

6 April 2023

Principal's Message

Happy Easter everyone! We've had a lot of fun on site today with our Easter themed mufti day, pizza lunch and our annual Year 1 & 2 Easter Egg Hunt. We also had our first formal assembly of the year, where prestigious 'Principal's Awards' were given to just three students in each year level who have demonstrated excellence in one of our three school values; Respect, Responsibility and Resilience. Winners are named later in this newsletter and we congratulate them on their fantastic achievement.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our staff for their hard work this term. It has been a very busy term with all our normal pre-Covid activities starting back up after 3 years and a range of new learning experiences for students also being introduced. From swimming lessons, to cultural groups, music lessons, whole school singing, sports tournaments, STEAM, Environmental Science guest educators, GATE programmes and Extended Learning Programmes (ELP) to hosted assemblies, class morning teas/lunches, Student Led Learning Conferences and so much more! After a much-deserved two-week break, our teaching team will be looking forward to getting back into school to start Term 2. We hope all of our students get an opportunity to rest and recharge over the holidays so that they can also make the most of all the exciting learning opportunities coming up.

This is my last newsletter as Acting Principal. We are looking forward to having Mr Maher back with us for the remainder of the year after his Term 1 sabbatical studying Enviro Science and how to bring more initiatives and experiences into the school for our students. It has been an eventful term to say the least, and I would personally like to thank you, our amazing community, for your patience with the messy start to the term after Auckland's crazy weather events and for all your support as we re-establish our normal school culture now that all Covid19 restrictions have been lifted and we can function 'business as usual'.

Have a fun and safe school holiday!

Claire Fromow
Acting Principal



To our waiata Leaders, coached by Y8 teacher Alex Titchener, for their outstanding performance in our Formal Assembly today

Upcoming Events

April

- 24 Teacher Only Day
- 25 ANZAC Day Holiday
- 26 First Day of Term 2
- 27 Y6-8 Cyber Safety Sessions

May

- 01 PTA Athon Week
- 03 Year 8 Camp
- Y7&8 Immunisations
- 10 Y7&8 Immunisations Catchups
- 11 Junior Assembly (M2)
9.45am – 10.30am (School Hall)
Senior Assembly (M6)
11.45am – 12.30pm (School Hall)
- 16 Board of Trustees Meeting
(Staffroom 6.30 p.m.)

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.

Formal Assembly Principal's Award Winners

Respect

Year 1 - William Say (J12)
Year 2 - Isabel Xia (J6)
Year 3 - Haru Eda (M2 PL)
Year 4 - Nuj Nuj Lewis (M5 PU)
Year 5 - Eddie McBeth (M6 KI)
Year 6 - Jia Doshi (S9)
Year 8 - Chloe Morton (S4)

Responsibility

Year 1 - Jaxon Ratcliffe (J14)
Year 2 - Emma Barker (J5)
Year 3 - Nikisha Prasad (M3 RU)
Year 4 - Oliver Nutton (M4 HA)
Year 5 - Asifa Sayed (M6 NA)
Year 6 - Nicolas Posa (S9)
Year 8 - Nico Malan-Viljoen (S6)

Resilience

Year 1 - Fakaola Havea (J9)
Year 2 - Valentin Jannin (J8)
Year 3 - Ethan Gin (M3 CL)
Year 4 - Annie Yee (M4 RO)
Year 5 - Tanaki Fakafu (S8)
Year 6 - Luke Anso-Palmer (S12)
Year 8 - Miguel Jiri (S6)

