

Aumāngā / Resilience

Whakāute / Respect

Takohanga / Responsibility

25 August 2023

Principal's Message

Property Update

Planning for the upgrade to the front of our school is well underway and tender documents went out this week (see attached plans). As well as modifying some of the stainless steel handrails to make them less of a hazard, a low retaining wall will be constructed on the left side of the entrance steps. More importantly for the wellbeing of our students, will be the installation of rain shelters on the right side of the pedestrian entrance. Students will be able to remain dry when waiting for their parents in the afternoon and when leaving school for class trips.

Basketball Courts

Fundraising is progressing well and we have approximately \$130,000 raised so far with the expectation of hitting the magic number of \$200,000 by the end of this year. Money raised from all the great work the PTA carry out goes towards this project so please support their activities any way you can.

Field Closure

Our fields have been closed for most of this term due to the high level of saturation from all the rain. Speaking to Principal colleagues across Auckland, many have faced the same issue and even those who had carried out remedial work on their fields still had to close them. With Spring just about here we look forward to getting our students back out on the fields with dryer weather.

Spur Winged Plover

We have a return visitor to our site with a spur winger plover setting up a nesting site on the field. Some of our enviro students have ring fenced the nesting site with orange netting to minimise balls, lawnmowers or students accidentally breaking the eggs. As part of our environmental science focus it is important to harness any opportunity we have on our school site to stimulate conversations and learning about New Zealand wildlife and conservation. Many students have a keen interest in the life of this plover.



Michael Maher
Principal



Congratulations to all our teams who took part in the Bay Suburbs and Eastern Zone Cross Country Event on Monday!

Upcoming Events August

- 31 Year 3 Trip to Botanical Gardens
- 31 Out of Zone Open Morning 9.15am – 10.15am

September

- 01 Corban Art Trip (Y4) - M4HA&M4RO
- 05 Bay Suburbs Basketball (Y5 & Y6)
- 08 Museum Trip (Y6)
- 08 Corban Art Trip (Y4) - M5RI&M5PU
- 08 William Pike Challenge Trip to Duder Regional Park (Y7)
- 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)
- 16 PTA Quiz night 6.30pm (school hall)
- 19 Board of Trustees Meeting (6.30pm Staffroom)
- 21 Immunisation Catchups (Y7 & Y8)
- 22 Showcase of Learning 9.00am
- 22 Formal Assembly 11.45am – 12.30pm
- 22 Last Day of Term 3



ALLUM STREET ENTRANCE - ELEVATION (ENLARGEMENT)
SCALE 1:100

Guidance on Winter Illness and Children's Attendance at School

- Healthy young children can have up to 8 to 12 colds or upper respiratory tract infections each year and these are a normal part of childhood.
- With a rise in seasonal colds, flu and other respiratory infections already occurring in our communities, use this guidance to assist with decisions about children's attendance at early learning services and schools when they are, or have been unwell:
 - A child should stay at home if they appear unwell or they develop one or more of these symptoms: new onset of a runny nose, sore throat, cough, fever, vomiting, diarrhoea, rash, they are off their food and drink or show signs of feeling miserable.
 - If a child becomes increasingly unwell and/or you are concerned about their health, call your GP or Healthline on 0800 611 116 for medical advice. A child who is refusing to drink anything is likely to be very unwell.
 - If an in-person appointment is required for a child, follow your GP's processes which will include having everyone who can practically and safely wear a mask to put one on.
 - If you or a child you are caring for develops difficulty breathing, severe chest pain, fainting or becomes unconscious, call 111 immediately.
 - For accurate and reliable information on how to manage colds and flus visit KidsHealth and Health Navigator

Please, if your child is unwell keep them home, as otherwise it puts other children and their families at risk as well as our teachers. Relieving teachers are very scarce.

Year 2 Trip to Sealife Kelly Tarlton's Aquarium

The Year 2s had a wonderful time visiting the aquarium to learn about ocean animals.



"I thought it was really fun. I liked seeing the penguins." – Noah J7

"I learnt that stingrays could sting." – McKenna J6

"The shark's mouth was big, and the teeth were spikey" – Aiden J2

"I learnt about habitats, and I liked the turtle." – Piper J2

"I saw a sea dragon which I had never seen before." – Amber J5

"I learnt a sea star can grow an arm if it loses one and some can grow a new body." – Valentin J8



Year 3 Cross Country

Our Year 3 students participated in the Cross Country event on Friday 11 August. We noted the first 10 students to finish, and these fast runners received a certificate. Absent from the photo shoot was Valentina who came 1st in the Girl's Cross Country Race and Caige who came 9th in the Boy's Cross Country Race.



