



## Message from the Principal

Welcome to the first newsletter of Term 3 and an especially warm welcome to our new families who have joined us.

## Attendance

Absences for the entire school in weeks 9 and 10 of Term 2 were 11% and 17% respectively. This term we reintroduced mask wearing for all staff and students in Years 4 to 8.

In weeks 1 and 2 of this term student absences were 12% each week. Teaching staff absences were 10% in week 1 and 2. We will continue to monitor our attendance rates and in week 4 review mask wearing requirements when we will have two further weeks of data to determine our next step.

## Road Safety Improvement Around Our School

Earlier this year we requested Auckland Transport to investigate roading improvements on Allum Street to better safeguard our students and wider community. Unfortunately, Auckland Transport declined to carry out any improvements. We are now asking our community to sign a petition which we will present to Auckland Transport and our Orakei Local Board requesting them to investigate safety improvements around the school.

Below is the link to our petition to ask AT and Orakei Local Board to investigate road improvements around our school especially on Allum St.

Thank you for your support in helping to keep our students safe.

[https://www.petitions.nz/improve\\_road\\_safety\\_outside\\_st\\_thomass\\_school](https://www.petitions.nz/improve_road_safety_outside_st_thomass_school)

**Michael Maher**  
Principal



**To the Y7&8 EPro8 Teams  
for getting 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>  
place at the recent  
Challenge.**

## Upcoming Events

### August

- 11 Student Led Learning Conferences (3.15 – 7.00)
- 15 Eastern Zone Girls Basketball
- 16 Board of Trustees Meeting (6.30pm in the staffroom)
- 17 Eastern Zone Boys Basketball
- 19 Y3-8 Cross Country Event (1.30 – 3.00)
- 22 Rain Date for Cross Country Event
- 29 Bay Suburbs & Eastern Zone Cross Country

### September

- 7 Bay Suburbs Basketball Boys & Girls PTA Meeting (7.00pm Staffroom)
- 8 Y7&8 Vaccinations
- 15 Y7&8 Vaccinations Catch Up
- 19-23 Y8 Camp
- 20 Y5 Corban Estate Art Centre Trip (M6KI & M6HU)
- 21 Y5 Corban Estate Art Centre Trip (S1 & S2)
- 29 Prospective Parents Open Moring
- 30 Last Day of Term 3

October

17 Start of Term 4

## Board of Trustee Election Results

There were 5 parent positions available on the Board of Trustees and 5 nominations were received, which means that there is no requirement for an election.

We would like to welcome back Georgia Houliker, Nick Chapman, Annika Lim and our staff representative Claire Fromow. A very warm welcome to Alistair Monk and Megan Wheeler.

## 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 **by 9.00am** in one the following ways:

- Through our Hero App (preferred)
- By telephone 09 5283938

***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 students go home with someone that is not on their 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 the sick bay. They must **not** phone or text their parents/caregivers themselves.

## **Student Led Learning Conferences**

A reminder that these are taking place on Thursday 11th August. If you would like to book, please click on [www.schoolinterviews.co.nz](http://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz) and then enter the event code: y2qbe.

## Employment Opportunity

Our Learning Support Team are looking for a Teacher Aide to work alongside our teachers and learners. We are looking to employ someone full-time (Mon-Fri, 9am-3pm), however this is negotiable. If you would like more information or to complete an application, please contact our SENCo, Amy Thurston at [athurston@stthomas.school.nz](mailto:athurston@stthomas.school.nz).

## Positive Behaviour for Learning



This term, your child may have excitedly told you that they earned one of our new house points tokens, or learnt about manners and kindness at school. That is because we have implemented new initiatives to further develop a consistent and positive culture across our school community; through [Positive Behaviour for Learning School-Wide \(PB4L School-Wide\)](#).

PB4L School-Wide is a Ministry of Education framework based on international research. PB4L School-Wide works to change the school environment, systems and practices in order to support students to make positive behaviour choices.

Our focus for this term is tikanga pai (good manners) and atawhai (kindness). At home, you can reinforce these skills with your children, as the success of PB4L School-Wide is greatly improved through [whānau](#) and community involvement.

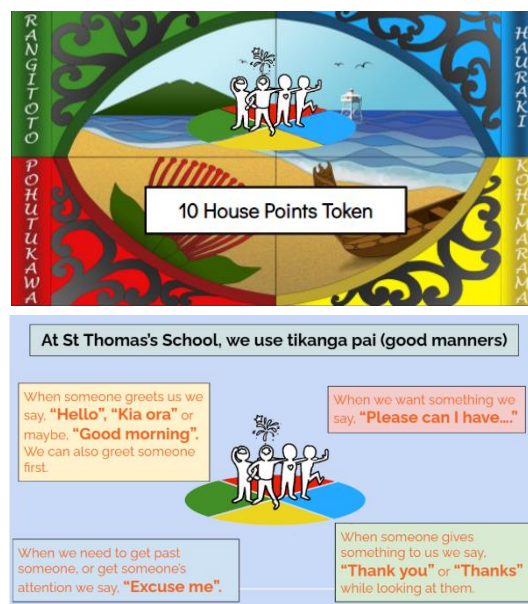
### St Thomas's Kindness Week donation drive: 22<sup>nd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> August:

During Kindness week we will be giving to others outside our community with a donation drive organised by our Year 8 House Captains, in support of The Kindness Collective Foundation.