Year 5 Trip to Tahuna Torea Reserve

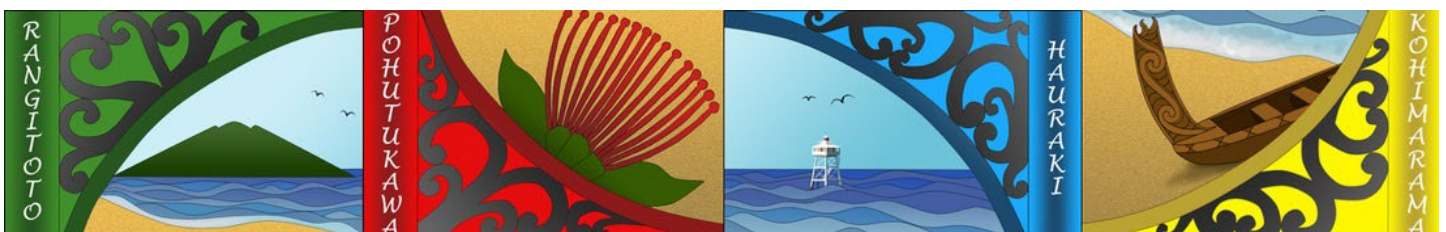
On Wednesday the 22nd of March, the whole of Year 5 went to Tahuna Torea, which means the gathering of the oystercatcher, native birds live there. We first waited at a nice spot. Then we ate a little snack. After that we split into 3 groups. There was Miss King, Miss Naidoo, Miss Lowes, and Miss French. And there were also 3 Council Guides that guided us around. We had to walk for 2 hours! But we still learnt about lots like Mangroves, Pohutukawa grove, Mushrooms, Herons, and more. After the 2 hour walk we walked to a playground and had lunch. It was a great day exploring Tahuna Torea Reserve.

By Cathy Yao-Liu, M6 KI



Wheels Wednesday

The weather was fabulous and bikes and scooters turned up by the dozen for the St Thomas's School Wheels Wednesday last week. Bikes were decorated in everything from tinsel and balloons to butterfly wings as part of the Be Bright Be Seen competition, and the Slow Race showed the skills of our bike riders as they endeavoured to be the last to cross the finish line. Thank you to all those who took part and to their families for supporting them.



Enviro Leaders Trip to VISY Recycling Centre

Last Friday, the Enviro Leaders visited VISY, a recycling centre in Onehunga. There, we learnt all sorts of things about rubbish and how the recycling system works. It was an enjoyable and interesting experience for us and Ms Snell. We went there to learn how they recycle plastics and other things, and bring that new knowledge back to educate everyone at St Thomas's. And the bonus was that we had the opportunity to visit a section where the rubbish trucks dump the rubbish into a pile!

We learnt all about what can and can't go into the recycling bin, with some other mind-blowing tips on how to reduce our rubbish, through talks and videos. Below are some interesting facts that we learnt at VISY:

- Those little yoghurt pottles can't be recycled due to the plastic they're made of.
- If you put a scrunched-up plastic bottle in the recycling bin the machines will sort it as paper.
- Six-pack rings can't be recycled.
- Glass is sorted into three categories: clear, brown, and green.

From this visit we hope to share our knowledge with all of St Thomas's, and play a part in reducing our waste. Especially to me, the Three R's (reducing, reusing, and recycling) mean a lot more than three words. It's all about doing small things regularly and eventually making a conspicuous difference in our world, which all of us could do.

One week later...

We did a waste audit and looked at all the waste STS has made in a day. First we went to all of the school classes after school to collect all their rubbish. Then the next day we met with one of the Auckland City Council people, her name was Nicky. She explained to us about the different types of rubbish and where they go. Next, we took the rubbish out of one of the black bags and dumped it onto the blue mat. We put on gloves and sorted out the rubbish into different sections such as soft plastic, paper and cardboard, plastic, compost, etc. When there was no more rubbish on the mat, we opened another bag and poured that rubbish onto the mat and sorted it. We repeated this process until there were no more bags. After we had separated all of the rubbish into different sections, we weighed them to find out how much of which type of rubbish we had in the school. We found out that the most amount of rubbish in this school was paper. Doing this was both interesting and a bit messy too.

By Bonnie T. and Mythri K. - Enviro Leaders



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.

