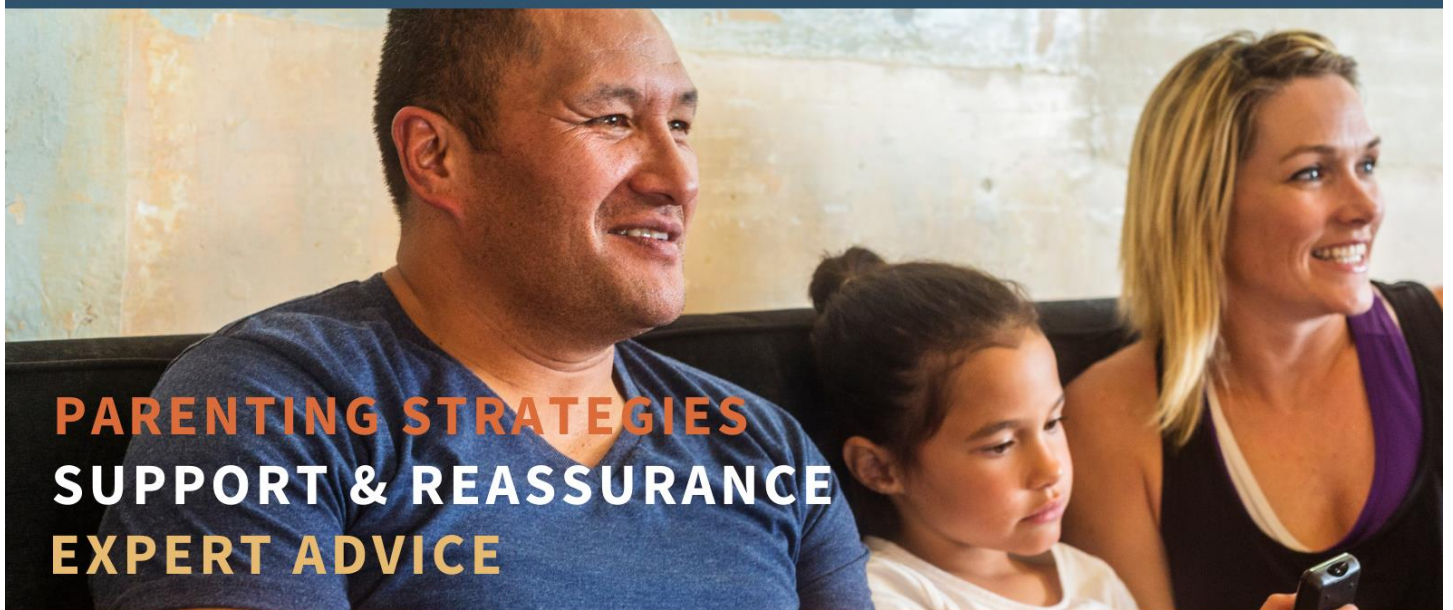




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