

Aumāngā / Resilience

Whakāute / Respect

Takohanga / Responsibility

22 September 2023

## Principal's Message

As we bring Term 3 to a close with glorious sunshine. I would like to thank our PTA parents for the huge amount of work which they put into our latest fundraiser. The School Quiz Night was an outstanding effort and much appreciated. This week was a good reminder as to the need to wear hats with more sunshine finally here. Please send your child back to school with a hat that has their name clearly written on it. We look forward to seeing everyone in term 4.



**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.

## Production – Bumps in the Night

Production was an amazing experience throughout Term 2 and 3. When we first were cast in our roles following the auditions, we didn't know what to expect. It was a slow start, but after a while we started to get used to it. We spent countless weeks preparing for the big shows at Selwyn Theatre, and bit by bit we grew into it. Before we knew it, it was showtime. Over 150 students participated in the production and the atmosphere backstage was exciting! Whether we were waiting on the side, or on stage performing, every bit of the 3 shows was enjoyable. It was the most incredible feeling performing in front of a live audience and all three shows were sold out! Despite being skeptical at first, it was something we all grew to love. We met new people, learnt new things, and will remember The Bumps in The Night production for many years to come.

*Written by Zak Suppiah, Franklin Morrison and Emma Stevens*



Thank you to all the staff, parents and students who worked so tirelessly to produce such a professional production.

Special thanks to Miriam Gwyn and Alex Titchener.

### Upcoming Events

#### October

- 09 First Day of Term 4
- 12 Year 5 Trip to Maritime Museum (S7&S8)
- 13 Year 5 Trip to Maritime Museum (M6)
- 16 Out of Zone Ballot closes
- 18 Out of Zone Ballot
- 18 Year 8 Glendowie College Testing Day
- 19 Eastern Zone Volleyball (Y7&8)
- 19 Kohimarama Beach Trip (Y6)
- 20 Teacher Only Day (School closed)
- 23 Labour Day Holiday
- 24 Board of Trustees Meeting  
(6.30pm Staffroom)
- 25 Blake organisation VR visit (Y5)
- 26 Trip to Youthtown (S1)
- 27 Trip to Youthtown (S2)
- 27 Junior Assembly (M1 hosting)  
9.45am – 10.30am (school hall)
- Senior Assembly (S7&S8 hosting)  
11.45am – 12.30pm (school hall)
- 31 Y5&7 Road Patrol Training (for 2024)

#### November

- 01 Y7&8 Immunisations
- 02 ESOL Market Day
- 02 Trip to Youthtown (S2)
- 03 Trip to Youthtown (S1)
- 07 Eastern Zone Touch (Y7&8)
- 07 Athletics Day (Y5&6)
- 09 Athletics Day (Y7&8)

## Bumps in the Night – Production Photos



## Year 6 Museum Trip

On Friday 8 September the Year 6 students went on a school trip to the Auckland Museum. We were lucky enough to be involved in a Volcanoes Workshop led by the Auckland Museum guides which linked to our topic this term of natural disasters.



## Chess Club

St Thomas's School Championships results:

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Yoyo Liao	Year 3
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Reddington Chen	Year 3
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Daniel Doustani	Year 2

Congratulations and well done!



## AIMS Games – STS Waterpolo Team & Swimming

The STS Waterpolo team had a wonderful time down at Tauranga and our students represented the school with pride and great sportsmanship. It was the biggest AIMS games to date and such a special event that it will no doubt be a fantastic memory for life for all involved!

### Final results wrap up

Waterpolo:

The STS team finished in 13th place out of 26 schools with a fantastic 4-0 win to finish. Finishing in the top half of all teams is a fantastic achievement. The team had a lot of new players this year and were up against some very strong (and big!) intermediate schools. St Thomas's School was the top performing primary/intermediate combined school. The team had a couple of tough games but a number of wins and close results meant a rewarding tournament for the team.



4 players were nominated for the Mercury Good Sports Awards by their coach: Skyla, Carlo, Aryan and Theo

Aims medal for most improved and determination: Carlo

Team spirit: Skyla

Most valuable player: Theo

### Swimming:

Theo participated in the 3-day swim meet with over 400 swimmers from around New Zealand - it was an amazing experience with some very impressive swimmers on display.

