

25 June 2021

On our Teacher Only Day when our school site was closed to students, we had 16 cubic metres of wood chip delivered and spread across our Learning Through Play area behind rooms J13 and J14. The wood chip has provided a dry base for our young students to walk on in wet weather and we are now introducing different elements to support the students in creative and collaborative Learning Through Play. Red wood logs, an interactive water feature, wooden planks, tyres and vegetable planting boxes are now in place, and we are waiting for a mud kitchen to arrive.

The development of this interactive, participatory, multisensory environment supports play as a core activity in a child's development. Attaining key content and facts is important for school and life, but children also need a deep, conceptual understanding that allows them to connect concepts and skills, apply their knowledge to different situations, and spark new ideas. Our young students are incredibly inventive in their approach to Learning Through Play and are now looking to build bird feeders and insect houses as they explore the natural world.

A big thank you to our Property Manager, Glen, for all the work he has put into this space including installing vegetable boxes and safety fencing.



To Luke and Indigo S for their success in the Moth Plant Competition

Upcoming Events

June

- 28 Eastern Zone Hockey (Y7&8)
- 30 Showcase of Learning (9.00 – 10.30am)
Hero Parent Workshop (8.30am – 9.00am)

July

- 1 Matariki Kapa Haka Festival
Y7&8 Social (6.30pm – 9.00pm in the Hall)
Parent Information Evening - Keeping Ourselves Safe (6.30pm Staffroom)
- 2 PTA Sausage Sizzle Lunch
Y5 Stardome Trip
Junior Assembly – J15 Host
9:45am – 10:30am
Senior Assembly – S3/S4 Host
11:45am – 12:30pm
- 5 PTA Musical Showcase (6.30pm – 8.30pm in the Hall)
- 7 Bay Suburbs Netball (Y5&6)
PTA Meeting (7.00pm Staffroom)
- 9 Hero Parent Workshop (8.30am – 9.00am)
Pizza Lunch Day
Term 2 Last Day
- 26 **First Day of Term 3**

Hero Parent Reporting System

We are delighted to launch our new parent reporting system through our existing communications app, Hero. Your child's progress to date in 2021 is available from now, and further progress will be available, live and in real-time, ongoing.

Hero parent reporting is an online environment that reflects our unique context and local curriculum including our St Thomas's School Learning Progressions. It enables teachers and families to view content anytime, anywhere on any device. The software is secure, easy to use and brings together all school-related information in one place.

We are excited about the features that our new parent reporting system has to offer you:

- read posts and personalised comments relating to your child's learning
- view information on your child's progress and learning goals
- read notices sent to the class or groups your child is part of
- respond to school notices such as surveys and trip permission requests
- view school term dates
- view a school calendar of events
- notify the school if your child is absent or late
- navigate to other school-related web pages



Going forward, goal setting, St Thomas's School Learning Progressions achievement, effort ratings, St Thomas's School Learner Attribute assessments and personalised student comments will form an online report designed to build year on year so that over time you will have access to a range of information relevant to your child's learning all in one place.

