

10 December 2021

Message on Behalf of the Board of Trustees

As we come to the end of another school year I wanted to acknowledge and thank all our teaching, support staff and **leadership team at St Thomas's for all their hard work this year, but especially this last term.**

It has been an incredibly challenging time to maintain a learning program during the long lockdown and then to reopen the school safely in November. The Board had one overarching question of the school leadership team when the Government announced we could be back on site in Term 4 and that was "Do you think you can manage the required safety protocols and reopen full time?"

We are blessed with a large open site, many new classrooms already fitted with CO2 monitors and a roll size that means we have very manageable class sizes. We all felt it would be much easier for the kids and their parents to return to as normal a school timetable as possible.

Their answer was a confident "Yes, we can". And so that is what the school did. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive so thank you to our entire school community for embracing the changes required to reopen safely.

As parents ourselves everyone on the Board has loved having the kids back full time, back into some sort of routine, learning face to face and importantly back socialising and seeing their friends. This has been especially important for all those students leaving us at the end of this year. We wish them all the best wherever they may be heading for the next chapter in their learning development.

The enormity of the challenge to reopen safely is not to be underestimated and we wanted to express our most sincere thanks to the leadership team comprising our Principal Michael and DPs Claire and Ingrid, all the support and front office staff who have kept the school running and of course all our wonderful teachers. I am sure some of you were apprehensive returning to school after such a lengthy time away so thank you firstly for doing so and secondly for welcoming all our kids back so warmly. Despite the masks you can still sense the smiles on their faces and that really tells the story that they have loved being back.

Happy holidays everyone, see you next year to all those coming back in 2022 and I hope everyone enjoys their summer break, you have all certainly deserved it!

Nga mihi nui,

Michael Morton – Board Chair



"Changing Learning for a Changing World"

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

There is a **Māori whakaataukī** (proverb) which says **"He waka eke noa"** – essentially meaning, we are all in this waka (canoe) together and this year has certainly highlighted that. As our families and staff stepped through the complexities of lockdown restrictions and disruptions it certainly tested all our resilience.

Though we wish for a more 'normal' year in 2022, the challenges of this year also brought out the best in our community. A shared sense of purpose and determination was obvious among our staff and parent community as we strived to make sense of the year. In a way the challenges of this year actually strengthened our school community and highlighted the importance of a strong cohesive school as the centre of a caring community. This is something we can all be proud of and build on as we move forward.

To our parents/caregivers, students, Board and staff, thank you for your resilience and support.

Meri Kirihimete me te Hape Nū (Merry Christmas and a happy New Year)

Michael Maher
Principal

Thank You and Farewell From Our Year 8's

Thank you and farewell to St Thomas's School from the Year 8 cohort of 2021. We have so many great memories of our primary school years, this has really been the best place for us. We will remember our time at St Thomas's School and the great memories that we have here with our friends, family and teachers.



Staff Farewells

It is with much sadness that we bid farewell two of our long-standing relief teachers, Robyn Fairley and Karen Bell.

Robyn Fairley

Robyn has been teaching at St Thomas's School for 25 years and has been involved with just about every child in the school in her capacity as 'super reliever' - always willing to come in to work, any day, any year level, any activity. Robyn has regularly jumped in to take longer, full-time stints to cover extended staff absences and she is a much-loved member **of the St Thomas's Community**. Robyn is retiring and moving south to live in her holiday home. Thank you Robyn for being part of the furniture here, all the laughs and great memories. You will very much be missed.



Karen Bell

Karen was a full-time classroom teacher at St Thomas's School in the early **2000's**. She left briefly to raise her young family and returned 5 or 6 years ago as a part time and relief teacher. Karen has also done some longer full-time stints to cover extended staff leave in recent years. Karen is an incredibly talented, caring and hardworking member of our staff whose dedication to the job and willingness to get stuck in and help out with anything will be sadly missed. Karen, on behalf of the **St Thomas's Community we wish you and your family all the best for your relocation.**



School Grounds Open Over Summer

From the 15th of December the grounds will be open from 9.00am until 6.00pm every day during the summer holidays. There may be the odd occasion when they will have to be closed due to work being carried out or large vehicles onsite.

School Uniform Orders for 2022

Because of Covid restrictions and very high demand on courier services, ArgyleOnline customers have experienced courier delivery delays over recent months. It is most likely that these delays will continue through January and so we advise that you organise uniform orders early.

