

02 June 2023

## Principal's Message

### Changing Roles on the School Board

Nick Chapman is our new Board Chairperson. Nick has three students attending St Thomas's School and brings his project management experience from helping large organisations deliver their strategic initiatives to the Board.

Nick is taking over from Georgia Houlker who has led our Board in recent times. On behalf of our school community, I thank Georgia for her stewardship of the Board and wish her all the best going forward.

### School Absences

We would like to remind all parents that reporting absences is important for the safety and wellbeing of students.

Please advise the school office before 9am if your child is going to be away or will be arriving late and include a reason for this.

The best way to report an absence is through our Hero app.

### Industrial Action

Primary teachers met to discuss the latest offer from the Ministry and are currently voting across the country whether to accept it or not. There is a growing shortage of teaching staff in New Zealand and many young teachers come into the profession but leave after two or three years as they can get better pay and conditions elsewhere. Teacher vacancy rates have increased and few applicants are applying for roles so progress in negotiations is critical to ensure we maintain our current teaching staff and make teaching an attractive long-term career. It is unlikely the current offer will achieve this.

**Michael Maher**  
Principal



### Upcoming Events

#### June

- 05 King's Birthday Holiday
- 08 Y7&8 Mountain to Sea Showcase
- 09 Y1 Zoo Trip
- 09 Y5 Auckland Museum Trip
- 12&13 School Photos
- 19 Eastern Zone Hockey (Y7&8)
- 20 Board of Trustees Meeting (6.30pm staffroom)
- 23 Junior Assembly (J9 & J10 hosting) 9.45am – 10.30am (school hall)  
Senior Assembly (S1 & S2 hosting) 11.45am – 12.30pm (school hall)
- 28 Bay Suburbs Netball (Y5&6)
- 28 William Pike Challenge Trip (Y7) – Extreme Edge 11.30am–3pm
- 29 Y7&8 Social
- 30 Term 2 Showcase of Learning Open Morning
- 30 Formal Assembly 9.45am – 10.30am
- 30 Last Day of Term

#### July

- 17 First day of Term
- 21 Eastern Zone Netball (Y7&8)

## Drop Offs and Pick Ups

Despite numerous messages and newsletter notifications we are still having parent drivers causing safety issues on Allum Street during drop-off and pick-up times. A reminder of the following:

- No u-turns in the vicinity of the school – this clogs up traffic and creates dangerous blind spots for other vehicles using the road.
- No parking at any time on the yellow lines outside the staff carpark drive way – as per the road code, this is illegal.
- No parking or drop-offs in the school bus bay outside the hall between the hours of 8.30am and 9.00am – this bay is reserved for the school bus so that students can be dropped off safely.
- Do not send students across Allum Street, or cross Allum Street with your children – please use either the Kia Crossing or the traffic lights to cross the road when you are with your child.
- Please keep your time in the drop-off and pick-up bays to a minimum so that these can be used by numerous parents – if you want to walk your child to the gate, please park further down the road and walk them up.

## Walking School Bus (WSB)



Our Walking School Buses are proving to be very popular. It's a great way to meet new friends, get some exercise, and reduce the morning travel stress.

If this is something that you and your child would like to be involved with, and you are able to walk to school with your child one morning a week, then we would love to have you join our WSB community. Contact Alison at [asnell@stthomas.school.nz](mailto:asnell@stthomas.school.nz) if you would like to know more.

## Moth Pod Plant Competition



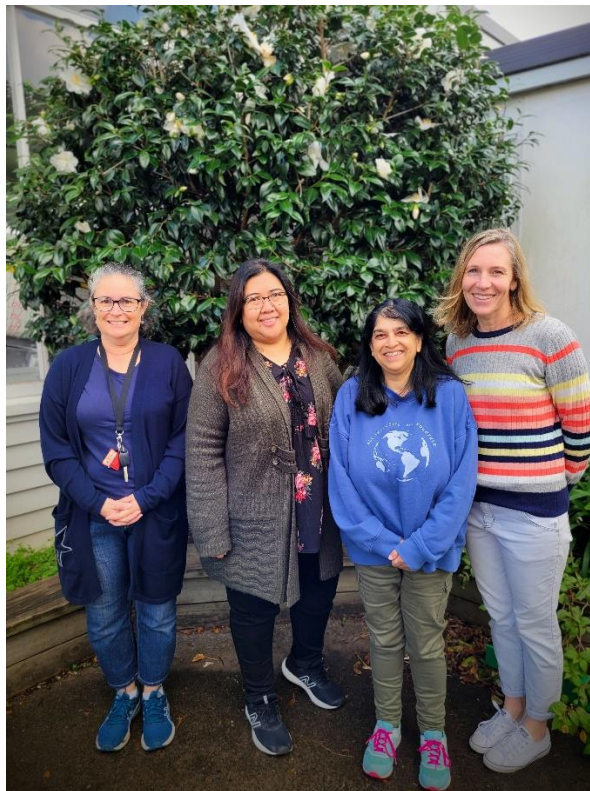
Last week the winners of the annual Orakei Board Moth Pod Plant competition were announced. Congratulations to Austin and Franklin who came first in the Intermediate category, and to Indigo who came second in the Primary category.