Cross Country Year 4 - 8

This week the Bay Suburbs and Eastern Zone Cross Country events took place at Churchill Park. The weather was extremely wet, muddy and windy but all the students who attended showed resilience and pushed through these weather conditions. Well done to all the students who attended the event, each and everyone of you should be extremely proud of yourselves. Thank you to the parent helpers who also came along to support us.

Here is the list of students who placed in the top 10 of the event.

Year 4 boys placings

Nate Van Rij 4th
Archie McGregor 5th

Year 5 girls placings

Sofia Clayton 2nd
Mackenzie Lim 5th
Georgia Mehrtens 7th

Year 5 boys placings

Afridi Nathan 10th

Year 6 boys placings

Axel Farr 6th

Year 7 girls placings

Kirstin Damkat 10th place

Congratulations to all the students.

Year 5 Trip to Sky Tower

We took the bus into the city to the Sky Tower. We made a line in our groups and Miss King's group went first up the elevator. When it was my turn up the elevator, we found out that it takes 40 seconds to get to the top. When we got to the top, there was a big 360 degree glass view and some people leant over the glass wall. In front of a glass wall there was a glass platform. - *Axel M6NA*

When we got to the Sky Tower, there was a scary elevator that had a window and a view of the whole city. There was a piece of glass that you could walk on. The glass was 38mm thick so you could walk on it and see a beautiful view of the whole city so I guess you could say people were walking on glass, without cracking it. - *Tui M6KI*

The Sky Tower trip was so cool and the view was amazing. It had everything! We were all so excited we could jump up and down! We all had groups with about 7 to 8 people in them. I had a lovely helper she was so nice. After we all found our groups, we went off to the bus outside the gates. When we arrived, we got checked in then we had to go up this big glass elevator. It took about 40 seconds to get to the top and back down again, on the way up it felt over 1 minute and on the way down it felt like 20 seconds! When we got up we all separated into our groups and did a workbook. - *Mackenzie M6NA*




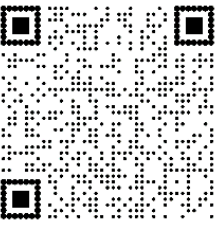

Year 6 Trip to Bastion Point



On Tuesday the 15 August Year 6 went on a school trip to Bastion Point for our New Zealand History topic. We were lucky enough to have met with Celess Hawke who is the great niece of Joe Hawke and was a part of the Bastion Point protest. She spoke to us about being in the protest and what it was like to live on the land. She offered another perspective on this event and we had a wonderful time.



Respect Week

 <p>Rubbish clean up</p>	<p>Scan me:</p>  <p>Year 4 respect video</p>	 <p>By Harper (M2LU)</p>
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Year 5 students loved making posters on canvas and writing acrostic poems for Respect Week. We also focused on how we show respect to the environment, to others and to ourselves.

Year 6 students made respect cards for people who we respect that deserved extra respect e.g: Glen, office ladies, firefighters, op shop workers, bus drivers etc. These have been getting delivered throughout the week to the different people.

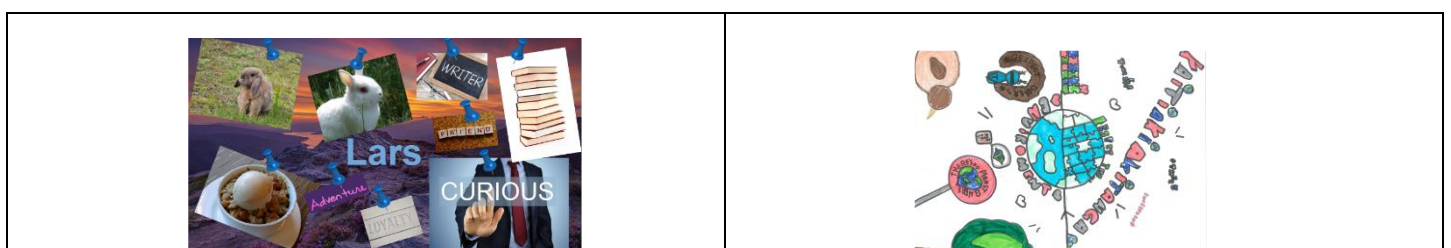
Year 7 students did plays, rubbish clean ups and collaborative art. We also created digital vision boards to celebrate ourselves as part of respect to self.

