

24 March 2023

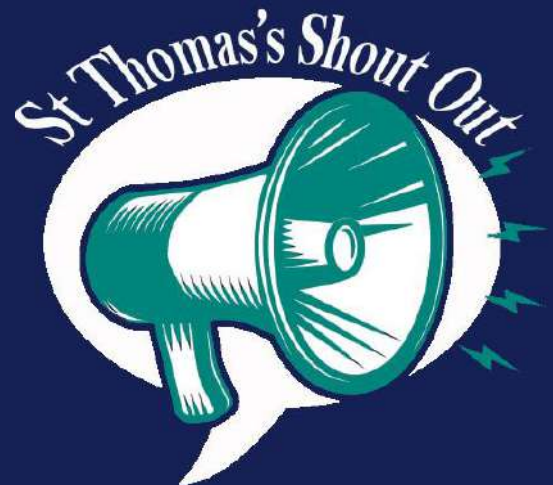
Principal's Message

We are nearing the end of Term 1 and we are looking forward to having whānau onsite for Student Led Learning Conferences which will be taking place in Week 10. These are an opportunity for your child to take you through their learning journey so far this year and are designed to be a confidence building, positive experience for our students that gives them agency/responsibility for their own learning. At the conference, your child will show you work and activities they have completed that has enabled them to achieve their learning progressions goals and/or contribute to their learning in a wider sense.

While teaching staff will be available to answer any questions you have about the learning activities completed, goals achieved and those your child is still working towards, Student Led Learning Conferences are **not** designed to facilitate in-depth discussions between the teacher and parents/whānau about behaviour or social concerns. If you have topics of this nature that you would like to discuss with your child's classroom teacher, we request that you make an appointment to see the teacher at another time.

At the end of Term 1 we will be saying farewell to our amazing School Counsellor, Charlotte Letcher. Charlotte has been with us for just over 2 years and has positively impacted the school and her clients in so many ways. We wish Charlotte all the best for her new role in a more specialist area of counselling and closer to her home out in West Auckland. As Charlotte departs we welcome our new Counsellor, Mary Kitchen. Charlotte and Mary will work together to hand the role over and we expect the transition to be relatively seamless for clients. Later in this newsletter we have included Mary's bio and additional information about our Counselling service.

Claire Fromow
Acting Principal



To Keri Brown who, after nearly 10 fantastic years, is retiring from our PTA. We have been so lucky to have Keri's support and energy!

Upcoming Events

March

- 29 Wheels Wednesday
- 31 Junior Assembly (J7 & J8)
9.45am – 10.30am (school hall)
Senior Assembly (S11 & S12)
11.45am – 12.30pm (school hall)
- 31 Y7&8 Eastern Zone Orienteering

April

- 04 Y7 Student Lead Learning Conferences
- 05 Student Led Learning Conferences
- 06 Pizza Lunch Day and Mufti Day
Last Day of Term 1
- 24 Teacher Only Day
- 25 ANZAC Day Holiday
- 26 First Day of Term 2

Teacher Only Day
Monday 24 April
School Closed to Students

A reminder that Monday 24th April is a teacher only day, so school will be closed to all students. Term 2 will commence for students on Wednesday 26th April.

Allum Street Traffic

A big thanks to parents who are following the road rules and our repeated requests for caution on the roads during drop-off and pick-up times. We have noticed that mornings are a lot better with very few parents now making dangerous driving decisions and putting our students at risk.

The afternoon pick-up window is still a cause of concern for us however, with the main dangers being:

- Parents double-parking alongside the big tree to allow children out of, or into, their car – this blocks the flow of traffic down Allum Street and creates blind spots for other vehicles.
- Parents double-parking alongside other cars parked within the parking bays to allow children into their car – this blocks the flow of traffic down Allum Street and creates blind spots for other vehicles. It also puts students at risk of being hit by other moving vehicles.