Well done to our other students who also entered the competition. Combined, they collected hundreds of moth pods and plants and reduced the effect this toxic and invasive weed has on our environment and wildlife.



## People Doing Awesome Things

- At St Thomas's School we have an amazing and dedicated team of Teacher Aides who work to support our students with a range of behaviour, learning and health needs. The team are led by our fantastic Special Education Needs Coordinator (SENCO), Miss Amy Thurston. With a wealth of knowledge and experience in supporting students with learning challenges, Amy and her team work tirelessly to access and implement a huge variety of specialist services, targeted programmes and learner support.  
Our Teacher Aide team: Jo Barret-Garnier, Minaxi Patel, Janette Graham, Cecilien Perez, Luke Xia, Karen Shadbolt, Kirsty Palmer.



- At this time of year, we are even more grateful than normal to have the commitment and support of an outstanding pool of relief teachers that we are able to call on to fill in when our normal classroom teachers are unwell and unable to teach their classes. Relief teaching can be a challenging job with early morning distress calls, different students and year levels every day and minimal time to prepare for the challenges of the day. Our relievers always do an exceptional job and jump in to help with duties and extra activities whenever they can.



Our sincere thanks and admiration goes out to: Robyn Fairley, Diana Appleby, Bratislav Stankovic, Bronwyn Coster, Chris Lawson, Dinky Hofman, Sarah Allen, Ingrid Antony, Shannon Bottomley, Keryn Churches, Karen Deynzer, Caroline Glover, Kathryn Foster, Lorraine Leonard, Helen McKinley, Victoria Clark, Wendy Carson, Mary Seah, Lesa Somaratne, Rilo Somerville, Jen Taylor, Mary Tyler, and all the other less regular relievers that work for us.

## Year 2 Trip to the Museum



## Kindness Donations from Year 2 Families



## Year 6 Camp

Last week the Year 6 students embarked on an unforgettable journey to Camp Carey in Henderson Valley. We were all very exhausted by the end of it but had LOADS of fun! We thank all the parents who came along to help make Camp Carey possible.

The camp was brimming with a wide range of activities that catered to everyone's interests and provided endless entertainment. From thrilling challenges like conquering the Burma Trail or Flying Fox where courage was put to the test. At night the camp came alive with laughter and entertainment and lots of yummy food. An incredible talent show left us dazzled where skits, songs, dancing, magic, and unmasked talents were showcased.

Camp Carey was a test of determination, teamwork, and resilience.

Camp Carey will forever hold a special place in our hearts, where adventure and camaraderie united to create an unforgettable journey.

*By Year 6 teachers.*



## The year 6 students have been busy this week working on some camp writing

Here are some of our awesome pieces!

### Camp Carey Food Poem

#### BREAKFAST

The yummy, crunchy toast fills my mouth with flavour. Rice bubbles pop in my mouth and makes me want some more.

#### LUNCH

Crunchy, crispy chicken burgers that fill the room with a delicious scent, the soft bun crumbles on my plate.

#### DINNER

Delicious roast meal, sweet gravy running down my chin. Every bite I take a sweeter sensation fills my body.

#### DESSERT

Yummy melted ice cream running down my throat. Goey sugary donut getting shoved into my mouth.

*By Tessa Prebble S9*

### How to use the air rifle at Camp Carey

#### Materials / ingredients

- Air rifle
- Safety glasses
- Air rifle bullets
- Target

#### Steps

1. Put the target about 50m away from where you're standing and put the target leaning upright then put your see thru safety glasses on.
2. You flick down the barrel and a small hole will appear on the air rifle.
3. Put the small shiny bullet into the small hole then push the barrel up until it clicks in place.
4. Get the back of the air rifle on your shoulder and there are two green dots with a gap between and is for the short shots, the one red dot is for the long shots.
5. Try and aim the red shiny dot in between the gap and also turn off the trigger then you can shoot.