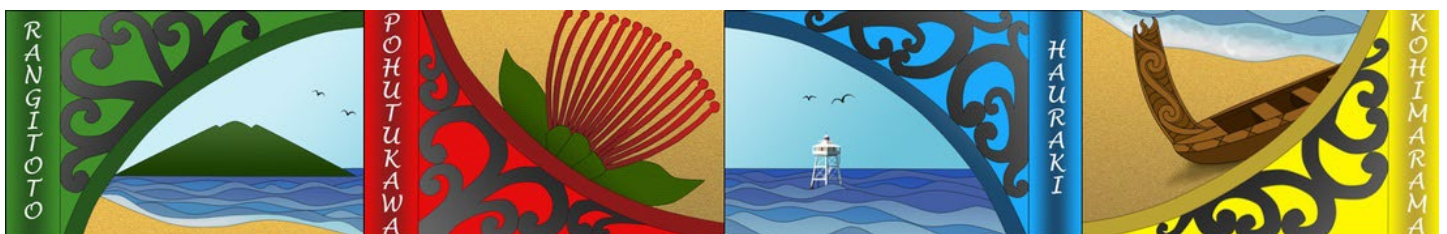
- Congratulations to **Fiona Rua** one of our Year 3 teachers who today completes her 2-year Beginning Teacher period and becomes fully registered. Fiona is an amazingly talented teacher who bring so much to the students in her class and also her teaching team that it's easy to forget she's only new to the profession. Fiona is already Acting Team Leader one day per week and we know she'll go on to do even more fabulous things throughout her career.



- Working away in our school office are two fabulous ladies who you will no doubt have encountered over your time at St Thomas's. **Karen Brothers** administers our student database and has recently been instrumental in facilitating our Out of Zone Ballots. We thank Karen for all the additional work that has gone into making these successful. **Karen Mills**, our long-standing Enrolment Officer and Receptionist, is the lovely 'face' of our school who works tirelessly with our new families to support their transition into our school, as well as being the go-to person for our entire community. Karen always has a smile to share and goes the extra mile to help anyone who needs it.



- **Somi Froutan**, one of our lovely parents, has been supporting our new immigrant families to settle into our school and learn the New Zealand way of life. From translating school communications, to sourcing much needed items (such as prams, swimming togs and car seats), Somi has generously donated her time and resources to make new families feel supported and welcomed. We absolutely love this caring community spirit that helps makes St Thomas's School the awesome place it is! Thanks Somi, you're a superstar!
- A big thanks goes out to **Charlotte Jackson** and our Year 8 teaching team (**Caroline Pinney & Alex Titchener**) and to **Ashleigh Davis** and our Year 6 teaching team (**Kelly Anthony, Thomas Glogoski and Laura Hiskens**) for all the work they have been putting into preparing for Year 8 and Year 6 camps in the early weeks of Term 2. School camps require a massive amount of organisation, paperwork, health and safety considerations, communication and effort – not to mention the days and nights away from their own families while at camp. We are very lucky to have enthusiastic teachers who are excited to be able to give our students these extra-curricular experiences.

