



ST THOMAS'S SCHOOL
KOHIMARAMA, AUCKLAND

Newsletter

10 September 2021

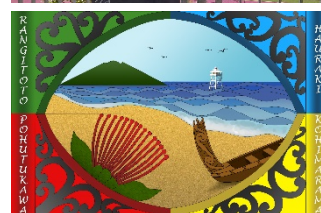
COVID-19 Community Communication #5

Principal's Message

Dear parents and caregivers,

As another week in lockdown comes to an end, we await the Prime Ministers announcement on Monday as to what level Auckland will move to. After the announcement, and if we are moving into level 3, we will send out a survey to our parent community to identify how many students are returning to school. This information will allow us to plan the number of staff we require back on site.

The Metro Bus Team at Auckland Transport have informed us that Auckland Transport's school bus service will not operate under Alert Level 3.



Board Announcement - Michael Morton (Board Chair)

I would like to announce that Claudine Crabtree has stepped down from the St Thomas's School Board of Trustees. I want to thank Claudine for all her time and effort she put into the school board over the past 2 and a bit years. Claudine has recently been invited to join the SLANZA National Executive. This is the School Library Association of NZ which is a great opportunity for her and an acknowledgement of her career as a school librarian. She is currently at Baradene College. That role will take up a lot of her time and given her son leaves St Thomas's at the end of this year she felt now was the right time to step aside and let someone else join the Board.

This means there is now a vacancy on the school board for an elected parent representative. As is the process if 10% or more of eligible voters on the school roll ask the board, within 28 days of this notice being published, to hold a by-election to fill the vacancy, then a by-election will be held in accordance with the NZSTA requirements. Request for a by-election or expression of interest should be sent to: BOT@stthomas.school.nz

Landscaping Plans

For the past year we have been working on plans to develop our outdoor areas into more interesting and creative learning spaces. At our last Board meeting we approved the [master landscape plan which is accessible here](#).

This plan has identified several areas to develop including:

- Waiting area for students in front of the school
- Seating around our tree planter boxes next to the court area
- Vegetable planting area for a garden to table type programme
- Pump track for bikes and scooters
- Bike track (including a container of bikes and helmets!)



- Native planting area including a 'predator free area' to support our enviro science programme
- New basketball court
- Realignment and resurfacing of our netball courts
- Nature 'makerspace' area

This plan was developed to enhance the learning opportunities for our students and as an asset for our parent community to use after school hours. It is a significant 'next step' on our schools journey to ensure we continue to provide the best facilities, innovative approaches and exciting teaching and learning programmes at St Thomas's School. We will implement this plan over the coming years and as funds allow. Currently

we are applying for grants to various organisations to kick start the bike track areas and will look to various organisations for support and a variety of ideas to fund raise. *One of the new ideas for fundraising for this project is detailed below and does require parent input.*



How You Can Help Make This a Reality

St Thomas's School is working with TaxGift to maximise the amounts that you generously donate to us, by helping you to easily gift us the tax credit on your donations to us.

By signing up to TaxGift, you can make your giving to St Thomas's School go up to 48% further without opening your wallet. How? If you are an individual New Zealand tax resident who has received taxable income in the current financial year, then you are entitled to a rebate of up to 33% on each donation that you've made to St Thomas's School. This means that for every \$100 that you donate to us this tax year, TaxGift will claim \$33.33 on our behalf as an additional donation from you. Next year, that \$33.33 provides us with another tax credit, meaning TaxGift claims \$11.11 as a further gift of money from you. The next year, we get gifted \$3.70 as a further donation, meaning that over three years, from an initial donation of \$100, your total gift has become \$148.14 at no cost to you!

By clicking the link below, you can simply sign up to TaxGift and make an additional donation gift to St Thomas's School of the amount of your relevant tax credit on your donations to us for this tax year, and going forward. By choosing to donate your tax credit, the impact of your giving will go even further, making a real difference in the work that we can do!

Finally, if you know that you haven't claimed the tax credit on your donations to us in the past four years, you can gift us those as well, amplifying your gift even further. Simply tick the box on the form regarding the past four years' donations and the team at TaxGift will ensure that we receive this as an additional gift from you: it's that simple.

It won't cost you anything to sign up to TaxGift, and only tax credits available on your donations to St Thomas's School will be captured – but please note that once you have signed up, you will not be able to claim this tax credit for yourself. We pay a small fee to TaxGift for the use of their service. Signing up appoints TaxGift as your tax agent for the purpose of your donations to us - it does not affect any other tax agents that you might have (for example, if you have an accountant who does your tax returns). You can opt out of TaxGift at any time by emailing admin@taxgift.co.nz.

So please take a minute to [click this link and register now!](#)

You can also visit TaxGift's website www.taxgift.co.nz for more information

Term 4 Teacher Planning Day – Tuesday 14th September

Each term, our teaching teams are entitled to 1 full day classroom release time to plan learning for the following term. Because the finish date for Level 4 lockdown in Auckland is still unknown, we have opted to make Tuesday 14th September the Term 4 Planning Day for all year level teams.

What this means for you and your children:

- On Tuesday 14th September there will be no classroom Zoom sessions
- Teachers will be unavailable to assist with home learning and will not be contactable via email on Tuesday 14th September
- Learning activities for Tuesday 14th September will be provided in advance to all students, so your children will still have work to complete on this day
- Zoom sessions and normal teacher contact will resume on Wednesday 15th September

We hope you have now all settled into a manageable learning from home routine. We understand that some families are really struggling with it due to broadband issues, limited numbers of devices, and balancing your own work commitments with providing your children support. Please know that all your efforts are greatly appreciated and do not hesitate to contact classroom teachers if you have questions or require assistance with any of the learning from home tasks that have been set.

STEAM Friday Fun Day – Friday 17th September

Friday 17th September will be 'STEAM Friday Fun Day' for all students. On this day, there will be no normal classroom Zooms but there will be a range of activities on offer from our STEAM teaching team including things like:

- Dance classes
- STEAM treasure hunt
- Art projects
- Creative activities
- Sporting activities
- And more . . .

We are currently compiling a digital resource for the day which will be circulated via Hero and via classroom teachers to ensure all students can access the activities. Keep an eye on the Hero Community Feed for more information.



**KELLY
CLUB**

HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

MONDAY 4 - FRIDAY 15 OCTOBER



Contact

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BOOK ONLINE AT

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