*By Mason Wong S1*



## Year 6 Showing St Thomas's School Values



I was the leader of our awesome team, and it was my **responsibility** to be a great role model during the camp-wide relay. I made sure each person in our team had a special task to do and felt super excited about it. We all cheered each other on and gave lots of encouragement when things got hard. We had a blast together! Even though we didn't come first, we did an incredible job and finished in a fantastic third place. I'm so proud of our team, and being teammates was such a fun and amazing experience. Go team! *Jasmine Brawn S9.*

On the last day of camp we were given a team challenge to eat half an onion. No one in the team wanted to eat it, so because I was the team leader I had to eat most of it. The first bite I took was fine but when I got to the end I felt like I wanted to spew. In the end I forced myself to eat it all. As the team leader I felt like I had to do it. I believe I showed **resilience** by facing the challenge I didn't want to do, and because I wanted to win so badly, I pushed through and ate it all. *Lucy Martin S10.*

We showed the school value of **respect** at camp by being grateful towards all our instructors and parent helpers. We made sure we were always ready to listen and follow safety instructions. We showed respect to Camp Carey's equipment and being responsible at each activity station. When it came to the end of the day, we showed respect to our cabin mates and understood that everyone needs time to rest and recover. Going to bed on time and letting people sleep when they were tired. In our cabins we made sure to not touch other people's belongings and respect their space. We looked after our own bags and kept our cabins clean for inspection. At the end of camp we showed respect by thanking our instructors, parents and teachers and made thank you cards to show our appreciation. *Giselle Dove S12.*



## Year 3 Tiritiri Matangi Trip

The Year 3 classes got up early and went to Tiritiri Matangi for a school trip on Wednesday and Thursday last week. We went on a bus and a ferry. The water and the weather was beautiful. We walked to the visitors centre through the bush. During the walk we saw tieke, takahe, hihi, pōpokotea, tui, pukeko, kokako, Wētāpunga, piwakawaka, kereru, black robin, quail and kakariki. We didn't see a ruru because they come out at night but we know they are there.

We were allowed to buy something from the gift shop.

We were respectful of the motu and its native birds, bush and our guides.

It was a long day, we came back to school traveling on the ferry and bus by 5.00pm. It was a very, very, very fun and informative trip.

*By Year 3 students.*





## Eastern Zone Girls Football Tournament

On the 24 May, 11 girls (from both Year 7 and 8) went to Madills Farm Reserve to compete in the football competition. These resilient young students had to compete and persevere through four different games with each game being with a different school. We played each and every game the best we could and came back to school coming 4<sup>th</sup> in the competition. Although we didn't come in the top three, after all our games, we decided to watch other teams play further in the competition to cheer for them. For many of us it would've been the first time competing in football and some of us were more experienced. At the end of the day it is all about encouraging each other, being resilient and playing with a team that we can always rely on. If we were all being honest though, the best part of the day was when Miss T brought us snacks. *By Yuna Cha.*



## Bay Suburbs Football Tournament

On Thursday the 18 May the Year 5-6 football teams went to Glover Park for the Bay Suburbs Football tournament.

We started off the day by meeting everyone near the Pohutukawa tree, we got into our football teams and hopped onto the bus. Once we arrived at Glover Park all the teams put on their boots and shinpads and started practicing for their games on the field. Everyone was excited and was looking forward to all of their games.

The Year 5 boys and Year 6 girls both had 6 games, the Year 6 boys had 8 games, and the mixed teams each had 3. All of the teams played really hard and did not give up.

### Results:

Year 5 boys - 3rd

Year 6 girls - 3rd

Year 6 boys - 2nd

Mixed team 1 - 1st

Mixed team 2 - 2nd





## PTA News Issue #7 2023

### KIND-A-THON COLLECTIONS

Get your sponsorship forms and money to your classrooms!



As of next Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June, we will start collecting sponsorship forms and money from teachers with last day of collection being 9am Friday 9<sup>th</sup> June. Make sure your child's name and classroom is on the form.

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.

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

### WATCH OUT FOR UPCOMING EVENTS

- Calendar Art – collected in June
- Musical Showcase – End of term 2
- School Disco – Term 3 (Friday 4<sup>th</sup> August)



### 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 14<sup>th</sup> June, 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