

Aumāngā / Resilience

Whakāute / Respect

Takohanga / Responsibility

08 March 2024

Principal's Message

Welcome to our new families who have recently joined St Thomas's School.

No dogs on school grounds

Recently we have had an increase in the number of dogs entering the school grounds with their owners, and leaving dog faeces on the playing field, concrete areas and sandpit areas. Our cameras have videoed owners watching their dogs doing this, but then walking off, leaving our students to find this on Monday morning. Our Property Manager spends his time going around the school site scooping up dog poo. We are looking at increasing the number of cameras on the school grounds and we will keep the school gates closed for the next two weekends as we identify ways of preventing this unhygienic behaviour.

Bees in School

Our Enviro Team are investigating hosting a hive of bees on the school grounds with the aim of teaching our students about bee keeping, honey gathering and the importance of bees in our environment. Bees are generally staying in their hives over winter and only reemerge when the warm weather returns in the summer.

Dance Curriculum.

This week we had a dance instructor work with all our year levels, teaching our students various dance moves. We had an overwhelmingly positive response from our students, and we are planning to have this instructor back for a longer period in Term 3 with the aim of putting on a school dance performance.

Garden to Table Programme

To further develop our new garden area as part of our Garden to Table Programme, we would be grateful to receive any large unwanted garden pots (50 litres or larger). Please contact Alison Snell at asnell@stthomas.school.nz if you have something you would like to donate. Thank you.

Michael Maher
Principal



To all the family members and teachers who helped at our Year 6 camp this term – thank you!

Upcoming Dates

March

- 13 Eastern Zone Swimming
- 15 Bay Suburbs Swimming
- 19 Board of Trustees Meeting (6.30pm staffroom)
- 20 Bay Suburbs Softball
- 21 Footsteps PE Programme
- 22 Y7 Youthtown Trip (Group 1)
- 25 Eastern Zone and Bay Suburbs Orienteering
- 26 Bay Suburbs Swimming
- 27 Y7 Youthtown Trip (Group 2)
- 28 Junior Assembly (M3 hosting) 9.45am – 10.30am (school hall)
Senior Assembly (S7&S8 hosting) 11.45am – 12.30pm (school hall)
- 28 Last Day before Easter Holiday

April

- 02 School closed for Easter Holiday
- 03 School reopens after Easter
- 04 Y1 Trip to Botanical Gardens J9, J10 & J12
- 05 Y1 Trip to Botanical Gardens J12, J13 & J14
- 11 Pizza Lunch / Mufti Day
- 11 Student Led Learning Conferences
- 12 Junior Formal Assembly 10.00am – 10.30am (school hall)
Senior Formal Assembly 12.00pm – 12.30pm (school hall)

Year 7 & 8 Field Trip to Auckland's Botanic Gardens

Year 7 & 8 students visited the Botanic Gardens as part of their Environmental Science learning programme on Papatūānuku: The Land. This term's focus is on plants and how the flora of Papatūānuku has changed in Tāmaki over time.

Students undertook a variety of activities through the Auckland Council Education Programme which allowed them to explore the four major habitats – desert, jungle, bog and meadow. Through these sessions students gained an understanding of the amazing adaptations plants develop to survive in different environments, discovered the different methods of seed dispersal and planted their own succulent plant.

Students also completed a self-guided plant identification trail in the forest which provided many insights into discovering some secrets of New Zealand's native plants.

What the students had to say about the trip:

"My favourite part was the self-guided trail. I really like the Rimu tree and learned Captain Cook made beer from the Rimu leaves to make a beer for his sailors" *Cicilia S2*

"I loved planting the succulents. We planted a 'money' plant for our class and I planted 'Shrek Ears' to take home" *Finn - S3*

"There were many plants from different environments that had unique adaptations" - *Eli S6*



Penrose Tiles

On Wednesday 28 February, as part of our Mathematics Geometry Learning Programme, Year 7 & 8 students participated in a group session run by Nicolette from the Department of Mathematics at The University of Auckland. The session involved investigating 'Penrose Tiling' which has no translational symmetry. Using just two shapes (a kite and a dart), students explored the different ways these shapes could be assembled to make different patterns within the Penrose Tiling. This hands-on activity provided a fun and engaging way of looking at different patterns that occurred in a collaborative way.



Year 6 Camp

In Week 4, Year 6 went to Camp Carey for 3 days and 2 nights. Camp was a thrilling adventure, fostering teamwork, resilience, and unforgettable memories among students, parents and teachers. From conquering the rock climbing wall to bonding around the campfire with marshmallows, every moment was filled with laughter and learning.