Theo achieved 6 personal bests at the meet plus received 3 x Finalist ribbons for placing top 10 at Aims in the 200 freestyle, 200 individual medley and the 100 backstroke.

He had a great time, wore his STS swimming cap with pride, and was amazing for him to experience it.

### Thanks

Thanks to Nicola Matthews who led all of the organisation and administration for the team enabling them to attend the tournament.

A special thanks to the team's amazing coach, ex-pupil Lily Baldwin, who was on hand all week to help the team work on their game. Some massive improvements were seen, especially in the newer players. Lily was also really focussed on making the whole event special for the team as she had great memories from her time at AIMS with St Thomas's School.

Also thanks to Nicole and Mark Willson who were house mum and dad and van driver for the kids, and to Janine Baldwin for being on hand between her work commitments to help and take all of the team up the Mount!



## EPro8 Challenge



St Thomas's has had a very successful EPro8 season with all qualifying teams representing the school superbly. Recently we had a Year 6 team (Japri, Mason, Angus, and Yutaro) and a Year 8 team (Bent, Nico, Emma, and Fumika) represent the school in the Auckland semi-finals, with the Year 8 team going through to the Auckland Final competition. Congratulations to the Year 8 STS Red Joiners team for a stellar effort. They placed fifth out of the best 12 teams in Auckland!



## William Pike Challenge Trip

On Friday 8 September, the William Pike Challenge students went to Duder Regional Park for an outdoor activity. We left school at 9 am and arrived at the carpark an hour later. We started our journey to climb the massive hillside. We stopped at a few spots to take pictures and have some water. Halfway into our day, we stopped at a pā site to have our lunch. There was a great view of the ocean and our surroundings. Throughout the adventure we saw many different animals such as cows, sheep, pūkeko and piwakawaka. A farm adventure is not complete without stepping in animal poop...as we left the walk, most of The Pikelets (our teachers' nickname for Students who take on the William Pike Challenge) had stepped in a pile of poop. We can all agree that the trip was fun, and we all enjoyed ourselves.

*By Christian and Senuki - Year 7*



## Environmental Science

After learning about climate change mitigation this term, last Friday a group of Year 7 and 8 students walked through Kepa Bush to Pourewa Creek to plant about 150 carex grasses along the creek bank. Planting carex along Pourewa Creek reduces climate impacts as the plants absorb the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide. It is also an action to adapt to climate change by adding inanga (whitebait) habitat upstream of its current location to futureproof this taonga from future sea level rise. We all got very muddy, but it was fun – and we feel good that we have made a small difference to our local environment!



## Junior Assembly

Last week J13 and J14 hosted the junior assembly. We sang some waiata and performed a poi item to celebrate Te Wiki o te Reo Maori – Maori Language Week.

We created our own kowhaiwhai pattern headbands to wear for our performances. It was so exciting to be up on stage and share our hard work with all the parents and classes. We hope you enjoyed our assembly!



(The children loved learning to use the poi and doing the actions for the Taniwha song)



## Te Wiki o te Reo Māori

Last week was Te Wiki o te Reo Māori (Māori Language Week). This was celebrated at St Thomas's School by students participating in a daily waiata, activity and learning a new phrase of the day such as tu meke and aroha mai. Students earned house points by saying the phrase of the day.

Students across our school also took part in the Māori Language Moment which happened at 12pm on Thursday last week. Students sang waiata, created art, performed haka and played games such as Ki o Rahi to mark the occasion. The Māori Language Moment is a nationwide event celebrating the very moment the Māori Language Petition was presented to Parliament in 1972, on the first Māori Language Day.

