

19 May 2023

Principal's Message

Staffing shortages in many businesses continues to be an issue across the country and schools are no exception. With travel restrictions lifted, many young people are going overseas and teachers are in short supply worldwide. New Zealand teachers are valued for their adaptability and professionalism and are readily snatched up by schools across the globe.

Here at St Thomas's, we are fortunate to recruit and retain quality staff. Retention of staff is helped by providing a well-resourced and supportive learning and working environment. Part of this support is ensuring we provide a safe school where staff come to work and teach our students in partnership with our families. The vast majority of interactions staff have with parents are positive and relationship building. However, in recent weeks some parent communications were less than ideal. We expect our staff to communicate in a respectful and courteous manner with our parent community, and likewise ask the same from our parent community. Aggressive types of communication whether email, phone call or face to face is unacceptable and is a cause of stress for staff. On a similar note, we ask parents to be supportive and respectful towards other parents who are volunteer sports coaches and give up their time to coach teams from our school. We all contribute to ensuring this community remains a safe, caring and happy space for everyone.

Below is our community code of conduct which is timely to reshare with our community.



Michael Maher
Principal



Congratulations to all our Year 5 & 6 Football teams who took part in the Bay Suburbs tournament yesterday!

Upcoming Events

May

- 24-26 Y6 Camp – Carey Park
- 24 Eastern Zone Girls Football (Y7&8)
- 24 Y3 Tiritiri Matangi Trip (M2/M1)
- 25 Y3 Tiritiri Matangi Trip (M3/M1)
- 26 Formal Assembly 9.45am – 10.30am
- 26 Pizza Lunch Day
- 30 Eastern Zone Boys Football (Yr7)

June

- 01 Eastern Zone Boys Football (Yr8)
- 02 Junior Assembly (J2 hosting)
9.45am – 10.30am (school hall)
Senior Assembly (S9 & S10 hosting)
11.45am – 12.30pm (school hall)
- 05 King's Birthday holiday
- 08 Y7&8 Mountain to Sea Showcase
- 09 Y1 Zoo Trip
- 12&13 School Photos
- 19 Eastern Zone Hockey (Yr 7&8)
- 20 Board of Trustees Meeting
(6.30pm staffroom)
- 23 Junior Assembly (J9&10 hosting)
9.45am – 10.30am (school hall)
Senior Assembly (S1 & S2 hosting)
11.45am – 12.30pm (school hall)

Community Conduct Expectations

St Thomas's School is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for students, staff, and visitors.

Our Code of Conduct serves as a reminder to all staff, parents/caregivers and school visitors that their conduct must support everyone's emotional and physical wellbeing, and not harm it in any way.

The Code of Conduct applies:

- to all conduct, speech, and action, and includes emails, texts, phone calls, social media, or other communication
- while on school grounds or at another venue where students and/or staff are assembled for school purposes (such as a camp or sports match).

Standards of conduct

St Thomas's School expects staff, parents, caregivers, and visitors to:

- treat everyone with respect
- work together in partnership for the benefit of all students
- respect and adhere to our school values
- set a good example for students at all times
- follow school procedures to handle any complaints
- adhere to school policies and procedures and any legal requirements.

Examples of unsuitable conduct include:

- threats, bullying, harassment
- profanity/offensive language
- insulting, abusing, or intimidating behaviour
- discrimination (e.g. based on ethnicity, religion)
- physical aggression
- deception/fraud
- damaging school property
- smoking/vaping, possessing or using alcohol/drugs/other harmful substances on school premises or at another venue where students and/or staff are assembled for school purposes (except possession or use of alcohol in accordance with school policy)
- placing unreasonable and excessive expectations on staff time or resources
- pursuing a complaint or campaign, or making defamatory, offensive, or derogatory comments, regarding the school, its board, or any staff or students on social media or other public forums
- wearing gang insignia on the school grounds.

Dealing with breaches of the Code of Conduct

How St Thomas's School deals with breaches of our Code of Conduct depends on the nature of the incident and its seriousness, and the process any witness or victim of the behaviour feels most comfortable with.

Examples include:

- documenting each instance of behaviour, including the date, time, place, who was present, what was said (verbatim if possible), how any witness or victim felt and/or responded
- holding a meeting with the relevant person, the principal, and/or board chair (or their delegate) or appropriate staff member to discuss the problem and possible resolution
- issuing a warning letter that outlines the problem and required resolution, and reminds them of the possible outcomes of repeated conduct
- arranging a meeting, which may include restorative practices, as an alternative or in addition to the processes above.

