

11 August 2023

## Principal's Message

### Teacher Staffing Shortage-its only going to get worse!

A key part of the recent Primary Teachers' Collective Agreement settlement included significant increases in classroom release time (CRT) for primary teachers. This release time is a welcome support for teachers to assist with term planning, student assessment, following up individual student issues, meeting with Ministry specialists and for professional development.

CRT for all primary teachers will increase from two days, to three days per term from the start of next year. By Term 3 next year it will increase by a further day to four days. At the start of 2025 one more day is included totalling five days per term to start in 2025. Teachers with additional responsibility and/or leadership roles will also receive an additional two days release time per term starting in 2025.

This is the first movement teachers have seen in CRT since 2005 and it will hopefully reduce the current workload and entice more people to view the teaching profession as a worthwhile and sustainable career, because we need people to join our profession.

The increase in CRT will mean that 1500 extra teachers will be required between Term 1 of next year and the start of 2025 to cover this extra release time. Unfortunately, New Zealand has few trainee teachers. Currently there are only 65 students training to be teachers in Auckland University. 2024 and 2025 are going to be incredibly challenging for all schools across the country to maintain class coverage. Already some schools have their entire senior management team covering classes or splitting classes across the school in order not to send students home, with both options unsustainable.

Hopefully the new CRT allocation will reduce teacher stress and workloads, strengthen the delivery of quality curriculum to our students and entice more people to view the teaching profession as sustainable and worthwhile. In the meantime, it's going to be a bumpy ride for all schools to provide enough quality staff to cover classes.

**Michael Maher**  
Principal



Congratulations to all our cross-country runners who placed at today's event.

### Upcoming Events

#### August

- 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
- 17 Y7 & Y8 Speech Finals 10.30am (Hall)
- 18 Formal Assembly 9.45am – 10.30pm
- 21 Eastern Zone and Bay Suburbs Cross Country Event
- 23 Student Led Learning Conferences
- 25 Junior Assembly (M3 hosting) 9.45am – 10.30am (school hall)
- Senior Assembly (M5 hosting) 11.45am – 12.30pm (school hall)
- 31 Out of Zone Open Morning 9.15am

#### September

- 05 Bay Suburbs Basketball (Y5 & Y6)
- 11 Eastern Zone Girls Basketball (Y7 & Y8)
- 12-14 School Production (Selwyn College)
- 14 Eastern Zone Boys Basketball (Y7 & Y8)
- 14 Immunisations (Y7 & Y8) 11.30am
- 15 Junior Assembly (J13 & J14 hosting) 9.45am – 10.30am (school hall)
- Senior Assembly (S4, S5 & S6 hosting) 11.45am – 12.30pm (school hall)

**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.

**Tuesday 12 December  
Prizegiving**

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

## Applications for Out of Zone Ballot for 2024 are now open!

### Important Dates:

Friday 11 August 2023:	Ballot opens
Thursday 31 August 2023: 9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.	Open morning at school
Monday 16 October 2023:	Applications close
Wednesday 18 October 2023:	Ballot held
Thursday 19 October 2023:	Parents notified

**Please note:** If you have a child currently at St Thomas's School but live out of zone and have another child turning 5 in 2024 then that child's name must go in the ballot.

Talk to your friends if they have a child turning 5 next year to remind them to put their child's name in the ballot.

We will be holding Out of Zone Enrolment ballots twice a year in March and October. If you are interested in putting your name down for one of our ballots, you can do so by completing our online [Enrolment Form](#) available on our website now.

Open morning Thursday 31 August 2023 9.15 a.m. to 10.15 a.m. for in zone and out of zone parents.

### Applications for Out of Zone Enrolments

Applications close Monday 16 October 2023. Ballot will be held Wednesday 18 October 2023.

## School Absences

We would like to remind parents that reporting absences is important for the safety and wellbeing of students. We aim to deal with all unexplained absences as quickly as possible each morning. However, this is proving difficult now as some parents are not advising the school by 9.00am of their child's absence. To minimise the number of unexplained absences, please take a few moments to advise the school of an absence, through our HERO app (preferable), or by phoning the school on 528-3938 (1) and leaving a message. Please advise why your child is away. If they are going to be late, please advise why they will be late, so we can code the absence correctly. It takes parents less than a minute to advise the office, it takes the office a lot of extra time to follow up on 20 or 30 students.