I really enjoyed the games we played each morning and singing new waiata as a class. Hi Hi Ha was really funny and hard to play! - *Noelle M3*

I liked doing the haka that the Year 7s learnt. We practised each morning and performed it during the Māori Language Moment on Thursday - *Joshua Year 7*

I enjoyed the Māori rainbow activity - *Dayan Year 4*

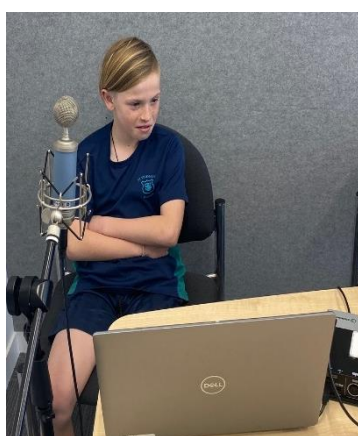
It was tu meke! - *Tashu Year 8*

We did collaborative art that says "Te Wiki o te Reo Māori" and displayed this in our classroom. - *Sajidah Year 7*

This week has been fun as we got to say more Māori words such as kia ora to the teacher and this week made me feel happy. - *Oscar Year 4*

### Phrase of the day

Tu meke to [McQuade](#), [Hunter](#), [Mabel](#), [Micah](#), and [Alice](#) who were part of our phrase of the day team. These students recorded the daily te reo Māori phrases that were played over our school speaker system each morning. **Click on the student's names to listen to their recordings.**



## Te Wiki o te Reo Māori – Year 3



For the Māori Language Moment, Year 3's gathered outside to collectively sing waiata learnt throughout Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori. Children also worked together to create chalk art. Thank you to the Year 7 students for making us a fantastic Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori sign!

Our beautiful singing was noticed by students in other year levels, who snuck outside class for a peak and to give us a supportive pakipaki! Tu meke!

## Eastern Zone Year 5 and 6 Hockey Tournament

On Tuesday 19 September three teams, 28 Year 5 and 6 students participated in the Eastern Bays Hockey Tournament at Lloyd Elmore Park in Pakuranga. The Green team played in the competitive competition and the blue and red teams played in the development grade. The competition was seven a-side and with each game players improved their stick skills, passing, and teamwork. It was a fun day out in the sunshine.

A huge thank you to Year 8 student, Isaac, for encouraging his team and coaching them each game.



### Final results

Green Team: 2nd

Red Team: 3rd

Blue Team: 7th

The Green Team placed 2nd in the tournament.

The Red team placed 3rd in the development grade.





## PB4L

On Tuesday 19 September the whole school celebrated earning another 100,000 house points. Students chose from a selection of fun activities to do for the middle block, including pickle ball, arts and crafts, movies, construction and more!

"I went to geometric art and created a beautiful piece of circle artwork with different shades. We used heaps of different colours and it took a long time to colour in but was really fun." *Alice and Clara M3.*

"We went to the Construction Club activity - it was so fun working with our friends. We made a drive-through restaurant, a playground, a supply truck with food in it, and a castle with trees." *Adam and Bodhi M3.*

"We watched a movie about the importance of taking care of our environment properly, especially our oceans. We learned that you shouldn't catch too many fish or eat shark fin soup." *Lottie and Noelle M3*

"It was fun learning how to sketch, with an actual sketching pencil." *Tyson J7*

"I thought it was quite fun, learning how to draw a person's eyelashes." *Noah J7*

"This was the most fun rewards block ever!" *Ryan M6NA*

"On Tuesday for our PB4L block I chose movie and popcorn. When we were there we got to choose two options for a movie. We voted together and chose high school musical. The movie was entertaining and had lots of cool songs in it. 5 minutes later we got popcorn which was buttery and salty. Towards the end of the movie we got popcorn seconds! I enjoyed the PB4L block." *Shelly S11*

"I chose pickleball for the PB4L block. When we played the sun was shining and it felt like Summer. For the game you need 4 players, a net, a racket and a pickle ball. The aim of the game is to hit the ball to the other side of the net. If you hit the ball and if someone misses the ball then that is a strike. If you get 2 or 3 strikes you are out and someone else comes in. I enjoyed the block a lot." *Sora S12*





## Fundraiser Quiz Night

What an amazing effort from our teachers & parents in making this year's circus themed Quiz Night another fantastic night out. Thank you all so much for your support.

There were some fabulous costumes, great entertainment from our MC - Sam Franks, excellent tunes from DJ Fetu, and a buffet table keeping everyone well fed throughout the evening.

Thank you all for making the effort to in helping us raise funds for our school.



## Watch out for up-coming events in Term 4:

- Secondhand Uniform Sales
- Colour Run
- Cookie Time cookies
- Christmas Hams & Turkeys



## 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 11<sup>th</sup> October, 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!



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