- Parents parking on the yellow lines outside the staff carpark to wait for their children and/or allow children out of, or into, their car – this causes chaos in a number of ways and we will be having random visits from parking wardens to ticket this activity going forward. Yellow lines = no parking, it is very simple.



- Parents performing u-turns outside the school after picking up or picking up their children blocks the road, disrupts traffic flow in both directions, creates blind spots, puts our students and other motorists vehicles in danger and is generally inconsiderate to others and our repeated requests to help keep traffic flowing as freely as possible. Instead of u-turning, please proceed further down Allum Street and exit via another road or turn around where it is safe to do so.





- Parents running, or sending/calling, their children across the road instead of using the crossings. There is a Kea Crossing less than 50m down Allum Street and Traffic Light Crossing less than 50m up Allum Street from this point. Please use the crossings.



People Doing Awesome Things

Additional to our 'St Thomas's Shout Out', we want to acknowledge some of our staff and community who have been doing awesome things to support the culture of our school.

- Congratulations to our Year 1 teachers on receiving their Better Start Literacy Approach (BSLA) qualifications (**Carolyn Agoston, Karen Bohan-Shaw, Mattie Queale, Jen Taylor, Lydia Dragunow, Samantha Lynch, Kathryn Foster**). The awarding of their BSLA 'badges' follows a year of study and implementation of the programme in their classrooms. This has been a lot of extra work for our staff with the improvement of early literacy in their students being the ultimate reward. Our Year 2 teaching team are undertaking the same study this year.
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- A big thanks goes out to all our staff who have been working hard to re-establish (post-covid) our normally high level of involvement in the Bay Suburbs and Eastern Zone sports cluster groups. Involvement in sport and sporting skills have suffered from the disrupted three years and we are working to re-build this important part of a well-rounded education experience:
 - **Kelly Anthony** (Sports Coordinator) – overall enabler and organiser of all sporting activity
 - **Brian Putty** – Bay Suburbs and Eastern Zone Softball
 - **Peter Goodwin** – Eastern Zone Softball
 - **Nicky King** – Bay Suburbs Softball and Bay Suburbs Swimming
 - **Caroline Pinney** – Orienteering
 - Our school-wide Environmental Science focus for 2023 has kicked off with a bang under the amazing organisation and guidance of one of our STEAM Centre staff, **Alison Snell**. Alison has been working closely with our year level teaching teams to bring a range of unique experiences into the school for the benefit of our students. Experiences to date include:
 - Kathy Broadhead (Kākano Kids) - reconnecting students to nature and learning to value it.
 - Ruud Kleinpaste - bugs and the important role they play in our environment.
 - Sarah Cross - bee encounter, live hives, bee suits, empty hives.
 - Year 8 Enviro Leaders - Auckland Council Travelwise workshops, 'Walking School Bus' campaign, visit to VISY Recycling, school waste audit.
 - STEAM - sessions on NZ Invertebrates to support bugs focus.
 - STEAM - sessions on reducing litter to support 'Litter Less Lunches' campaign.
 - Year 5 - trip to Tahuna Torea with Auckland Council Sustainability guide.
 - Tread Lightly WasteWater caravan.
 - Year 4 - trip to Mission Bay beach for marine activities.
 - Year 7&8 - 'Maunga to Moana' (Mountain to Sea) Programme - visits to Kohimarama Beach, Goat Island, Kepa Bush.
 - Blake VR – Virtual Reality headsets to highlight the environmental damage to seas.
 - Junior Learning through Play – growing plants in recycled tyres in the garden.
 - Year 6 - trip to Kepa Bush with Sam Gibson to learn about traditional uses of plants, and the dangers to biodiversity of introduced species.
 - Teacher Professional Development with Sam Gibson.
 - Wheel's Wednesday - coming up on 29th March as part of the Travelwise.
 - With a record number of ESOL students on our roll, our ESOL department, led by **Judy Clark**, has been working to re-establish connections within the school and wider community and to cater for the ever-growing number and variety of languages spoken at home by our students. The team are doing a fantastic job supporting students in both small withdrawal groups as well as in-class tuition. Our ESOL department are: **Judy Clark, Teri Yanagisawa, Cynthia Chau, Sarah Liu** and **Masako Gillespie**.
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New School Counsellor – Mary Kitchen

