

25<sup>th</sup> November 2022

## Message From the Board

The Board would like to congratulate our Principal, Michael Maher on receiving a 10-week sabbatical award from the Ministry of Education.

The general purpose of a Principal's sabbatical is to provide a sustained period of leave during a Principal's career, to engage in a balance of professional learning, reflection and rejuvenation.

In our strategic plan we have identified environmental science-based teaching and learning as a goal and want our students to engage with an outdoor teaching environment and tech lab. This in turn will be enhanced by our STEAM programme which will support the use of technology in this outdoor space.

Michael will use his sabbatical to upskill in the best science pedagogical approach for this initiative in order to lead our staff so that they can co-construct scientific learning initiatives with our students.

Michael will take his sabbatical in Term 1 of 2023 and Claire Fromow will be Acting Principal while Michael is on leave.

Georgia Houliker,  
Board Chair



**To the Year 6-8 Students who walked the younger students home after the bus broke down.**

## Upcoming Events

### 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) NO AFTER SCHOOL BUSES RUNNING**)

### February 2023

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

## STEAM 2022

Wow! What another fantastic year of STEAM learning at St Thomas's School. All children from years 0 – 8 had some fun, hands-on learning experiences which have integrated learning across the 5 main strands of **Science**, **Technology**, **Engineering**, **Art** and **Maths**.

Check out some of the highlights for yourself [HERE](#)



## Lit Quiz Competition

Some students here at St Thomas like Emily T (Y5), Isla (Y6), Chloe G (Y6), Aisha (Y6), Giselle (Y5), Mikaela (Y5), Adam (Y5) and Christian (Y6) went to the Lit quiz competition on Friday 18th November. We stayed there for most of the day and we got asked questions about books we had read. After all the seven rounds we got told the winners. St Thomas's did not win, but one of our groups, the A team, came 2nd place. We all tried really hard, and we will miss going to Lit Quiz practice on Mondays. Thank You Miss French for helping us practice, hosting the practice sessions and driving some of us to St Mary's.

*Giselle D and Emily T (S2 and S1)*



## Year 5 Try Out Handball

On Monday, 21/11/22, Year 5 went to play handball while learning German (Deutsch), with Alexandra and Frank from the Goethe Institut. We learned to count in German and learnt a lot of words like left, right, backwards, forwards, jump, throw, catch and goal - tor!!! We also practised throwing the ball to each other. Then we played a big game, and we got into three groups of 7 - green, plain and orange. When you play handball, you have to move around a lot and you have to pass non-stop. When you are about to score, you can jump and when you get it in you say TOR!!!! Handball is a very popular sport in Europe.

*By Annika W, Hayley M and Rebecca W M6KI*





## Bay Suburbs Touch Rugby

On the 15th November the Year 5/6 girls and boys touch teams went to the Bay Suburbs touch tournament at Madills Farm, here are what some of the players had to say.

"It was so hot everyone had to wear 2 times the amount of sunscreen, but we still got a little bit sunburnt, especially me. We all had so much fun, and it was an amazing experience! Our team (year 6 girls) came first overall, and we were super proud. We walked there as a group, which was hot because the sun was scorching on our skin. Overall, it was an amazing experience, we all loved it." **By Sienna D (S4)**

"The kids in our team were me (McQuade), Freddy, Cooper, Huxley, Owen, Jon, Jack, Hunter, Conor, Callum and Ethan; who was supposed to go but fractured his ankle and couldn't go. We drove in the STS van down to Madills Farm. In the first game against St Heliers we beat them 6-0. In the second game against Glendowie we beat them 8-2. Our third game was against Kohi, we beat them 6-0. In the fourth game against Parnell it was tough at the start but we still came away with the win. Fifth round was against St Ignatius which was a good game with me and Huxley getting an intercept try each. The last game was us vs Churchill Park, it was the toughest game yet. The final score was 4-2. We did really well." **By McQuade I (S4)**