Any students arriving late at school must report to the office and sign in, so that their safe arrival can be recorded. (Please note all late arrivals are recorded, should your child be late on a regular basis follow up action will be taken. Our gate is locked at 8.55am and we do have a lot of students arriving 5 minutes late. Please note, the school roll is taken at 8.55am ready to start the learning programme at 9.00am. While we may try several alternative phone numbers to contact a parent, if calls are not answered, where possible we will leave a voice message. If your phone numbers change at all whether it is a work, or mobile number, can you also please advise the office.

## Support Safe Cycling to School

Bike Eastern Suburbs is trying to encourage cycling in the neighbourhood. The new path to Ōrākei has been great, but the missing link has been the lack of connection from Meadowbank via Gowing Drive. The Ōrākei Local Board has purchased a property to give access from the road and plans had been decided on. The work was all scheduled to be done, while Kiwirail is doing track maintenance, however Auckland Transport quietly stopped working on it and have pulled funding.

The Ōrākei Local Board are encouraging the local community to put in feedback on the [Local Board Plan](#) (which mentions the connection). They're also asking people to contact AT directly too. Please see: <https://akhaveyoursay.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/.../feedbac...>

## Disco

We loved the disco because the colourful lights made it look bright and fun!

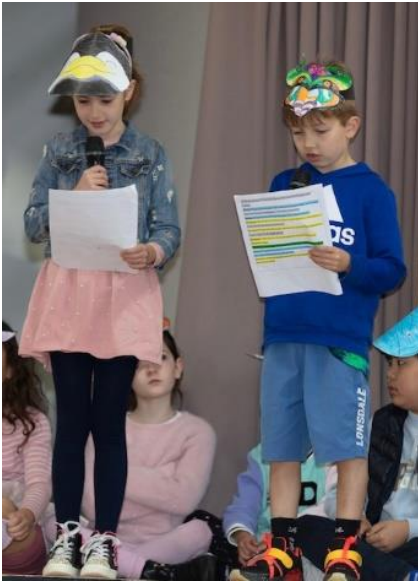
The music was fantastic and we loved dancing, especially Emma.

The pizza was tasty and cheesy. We did not want the fun to end! *By J 5 students.*





## Year 2 (J5 and J6) Assembly



## Year 3 Literacy

Our Year 3 students have been busy writing creative narratives this term. We have been studying different versions of *Jack and the Beanstalk* and even writing creative stories about magical lands we find at the top of our very own beanstalk! The highlight was making puppets of Jack and the Giant and taking part in a collaborative play. Working in small groups to master a script and recite lines with fluency is a fantastic way for students to practice their collaborative skills and show resilience and responsibility. Ka Pai Year 3!





## New Zealand Maths Week

Across the school there has been a buzz of maths participation in classrooms. Each day students were given the opportunity to participate in the St Thomas's daily maths quiz. In addition to this, students and their families could participate at home through the daily maths question sent out via Hero. Even our school library participated in Maths Week displaying maths themed stories.



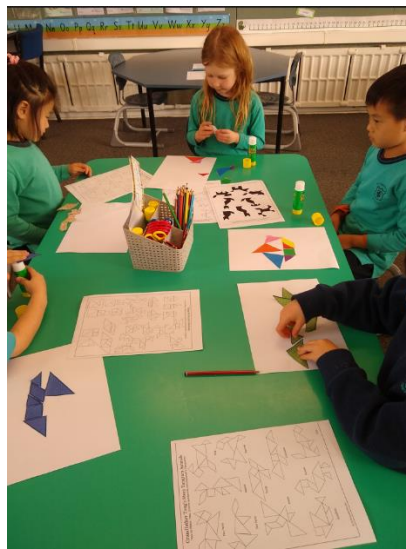
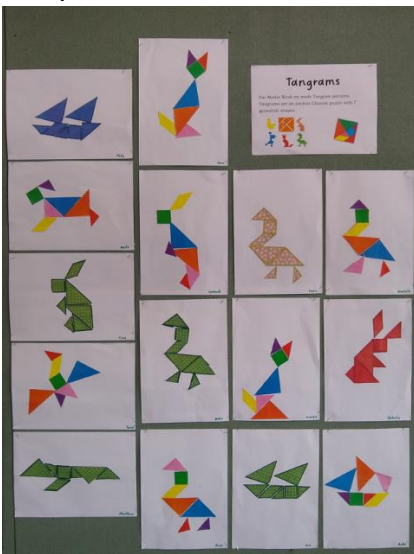
Here is an overview of how different classes participated in Maths Week in their learning spaces.

### Year 1 Maths Week Activities



### Year 2 Maths Week Activities

Invented in China approximately 200 years ago, a tangram is a two-dimensional re-arrangement puzzle created by cutting a square into seven pieces. Tangram puzzles use seven shapes in various combinations to build pictures.