Our fabulous Counsellor Charlotte Letcher is leaving us at the end of this term. We have a new Counsellor starting with us at the start of term 2. Here is a bit about Mary Kitchen:

"Hi, I'm Mary! I will be the new counsellor at St Thomas's School. I am originally from Ashburton, and moved up to Auckland last year in March where I have been living out in West Auckland. Since then, I have been working part time at St Dominic's Catholic College in Henderson as a guidance counsellor while simultaneously finishing my Master of Counselling Studies degree at Massey University. In 2018 I completed my Bachelor of Arts in Psychology at the University of Otago, and then went on to complete a Postgraduate Diploma in Education (Guidance and Counselling) at Massey University, which lead me on to the masters course. I have a passion for working with young children and youth - using techniques such as sand tray therapy, and art therapy. In my spare time I am a volunteer operational support firefighter with the Auckland Volunteer Fire Brigade. I have now been in the service for 3 years and it is something I enjoy very much. I am looking forward to starting this position and becoming part of the St Thomas's community!"



Bike Month - March 2023

In coordination with Travelwise we are supporting Bike Month in March.

We will be holding a **Wheels Wednesday** on 29 March and students will be encouraged to ride to school. The theme will be 'Be Bright Be Seen'. Students could wear a bright jacket, high vis vest or decorate their bikes. The day will also include a slow race for students to demonstrate their bike skills. Students must wear helmets to be able to compete.

Wheels Day
Wednesday 3rd of March

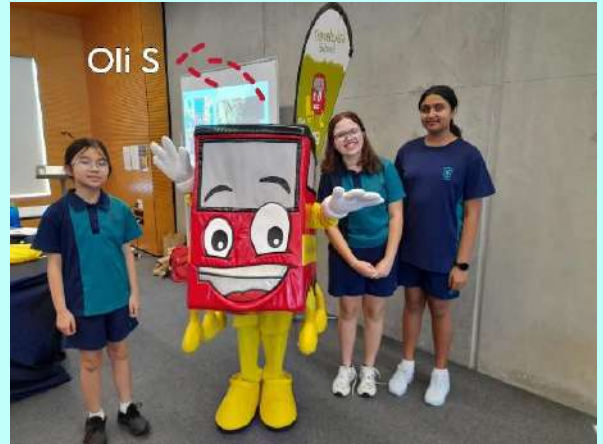
Walking or Wheeling to School is going to be double the fun with a Wheelie Day here at school.

Don't forget your helmets!

Travelwise Day

On Friday 10th of March, the Enviro Leaders took part in the Travelwise Student Leader conference, hosted by Auckland Council. The event focused on improving road safety and decreasing the number of vehicles at school gates, specifically at peak times, as well as encouraging students to be more active through walking, biking and scootering. The Travelwise team covered topics all connected to road safety in schools; from parking and speed to transportation and crossings.

After the 'Student Leader' workshop to start the day, students participated in a number of workshops such as 'Speed', where we were able to check the speed of cars that passed by with the radar guns offered by Travelwise - these can be used in school areas to verify that drivers of the region are under the speed limit (40k/m), especially during peak times, when children are around. Safe parking posters were made too, along with a workshop on how illegal parking (parking on yellow broken lines, driveways, pathways, no-parking zones, parking in bus stops, double parking, etc...) impacts our students safety. We also took a deep dive into transportation and ways we can encourage pupils to walk, bike, scooter or use public transport with initiatives like Park & Walk and Bike Day as an alternative to using cars to reduce congestion in our school area, air pollution, increase the percentage of exercise done in the student's day, and there's less use of fuel for the child's whānau! The conference concluded with a workshop focusing on the Walking to School Bus, and ways we can initiate it at St Thomas, featuring Happy Feet, the mascot!



