

28 July 2023

Principal's Message

School Funding

The Ministry of Education funds all schools for day-to-day operation of essential services such as heating/electricity, salaries of administration, cleaning and caretaker staff. Based on student numbers, schools receive a portion of funding to support students with special needs, sport and IT. Every 5 years schools also receive a separate allocation of funding to upgrade and/or maintain school property.

However, Ministry funding does not cover the costs of what a school really needs to provide a modern educational programme. Here at St Thomas's we ask parents for school donations to help us provide extra resources and programmes which our parent community value.

Your school donation supports:

- Extra Teachers in Junior School to assist students in Years 1 to 3
- Extra Teacher Aides to support students with literacy and numeracy across the school
- Teacher and Teacher Aides to support English as a Second Other Language (ESOL)
- Special Needs Coordinator (SENCo)
- School Counsellor
- Gifted and Talented Programmes
- Occupational Therapist
- Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths & Arts Programme (STEAM)

All these programmes cost money and your school donations enable us to provide them.

Michael Maher
Principal



Friday 20 October School Closed to Students

Friday 20 October is a teacher only day, so school will be closed to all students. This is the Friday before Labour Weekend.



Congratulations to all students who made amazing costumes for the Cross Country Costume Carnival last week.

Upcoming Events

August

- 04 Junior Assembly (M3 hosting)
9.45am – 10.30am (school hall)
- Senior Assembly (M4 hosting)
11.45am – 12.30pm (school hall)
- 04 PTA School Disco (6.00 p.m.)
- 11 School Cross Country Event (Y3-Y8)
- 15 M6 Trip to Sky Tower
- 15 Board of Trustees Meeting
(6.30pm staffroom)
- 17 S7 & S8 Trip to Sky Tower
- 17 Year 2 Trip to Kelly Tarlton's
- 18 Formal Assembly 11.45am – 12.30pm
- 21 Eastern Zone and Bay Suburbs Cross Country Event
- 23 Student Led Learning Conferences
- 25 Junior Assembly (J5 & J6 hosting)
9.45am – 10.30am (school hall)
- Senior Assembly (S7 & S8 hosting)
11.45am – 12.30pm (school hall)
- 31 Out of Zone Open Morning

Tuesday 12 December Prizegiving

9.30 a.m. Barfoot & Thompson Stadium
203 Kohimarama Road

Maintenance of School Property

Every 5 years schools receive a Ministry allocation of funding to upgrade and/or maintain school property. St Thomas's School has now received its 5-year funding which must be allocated to maintain school buildings. Over the next two years we will repaint large areas of the school and upgrade the junior area with new carpet, lighting and wall linings etc.

Outdoor Learning Area Development (Landscape Plan-see attached plan)

St Thomas's School has an outdoor learning area development plan (landscape plan) which was crafted in 2022. The idea behind this plan is to develop our outside spaces into more child centred learning areas. This plan contains areas for cycling, environmental science, maker spaces, specific sports and shelter areas. In 2022 the bike track was completed with a fleet of bikes to support student fitness and coordination which has proved really successful. Our current area under development is the school's front entrance where we are seeking council permission to install rain shelter for our students who may be waiting for buses to go on school trips or for parents in the afternoon. Running alongside this project is planning and fundraising for a new basketball court and we currently have \$110,000 raised with a goal of \$200,000 by the end of this year with an aim of completing the courts in 2024.

The money for the Landscape Plan is through fundraising (not parent donations) by the PTA, pizza lunch days, mufti days, hall hire, community grants, and any other income source we can tap into goes towards bringing this plan to fruition.

Hopefully this provides some clarity as to where our funds come from and how we use them. More importantly how critical your donations are to support what we are providing and aim to provide for your children.

If you have not already paid a school donation, we ask that you now do, so that we can continue to provide the quality programmes your children deserve.

Respect Posters

Calling all budding artists and graphic designers to join the mighty 'respect' poster competition.

Your mission:

To create a poster which will be displayed around the school to promote:

RESPECT for yourself.

RESPECT for the environment.

RESPECT for others.

Students of all year levels who are interested in doing this home project and entering the competition are welcome to work on a poster at home and bring the completed poster to school – deliver to M3CL - by Thursday, 17th August, Week 5. Any students who require art paper may get some from Ms Clothier in M3CL.

Any medium students decide to use is accepted.