It is recommended by Argyle that you place your uniform order before Christmas or early in January. This will allow additional time for the courier to deliver your order.

The Argyle team will be dispatching orders up until Tuesday 21st of Dec 2021 and then will be on holiday until Thursday 6th January 2022. Orders placed during this time will be dispatched after the 6th of January 2022.

Last Day of Term

Is Tuesday 14th December. Year 0-2 will finish at 12.15pm, and will be released via the junior carpark gate as normal. Years 3-8 will be released at 12.30pm.

A reminder that the school bus DOES NOT RUN at 12.30pm.

2021 Prizegiving Class Awards

Year 1 Awards

J12 Samantha Lynch



Excellence
Oliver Levi

Passion
Adam Wheeler

Connections
Arthur Machado

Leadership
Maddie Le Bos

J13 Carolyn Agoston



Excellence
Eric Sattinger

Passion
Piper Wyber

Connections
Alice Gawith

Leadership
Olivia Holden

J14 Monique Riddle



Leadership
Lulu Paris

Excellence
Reddington Chen

Passion
Jessica Carroll

Connections
Duwon Lee

J15 Karen Bohan-Shaw



Excellence
Sam Haase

Passion
Hazel Maclean

Connections
Nathan Chuang
(Absent)

Leadership
Matthew Wheeler

J16 Wendy Carson



Passion
Sebastion McArthur
Nguyen

Connections
Alex Desai
(Abesent)

Leadership
Lydia Mitchelson
(Absent)

Excellence
Jalen Li

"Changing Learning for a Changing World"

Year 2 Awards
J5 Connie McAdam



Leadership
Harley Jensen

Excellence
Cherie Li

Connections
Zita Cai

Passion
Ah In Shin

J6 Fiona Rua



Leadership
Kasper Zhao

Excellence
Ariana Singh

Connections
Sofia Reyes

Passion
Mikaela Ng

J7 Jonathan Drucker



Leadership
Arshia Daya

Connections
Mila Beekmans

Passion
Archie McGregor

Excellence
Nate Van Rij

J8 Diane Jackson



Leadership
Sienna Lieskounig

Excellence
Anagha Menon

Connections
Abbie Tait
(Absent)

Passion
Eli Page

Year 3 Awards

M2 AN Kelly Anthony



Passion
Jordi Scher Barbalho

Leadership
Finn Casci

Excellence
Mackenzie Lim

Connections
Grace Gregor

M2 KO Flora Ko



Excellence
Julia Rattenbury

Passion
Ren Rowntree

Connections
Cece Shand

Leadership
Onyu Lee

M3 CL Sally Clothier



Excellence
Sofia Clayton

Connections
Ariella Naidu

Leadership
Ivy Morton

Passion
Ethan Bates

M3 CR Louise Crean



Leadership
Tommy Chapman

ESOL Nomination
Hiroto Tanaka

Connections
Delilah Burrett

Passion
Mayra Singh

Excellence
Oliver Gordon

Year 4 Awards

M4 GI Yasmin Gibson



Passion
Emily Tait

Connections
Charlotte Dimes

Excellence
Jia Doshi

Leadership
Milena Hutchinson

M4 PU Brian Putty



Leadership
Rudina Sejdiu

Connections
Theodore Black

Passion
Anaya Ahmed

Excellence
Nathan Trethewey

M6 RO



ESOL Nomination Yuzuru Kimura	Excellence Isaac Russell	Leadership Harry Chapman	Connections Tara Caffrey	Passion Anaiya Rasool
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M6 PL Stephen Platt



Passion Ricky Paris-Williams	Excellence Lucas Clements	Connections Lucy Martin	Leadership Stephanie Hills
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Year 5 Awards

M5 KI Nicky King



Passion
Sherveen Aminzadeh

Leadership
Thea Barlow

Excellence
Connor Fergusson

Connections
Eva Wright

M5 FR Svenja French



ESOL Nomination
Oliver Lin

Excellence
Chloe Gonzalez

Connections
Eva Wright

Leadership
Harry Ward

Passion
Gustavo Bazan Nascimento

M5 QU Mattie Queal



Connections
Ava Bennett

Leadership
Senuki Singappuli
Mudiyanselage

Excellence
Aryan Sharma

Passion
Huxley Fowler

Year 6 Awards

S3 Nicola Sheehy



Connections
Matthew Self

Passion
Yuna Cha

Excellence
Cindy Yu
(Absent)