### Year 3 Maths Week Activities



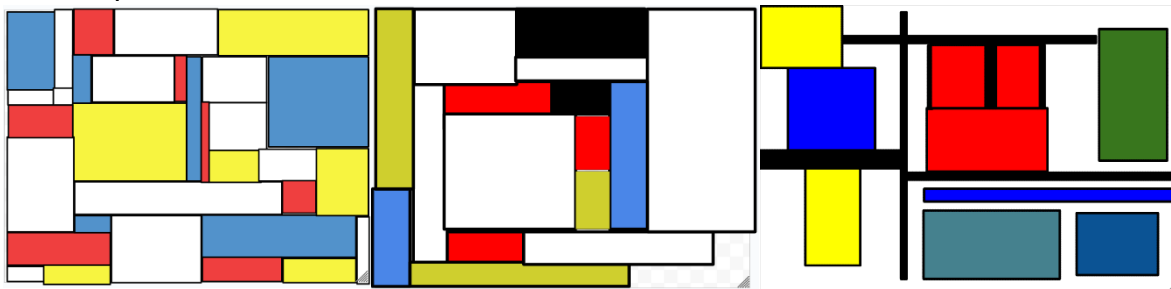
### **Year 5 Maths Week Activities**

In Year 5 we completed the daily dollar challenges. All teams enjoyed having the opportunity to work as a group on fun maths challenges. The Year 5 teachers kept track of all of the teams scores and special points were given to the winning teams on Friday!



### **Year 6 Maths Week Activities**

During Maths Week we learnt about an artist called Piet Mondrian. His art focuses on using squares, rectangles and primary colours. We then recreated some art, like his, using google drawings. Check out some of our awesome pieces!



Emily Scott - S9

Angus Smith - S12

Ben Hill - S11

In Year 6 we also participated in the 'Daily Dollar Challenge'. This involved students receiving a booklet of maths problem solving questions, each question assigned a dollar value. At the end of Maths Week we marked each question to see who scored the highest amount of dollar value in order to receive a prize.

### **Jiu-Jitsu and Grappling Championships**



Congratulations to Eric Sattinger, Alfie Cheung and others who recently competed in the Jiu-jitsu and Grappling championships. Well done to the boys for their achievements.







PTA Presents our  
Annual QUIZ Night

# A NIGHT AT THE CIRCUS

Brought to you by our friends from Ray White



COIMEX

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September  
6.30pm, St Thomas's School Hall

- Live & Silent Auctions.
- Cash Bar & Eftpos available.
- Hot Dogs & Finger food (GF & Vegetarian) available.
- Book your table of 10 before they all go and choose your preferred table circus theme - animals, clowns, acrobats, hot dogs etc.

A big thank you to our Gold sponsors at Ray White, Silver sponsors at St Johns Butchery and our Bronze sponsors at Coimex.

Silent & Live  
Auctions

Cash Bar & Eftpos  
available

BOOK YOUR TABLE OF 10 NOW!

Email:  
[stthomasschoolpta@gmail.com](mailto:stthomasschoolpta@gmail.com)

Table of 10 costs \$500 or \$50pp





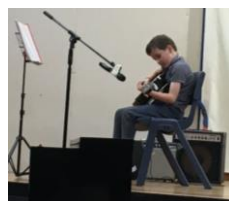
## Musical Showcase

Thank you to all the students who performed at the Musical Showcase last week in the School Hall. What a talented group we have at St Thomas's. A big thank you too, to the parents who helped provide a fun, positive and inclusive environment for our brave students.

## School Disco

What a fabulous turnout at the 70's school Disco last Friday. Both the Junior & Senior Disco's were a hit! There were some amazing costumes and lots of dancing.

We had such a wonderful response from parents offering to help. Please accept our apologies to those we hadn't replied to as we simply ran out of time getting back to everyone. Thank you to all the parents that helped on the night along with the yrs. 7 & 8 students. A special thanks to the yr. 6 students who worked for weeks on the decorations and setting up the School hall on the night. You all put in so much work and created a super fun evening. We raised close to 10K on the night! Well done St Thomas's School! We're getting closer to that basketball court.



## WATCH OUT FOR UPCOMING EVENTS IN TERM 3:

- Calendar Art Orders – Extended to Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> August
- Family Photo Day – Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> August (This Sunday) Meet outside to school library, 5mins before your session
- School Production – 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> September
- Quiz Night – Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> September, 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