Campfire Haiku

Roasting marshmallows,
Over a crackling fire.
Big shrubs surrounding.

By *Henry Keh* S12



Camp Recount

Our first activity in group 6 was the flying fox. I was so nervous, then all of a sudden it was my turn. After seeing everyone else go I decided to finally be brave and take my turn. One of the parents helped me put on my harness. Once I put on my helmet, I made my way slowly up the steep steps. The camp instructor helped me put the hook on. I felt the breeze rush through me. There was another parent waiting at the bottom and then pulled me onto the ladder. Thank goodness!

By *Aaliya Hussain* S11



The Hard Wall

Hard wall waits
Standing up high
Waiting for children
Scrunched harness lying on the cold hard damp floor
Destroyed helmets dangling from the wall
Tight ropes fall from the tall ceiling
Blindfolds create pitch dark when you wear them.

By *Asifa Sayed* S10

We would like to thank all the parents that came along to camp to help us and make this experience possible for us. We loved Camp Carey!



Auckland Schools Orienteering Sprint Series Results

Congratulations to the following students who competed in the following Central Zone Orienteering events.

Wednesday 28 February – Epsom Girls Grammar

Year 8 Boys: Joshua White - 2nd, Lars Wivell - 6th

Year 7 Boys: Dante Salinger - 6th, Luke White - 13th

Wednesday 6 March – Mt Roskill Grammar

Year 8 Boys: Joshua White - 5th, Liam Gallagher - 7th, Christian Colebourne - 8th, Lars Wivell - 9th

Year 7 Boys: Dante Salinger 8th, Luke White 9th, Yuzuru Kimura 10th, Jack Gallagher (Mispunch)

2024 Cultural Leaders

Hi, my name is Cicilia Liu, I am 12 years old, and I am your 2024 cultural leader. I am really excited to do a lot of fun cultural activities with you guys. My hobbies are dancing and playing badminton.

I am from China. I love trying new things that are fun because a cultural leader is a new leader that hasn't been done before, so I wish that in 2024 I can be a fun and good cultural leader.



Cicilia Liu



Stella O'Brien

Hi there! My names Stella, this year I'm one of your cultural leaders for 2024. I'm so excited to be a leader this year and to be doing so many fun things to do with all cultures around the world! I'm really looking forward to helping out this year!

Hi, I'm Aisha! I am one of your cultural leaders for 2024. I enjoy dancing and being with my family and friends.



Aisha Deendost

St Thomas's School Uniform Policy

St Thomas's School has a compulsory school uniform. All students are required to wear the complete St Thomas's uniform. All compulsory uniform items have the St Thomas's logo and as such these items must be purchased through the online Uniform Shop. Details about this can be obtained from the office.

Uniform Guidelines

The Board of Trustees has the responsibility for setting the uniform code and making changes as required.

- All students are required to follow the school's uniform dress code.
- The Principal has the authority to sanction, in individual cases, variations from the code for genuine reasons such as medical issues or religious beliefs.
- In cases of hardship, families may pay off their uniforms over time. Such an arrangement will be made at the Principal's discretion.
- Students who do not comply with the code, at the Principal's discretion, become subject to the school's disciplinary procedures. Before doing so, the Principal shall consult with the parent or caregiver of non-complying students to establish whether there is a valid reason for non-compliance.
- In setting the uniform code, or making any changes to it, the Board of Trustees has regard for:
 - Equity, practicality, affordability, health and safety, quality, availability.
 - Consulting with the school community over any proposed changes to the code.
- The Principal is responsible for:
 - Approving individual departures from the code in exceptional circumstances.
 - Ensuring compliance with the uniform code by students.
 - Making recommendations to the Board of Trustees of where changes to the code may be required.

Uniform Dress Code

Year	Summer	Winter	All Students
0-4	Short Sleeve T-Shirt School Hat (compulsory for Terms 1 & 4)	Long Sleeve T-Shirt Polycotton Sweat or Polar Fleece	Culottes or Shorts Track Pants (optional) Plain Navy only. Not available from Argyle (can be purchased anywhere)
5-6	Short Sleeve T-Shirt PE Uniform School Hat (compulsory for Terms 1 & 4)	Long Sleeve T-Shirt Polycotton Sweat or Polar Fleece PE Uniform	Culottes or Shorts Track Pants (optional) Plain Navy only. Not available from Argyle (can be purchased anywhere)
7-8	Senior Shirt PE Uniform School Hat (compulsory for Terms 1 & 4)	Undershirt (optional) Polycotton Sweat or Polar Fleece PE Uniform	Track Pants (optional) Plain Navy only. Not available from Argyle (can be purchased anywhere)

Footwear: Plain school shoes (black, brown or navy) or sports trainers may be worn.