Leadership
Amalya Ponna Handi

S4 Caroline Glover



Excellence
Penny Carroll

Connections
Zakary Suppiah

Leadership
Amelie Surgenor

Passion
Isaac James

S5 Maria Kroonenberg



ESOL Nomination Haim Lee	Passion Collette Whittfield	Excellence Emma Stevens	Leadership William Lang	Connections Luke Staples
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S6 Jennifer Evans



Connections Bronte Naidu	Leadership Medha S	Excellence Oliver Scott	Passion Zoe Clements
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School Awards for Year 6

Claire Hooton Award

The Claire Hooton award is for a Year 6 student who shows all round ability in sport. The recipient will have participated fully in school sporting activities, displayed sportsmanship and fair play values.



Jesse Duggan, Carthew Snowdon, Madeleine Green, Amelia Barry, Coco Morton
(Winner)

Voss Trophy

The Voss Trophy is for a Year 6 student. The trophy is awarded to the student who has performed to a high standard in the three fields of arts, citizenship and sport.



Leila Paris, Amelia Barry, William Lang, Emma Stevens, Amelie Surgenor (Absent)
(Winner)

"Changing Learning for a Changing World"

Year 7 Awards – Charlotte Jackson and Ricky Buchanan



Excellence
Isaac Lin

Connections
Enzo Scher Barbalho

Connections
Neeve Wairepo

Leadership
Lola D'Ortenzio



Passion
Ryan Findlay

Excellence
Ethan Liu

Leadership
Cameron Wait

Passion
Julia Storti Da Silva

Year 8 Awards – Lana Thain, Lesa Somaratne and Robyn Fairley



Passion
Lola Beange

Connections
Youvraj Singh

Connections
William Meleisea

Connections
Phoenix Smales-Casse



Leadership
Jack Lienert

Leadership
Connor McKay

Excellence
Raya Raykova

Passion
Mia Morrison



Passion
Reilly Koeberg

Excellence
Brooklyn Collette

Leadership
Millie Duggan

Excellence
Chloe Wong
(Absent)

William Pike Challenge Award



Alona Kotsar, Ari Kennedy-Casas, Alec Everett, Cameron Wait, Elliot Crow, Elodie Austin-Murray, Ethan Liu, **Freya Burke, Holly Fergusson, Jeremy Hann, Julia Silva, Logan Gardiner, Lola D'Ortenzio, Maddy Holland,** Neeve Wairepo, Olivia Mason, Ruby Van Den Berg, Ryan Findlay, Sam Noakes-Duncan, Scott Pomfret, Shpat Sejdiu, Tishani Karaka

The William Pike Challenge Excellence Trophy goes to: Alec Everett

Spirit Award

This award is for a Year 1 – 8 student who faces life with the spirit of resilience and integrity and displays wisdom and compassion beyond their years.

The Spirit Award Trophy goes to:
Youvraj Singh



ESOL Award

This is for a student in Years 1 – 8 who has made outstanding progress in learning English.



Kaho Ota
(Winner)

Julia Storti Da Silva

Bright Award

This award is for a Year 7 student. It is awarded to recognise outstanding service to the school, as well as good citizenship. The recipient demonstrates persistence with their duty or regular task, courtesy and co-operation, reliability and maturity and an ability to interact successfully with adults and other students of all ages.



Alona Kotsar, **Lola D'Ortenzio**, Holly Fergusson, Shpat Sejdiu, Alec Everett
(Winner)

Te Toi Ora Cultural Award

This award is for a Year 6-8 student who participates in Maori/Pasifika groups, kapa haka and language. **Te Toi Ora translates as 'the living knowledge'. It refers to the acquisition of cultural knowledge that will live on** in the recipient. The recipient demonstrates pride in their identity, Manaakitanga within the school environment and applies the school values in a cultural manner.



Tishani Karaka, Stella Turner, Universe Witika Mahanga, Patosina Lamositele
(Winner)

Blanche Smith Award

This award is for a Year 8 student who shows ability in The Arts, Visual Arts, Dance, Music and Drama.



