



11th November 2022

Message From the Principal

End of Year Celebration

On December 9 we have our end of year prizegiving celebration which will be held at The Barfoot and Thompson Stadium. We are looking forward to once again coming together as a community to acknowledge and celebrate our students' achievements. We invite all our families to join us on 9 December from 9:30am onwards (for a 10am start) as we head towards the closing of the year.

Cohort Entry

Thank you to all our parents who responded to our cohort entry survey. The responses were overwhelmingly supportive of this initiative. From the start of the 2023 academic year, cohort entry will be in place for all our new students who start as a Year 0 or as a Year 1.

School Safety

Thank you to all our parents who vacate the school grounds at 3:15pm in the afternoons. However, we have a few families who do not leave before the gates are secured.

Unfortunately, this has caused safety risks for our students in the after-school programme as the gate beside the hall is being left open. This poses a risk to our young students in the programme as they can go out the gate and access the busy road. Please leave the school grounds at 3:15pm which is for everyone's safety. The school gate is opened on the weekends by Matrix Security and this is an ideal time to come with your children and spend some time enjoying the grounds.



To Harper G Y2 for being the Principal for the day today.

Upcoming Events

November

- 15 Bay Suburbs Touch
- 16 Y2 Trip to Mangere Mountain (J5 & J6)
- 17 Y2 Trip to Mangere Mountain (J7 & J8)
- 17 Y3&4 Athletics Day
- 21 Bay Suburbs Athletics (Y5&6)
- 24 Eastern Zone Athletics (Y7&8)

December

- 5 Year 8 Trip to Rangitoto
- 6 Board Meeting (6.30pm Staffroom)
- 7 PTA Meeting (7.00pm Staffroom)
- 9 End of Year Prizegiving
- 14 Year 2 Athletics Day
- 16 Last Day of 2022 (**School closes at 12.30pm**)

February 2023

- 1 Meet the Teacher Day
- 2 First Day of Term 1
- 6 Waitangi Day (School Closed)

Years 4-8 Bring Your Own Device 2023

We have received a large number of queries from parents wanting to purchase devices for their children to use at school in 2023 – what a fantastic idea for a Christmas gift!

Our St Thomas's School BYOD programme is flexible. Any internet capable device, be it a laptop or a Chromebook will be a huge advantage for your child in Years 4-8 at St Thomas's. iPads/tablets can also be used, but we find these are difficult for writing and lack some of the features that make them suitable for all school related tasks.

The use of BYOD devices in class gradually increases from Year 4 to Year 8. By Year 7&8 our students are predominantly learning using devices so that they are well prepared for their college transition. While BYOD is not compulsory and we do have some school owned devices that students can use, having their own device does mean that your child won't have to wait for a shared device to become available to complete their learning tasks. We highly recommend BYOD for all students in Years 4-8 if you are able to provide one.

In terms of a recommendation to buy, there are several things we suggest you take into consideration:

- Any device will be great, from an old family laptop, to a Chromebook or even up to a flashy convertible laptop like a Microsoft Surface Pro or similar. Let your budget dictate which option will work best for you. Do keep in mind that a cheaper Netbook/Chromebook won't last as long as a model with higher specs, however technology changes at such a rapid rate that most devices are becoming outdated after 3-4 years.
- Look into the device recommended by the college you intend to send your child to. If you want something to last longer than 3-4 years, make sure it meets the needs of school they will next attend.
- Currently, St Thomas's School is dual platform. This means that we utilise both Office 365 and Google Suite. A Chromebook or similar will only enable your child to use the web versions of both software types. This won't necessarily limit your child, but it will mean that they can't work 'offline' for later syncing. A full laptop will give them the desktop functionality of Office 365 which means they can work offline and they can access more features that aren't contained in the web versions.
- Our Microsoft for Education licencing agreement means that all students have access to a free Office 365 account during their time at St Thomas's School. This means they can download 365 onto their own device and use desktop versions of all the office software. This can save you quite a bit of money on purchasing software. Please note that 365 cannot be downloaded onto Chromebooks, this works for notebooks only. Also note, that the 365 licence is for STS Students, using STS student email addresses only. If another family member tries to add their own profile it will automatically shut down the licence.
- The staff at stores like Harvey Norman and Noel Leaming are fantastic at recommending devices that will suit your budget and the purpose of BYOD. Take your time and use their knowledge to guide you in a direction that you are comfortable with.

We hope this information helps you with your decision about which device to purchase for your child's BYOD.

Organic Vegetable Garden

Our organic vegetable garden is thriving with an assortment of vegetables such as beetroot, kale, bok choy, cabbage, lettuce, broccoli, corn, turnips, silverbeet and spinach to name a few. When not in the garden, the Year 5, 6, and 7 Food Science students are learning about the nutritional science of food and last week we made our own salt by evaporating sea water. We are looking forward to turning the vegetables into tasty treats once they are fully grown. Thank you again to those families who kindly donated the Little Gardens for us to grow.



More Certificates Awarded From Future Problem Solving New Zealand

Congratulations to our Year 6 & 7 FPS teams who have been recognised for their hard work and efforts on the topic of 'Water Quality'.

The Year 6's scenario was focussed on New Zealand whilst the Year 7's were trying to solve issues with clean water in West Africa, the Amazon Basin, the Caribbean Islands and the Great Plains of America. In addition to finding solutions to the scenario they had a great geography lesson!



Year 2 Assembly

Riaan – "At assembly we sang songs. I liked 'What a Wonderful World' a tiny bit more than 'ECO warriors' because I agree that this is a great world."

Ollie – "Assembly was fun because we got to sing songs and best of all my Mum came and second best I got a certificate."