Year 8 students began Respect Week with an activity called four corners. For each question students stood in the corner of the classroom that showed their beliefs about respect. Students discussed different definitions of respect and completed an activity about what respect looks like, sounds like, and feels like within St Thomas's and within the community. Students further participated in discussions about who we give our respect to and how we decide whether or not to give someone our respect (e.g. age, intelligence.) Other activities included deciding whether certain examples of things people do are either rude or respectful.

The puzzle activity involved students putting together a puzzle which correctly described different ways to show respect in different situations.

 <p>Is it rude or is it respectful?</p>	 <p>Four corners game</p>	 <p>Respect puzzle</p>
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Around the school a small group of Year 8 students formed a respect team. They created chalk messages around the school, outside classroom doors, on the playground as well as at the school gate during Respect Week.



Year 7 and 8 Speech Finals

Congratulations to the following students: Liam, Yuna, Tavish, Lia, Skyla G, Nico, McQuade, Emma, Skyla H, Timothy T, Vianna and Zak who presented their prepared speech at St Thomas's Speech finals on Thursday 17 August. This year's theme was Kaitiakitanga which means Guardianship and Protection. Congratulations to the following students:

1st place - Zak: Protecting the teaching of history

2nd place - Lia: Why we should take guardianship of a foster dog

3rd place - Yuna: Why we should protect Te reo Maori

Zak will go on to represent St Thomas' at the 2023 HPPA Rehu Tai/Speech competition on Tuesday 29 August at Kohimarama School.

A special mention to James from Year 7 who entertained the audience with his speech on Currency whilst the judges had time to deliberate on the winning speech.



Speech winners



Year 7 and 8 Mathex

Face-paced Maths at its finest!

Mathex is a challenging Maths contest where schools from across Auckland compete against each other in teams to answer 20 questions as quickly as possible within 30 minutes. Last night (Thursday 24 August) the atmosphere at the Barfoot and Thompson Stadium was energetic! Upon completing a question, the team's 'runner' literally sprints to the judging table and waits for the 'thumbs up' for a correct answer. If the answer is incorrect, the runner frantically makes their way back to the team who has another chance to resolve the question. If the question is correct, the runner brings back the next question to the team..... then runs the answer back to the judges. It was a fun, frantic event, and our teams put in amazing efforts.

Congratulations to:

Year 7

Team A: Chloe, Kirstin, Ethan, Vernoika (runner) Scored 70%

Team B: Senuki, Alex, Tavish, Aryan (runner) Scores 70%

Year 8

Team A: Zak, Linda, Micah, Fumika (runner). Scored 80%

Team B: Asher, Bonnie, Timothy, Kaito (runner) Scored 65%



Forensic Science programme



This term, selected students from Years 3 - 8 are participating in a Forensic Science programme. Students will foster their science capabilities of gathering and interpreting data and critiquing evidence and develop an understanding of what is involved in the field of Forensic Science through hands-on evaluation of evidence found at a 'crime scene'. See our photos from last week's lesson where we learnt about DNA and conducted a science experiment to extract DNA from strawberries (the white substance rising to the top of the glass).





PTA Presents our
Annual QUIZ Night

A NIGHT AT THE CIRCUS

Brought to you by our friends from Ray White



COIMEX

Saturday 16th 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

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





PTA News

Issue #12 2023

Family Photo Day

Thank you to all the families who supported us in the Family Photo Day a couple of weeks back. All photos should have been picked up at the allocated times last Wednesday and we hope you are all happy with them. We raised \$555 for the school fundraiser. What a fab result!



Quiz Night – Saturday 16th September

Don't miss out! Book your table of 10 and choose your circus theme. If you can't get a table together, we can organise one for you. It's a great night out with nibbles, a cash bar & eftpos available, so get that babysitter sorted and come and have some fun. \$500 for a table of 10 or \$50 per person. Email your booking with us **NOW** at stthomasschoolpta@gmail.com



Calling all Parents/Business Owners

The St Thomas's PTA are looking for donations for our circus theme Quiz Night on Saturday 16th September. We are after ANY products and/or services of ANY value to be auctioned off in the silent and live auctions on the night.

All proceeds will go towards our full-size Basketball Court fundraising goal this year. If you can support us by providing any donation, please contact the PTA directly at stthomasschoolpta@gmail.com

Thank you for considering this and we look forward to hearing from you!



Watch out for up-coming events in Term 3:

- 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 6th September, 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