"Everyone had so much fun! The Year 5 boys got off to a great start by beating Saint Ignatius School 4-0 in their first game and then beat Glendowie School 6-0. It all came down to the last game for the Year 5 boys; we were undefeated after 4 games. We were playing Churchill Park School in our final game, who were also undefeated. Churchill Park got the first try, but we came back and got 5 tries to run away with the game. We finished the day as undefeated champions." **By Harry C (S1)**



### **Overall results:**

Year 5 girls - 3rd  
Year 5 boys - 1st

Year 6 girls - 1st  
Year 6 boys - 2nd





On Sunday the 13th of November 2022 we had a colourful colour run organised by the PTA. It was a full obstacle course with a bouncy castle, water slide, hurdles, tyres, cargo net, ladder, tunnel, and 100 meter sprint all just on the field. We got to go on the bouncy castle before we started lots of times. As we ran volunteers threw colourful cornstarch on us. My favourite part was getting coloured and doing the whole obstacle course. I also loved that afterwards my hair got slightly dyed but it only lasted 2 days. I hope you guys had lots of fun this year and I hope we get to do again next year.

By Emily Tait (S1 - Year 5)





## PTA News

### Term 4: Issue #2 2022



### CHRISTMAS IS COMING!



Ho ho ho, it's nearly time! We have your Christmas lunch & dinner sorted. We are selling Hams & Turkeys, supplied by our wonderful local butcher; Saint Johns Butchery on Felton Mathew Ave.

\$75 for a 4.5kg cooked half Ham on the bone  
\$70 for a 2.5kg frozen boneless Turkey

Order from the Online shop by the 1<sup>st</sup> of December. You'll be able to pick your order up from Saint Johns Butchery from the 19<sup>th</sup> of December.

### COLOUR RUN

Thanks to everyone who participated in and supported our inaugural Colour Run. We made over \$2600 as a result of everyone's hard work – in the rain for the most part! We look forward to adding this event to our annual fundraising event calendar.

### ICEBLOCK FRI-YAYES

From 3pm under the tree outside the office:

\$2 each, or  
3 for \$5



Weather permitting!

### PTA TREASURER

We're on the look out for a new Treasurer! No formal qualifications necessary, but a good grasp of numbers is essential. There is no requirement to attend meetings in person if that suits you. Please reach out to the PTA at [stthomasschoolpta@gmail.com](mailto:stthomasschoolpta@gmail.com) for more information if interested.

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 7<sup>th</sup> Dec in the school staffroom.



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

FREE!



GIVE IT A GO  
RIPPA RUGBY

**GTEC**  
Juniors

Non-contact / Touch Programme 2022 / 2023

- **Rippa Rugby** for 5 - 6 year old boys and girls
- **Touch Rugby** for all kids aged 7 - 13 years old

- **4:30pm to 5:30pm**, Thursday evenings - **24 Nov, 1 Dec and 8 Dec**  
at **Grammar TEC Rugby Club**, 36 Reihana Street, Orakei

To learn more contact [Nooroa@grammartec.co.nz](mailto:Nooroa@grammartec.co.nz) or ph **027 808 4197**.

Grammar TEC Juniors  
proudly sponsored by



**ORAKEI**  
MARINE





# BOOK NOW FOR SUMMER SCHOOL HOLIDAY CAMPS! at Orakei Tennis Club

Holiday camps are running from 19-22 December and 16-27 January at Orakei Tennis Club for children aged 5+.

Book at [www.kiwitennis.co.nz](http://www.kiwitennis.co.nz) for fun filled days of tennis and lots more! Half day or full day options available and early drop off too.



#### Where?

Orakei Tennis Club  
2 Kupe Street  
Orakei



#### When?

9am-12.00pm half day  
9am-3.00pm full day  
Early drop off available at 8.30am

#### **ALL ABILITIES & AGES (half & full days)**

19-22 December 2022  
16-20 January 2023  
23-27 January 2023



#### Cost?

Half day: \$50 per day  
Full day: \$85 per day  
Club members receive a 15% discount, contact us for the code.



(022) 8981212



coaching@kiwitennis.co.nz



[www.kiwitennis.co.nz](http://www.kiwitennis.co.nz)