We are encouraging children to look through their bookshelves and linen cupboards with their whānau for:

- Good quality children's books
- Blankets in good condition

**If you are able to donate, please involve your child in the process and bring the items to school during our Kindness Week 22<sup>nd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> August. There will be collection boxes outside the library, at the front office, outside S7 and by the ESOL room.**





## Lost Property

We have a large number of school jumpers in our lost property. Most of these jumpers are unnamed so we have been unable to return them to their rightful owners. Please ensure that you name all of your child's uniform with their first name and surname.

## EPro8 Challenge

Last Thursday and Friday our teams competed in the Inter-School EPro8 engineering challenge at Churchill Park School. All teams put in a great effort with STS Teen Titans and STS Wanderers taking out first and second place in the Year 7/8 category. These teams will now participate in the Auckland semi-final round in late September. We wish them all the best!



## Eastern Zone Netball Tournament

On Friday the 29th the Year 7 girls and the Year 8 boys and girls went to the Eastern Zone Netball Competition. A bus took us to our venue of the Auckland Netball Centre and once we arrived, we got ready for our first game.

We played around 6 games in total including the semis and finals. The games were 20 minutes long with 9 minute halves and a 2 minute break at half time. We were super proud of ourselves at the end of the day, we played some challenging games, but overall had lots of fun. We hope we can do more netball throughout the rest of the year with the teams. Some of the boys really enjoyed their first-time playing netball and others were super enthusiastic to join another tournament.

The Year 8 girls team came 4th and the boys team also got 4th in their grade too. The Year 7s also did great, the A team came 4th in their grade and the B team got a fantastic win on the day which was great as it was their first time playing. Overall, we had a great time, a big thank you to Natasha and Chandini who helped manage teams on the day.

*Written by Tayla & Holly*

**See over the page for photos**



## Year 8 Camp Fundraiser: Samosas

We are fundraising for Year 8 Camp by taking orders for samosas! There are three delicious flavours to choose from, with packs of 10 samosas for \$20. Place your order today, for delivery to classes on September 8th.

Thanks for helping us fundraise for Year 8 camp, taking place on Kawau Island in September.



**FUNDRAISING FOR YEAR 8 CAMP**

**DELICIOUS SAMOSAS**  
**10 FOR ONLY \$20**

3 delicious flavours  
butter chicken, veggie, lamb (1 flavour per pack)  
(halal certified)

Please place your order via the Online Shop

orders must be in by Friday 12th August  
delivered to classrooms 8th September

## Update on Ryman Village

Planning is well underway for the start of the construction of Ryman village and attached are the recent minutes and plans from the community meeting. The construction will take several years and St Thomas's School look forward to a positive relationship with our new neighbours in the years ahead. We appreciate the support which Rymans have already shown the school with their \$10,000 donation to our pump and bike track which our students are really enjoying.

[Ryman Community Liaison Meeting Minutes – 21 July 2022](#)

[Land Use Consent Revised Plan](#)

## PTA News Issue #3 2022



### WELCOME BACK TO TERM 3!

We have lots of exciting things in the pipeline for the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of our school year.

Calendar Art Ordering is on and will close on Wednesday August 10<sup>th</sup> -  
Check school bags for order forms.

We are preparing for our big Quiz Night fundraiser in a few weeks so look out for more details coming soon.

Some exciting events for Term 4 being planned as well.

### QUIZ NIGHT

Save the date 24<sup>th</sup> September!

We are looking for sponsors as well as donations for our auctions. This is always a popular night with sell-out attendance.

If your business is interested in sponsoring this event, we have a few options available so please make contact via email.

Also accepting offers of prizes and donations for our main auction and silent auctions – another great way to get your products or services out there in our community.

Please email [stthomasschoolpta@gmail.com](mailto:stthomasschoolpta@gmail.com) for more details.

### St Thomas's PTA on Facebook

Don't forget we are on Facebook too. All PTA messages will be sent out via HERO, but this is an alternative place to connect with your PTA and school community as well.

Send us a message there if you want to connect with others for sports teams or events outside of school.

### YUMMY STICKERS

A reminder to keep collecting Yummy Stickers – the more we collect, the more sports equipment we receive for the school!

Collection sheets can be downloaded and printed from the Yummy Fruit website – due in September.

[https://www.yummyfruit.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Sticker\\_Collection\\_Sheet.pdf](https://www.yummyfruit.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Sticker_Collection_Sheet.pdf)

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, or come along to our next meeting!



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!



Facebook/StThomasSchoolPTA

## "Zumba Classes at St Thomas's School Hall!

**Register today for term 3 and pay \$70 only. Message me for more information. 021 1831946 Valid from 22 July - 5 August 2022. Not valid in conjunction with other promotions or discounts."**

### **Kia ora koutou**

**Bigfoot Adventures** are recruiting Bike Skills Instructors to deliver their Bike Skills programme. If you think that this could be of interest, then please follow the link below for more information.

<https://www.seek.co.nz/job/57735459?type=standard#sol=2e365ab82c4937f170a9e1ffda8db7cb0b285fcb>

In this roll you'd be required to undergo the Bike Ready training course and have a valid first aid certificate by an accredited first aid provider. Bigfoot Adventures regularly runs the Bike Ready course and can recommend first aid providers and when they have courses running.

We're keen to recruit individuals who'd be interested in delivering to their local community but maybe have limited availability. We'd be very interested to hear from people who have free time within school hours.