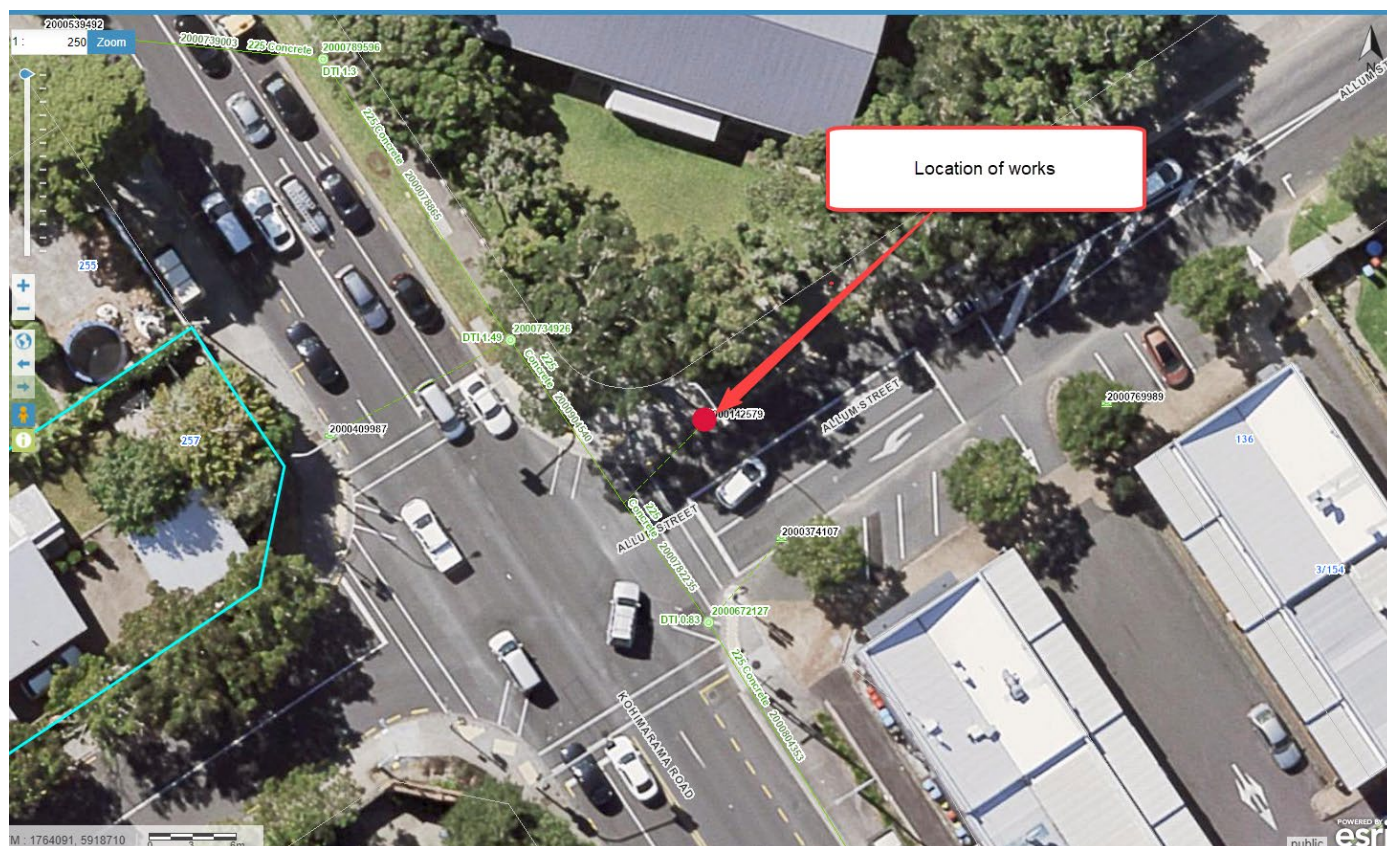


Road Works on Allum Street

Fulton Hogan, on behalf of Auckland Council Healthy Waters, have advised us that they are planning to undertake some stormwater works – specifically being the installation of a catchpit backing plate as well as the replacement of the catchpit grate and frame outside our school on Allum Street over the school holidays.

The planned date for these works is **Thursday 13th April 2023** between the hours of 8am – 5pm, however this is weather dependant and contingency days have been allowed.

Due to the location of the works, traffic management will be in place to direct vehicular traffic and pedestrians away from the area. We are hopeful that being school holidays it will be only minimally impactful on our community.



Orienteering



On Friday 31 March, 54 students, across Year 5 – 8, participated in the Eastern Zone Orienteering Competition at Waiatarua. They were all a credit to St Thomas's School, both behaviour-wise and also with their orienteering skills. There were some great results from students who polished off their course in excellent times but even more impressive to see were those who persevered and found their way around the course, determined to get to the finish. Most of these completed all their controls in the correct order or missed just one or two controls.



It was a staggeringly good effort from them all – every student there was a winner! For those for whom this event was their first experience of orienteering, they did even better!

It was great to see the St Thomas's Year 5/6 students get around the course so well. They were hard courses for them so they did wonderfully to find their way around - it will be a great lead up for them in the Year 7/8 years.