ESOL Market Day

"I was selling 40 toys for lots of Buzz dollars."

By Orion Y2

"On Market Day I got stuff for girls, and I ate popcorn."

By Nele Y2

"On ESOL Market Day I got my face painted. I had a buzzy bee and I had the letter S and it was fun. Riya did a good job."

By Agam Y2

"I ate popcorn at the ESOL Market Day. I played foosball and I gave Adam 20 Buzz dollars and to the boys I gave 200 Buzz dollars because I had lots of money. I played games and I had a great time."

By Sanitilala Y2

"Last week, I went to the ESOL Market Day with my friends. I got in and there was lots of stuff to buy. I first bought a book and then I played a bean bag throwing game. I got one in so then I got a lolly paper, and I got some lollies from a lady. When I finished my candy, I went for a fishing game and I got every word right, so I got another lolly paper. It was fun. I saw some soft toys so I got to buy one. But some of them were too expensive so I asked if they could lower the price and they said yes. It was a very fun day."

By Alvin Y3

"Last week, me and Sakura went to ESOL because it was Market Day. I got a lot of cool things. I played the bean bag toss and the fishing game too. And I loved it a lot. I did a lot of maths too. I got a lot of lolly prizes and a book. Many people played games. I used all my Buzz money!! And I went crazy!!! I had lots of fun!!!!"

By Harper Y3

"Last Thursday, I jumped out of bed excitedly to go to ESOL Market Day. It was fun. I got lots of stuff. I spent all my money. I got a fluffy toy that was a turtle. Jordi got two fluffy toys. I then went to the fishing game, and I got all of the words right. I got a lolly ticket, and I got a lolly. I picked a purple lolly. It was a snake and a dinosaur. It was yummy. Tara got the lamb that I really wanted to get. It was so cute. Then the silent auction ended and Thivein's brother got the Packman fluffy toy. I got a cupcake, and it was delicious. ESOL market ended, and I went back to class and showed everyone the things I bought. Everyone was amazed at all the stuff I showed them. ESOL market was fun!"

By Ren

Y4

"On Thursday, I came home with a little lamb and you might wonder where I got it from. Well, I got it from ESOL market day. You might wonder what is ESOL Market Day? It is this flea market at St Thomas's. ESOL stands for English for Speakers of other Languages. You get Buzz money for doing good work and you can buy stuff at the end of the year with the money you earned. This year at ESOL Market Day I got a bracelet for my mum, a clip for my grandma and thousands of things for my little baby brother. But I can't remember it all. I bought a lucky dip and some popcorn as well. It was one of the funnest day ever!"

By Tara Y4

"Last Thursday it was ESOL Market Day. In the morning, I was excited like a monkey and when I was at school doing reading and my teacher said, "It's ten o'clock!" I went down to ESOL with Ren and Jordi. We were getting ready for our shops. Now, the ESOL market started. Yay! First, I bought Yuzuru's cupcake, and it was the best cupcake in the world. Secondly, Abirah bought my flower bag, and she gave me 50 buzz dollars and I bought a Korean cushion."

By Onyu Y4

"On Thursday morning, I woke up and I was so excited because it was the flea market. I packed my bag and ran to school and I went to ESOL and set up my things. Me, Ren and Onyu sold things left, right and centre and I started buying items and I started bidding on the silent auction and "Guess the weight." I won two prizes, and I bought a lot of toys. All of my toys were cool and fun. I bought cupcakes... expensive cupcakes and Masako was selling cool stuff and toys. There were a lot of games. It was fun."

By Jordi Y4

"Changing Learning for a Changing World"

"Last Thursday I was very happy. You might ask why? It was the best day of my life. It was ESOL Market Day. It had anything you needed there. It had food and anything. I made a game. It was called "Find the ball." It was made by me and Rafael. Someone paid 200 Buzz dollars for my game. Me and Jordi fought over one soft toy and he won by 22. When I got home, I made my Lego set that I had won."
By Thivein Y4



Year 1 & 2 Learning Through Play

Year 2 Worm Farm Care

Noell – "We cut the worm food into smaller bits, so the worms can digest it more easily."

Lottie – "We put newspaper in the form farm to make it more comfortable for the worms. We needed to rip the paper into smaller bits."

Amelie – "Digging the soil makes it loose and easy for the plants to grow and the little seeds can push through to the light easily."

Joshua – "I like seeing what is hiding in the soil. We found ants, pieces of wood and some slaters."



Samuel - "I wanted the water to go from the green pipe into the cardboard pipe but it was a little hard to stop the water coming out where the pipes where joined. I put sand over the join so that water did not get out. I tried it again and again till it worked. I was playing with another Year 2 boy."

Year 1 Photos

Experimenting with balance



Investigating bugs in the Learning Through Play garden



Pretend cooking



Principal for the Day

Harper from Y2 had a great day today being the Principal for the Day. She was escorted to school this morning by Constable Gordon and met Mr Maher at the gate to start her daily duties. Here are a few photos of her special day.



Harper's Mum bid for the Principal for the Day at the PTA's recent Quiz Night. This will be available again next year.

Holiday Surf Programme | Newsletter Feature

We're running our popular Holiday Surf Programme at Orewa Beach over the summer school holidays. This is designed to get kids active over the school holidays and teach the water safety through the enjoyment of surfing.

It would be great if the attached could feature in your newsletter.

We are also taking bookings for our surfing education programmes for schools in Term 1 and have a few spaces in term 4.

Kind regards
Simon

NZ Surf Academy

m 0277344877

e simon@nzsurfacademy.co.nz

w www.nzsurfacademy.co.nz

'check out our surfing for schools video' <https://vimeo.com/182364623>