To us enviro leaders, road safety means a healthier school and environment, as well as healthy students within - this event allowed our team to learn about road safety in schools and innovative ways we can allow our students to grow in a safe environment. We hope to take on the knowledge and the resources from Travelwise to make sure our school is travel-wise for this year and for the future ahead.

Park & Walk - A route that gives parents and caregivers spots to drop-off their kids to avoid congestion near school gates.

Bike Day - A way to promote a sustainable way of travelling to school by getting students to come to school with bright, colourful bikes and sometimes getting prizes for it.

By Alice M. - Enviro Leader

50 Things Poster

As part of our Term 1 Environmental focus 'Reconnecting and valuing our environment', students in Years 1-6 are exploring our local environment through various activities. Even though Autumn is starting to take hold, it is still not too late to get outside as a family and try some of these fun and easy activities put together by the Department of Conversation, or visit: [50 Things to Do](#)



Extended Learning Program - STS News - Episode 1

The STS news crew have worked so well this term, learning their new skills in script writing, presenting and editing.

If you'd like to watch the first episode click [HERE!](#)





Top Schools

Last Sunday, St Thomas's entered 2 x teams of 10 children from years 3,4,5 & 6 into the Auckland East Rotary Clubs "Top School Competition". This is a fun, full day event in which 8 schools from around East Auckland participated in some crazy outdoor challenges. It was a beautiful day and everyone had a whole lot of fun. Thank you so much to all those who attended.



WATCH OUT FOR UPCOMING EVENTS

- Bakers Delight Hot Cross Bun Easter Fundraiser – Orders can be placed on Kindo from Monday 27th March for delivery to your child's classroom on Thursday 6th April
- Gorilla Bags – Ongoing sales through Kindo, Monday 27th March.

REMINDERS

Ice Blocks:

From 3pm every Friday under the tree outside the office:
\$2 each, or 3 for \$5 (Weather permitting)



Second Hand Uniforms:

to donate your preloved uniforms, for us to on-sell. Please drop off at the office.



Why not consider joining the PTA in 2023? 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 monthly meeting to find out what we do. Next meeting 7pm Wednesday 5th April 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!



HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

Tue 11 – Fri 21 April



Join us for a fun-filled School Holiday Programme including a Kelly Club Seriously Silly Science day, craft and cooking activities, awesome games **& MUCH MORE!**

Some activities may need to be swapped for other exciting ones! Go online to check out a full, up-to-date timetable for your school.

**OSCAR
PROGRAMME
SUBSIDIES
AVAILABLE!**

**Conditions apply*

BOOK ONLINE NOW AT
www.kellyclub.co.nz

APRIL 2023 HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

ST THOMAS'S SCHOOL

A timetable and full programme information is available online or at the programme venue.

Who can attend: Children aged 5-13 yrs

General Information: We believe in giving children opportunities to do the things they love and enjoy in a supportive and encouraging environment. Our friendly staff are passionate about working with children. They are provided with training on behaviour management techniques, first aid and activity planning/delivery.

What do you need to bring: Shoes and appropriate clothing, jacket or sweatshirt, hat, drink bottle and food for morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea.

Payment details: Payment is required before the holiday programme begins. An invoice will be issued when a completed booking is received. All payment details will be included on the invoice.

Work and Income OSCAR Subsidy: Parents/caregivers that meet certain criteria will be able to access a WINZ subsidy to help cover the cost of our programme. For more information visit www.workandincome.govt.nz.

Please note: Every care will be taken to ensure the safety of your child/ren and their property. However, organisers of Kelly Club accept no liability for any injury sustained to your child/ren or any loss or damage to his/her property whilst at a programme. If your child/ren are collected late after the conclusion of the programme you will be charged \$20 per 15 minutes or part thereof.