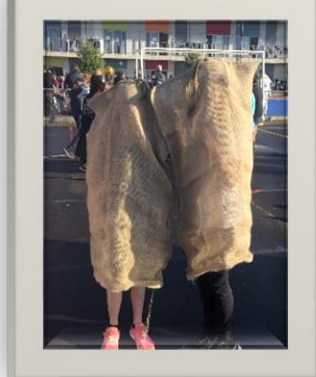
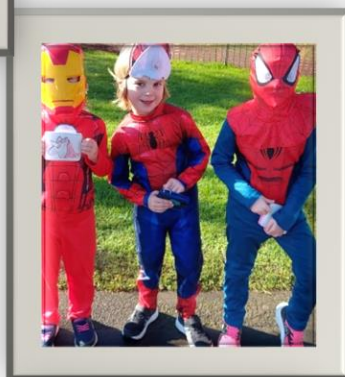
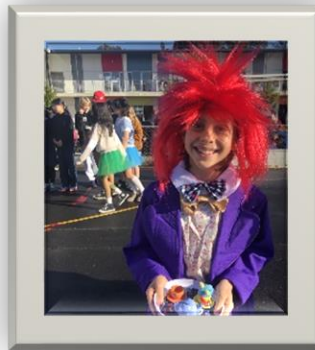
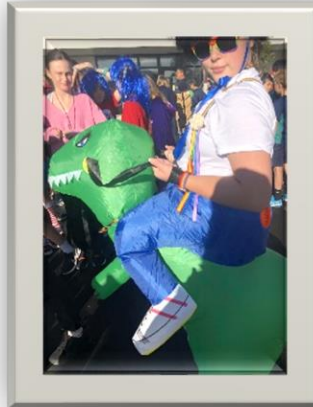


Cross Country Costume Carnival

The sun was shining bright, and our students looked absolutely fabulous in their awesome outfits! From the littlest ones to the big kids, everyone was in on the fun, and giving their all on the cross-country course.

We had bubbles floating in the air, music pumping up the energy, and exciting activities sprinkled all along the course. It was a morning of pure fun, celebrating fitness, teamwork, and the incredible spirit of our school community.

Here are some cool pics capturing some of the best moments!



Proposed Speed Limit Changes for your feedback

Auckland Transport is seeking feedback on Katoa, Ka Ora: A draft speed management plan for Auckland 2024-27. This plan proposes to set safe and appropriate speeds on approximately 24% of the roads across Tāmaki Makaurau – Auckland, including near our school.

You can find a detailed map of the proposed changes and provide general feedback until 28 August 2023 here: <https://haveyoursay.at.govt.nz/kko>

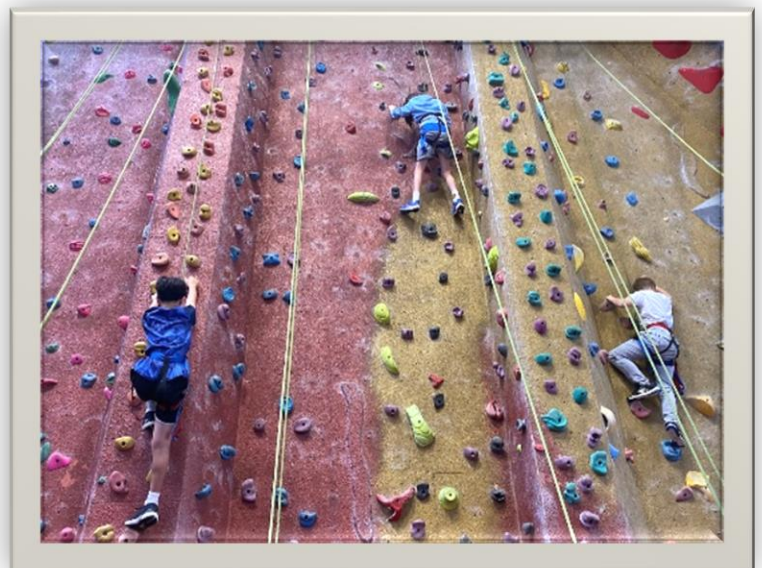
For schools with proposed variable speed changes, we would like your local knowledge to help us understand the length the variable speed changes should be. We would also like to hear your thoughts on standardised operating times for variable speed limit signs. You can provide your feedback [here](#).

If you would like any further information on the consultation timeline and process, please don't hesitate to contact AT Speed Programme Team on ATSpeedProgramme@at.govt.nz

William Pike Challenge Students Showing Resilience

At the end of last term, the Year 7 William Pike Challenge participants went on a trip to Extreme Edge Rock Climbing Centre. After we got prepared for the climbing by putting on harnesses and having a safety briefing, we headed to the self-belay section of the climbing gym. Some of us were after more of a challenge so we had a go on the climbing wall where a parent helper had to belay us. We struggled with a lot of the walls, but because we were resilient, our hard work paid off and we completed some tricky climbs. Overall, we had so much fun and enjoyed every second of our time there. A big thank you to the parent helpers who came along!