Caleb Wilson, Harry Wood, Lola Beange, Tia Dutton, Mia Morrison
(Winner)

Tony McLean Award

The Tony McClean Award is for a Year 8 student with feeling and compassion for others. A student who acts with honesty and integrity in their daily life, has a sense of Fair Play and participates in sport enthusiastically. This student has many interests, tries their best at everything they do. The recipient is both a leader and a great team player.



Roxy Pastiroff, Lily Pastiroff, Kelsey Hand, Youvraj Singh, William Meleisa, Lachlan Zonneveld
(Winner)

Hill Award

The Hill award is for Sportsmanship and is awarded to a Year 8 student. The recipient will have participated fully in school sporting activities, displayed sportsmanship and fair play values.



Roxy Pastiroff, Lily Pastiroff, Semesi Fakafu, Jack Lienert
(Winner)

Sport Excellence Awards

These awards reflect the strong sporting culture within our school at the Year 7&8 level. Awarded to one girl and one boy from Years 7&8 who each demonstrate excellence across a range of school sports, whilst also upholding, through sport, the other school values of Leadership, Passion and Connections.

Girls



Ellen McLachlan, Roxy Pastiroff, Lily Pastiroff, Holly Fergusson
(Winner)

Boys



Youvraj Singh, Connor McKay, Semesi Fakafu, Jack Lienert
(Winner)

McDermott Awards

One girl and one boy are chosen from Year 8 to receive the McDermott award. This is awarded to recognise outstanding service to the school, as well as good citizenship. The recipients demonstrate persistence with their duty or regular task, courtesy and co-operation, reliability and maturity and an ability to interact successfully with adults and other students of all ages.

Girls



Chelsea Miller, Roxy Pastiroff, Lola Beange, Phoenix Smales-Casse
(Winner)

Boys



Youvraj Singh, Thomas Stafford, Caleb Wilson, William Meleisea
(Winner)

Principal's Award

The Principals award is presented to the Year 8 student who has the highest academic achievement.



Kelsey Hand, Raya Raykova, Annabelle Chen, Jack Lienert, Siddharth Panamoottil (Absent)
(Winner)



St Thomas's Tsunami Waterpolo



Waterpolo is one of the fastest growing sports worldwide and has been building at St Thomas's over the last three years. The 2021 season wasn't quite as full as we had hoped, but despite this the squad trained twice a week and competed in a tournament in term 2 securing St Thomas's first waterpolo medal! Thank you to all the supportive parents for making this possible for the kids.

Waterpolo is an extremely demanding and physical sport and the members of the squad were very committed to their training and as such each and every one showed great progress. Both coaches, Emma and Bella, are extremely proud of the team and have enjoyed supporting them in developing further. It has also been fantastic to see some many of them join club waterpolo!

Congratulations to our Waterpolo Awards recipients for 2021

Most Valuable Player – Lachie Zonneveld

Most Improved Player – Tia Dutton

Best Offensive Player – Nardo Pecsy

Best Defensive Play – Liv James

Team Spirit and Leadership Award – Andee Campbell

Calling all Players for 2022!

If you think your child (year 6-8) would be interested in joining the waterpolo squad, come along and try it out. Please note a base level of swimming fitness is preferred as you can't touch the bottom of the pool!

Coach – Bella Jacka

Manager – Nic Zonneveld

nematthews@gmail.com

PTA News Issue #11 2021



THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

In what can only be described as a trying year for all, we can't thank you enough for all the support we've had from our school community this year. Whether it was your help, your time, your donations or your purchasing, we are so very grateful to everyone who contributed to our 2021 fundraising goal.

We have raised more than \$40k this year to go toward our goal:
"Enhancing the outdoor learning environment; including play areas & learning through play equipment"

2nd HAND UNIFORM SALE

We'll be holding a second-hand uniform sale at the Meet the Teacher day on Wednesday 2nd of February 2022.

We have a range of sizes; shorts, t-shirts, long sleeve shirts, fleeces & hats for sale. Ranging in price from \$5 - \$30.

Cash only please.



YUMMY STICKERS UPDATE

Thanks to your continued support of this initiative. As a result of collecting and sending in your Yummy apple stickers and Yummy bag labels, we will receive \$953 from DG Sports Ltd to spend on new sports gear for St Thomas's School! This is an outstanding effort, and we thank all of you who contributed!

Why not consider joining the PTA in 2022? It's fun, rewarding and most of all, benefits the school and our Tamariki. Contact us on the email below and come along to our next meeting!



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!