

28th October 2022

Message From the Principal

St Thomas's School Proposed Cohort Entry 2023

What is cohort entry?

Traditionally, children in Aotearoa New Zealand start school on their fifth birthday. Recent changes to the Education Act mean more and more schools are now adopting cohort entry: enrolling children in groups on specific days across the year. Cohort entry limits the days a new entrant can start school to eight times a year, twice per term. There will be two entry points per term:

- one on the first day of term
- one at a mid-point during a term.

Children are able to start school in cohorts after they have turned five. Children who have a birthday in the first 5 weeks of the term can start in week 6 and children who have a birthday between week 6 and 10 will start in week 1 of the following term.

Rationale for change

Schools have reported they adopted cohort entry because it:

- supported new entrant social and emotional wellbeing as they started in groups, sometimes with friends from early learning centers and day cares. For some children, this meant a better sense of belonging, less anxiety, and quicker settling
- supported learning for new entrants and their peers as teachers had uninterrupted blocks of time to teach
- supported whanau/family wellbeing as their children settled well into school, and created opportunities for them to connect with other whanau/families and the school
- helped teachers to prepare ahead for groups of new children and have more time to plan and teach as they knew when the next group of children were due to start
- enabled schools to plan transition events and activities that reached more whanau/families at the same time and connected whanau/families to each other and the school.

The link below has more detail about cohort entry, and we will send out a survey early next week to gather feedback from our community regarding our proposal.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1HskZtIZfuTss5ZkSTNI9p4i7QWAr2ntZ/view?usp=sharing>

Michael Maher
Principal



To all the students who took part in the Tread Lightly Programme this week.

Upcoming Events

November

- 1 Board Meeting (6.30pm Staffroom)
- 2 PTA Meeting (7.00pm Staffroom)
- 8 Eastern Zone Touch Tournament
- 8 Y5&6 Athletics Day
- 10 Y7&8 Athletics Day
- 15 Bay Suburbs Touch
- 16 Y2 Trip to Mangere Bridge (J5 & J6)
- 17 Y2 Trip to Mangere Bridge (J7 & J8)
- 21 Bay Suburbs Athletics

December

- 6 Board Meeting (6.30pm Staffroom)
- 7 PTA Meeting (7.00pm Staffroom)
- 9 End of Year Prizegiving
- 16 Last Day of 2022

Tread Lightly Caravan

This week year 6 went to Tread Lightly. It was an awesome experience, and we enjoyed every bit of it.

There were 4 stations to go to. Waste, E-waste, Compost and Energy.

At the waste station we got to see how much rubbish has been thrown away every year. After that we got rubbish from the middle which was in a messed-up pile and put it in the right bin. There was landfill, recycling, compost, soft plastics and a phone bin.

E-Waste stands for electronic waste. We learned about things to do with a phone and how to throw it away properly.

Compost was when we looked at different bugs through a microscope and saw all their features.

Energy was when we tested out different things to switch on other things like lightbulbs, sander and a hairdryer. Thank you to the helpers for helping us.



Thea & Sienna S4



Year 6 Trip to See Whale Rider

Last Thursday our year 6 classes were lucky enough to head on a school trip to watch a live show/performance of 'The Whale Rider'. This was a fun morning out and was something which many children hadn't been to or seen anything like before. The actors used many creative props and used puppets to act out the different characters from the story. There was music, lights and many jokes to make the students laugh.



William Pike Trip to Mairangi Bay

Bonnie's reflection:

On Thursday we went to Mairangi Bay Surf Club as part of the William Pike Challenge.

When we stepped out of the bus, we walked for a bit until we arrived at Mairangi Bay Surf Club. We sat down on the grass, and the lifeguards introduced themselves afterwards. We then climbed up the stairs onto the upper floor of the surf club. We all sat on the floor and one of the lifeguards explained everything to us with hand-drawn diagrams. One of the new things I learnt was that two feeding currents (currents that travel sideways) and a river/stream that connects to the ocean produce a rip. I also learnt the 3 R's which you could use when you came across a rip. They are "relax, raise, ride". We also performed a skit to show that we know what to do if we or someone else is in trouble in the water.

After eating lunch, we changed into our togs/swimsuits, and played a few games on the sand first, which included rescue tube and boogie board relay. We then got into the ocean and ran until the water was just a little above my waist. For me it was a great challenge encountering the huge waves. Later on we split into partners and took turns practicing the rescuing methods, which used the rescue tubes and boogie boards. After all the activities we got changed back into our normal clothing and came back to school on the bus. Anyways, it was a great challenge for me, especially in the water, but it was still fun :)

Kaelyn's Reflection:

On the 27th of October at 9:00am we went to Mairangi Bay Surf Club with the rest of the William Pike students to learn about beach safety. During the experience we were shown all the lifesaving gear, the floatation and rescue devices as well as the first aid equipment. We were then educated about recognising rips, and how to save yourself when you are in a rip as well as others. We then performed a skit in our parent help groups demonstrating one important beach safety rule through which we learnt a lot about taking care of ourselves while at the beach. Next it was time to practice rescuing using the lifeguard equipment. We started with relays on the sand to practice and then did it with a partner in the sea.