Year 7/8 Teams who finished in the top three places within their grade have qualified to attend the Auckland Interzone event which will be held on 10th May in Cornwall Park, as has the person with the fastest time on each course within grade.

Congratulations to the following students:

Year 7:

Team 6 = 1st Place (Senuki, Liam G, Kirstin, Anastasia, Joshua, Skyla G)

Year 8:

Team 3 = 1st Place (Kaito, Franklin, Zak, Henry, Micah)

Team 5 = 2nd Place (Bent, Nico, Tim R, Dominic, Lachlan)

Team 4 = 3rd Place (Oliver Scott, Timothy S, Isaac, Jacob, Timothy T)



Competitors can find their results on the AOC webpage is auckoc.org.nz

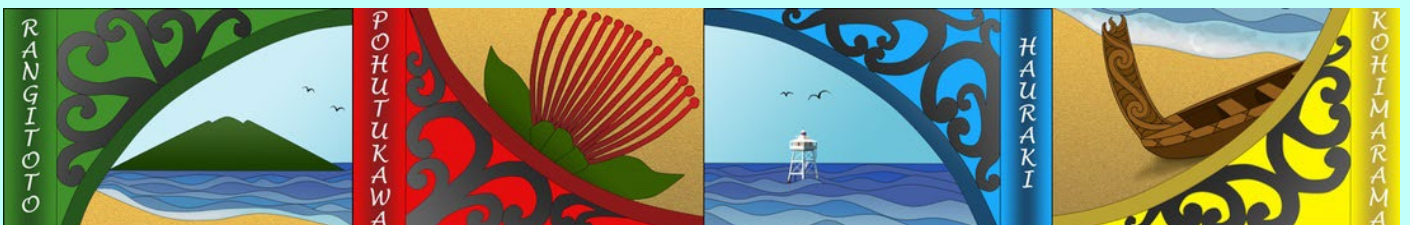




Extended Learning Program (ELP) - STS News

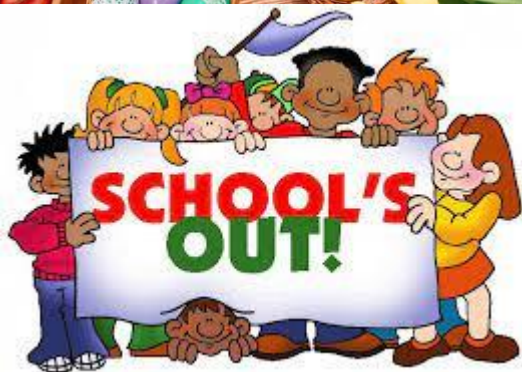
Episode 2 is OUT NOW!

Check it out [HERE](#)



Hot Cross Buns

A big THANK YOU to those who purchased their Hot Cross Buns through us. All orders have been delivered to the classrooms and hopefully they'll make home without being sampled beforehand. We've raised a total of \$136 from selling 68 packets. Thanks again for all your support. HAPPY EASTER and stay safe over the holidays.



WATCH OUT FOR UPCOMING EVENTS FOR TERM 2

- A-thon-week from the 1st May
- Calendar Art – collected in June
- Musical Showcase – End of term 2

REMINDERS

Gorilla Bags:

Book through Kindo now - \$50 goes to the school for each bag sold.

Second Hand Uniforms:

Donate your preloved uniform 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 3rd May** 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



A fantastic opportunity for your child!

Shine Speech & Drama classes inspire confidence and imagination, helping students communicate effectively and build self-belief that helps them succeed in life.

Here's what people are saying about Shine's lessons ...

"He got up and spoke in front of the school. He would never have done that before" - James' Mum

"Thank you so much for calmly and reassuringly, through zoom after zoom, guiding the boys' through their tasks. Thank you for all the extra energy and organisation that has gone into all of this. You've been simply fantastic!" - Catherine

"...the best speech and drama teacher working in New Zealand today." NZ Herald

SHINE SPEECH & DRAMA covers:

- public speaking
- acting skills
- voice (projection and articulation)
- reading aloud skills
- positive body language
- storytelling
- relationship skills
- option to enter exams through Speech NZ and Trinity.
- Shine Achievement Awards available for all students.