No jandals, crocs, or fashion shoes are allowed for health and safety reasons.

Socks and Tights: Plain white, navy or black ankle or knee-high socks. Navy or black tights.

No patterns or bright colours.

Headgear: St Thomas's School Bucket Hat. **No caps, scarves and bandannas.** The Principal must approve headwear worn for religious/cultural reasons (dark navy where possible).

Jewellery: Necklaces of cultural or religious significance are permitted but must be worn under the school t-shirt. Watches, plain stud earrings and small hoop earrings may be worn.

No other jewellery is permitted. Anything that is worn under the uniform, that is seen, is to be navy.

Walking School Bus at St Thomas's



The Walking School Bus (WSB) is a way for children to walk to and from school supervised by adults. The benefits of the programme are many – exercise and social interactions for the students, less stress for parents in driving and parking at school, and less cars on the road for the local community.

The WSB relies on parent volunteers to walk a route to school – this can be as little as once a week depending on what suits you. Support and resources are provided by Auckland Transport. The more parents that get involved, the more frequently the WSB can operate. Currently we have two WSB routes, one that walks down from St Johns, picks up children who have been dropped off at Sunhill, and a new route departing opposite Tarawera Tce and walking up Allum St to school.



If you are interested in contributing to these routes, or perhaps starting a route from another direction, or simply want to enquire with no strings attached, please email Alison Snell at asnell@stthomas.school.nz.

Adaptive Football: Football for all Abilities

St Thomas's School is associated with Eastern Suburbs Association Football Club (AFC) and would like to endorse this incredible resource in our community. Please read the following and click [here](#) for more information.

We are excited to announce that thanks to Northern Region Football, the Halberg Foundation, and Aktive Auckland, Eastern Suburbs AFC have the privilege of starting an Adaptive Football Programme for those experiencing a disability but keen to give football a go.

Following a successful 2023 season we are back for 2024, starting off with free training sessions in Term 1!



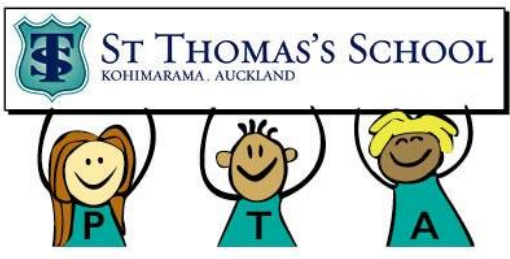
2024 Swimming Sports Final Results

Year 5&6 Placings

Year 7&8 Placings (EZ Events)

Year 7&8 Placings (25m Events)