Outcomes of breaching the Code of Conduct

If a parent, caregiver, or visitor acts or speaks in a way that contravenes the Code of Conduct, possible outcomes may include:

- The school (Principal, board member, or staff member) may ask a person to leave the school premises by revoking their permission to be on the school grounds, then asking them to leave under section 3 of the Trespass Act 1980.
- Unacceptable behaviour of a criminal nature may result in the police being informed. For example, under section 139C of the Education Act 1989, it is a criminal offence to assault, abuse, or intimidate a staff member within the presence or hearing of any student while on school premises or in any other place where students are assembled for school purposes. Other instances of criminal offending may occur where drugs are involved, an assault has occurred, or a person persists after being trespassed off school grounds.
- In the case of behaviour amounting to harassment, a restraining order may be sought.
- In the case of digital behaviour amounting to harassment the authorities may be informed Under the Harmful Digital Communications Act (HDCA).
- In some instances, it may be appropriate to refer behaviour to a third party for resolution. For example, a Facebook comment that contravenes this policy may result in a report to Facebook. If unacceptable behaviour occurs at a sports event or sports venue, then it may be appropriate to involve the governing body of that sport, event, or venue.

Are you and your whānau protected from measles?

With people travelling overseas again, there's a risk that someone with measles could unknowingly bring the disease back to Aotearoa.

Measles spreads easily and quickly, usually between people who are not immunised or only partially immunised. It can be serious and life threatening. In the 2019 measles outbreak in Aotearoa more than 30% of the people infected had to be admitted to hospital.

The best protection against measles is the free MMR vaccine. It will protect you and your whānau, and prevent the virus from spreading.

You will be protected against measles if you:

- had 2 doses of the MMR vaccine
- had measles before
- were born before 1 Jan 1969.

If you're unsure if you or your tamariki have had any or both doses of the MMR vaccine, check by calling your GP or hauora provider. Alternatively, check your Plunket Well Child Tamariki Ora book. If you're still not sure, be safe and get immunised – there are no safety concerns with having an extra dose. MMR vaccines are free at your local health provider and many pharmacies.

As measles still occurs in many countries, if you're travelling overseas these holidays it's especially important to be immunised to prevent the risk of being unknowingly infected and causing an outbreak in Aotearoa on your return.

More information about the measles vaccination can be found here:

[Measles vaccination – Ministry of Health](#)

Lit Quiz



On 3 May 2023, some students from Year 6 and 7 participated in the Lit Quiz (Isla, Lars, Christian, Summer, Chloe, Aila, Adam and Isaac). Lit Quiz is a competition where students leave school to compete against other students from different schools and answer lots of questions about books. It was a fun, entertaining and slightly frustrating day for the students chosen. It was a hard choice for the supervisor, Miss French, to choose the participants. All students had a very amazing day and are hoping to do it again soon. Miss French is also hoping to see new students next time.



By Isla B and Lars W (Year 7)

Road Safety Week

As part of Road Safety Week, students have been outside the school gate promoting the use of our Kea Crossing and crossing at the traffic lights. Please role model the correct behaviour with your child by using these two crossings when crossing the road, and do not dash across the road between these two crossings. Help us to keep your children safe.



Litterless Lunches Campaign



Our Litterless Lunches initiative is well underway at school. Well done to the Junior School who are role models for the rest of us in how to have a Litterless Lunch – and it certainly shows in the lack of litter in the junior playground. Thank you parents for supporting your child to bring a Litterless Lunch to school.

Orienteering

Four teams represented the Eastern Zone at the Auckland Orienteering Championships, held at Cornwall Park on Monday 15th May. The 22 students, across Year 7 and 8, competed with pride for their school and zone. Congratulations to all students for their efforts and successes on navigating their courses through the working farm! Special mentions for Kaito Wotton on achieving 3rd place on his course and Skylar Gray for finishing in 4th place on her course.