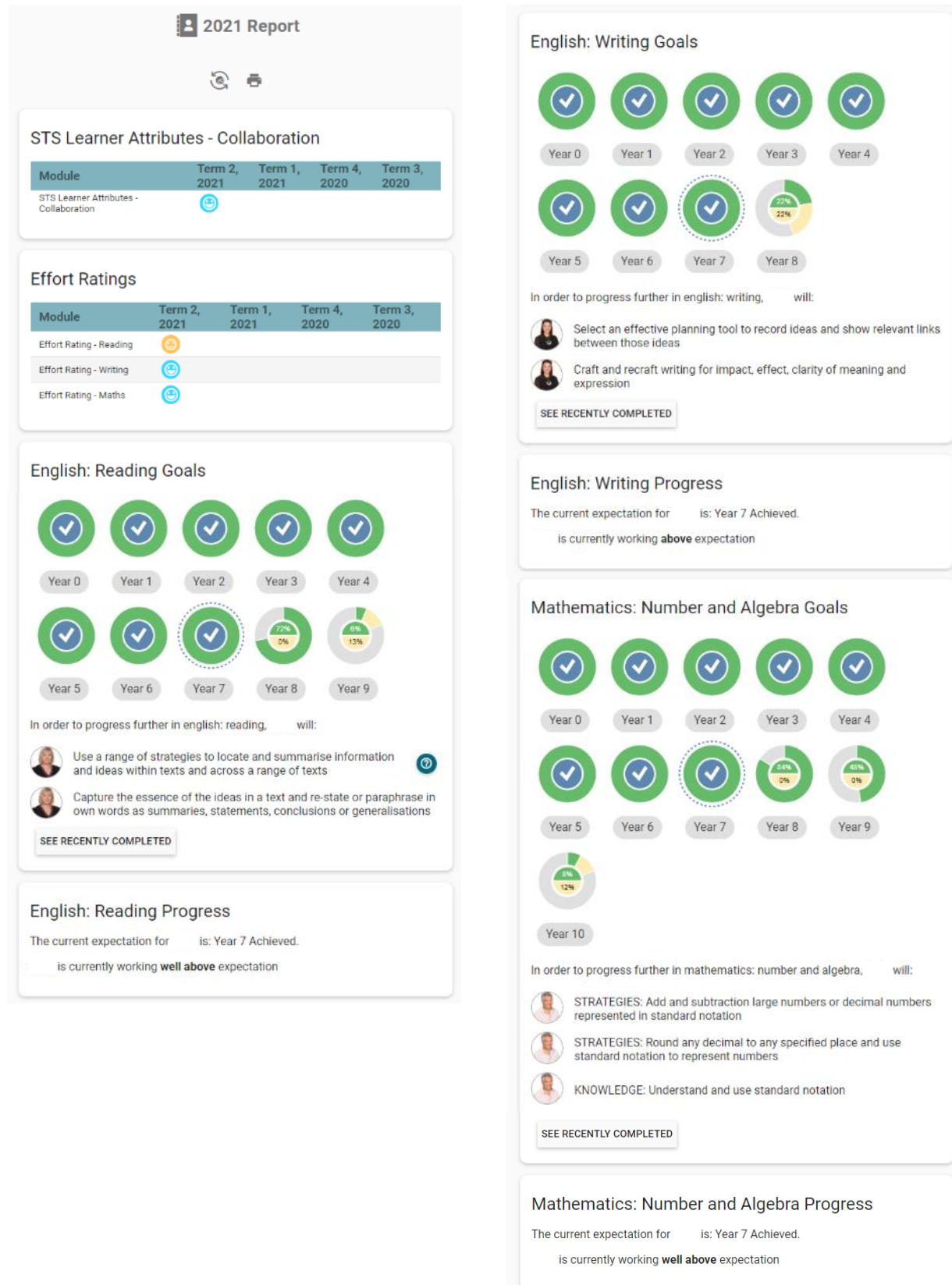
We encourage you to log into your existing Hero app and have a look at the reporting information that is now available for your child/children.

For information about how to log in and view your child's learning, go to the [Hero for Parents website page](#).

An example report is shown below. [Click here](#) to access information that will help you interpret the reporting information you can view about your child's learning progress.

If you have any issues using the new features of the app, or if you have any questions about your child's report, [please feedback via this link](#). We will collate all feedback/queries and include answers in ongoing communications and/or parent workshops that we plan to hold to support parents to use the app.

Example Student Report



Mathematics: Number and Algebra Goals

Year 0

Year 1

Year 2

Year 3

Year 4

Year 5

Year 6

Year 7

Year 8

Year 9

Year 10

In order to progress further in mathematics: number and algebra, will:

- STRATEGIES: Add and subtraction large numbers or decimal numbers represented in standard notation
- STRATEGIES: Round any decimal to any specified place and use standard notation to represent numbers
- KNOWLEDGE: Understand and use standard notation

SEE RECENTLY COMPLETED

Mathematics: Number and Algebra Progress

The current expectation for is: Year 7 Achieved.

is currently working **well above** expectation

Keeping Ourselves Safe Parent Information Evening

To start Term 3 off every teacher will be delivering the Keeping Ourselves Safe Programme to their students. This programme will be delivered in weeks 1-3.

On Thursday 1st July at 6.30pm in the staff room our Community Constable, Gordon Campbell, will be running a Parent Information Evening where he will talk through the key themes of the programme and answer any questions parents may have.

Below is an outline of what is covered and what your involvement is as a parent.

What will children and young people learn?

They will learn:

- To work out when their safety is at risk.
- How to keep safe when they meet and mix with other people.
- Who and how to ask for help if they, or someone they know, is being abused.
- To go on asking for help until someone does something to stop the abuse.
- That it is important to make and follow personal, family and school safety rules.