Year 5/6 Girls Individual Medley		Year 5/6 Boys Individual Medley		Year 7/8 Girls 100m Freestyle		Year 7/8 Boys 100m Freestyle		Year 7 Girls 25m Freestyle		Year 7 Boys 25m Freestyle	
1	Charlie Tyler	1	Ben Wheeler	1	Isla Baldwin	1	Theo Zonneveld	1	Tessa Prebble	1	Ryan Lim
2	Sofia Clayton	2	Nate Van Rij	2		2	Liam Gallagher	2	Selin Eser	2	Ethan Suppiah
3	Julia Rattenbury	3	Archie McGregor	3		3	James Nutton	3	Aila Duncan	3	Felix Zhang
Year 6 Girls 50m Freestyle		Year 6 Boys 50m Freestyle		Year 7 Girls 50m Freestyle		Year 7 Boys 50m Freestyle		Year 8 Girls 25m Freestyle		Year 8 Boys 25m Freestyle	
1	Madeleine Youd-Whittaker	1	Max Hawke	1	Jasmine Braun	1		1		1	
2	Georgia Mehrtons	2	Ashton Colebourne	2	Rudina Sejdiu	2		2		2	
3	Sofia Clayton	3	Eddie McBeth	3		3		3		3	
Year 5 Girls 25m Freestyle		Year 5 Boys 25m Freestyle		Year 8 Girls 50m Freestyle		Year 8 Boys 50m Freestyle		Year 7 Girls 25m Backstroke		Year 7 Boys 25m Backstroke	
1	Charlie Tyler	1	Nate Van Rij	1	Isla Baldwin	1	Theo Zonneveld	1		1	Ryan Lim
2	Georgia Martin	2	Ben Wheeler	2	Chloe Gonzalez	2	Christian Colebourne	2		2	Ethan Suppiah
3	Abbie Tait	3	Haruto Maruyama	3	Veronika Levanova	3	Liam Gallagher	3		3	Felix Zhang
Year 6 Girls 25m Freestyle		Year 6 Boys 25m Freestyle		Year 7 Girls 50m Backstroke		Year 7 Boys 50m Backstroke		Year 8 Girls 25m Backstroke		Year 8 Boys 25m Backstroke	
1	Sofia Clayton	1	Alexander Mckenna	1		1		1	Skyla Gray	1	
2	Madeleine Youd-Whittaker	2	Ashton Colebourne	2		2		2		2	
3	Georgia Mehrstens	3	Ethan Hammond	3		3		3		3	
Year 5 Girls 25m Backstroke		Year 5 Boys 25m Backstroke		Year 8 Girls 50m Backstroke		Year 8 Boys 50m Backstroke		Year 7 Girls 25m Breaststroke		Year 7 Boys 25m Breaststroke	
1	Charlie Tyler	1	Nate Van Rij	1	Isla Baldwin	1	Theo Zonneveld	1	Rudina Sejdiu	1	Ethan Suppiah
2	Abbie Tait	2	Louis Tolhurst	2	Veronika Levanova	2	Christian Colebourne	2	Jasmine Braun	2	Felix Zhang
3	Manon Jannin	3	Ben Wheeler	3		3	James Nutton	3		3	
Year 6 Girls 25m Backstroke		Year 6 Boys 25m Backstroke		Year 7 Girls 50m Breaststroke		Year 7 Boys 50m Breaststroke		Year 8 Girls 25m Breaststroke		Year 8 Boys 25m Breaststroke	
1	Madeleine Youd-Whittaker	1	Leonardo Simionato Soares	1		1		1		1	Carlo Basturkmen
2	Georgia Mehrstens	2	Ashton Colebourne	2		2		2		2	
3	Sofia Clayton	3	Eddie McBeth	3		3		3		3	
Year 5 Girls 25m Breaststroke		Year 5 Boys 25m Breaststroke		Year 8 Girls 50m Breaststroke		Year 8 Boys 50m Breaststroke		Year 7/8 Girls 25m Butterfly		Year 7/8 Boys 25m Butterfly	
1	Charlie Tyler	1		1	Isla Baldwin	1	Theo Zonneveld	1		1	Christian Colebourne
2	Abbie Tait	2		2	Chloe Gonzalez	2	Liam Gallagher	2		2	Felix Zhang
3	Manon Jannin	3		3		3	James Nutton	3		3	
Year 6 Girls 25m Breaststroke		Year 6 Boys 25m Breaststroke		Year 7/8 Girls 50m Butterfly		Year 7/8 Boys 50m Butterfly					
1	Mackenzie Lim	1	Tommy Chapman	1	Isla Baldwin	1	Theo Zonneveld				
2	Madeleine Youd-Whittaker	2	Max Hawke	2		2					
3	Georgia Mehrstens	3	Eddie McBeth	3		3					
Year 5/6 Girls 25m Butterfly		Year 5/6 Boys 25m Butterfly									
1	Charlie Tyler	1									
2	Sofia Clayton	2									
3	Julia Rattenbury	3									



PTA News

Issue #21 2024

Collect your Yummy Apple Stickers!

The yummy sticker sports gear promo is underway again!

Last year we earned \$649 worth of sports gear all by eating apples! Let's top that this year.

Participation is simple...Buy your yummy apples from participating New World, Pak 'n' Save and Four Square outlets, peel your yummy stickers, and stick them on a yummy sticker sheet. Once your sheet is complete send the sheet into school.

Print your collection sheet today,

[Sticker Collection Sheet \(yummyfruit.co.nz\)](http://yummyfruit.co.nz),

and keep it on your fridge. Alternatively, each classroom will have a yummy sticker chart!

Encourage your children to take the sticker off their apples from their lunchbox and put it on the sheet in their classroom. Let's see which class can get the most stickers!

In October we'll send them off to win our share of sports gear.