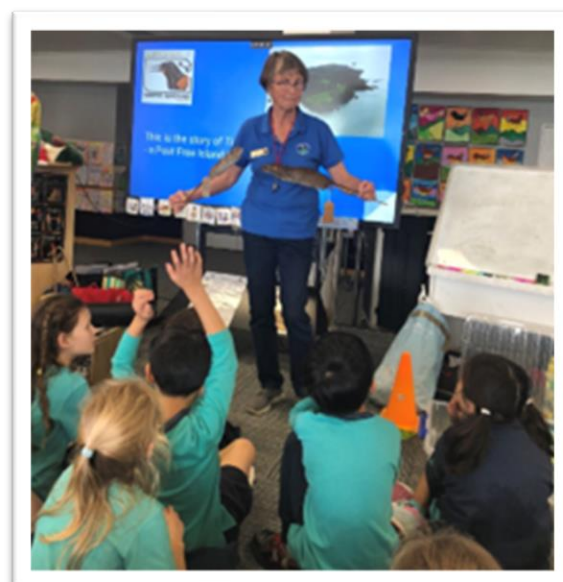
Year 3 Assembly

Congratulations M2 for hosting a fantastic assembly in Week 3. Your hard work and preparation really paid off! The audience were very impressed with your Don Binney bird art, your beautiful song about Aotearoa and your play 'How Kiwi Saved the Forest'.



Year 3 Tiritiri Matangi Island Kaitiaki Visitor

On Monday 8th May the Year 3 students were very lucky to have a Liz Maire visit. Liz is a guide and protector of Tiritiri Matangi Island and her work plays a crucial role in protecting the Island. A big thank you to Liz for teaching our students all about the pesky invaders that threaten our beautiful birds; we are all very excited for our big trip across to the island in Week 5!



Stormy Poem

Drip, drop splash!

I could feel the heavy rain on me.

Very soon I was a big dirty puddle.

Hearing the rain splashing down on me

I really needed a break from the rain.

Sun please smile down brightly on me!

I could see other smaller and even bigger floods than me.

Drip, drop, splash!

By Manon Jannin - M4



STEAM Centre - Term 2

Another exciting and busy start to the term in the STEAM Centre. We are learning about all things related to space and beyond!

Some of our STEAM Missions across Years 1 - 8 include:

- Ordering the **planets in our solar system** and discovering their main features.
- Making pipe cleaner **star constellations**.
- Learning about the **Mars Perseverance Mission** and making replica Ingenuity helicopters.
- Using the **Makey Makeys** to make a conductive circuit to play Space Invaders.
- Using the **Engineering Design Process** to make rockets, catapult asteroids and meteors or retrieve alien specimen samples!
- Learning about the incredible **Aurora Australis** and creating beautiful artworks.
- Considering what the term '**alien life**' means and writing secret codes in homemade invisible ink.
- Understanding the main features of **black holes** in order to create our own.



Walking School Bus (WSB)

Tired of the stress caused by trying to park near school? Need more time in the mornings? We now have two WSB routes that walk to St Thomas's, and one of those routes includes a park and walk option. Park at the Sunhill Garden Centre carpark by 8.20am and have your child collected by the WSB as they pass by (see route in purple below). This route operates on a Monday, Tuesday and Friday. A second route walks up from Hampton Drive on a Thursday. If you are interested in your child joining in with the WSB please email Alison at: asnell@stthomas.school.nz.

To encourage more walkers, and to reward our existing winter walkers, next week is 'Milo Morning' week. Any child walking to school next week with the WSB, please visit the STEAM Centre kitchen when you arrive at school for a hot cup of milo and marshmallows. You will simply need to show your WSB ticket.



Year 8 Camp

Bubble Soccer by Timothy Tsui

Before we departed school for Camp Carey, our camp activity groups had the chance to play Bubble Soccer against each other, a unique sport where players wear inflatable bubbles while playing soccer. The game involves players wearing inflatable bubbles that cover their upper body and head, leaving only their legs free to move. Players can bump into each other and knock each other down without getting hurt, making it a safe and enjoyable activity for all ages. It's a unique sport that everyone can enjoy regardless of age or skill level. Teachers Mrs. Jackson and Miss T, also decided to have a go with a one on one game of Bubble Soccer. The game was intense, with both teachers showing off their 'impressive skills' and determination. In the end, Mrs. Jackson emerged victorious, securing her win and bragging rights over Miss T. Despite the loss, Miss T was a good sport and congratulated Mrs. Jackson on her win. This game of Bubble Soccer was a great example of friendly competition and good sportsmanship - overall, Bubble Soccer is a great way to have fun with friends and classmates while being active. Who knows who will challenge Mrs. Jackson next?