By Summer, Skyla G and Anastasia



Year 7 & 8 Netball Tournament

The cloudy weather of Monday morning welcomed our Year 7 & 8 netball teams to the Eastern Zone Netball tournament held at the Auckland Netball Centre. At the event, each group was assigned four games in the fierce competition. Unfortunately, the three St Thomas's teams, which were the Year 8 Grade A Girls, Year 7 Grade B Girls, and Year 7 Grade B Boys had a tough day on the netball courts and didn't get to the playoffs. However, we didn't go home just yet! The teams got to play a friendly game against each other, allowing us to cool off, as well as have an amazing time before returning to school grounds. Our teams did exceptionally well as the opposition was intense; all players displayed awesome sportspersonship and spirit. Thank you to Ms Gosden and our coaches Miriam and Sara for taking the time to take us to the tournament, we appreciate your effort!

By Alice - Year 8



Chess Competition

On Thursday 1 June, the St Thomas's School chess team participated in an exciting competition in the East Auckland region. Despite the intense competition, the team members enjoyed themselves immensely, showing great sportspersonship and respect towards their opponents. They set a great example with their excellent behaviour and positive attitude, creating a welcoming environment for everyone involved. The tournament was a fun experience for them and a great opportunity to showcase their skills. They came in 31st place in the region, which was a great achievement for them. Overall, the St. Thomas's School chess team had lots of fun and demonstrated that winning is not the only important thing in a competition.

By Timothy Tsui S6



St Thomas's Walking School Bus



Currently, we have a walking school bus route which walks from the corner of Felton Matthew Ave/St Johns Rd to school on a Monday, Tuesday, and Friday.

If you are interested in joining the school bus as a parent helper or would be interested in your child joining the bus, contact Alison at asnell@stthomas.school.nz for further information.

There are many benefits to walking with a Walking School Bus:

For kids

- Children enjoy meeting up and talking to their friends.
- They gain a sense of independence.
- Friendships develop across different age groups.
- They learn about road safety from a pedestrian's perspective.
- They develop a positive attitude towards walking.
- Improve their overall health and decrease obesity levels.
- Daily exercise can aid academic achievements, as it helps improve concentration, memory and learning.
- Kids just love the fun, organised activities and resources.

For parents

- Enjoy extra free time when you do not have to drop off or pick up your children every day.
- Get to know the families in your neighbourhood.
- Save on fuel costs.
- Learn new skills from the optional workshops provided. All workshops have certificates suitable for a CV.
- Have the satisfaction of knowing that you are helping the school, your child and other children.
- Take advantage of the routine exercise walking to school provides.
- Help make your school safer by reducing the congestion around the school gate.

Support Staff Morning Tea

Support Staff Week in late June was an opportunity for school communities all over New Zealand to acknowledge and thank their support staff. At St Thomas's we celebrated with a morning tea. This special occasion was an opportunity to show our appreciation for the tireless efforts and dedication of our team of special needs and ESOL teacher aides.

We took this moment to extend a warm welcome to our newest team member, Farida Haidary, who has joined the ESOL team to support our students from Afghanistan. With her language expertise, Farida has already proven herself to be an incredible asset to help our Afghan students thrive in their new learning environment.

Our heartfelt acknowledgment also goes to Somi Froutan, our parent volunteer, who was instrumental in helping our Afghan students to settle into school life at the beginning of the school year. Her guidance, care, and support have made a significant difference in the lives of these students and their parents, fostering a sense of belonging and inclusion.

Thank you to all the support staff who continue to contribute their best efforts to the smooth functioning of our school. Your dedication does not go unnoticed, and we appreciate all that you do.



Changing Learning Changing World

Year 4 Poetry

A Leaf's Journey

*Once there was a seed in the ground.
Years passed and now it was a big green tree.*

Autumn came.

Leaves started falling from the tree but one leaf didn't.

It was dancing in the breeze.

Whoosh went the leaf.