Prices & Session Times:

Full Week: \$280
7am-6pm

Full Day: \$55
7am-6pm

Event Day: Extra \$24
(Included in Full Week)

School Day: \$45
8:30am-3pm

Website: kellyclub.co.nz/st-thomas

Contact: Ian Palmquist

Email: stthomas@kellyclub.co.nz

Phone: 021 0803 3666

Facebook: @KellyClubStThomas

Address: 113 Allum St, Kohimarama



BOOK ONLINE NOW AT www.kellyclub.co.nz



General Information: We believe in giving children opportunities to do the things they love and enjoy in a supportive and encouraging environment. We provide quality childcare in safe and fun surroundings for children out of school. Our holiday programme is focused around sports, games, and outings to local attractions. Our friendly staff are passionate about working with children. They are provided with training on behaviour management techniques, first aid and activity planning/delivery.

Who can attend: Children aged 5-13 yrs

What do you need to bring: Shoes and appropriate clothing, jacket or sweatshirt, hat, drink bottle and food.

Food: Please bring plenty of packed food and drink for morning tea/lunch/afternoon tea. Lunch will be from approximately 12:30pm to 1:00pm each day.

Programme activities: Programme activities are adapted to suit children of all ages and children may be grouped by age depending on numbers. Programme activities may vary without notice dependent on weather conditions and programme numbers.

Payment details: Payment is required before the holiday programme begins. An invoice will be issued when a completed booking is received. All payment details will be included on the invoice.

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APRIL 2023 HOLIDAY PROGRAMME ST THOMAS'S SCHOOL

WEEK 1

<p>Mon 10 April</p> <p>PUBLIC HOLIDAY</p> <p>EASTER MONDAY Happy Easter! No programme today, see you on Tuesday!</p>	<p>Tues 11 April</p> <p>HOPPIN' HOLIDAYS Join us for some egg-citing fun as we hop through a joyful day and into an egg-cellent Easter Egg Hunt!</p>	<p>Wed 12 April</p> <p>PLAYGROUND HOP Join us for an awesome trip day to Auckland's best playgrounds \$24 extra for the day. Please remember a big lunch, drink bottle, shoes and a hat.</p>	<p>Thurs 13 April</p> <p>SUPERHERO FUN It's time to unleash your inner superhero! What cool super powers do you bring to Kelly Club? We can't wait to see how amazing you are!</p>	<p>Fri 14 April</p> <p>SERIOUSLY SILLY SCIENCE Science is so much fun! You never know just how an experiment will turn out! Let's see what we can discover together today!</p>
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WEEK 2

<p>Mon 17 April</p> <p>COLOUR ME CRAZY Brighten up the world with a kaleidoscope of colours today! Wear your favourite bright clothing and get ready to paint, create and play on our most colourful day yet!</p>	<p>Tues 18 April</p> <p>THE WIZARD'S CUP Let the sorting hat determine your team to compete for the House Cup. Take part in all sorts of challenges before finishing the day with a game of Quidditch.</p>	<p>Wed 19 April</p> <p>AUCKLAND MUSEUM Join us for an awesome trip day to Auckland Museum for a scavenger hunt! \$24 extra for the day. Please remember a big lunch, drink bottle, shoes and a hat.</p>	<p>Thurs 20 April</p> <p>ENCHANTED FOREST Today you can be anything you want. Dress up in your favourite costume and let your imagination run wild. Use your crafting skills to bring fantastical creatures to life.</p>	<p>Fri 21 April</p> <p>REMEMBRANCE DAY Today we remember our brave ANZAC soldiers who protected our country. We'll make poppies and wear them proudly, showing our thankfulness for their service.</p>
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7am-6pm

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8:30am-3pm

EVENT DAY: Extra \$24
(Included in Full Week)



BOOK ONLINE NOW AT www.kellyclub.co.nz



MT WELLINGTON AREA

WE'RE HIRING!

Get paid to have fun!

WE'D LOVE TO HAVE YOU ON OUR TEAM!

We are looking for fun, friendly staff who love to work with kids for our before and after school care and holiday programmes! Training provided.

For more information, chat to our coordinator or visit kellyclub.co.nz/jobs

Send your CV and cover letter to
ryan@kellyclub.co.nz