Camp Carey by Bonnie Tran

From the 3rd to 5th of May 2023, the Year 8's stayed at Camp Carey in Henderson Valley, to develop outdoor skills and get better at working together as a team. It was an enjoyable experience for all of us, and the seven activity groups took part in seven activities (even though a couple of them had to be swapped out due to the weather).

Between each activity rotation, we met in the gym - a space where you could play sports indoors, do some colouring, or just hang out with friends. We needed to make sure we had everything we needed by checking out the list beside the notice board, which was in the hallway that led to the entrance of the dining hall. It was where we had breakfast, morning tea, lunch, afternoon tea, dinner, and finally, supper. This was also the place where Minute to Win It, which was a series of exciting yet (kind of) difficult one-minute challenges, was held.

Overall, this was an exhilarating opportunity for us Year 8's to kick ourselves out of our comfort zones (but return to it sometimes) and a trip that created countless memories. Especially to me, this was one of the most significant school trips I've ever had.

A huge thank you to all the parent volunteers for making this experience possible for our Year 8's.



Camp Carey Activities by Tashu Nathan

During camp we did 7 super-fun activities in total: Crate stacking, gaga-ball, human foosball, rock-climbing, archery, catapult building, orienteering and flying fox.

Rock Climbing



For rock climbing, there was a rock climbing wall inside the gym so we could still do it even if the weather conditions were bad. There were 6-8 courses, each difficult or easy in its own way. There were blue sets and red sets. The most challenging one was fittingly called legendary. It was at the centre of the wall and had at least two ledges which you needed strong arms to haul yourself up onto. Many of the year 8's tried and almost got there but couldn't reach the golden block to say you are a legend.

Crate Stacking

Crate stacking requires balance and posture. Firstly you need a harness so that once you are high and your crates fall, you can be lowered down slowly. Being able to stack the crates, you first need to attach the thin rope to the crate that you are currently standing on. Then you slide the edges of the crates (which is on the bottom of the crate) to the sliding points, which lay parallel to each other at the sides of the crate. After making sure that the crate has properly slid in, you stand on top of it. You repeat this till you eventually get out of balance and the crate tower comes tumbling down (not on you, though). The most that anyone got in Year 8, was Nico, who got 13 crates!



Flying Fox

The flying fox at Camp Carey is 200 meters long and 9 meters high. When going on the flying fox, we had to get a harness and helmet before walking up to a small treehouse, which was the entrance to the magnificent flying fox. The instructor at the entrance, will then attach your harness to the flying fox line. There were also poses that you could do while going down the flying fox. Many tried to do the Spider-Man pose but only a few succeeded. Some did other poses, like the lazy man; you have your hands behind your head and your legs are straight. Superman; you point your hand, which is in a fist and bring your right leg halfway up, so you look like Superman.



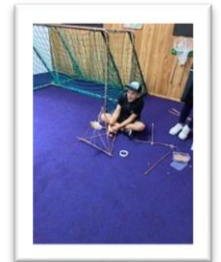
Gaga-ball

Gaga ball is a game played in an octagon-shaped arena. The gaga-ball instructions are simple and it is fun to play. To start the game, the referee throws the ball into the stadium, and the players within the arena, you have to wait till the ball has bounced 3 times before, pushing the ball to eliminate others. You can't touch the ball twice if it hasn't at least bounced off a person or the wall, if you do, you'll be out immediately. If the ball touches your knee and below, you're out. You can't hold the ball or kick it or use both hands. The last one that hasn't be eliminated, wins the game.



Human Foosball

Human foosball is basically played like the actual toy game. The rules are the same as foosball, but with a few tips and tricks. For example, you are allowed to hold the opponents' ankle back with your foot, so they can't kick the ball; you're allowed to use the wall to angle the ball to pass to your teammates.



Catapult Building

For catapult building, we had to build a 3-D catapult with large sticks, rubber bands, a plastic cup and tape. The aim of the game was to see how far your catapult could shoot and how high. There were two teams who confidently competed to try to beat each other's score. At stake was a prize neither team wanted to miss out on: hot chocolate!



Orienteering

For orienteering, we got a map with points all over Camp Carey. We had to carefully orient ourselves to find the coloured-words that would make out a sentence or evidence that we have been there. Every group had a different colour: orange, purple, blue and yellow. But we also had a time limit of 40 minutes, so the pressure was on! Orienteering helped us with collaboration, resilience and maths.