Register [here](#) for term 2 lessons, beginning Thursday 4th May 2023. Term fees \$250 for group class or \$310 for small, exam focussed group class. 8 lessons guaranteed per term. Sibling discount of 10% for any siblings enrolling. Any questions please don't hesitate to call Nina on 021-160 9197

The poster for the Glendowie Boating Club's Introduction to Sailing Holiday Programme. At the top is a photograph of several colorful (yellow, orange, pink, blue) inflatable kayakers on a wooden dock. Below this is the Glendowie Boating Club logo, which is a black circle containing a white flag with a yellow triangle and the text "EST. 1949" and "GLENDOWIE BOATING CLUB". To the right of the logo, the text "INTRODUCTION TO SAILING" is written in large, bold, black capital letters, with "HOLIDAY PROGRAMME" in smaller capital letters below it. Below the title, the dates and time are listed: "Tue 11 Apr to Fri 14 Apr 2023 • 12:00pm to 3:30pm". A paragraph follows: "Glendowie Boating Club's Introduction to Sailing programme is AWESOME! We offer young people aged 9 years and older a fun and safe way to begin sailing." Below this is a bulleted list of features: "Experienced, qualified young coaches for whom sailing is a passion.", "Maximum six sailors per coach.", "Great way for kids to learn independence, self-reliance, and confidence on the water.", and "Supportive, family-run club." To the right of the last two bullet points, the email "Email: admin@gbcyachting.org.nz" and the registration link "Register at: gbcyachting.org.nz" are provided. At the bottom of the poster is another photograph showing several small sailboats on the water and two children in a red inflatable boat. Overlaid on the bottom right is a yellow starburst graphic with the text "\$360 REGISTER NOW!" in bold black letters.

JOIN THE FUN!

- Ages 5+ welcome
- Safety & stability training
- Tricks and confidence
- Scooter Maintenance



027 457 7918

Just scooting

SCOOTER SCHOOL



2023

Coaches

Jordan Chan is professional scooter rider. Has over 10 years riding and competing experience in both skate park and street events nationally and internationally. He teaches individuals, groups and hold regular scooter events such as birthday parties, progression training evenings and run scooter competitions.

Programme details

- Sessions held on the asphalt area at
- All students welcome aged 5+, boys/girls from any level of rider
- All of our coaches are first aid certified and we have a first aid kit in our van

What to bring

- Please bring your own scooter and helmet (extras available, upon request)
- Or purchase a standard scooter for \$199 (red, green, black, teal blue) suitable for 5-12 years
- Or purchase a helmet for \$59 (black, white, grey) adjustable for all sizes
- Helmets must be worn at all times, knee and elbow pads are optional
- Must wear covered shoes
- Water bottle and snacks, if required

Important information

- \$225 for classes in Term 2, 2023
- Roll will be taken
- If the weather is not suitable on the day, the session will still go ahead. Session will include scooter maintenance, scooter videos, scooter games and so on.

- If the session has to be cancelled due to any unforeseen situation then a credit will be given towards the following term's programme or towards any items on our website such as tee shirts, private scooter lessons and our Scooter Academy
- \$30 per session for casual attendance. If you want your child to attend on a casual basis then you must notify us before 10am on the day.

Terms and conditions

- By signing your child up for the after school programme with Just Scootering Ltd you are fully aware of and accept the risks and hazards connected with scootering and Just Scootering's sessions, including the risk of physical injury, and hereby give permission for your child to participate in the after school programme.
- Just Scootering Ltd will not be responsible for any loss, property damage or personal injury that may be sustained by your child as a result of participation in Just Scootering's school programme.

Contact details

- www.justscootering.co.nz
- Bookings and general information Anna 027 457 7918
- Email justscooteringnz@gmail.com
- Bank account 12-3618-0049483-00 Reference your child's name and St Thomas

1 Session
\$30

Full Term
\$225

Rain or Shine
We will always go ahead!

BYO – Scooter
Or purchase one through us!

Call us
027 457 7918