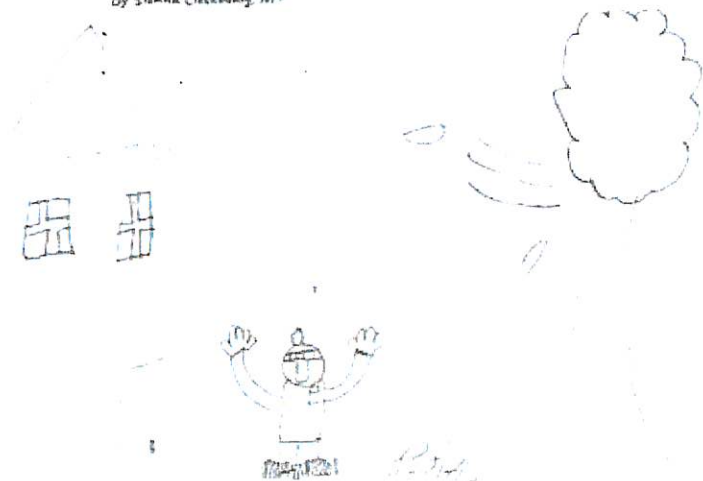
The leaf was traveling across the sea and through the clouds.

*The leaf was like a kite in the air, swishing and swooshing through
the breeze.*

Finally it landed on the ground.

Safe at last!

By Sienna Locking, 10



Winter Wonderland

The pine trees are swaying in the gentle breeze.

Skis on the slopes and the snow trickling down.

*Some people stay at home drinking hot chocolate
with a blanket on their lap.*

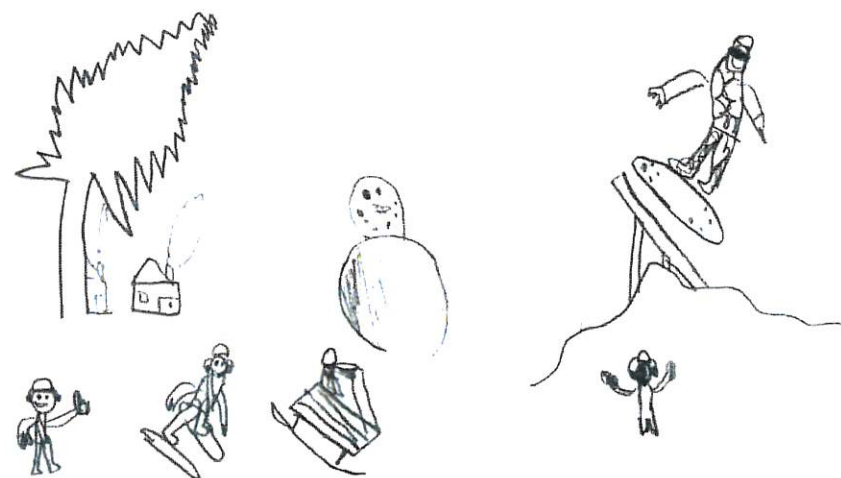
People with snow caps go down some hills.

While some may stay at home and bake pies and fries in their hot oven.

Others roam the streets with leather tops and feather pants.

Other people have snowboards and do jumps and hop over lumps.

By Eli Page





Cross Country Costume Carnival

THANK YOU to all those who baked for the St Thomas's School Cross Country Costume Carnival last week. We had such a wonderful selection of baked goods and really appreciated the choices available, especially for those with special dietary needs. All your work helped us raise just over \$1200 for the tuck shop!!

Thank you so much for your support.



We have also had an amazing response to the Family Photo Day coming up on Sunday 13th August. All 36 time slots were sold out in 2 days!! Our apologies to those who missed out, however this is something we can look to provide again.



WATCH OUT FOR UPCOMING EVENTS IN TERM 2:

- Musical Showcase – Wednesday 2nd August
- Kids Calendar Art – 26th July – 9th August
- School Disco – Friday 4th August
- Family Photo Day – Sunday 13th August
- School Production – 12th – 14th September
- Quiz Night – Saturday 16th September
- Colour Run – Term 4



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**, 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!



It's Calendar Art time again!

The student's have been busy creating art work that can be made into affordable Calendars, Cards, Diaries, Mouse Mats and Sketch Pads.

Each product is made from your own child's art.

These make unique Christmas gifts for family and friends and are perfect for posting overseas.

Follow these instructions to place your order online:

1/. Go to www.kidsartworks.com

2/. Use the Entrance Code: KZ1056. Enter your child's room & name when prompted.

The order is open from Wednesday 26th July until Wednesday 9th August.

Payment can be made over the website via credit card or account2account.

If you have any questions, please email the school PTA at stthomasschoolpta@gmail.com



DISCO



St Thomas's PTA proudly presents...

70's Disco Night

Friday
4th
August

Junior Disco: 5pm – 6.30pm
Senior Disco: 7pm – 8.30pm

Pizza \$3 per slice

Sale on the night for \$1, \$2 & \$3:

Popcorn & chips

Lollies

Soft drinks/water

Fluro/glow goodies, tattoos & more

\$5
Entry

Introducing our fabulous DJ Fetu rocking out those 70's sounds