They will know:

- That abuse is never okay.
- That abuse is never their fault.

View the [Keeping Ourselves Safe programme resources](#).

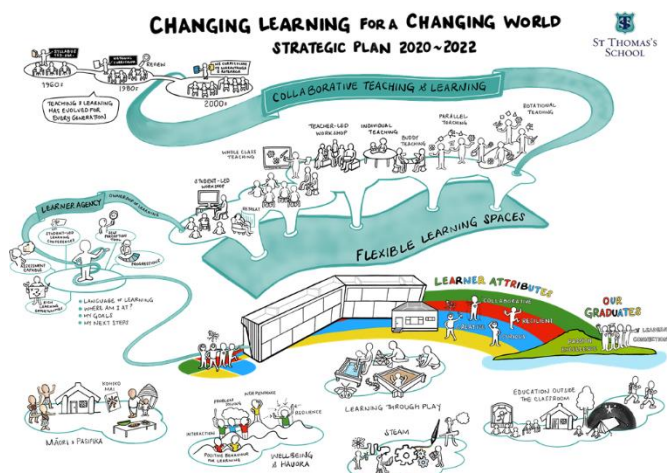
What part do parents, caregivers and whānau play?

Parents and whānau are strongly encouraged to support Keeping Ourselves Safe.

- You can attend a meeting at school to tell you more about Keeping Ourselves Safe.
- You can find out about abuse and what to do if you think a child, you know is being abused.
- You can talk to your child about what they have learnt in Keeping Ourselves Safe.
- You can set safety guidelines with your family.
- You can help young children with the Keeping Ourselves Safe activities they bring home.
- You can give the same safety messages as the school is giving.

Showcase of Learning

On **Wednesday 30th June 9.00am -10.30am** we would like to invite you to the St Thomas's School Showcase of Learning. This is an opportunity for parents or caregivers to pop into childrens' learning spaces to view and celebrate the learning they have done this term.



STS School Production

This week begins the exciting journey of our school production set to be performed at the Selwyn Theatre at the beginning of Term 4. We are very excited that Mr Mike Hudson is currently writing the script for what is sure to be another outstanding show! Mike Hudson, a former St Thomas's teacher, wrote all the scripts to our previous productions and now leads the Junior Performing Arts programme at Selwyn College.

Audition monologues have been given out this week to all those children in years 5 – 8 who have expressed an interest in being part of the show. Auditions will begin next week.

As in previous years, we want to actively encourage our younger children to experience what it means to be part of a big stage show and will be offering ensemble/dancing opportunities to some of the year 4 cohort who are keen to get involved.

Term 3 will be a very busy and exhilarating time for our chosen actors, singers and dancers as we rehearse ready for the big show in early Term 4.

Exciting times ahead!

Miriam Gwyn

mgwyn@stthomas.school.nz

Year 2 Zoo Trip

All of the Year 2's went to the Auckland Zoo on a very noisy bus! Some parents came to help. We got to see the zookeepers feed the spiderman monkeys. The baby spider monkeys leap from tree to tree to see how far they can jump. Monkeys do not like water because predators could catch them. Every year they have to cut the trees back so that the spider monkeys can't escape out of their enclosure. The trip back to school was not quite as noisy as the one there because some children were sleeping! It was a fun day, and we were happy because we enjoyed the trip and learnt new things about the animals.

Dictated by Ashleigh R and Isabelle R



World Vision 40 Hour Famine Dress Up Day

On the 25th of June 2021, we had our orange dress up day! We did this to support World Vision's 40-Hour Famine! To start off the day, we had some of our fellow students drop some money in our buckets, and although it was a chilly morning it was worth it because we earned \$700.50. Special thanks to everyone who brought money. Then at lunch time we had an orange dance party. Everyone was singing to 'Let It Go', and it was really fun for everyone. At the moment we have raised \$1,434 from all of the people doing 40-Hour Famine \$1,434! Which is amazing because it goes to the people who are starving. We could not have done this without Miss King and Miss Thain who did an awesome job.

From Caleb, Jess, Youvraj, Tessa and Mia



Dancesport Competition

On Thursday 24th of July, the Year 8's and 7's had the Dancesport Competition which was run by external judges. It was the second time for the Year 8's but it was the first time for the Year 7's and both of the year groups really enjoyed the competition. Everyone changed into their smart dance competition mufti clothes and the boys wore a number pinned to their clothes to help the judges identify them.