TEAMWORK

During the skits and when we were doing relays and pretend rescues, we had to use teamwork. For the skits we had to work with our team to get a good skit, with the relays we had to help the person get the rescue tube and boogie board strap on, and it was similar when we were in the water.

COMPASSION

In the relay I noticed a classmate was struggling so I made extra effort to help her get the boogie board strap round her wrist.



PTA News

Term 4: Issue #1 2022



WELCOME BACK – AND THANK YOU!

Hoping you all had wonderful holidays and enjoyed the break.

We have a plethora of exciting events coming this term, so continue checking in here for all the details!

Thank you to everyone who supported our annual Quiz & Auction night last term, we raised over \$10,000 for our school. A huge thanks to our sponsors: John & Jane; Ray White Orakei, Saint Johns Butchery, Coimex & AV Technix. And a massive thanks to everyone who donated their time or items for the auction. Aroha nui.

SECONDHAND UNIFORM SALE

From 3pm Friday 4th November, under the tree outside the office.

We have a wide selection of items & sizes. Cash or online transfer.

ICEBLOCK FRI-YAYES

are back!

From 3pm under the tree outside the office: \$2 each or 3 for \$5

CHRISTMAS!

Coming soon:
Cookie Time cookies

Hams/Turkeys from
Saint Johns Butchery

COLOUR RUN

Our inaugural Colour Run will take place on the school field from 10.30am, Sun 13th November.

Earlybird registrations end today – so get in quick! \$22 gets you registered to enter, a white t-shirt and an iceblock.

Cost is \$25 if you register after the 28th.

A coffee cart & sausage sizzle (cash only) will be available on the day.

NB: the paint powder is non-toxic but goggles are recommended to avoid eye contact.

We're in need of parent helpers on the day too – please see flyer attached for details on how you can help!

YUMMY STICKERS

A huge thanks to everyone who sent in their Yummy stickers – we received \$829 worth of sporting equipment for the school as a result of the number of stickers we collected! Keep collecting and sending them in, the more, the better and the more sporting equipment we get for the school!

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, 7pm on Weds 2nd Nov in the school staffroom.



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](https://www.facebook.com/StThomasSchoolPTA)

COLOUR RUN

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



NOVEMBER 13TH 10.30AM

St Thomas's school field

Volunteers needed to help along obstacle course

And help throw colour

We will provide you with everything you need to help out
at the different obstacles. Please email stthomasschoolpta@gmail.com

After-School Painting and Drawing Classes in St Thomas's School (Weka Room)!

Our art class will help your child to develop their creativity and imagination through learning to use a variety of mediums such as watercolour and acrylic paints, sketching and colouring pencils, paper collage, oil pastels, and more!

Monday, 3-5pm, 7y.o.-12y.o, 7 sessions, \$198

Tuesday, 3-5pm, 6y.o.- 9y.o, 8 sessions, \$226

Thursday, 3-5pm, 8y.o+, 8 sessions, \$226

Have a look at our work on our website: <https://www.aquarelleartclasses.com/>

Please email or text Yulia for more information. Mob: 021 308 207, Email: artyulianz@outlook.com

Zumba Promotion - Term 4

Registrations for Zumba classes are now open. Classes are every Wednesday 7pm at St Thomas's School Hall. Casual classes are \$10 or 10 classes for \$80. Registrations close 26th October 2022. Join us for 10 weeks of FUN :)

Spring Kitchen Lunch Orders

If you would like your child to have a lunch from Spring Kitchen, please place orders by calling them on 0274210818 one day in advance. Please note that these orders will be delivered to the school office, **and it will be up to your child to come and collect their order.**

Gyoza (8 pieces deep fried dumplings with mayo) \$12

pan fried dumplings (8 piece with soy sauce) \$13

prawn (3 pieces of deep fried prawns) \$8

teriyaki chicken on rice small (it has mayo and teriyaki sauce) \$8

teriyaki chicken on rice large (it has mayo and teriyaki sauce) \$11

katsu chicken (deep fried) on rice small (it has mayo and teriyaki sauce) \$8

katsu chicken (deep fried) on rice large (it has mayo and teriyaki sauce) \$11

MINDFUL PARENTING COURSE

In this practical 6 session Mindful parenting course, Shirley Pastiroff (counsellor and mother of 5) teaches effective Mindful parenting solutions that reduce parenting stress, improve relationships and create deep and lasting connections with your children.

WHERE & WHEN

St Chad's Church & Community Centre
Meadowbank

DATE: starting Wednesday Oct 26th

TIME: 9.30 - 11am for six weeks

COST: \$150

Special couples rate: \$250 per couple



Renew Your Mind



Course facilitator:

Shirley Pastiroff

Counsellor and mum of 5

TESTIMONIALS

"Life-changing. I have recommended it to everyone who will listen" – Mum of 2: ages 5 and 2

*"All parents should be put on this course"
– Dad of 3: ages 10, 7 and 4.*

*"Fabulous. Informative. Empowering.
Thought-provoking. Inspiring"
– Mum of 3: ages 16, 13 and 10*

SIGN UP ONLINE:

renewyourmind.co.nz/mindful-parenting