Archery

Archery is an activity that requires amazing aim and patience. There were two archery boards. First, we were taught about how to use the bow and aim. You use the eye (if it stays open, you can see the whole board). If you're left-eyed, then you use your left hand, but if you are right-eyed then you use your right hand. Then you pull the string back and SHOOT! There were many talented people who even got a bulls-eye!



We learnt heaps and enjoyed every activity. We all wish we could go back and do it all again.

Minute to Win it Night by Micah Chen



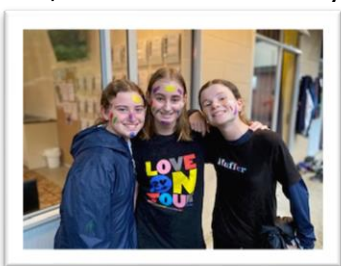
On our first day at camp we had a minute to win it game night. We were in our activity groups and on our tables we saw marbles, cups, weetbix etc. The aim was they gave us challenges in which we had to compete to gain a point for our team, the team with the most points was the winner, but there was a catch, you had to do your challenge all under a minute.



In my team I did a jigsaw puzzle of a cereal box, others had to stack weetbix on their heads, we had a lot of challenges like the paper dragon where you had to unroll two rolls of paper in under a minute. There were challenges like flipping 12 pencils on your hand, rolling marbles over the table to land perfectly on double sided tape, human pyramids, sorting out beads into matching colors and my favorite the eating challenge. The eating challenge was eating 3 pieces of dry weetbix in under a minute, no milk or water! We had to gobble up our weetbix before the minute ended. Overall the minute to win it night was a very fun event and a personal highlight in my opinion, it was fun to hang out with friends doing silly challenges.

Burma Trail by Yuna Cha

One breezy Thursday night, when the sun was getting dimmer and dimmer, shoes tied. The Year 8's went out to the outer edge of a forest, dressed head to toe in warm clothing. We were first gathered in a gymnasium where we got separated into a few groups, the groups consisted of: non-confident people, confident people and very confident people (based around being in the darkness). The non-confident group was instructed to go first, then the confident, and last but not least; the very confident. When each group went out they were told to put their hands on the shoulders of the person in front of them. Then when we got to the entrance of the forest, we were given the most important aspect of the night; blindfolds. We picked up blindfolds from a bucket, put the blindfolds safely over our eyes and held onto a rope trying not to let go. As we stomped over the puddles of mud and tripped over the roots of huge trees and heard some very questionable noises (made by some hilarious adults). This hysterical journey of children shouting and calling out to friends, unfortunately had to end too soon, when we reached the end of the rope. We were forced to take the blindfolds off then walk safely back to our cabins. Overall, this was a night we will never forget and when we see that one big mud stain on our t-shirts, we will think, 'I remember that day'.





DON'T FORGET THE KIND-A-THON



Lets keep this kindness growing!!

Our A-Thon this year is based around kindness. Each student needs to get sponsored by friends & family to complete as many kindness tasks as they can on the A-Thon form they have brought home. We need the sponsorship money & completed forms returned to each classroom teacher on week 7 of term 2, from Tuesday 6th June with last day of collection being Friday 9th June. We can do this St Thomas's!

The St Thomas's A-Thon's are the PTA's biggest fundraiser of the year. Last year the PTA helped raise money to go towards the bike track raising \$17,751 from the last A-Thon. In previous years, the PTA has raised money for the huge awning over the junior playground, the sound system in the school hall and the St Thomas's school van just to name a few.

All money raised this year will go towards our 2023 fundraising goal being a new full-sized outdoor basketball court and upgrading existing courts.

There will be a class and an individual prize at the end of the Kind-A-Thon. Spot prizes will be awarded each day of collection week.

WATCH OUT FOR UPCOMING EVENTS

- 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 7th June, 7pm 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



JOIN US



 **GirlGuiding**
New Zealand
Kōwhiri Kōwhiri Whakamāhori O Aotearoa

Give Guiding a Go - St Mary's Pippins
Thursdays, 4.30-5.30pm - West Scout Den 16 Platina Street Remuera

St Mary's Pippins would like to invite you and your child along to find out what guiding is all about.

register by visiting <https://girlguidingnz.org.nz>

This unit is designed for Girl's 5-6 years of age



REGISTER YOUR DAUGHTER TODAY!

[GIRLGUIDINGNZ.ORG.NZ](https://girlguidingnz.org.nz)