There were three partner dances called Cha-cha, Bachata, Rock n' Roll that we learnt at the Dancesport sessions throughout the term and the Dancesport judges gave out certificates to the winners of each dance step. The winners in Year 7 were Cameron and Tishani, Alona and Elliot, Elodie and Sam. In Year 8 the winners were Celab and Tia, Andee and Harry, Sitei and Jonas, Roxy and Will, Lola and Brooklyn.

The Year 8's said that they were excited, surprised, happy and proud and the Year 7's said that they were shocked, astonished and excited about their first time at the Dancesport competition. This was a very fun event for both year groups and congrats to all the winners of this years Dancesport, thanks to our teachers and the dance instructors for teaching us the partner dances and organising the competition.

Dylan B, Year 8



Moth Plant Competition Winners

My name is Luke and I'm in Year 6. Last month our family decided to take part in the Moth Plant Competition. We were a team of three (me, my mum and my sister Indigo in Year 4). We called ourselves Team Staples and we collected and disposed of 120 pods and 64 moth plant seedlings as part of the Orakei Local Board & Ngāti Whātua Moth Plant Competition. Our team was placed third in the primary category, and we won the Best Video and Thickest Vine spot prizes!

My sister Indigo and I plan to donate a portion of our prize money and some of the 9 native plants we won to our little sister Eileen's preschool, and some to St Thomas's School.

Luke S



PTA Musical Showcase auditions

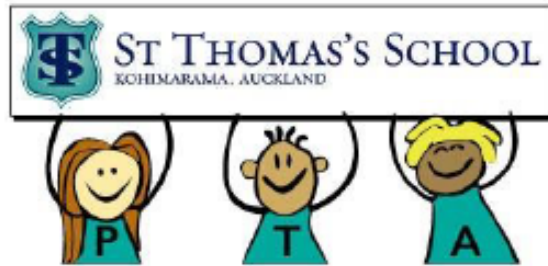
This week the PTA held the auditions for their Musical Showcase. We had some wonderful performances, students had obviously practiced and prepared for their audition. We had a great mix of students with our youngest student being Samuel in Year 1 and our eldest, Annabelle, in Year 8. With such fabulous auditions, we can't wait for the showcase!

We would love you to join us for the big event. The Musical Showcase will be at 6:30pm on Monday 5th July. Doors will open at 6pm. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children (our wonderful performers are free). Tickets are on sale at the door (cash only please). There will also be some food and drinks available on the night.

A special thank you to our amazing judges, Mr Drucker, Ms Clark, Miss French and Dory, we really appreciate you giving up your lunch times to attend our auditions. We loved seeing your kindness towards our brave young performers and your passion for the performing arts! Also, a huge thank you to Miss Thain who has not only helped with the judging but is also helping with the overall organisation. We couldn't do this without her help!



PTA News Issue #8 2021



OLYMPIC A-THON – WINNERS!

Congratulations to the following classes who raised the most sponsorship money and will be receiving a free Pizza lunch:

J12, M2, S5 & S8

And these classes will receive free Ice-blocks for having the highest participation levels: **J12, M4, M3, S5 & S8**

DRONES FOR THE HIGHEST INDIVIDUAL AMOUNTS RAISED ACROSS EACH OF THE 4 YEAR GROUPS WILL BE ANNOUNCED & GIVEN OUT AT RELEVANT YEAR LEVEL ASSEMBLIES IN THE COMING WEEKS.

HONEY HONEY!

Don't forget to get your honey orders in via the Online shop by next Friday, 2nd of July. Just \$59.90 for 3x500g jars of natural sweet goodness. The Honey Pack includes: Mono-flora Manuka MGO 83+ (equivalent to UMF 5+), Manuka/Kanuka multiflora & Alpine blend honey. \$20 from each sale goes back to the school.



SAUSAGE SIZZLE LUNCH – FRI 2ND JULY

Order via the Online shop from Monday.

Beef \$2.50 / Chicken \$2 / Vegetarian \$3
with, or without sauce – your choice!

Our next PTA meeting is **Weds 7th July** 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 and don't forget to Like us on Facebook!



Facebook/StThomasSchoolPTA

St Heliers Kindergarten is enrolling now!

Children from 3-5 years

Hours: 8.45am-2.45pm during the school term

20ECE hours

Come and visit us at 43 Maskell Street, St Heliers

Ph :09 5758113

or visit our website at www.aka.org.nz