WATCH OUT FOR UPCOMING EVENTS IN TERM 1:

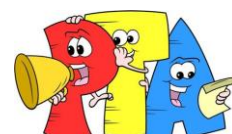
- **Ice Block Fridays** - every Friday (weather permitting) \$2 each or 3 for \$5. Under the tree by the office.



REMINDERS

- **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 2024? 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 **Wednesday 13th March.**

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



RIPPA RUGBY Fun Day



Calling all Future All Blacks & Black Ferns!!

Gather your school mates and register your team for a morning of fun and rugby at our Rippa Fun Day!

5-6 year old BOYS & GIRLS

RUN. PASS. RIP. SCORE... REPEAT!

No team? No worries! We'll help you form one or find you a spot on another. All ages and experience levels welcome!



Open to all! No experience needed, just bring your enthusiasm!!



Email: grammarjuniorsrugby@gmail.com to register your team or for more info.

**Sunday 17th March
8am - 9.30am
Shore Road Reserve**



LIONS CLUB



PRE SEASON TRAINING

FRIDAY NIGHTS FROM 4PM - 6PM

STARTING 8TH MARCH 2024

OPEN TO ALL GRADES

RIPPA & TACKLE

U6 - U13



4PM - 5PM - DRILLS, SKILLS & FITNESS

5-6PM - GAMES

6PM - 7PM - SAUSAGE SIZZLE

SHORE ROAD FIELDS

Bar open from 4-7pm

Please note barefoot only NO rugby Boots



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7:00 - 8:15 am	Bubble Painting & Structured Free Time	Who am I? & Structured Free Time	Mini Basketball & Structured Free Time	Board Games & Structured Free Time	Homemade Cookies & Structured Free Time
8:15 - 8:30 am	Game: Handball	Game: Football	Game: Fly Seagull Fly	Game: Line Tag	Game: Traffic Light
3:00 - 3:10 pm	Sign In & Free Time	Sign In & Free Time	Sign In & Free Time	Sign In & Free Time	Sign In & Free Time
3:10 - 3:30 pm	Intro & Afternoon Tea Corn Chips, Salsa & Fruit	Intro & Afternoon Tea Sammies & Fruit	Intro & Afternoon Tea Cheese Toasties & Fruit	Intro & Afternoon Tea Sammies & Fruit	Intro & Afternoon Tea Homemade Cookies & Fruit
3:30 - 3:45 pm	Game: Tap Ball	Game: Snowball Tag	Game: Stuck in the Mud	Game: Quick Fire Cricket	Game: Capture the Flag
SENIORS 3:45 - 4:30 pm	CRAFT Supporter Flags 	GAME Badminton 	DISCOVERY Soccer Field 	SPORT League 	COOKING Rugby Ball Biscuits 
JUNIORS 3:45 - 4:30 pm	SPORT League 	CRAFT Cheerleader Pom Poms 	GAME Balloon Tennis 	DISCOVERY Crystal Sports Medals 	COOKING Rugby Ball Biscuits 
4:30 - 4:40 pm	Tidy Up	Tidy Up	Tidy Up	Tidy Up	Tidy Up
4:40 - 5:15 pm	Playground	Playground	Playground	Playground	Playground
5:15 - 5:30 pm	Homework & Quiet Time	Homework & Quiet Time	Homework & Quiet Time	Homework & Quiet Time	Homework & Quiet Time
5:30 - 6:00 pm	Snack Time Popcorn	Snack Time Biscuits	Snack Time Crackers	Snack Time Vege Chips	Snack Time Baking

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7:00 - 8:15 am	Oobleck Slime & Structured Free Time	Lego Battle & Structured Free Time	Clay Animals & Structured Free Time	Origami & Structured Free Time	Homemade Muffins & Structured Free Time
8:15 - 8:30 am	Game: Chicken Tag	Game: Staff Choice	Game: Musical Statues	Game: Head It, Catch It	Game: Captains Coming
3:00 - 3:10 pm	Sign In & Free Time	Sign In & Free Time	Sign In & Free Time	Sign In & Free Time	Sign In & Free Time
3:10 - 3:30 pm	Intro & Afternoon Tea Noodles & Fruit	Intro & Afternoon Tea Sammies & Fruit	Intro & Afternoon Tea Tomato Pasta & Fruit	Intro & Afternoon Tea Sammies & Fruit	Intro & Afternoon Tea Homemade Muffins & Fruit
3:30 - 3:45 pm	Game: Zip Zap Boing	Game: Rainbow Rush	Game: Crab Football	Game: Tug Of War	Game: Jedi Dodgeball
SENIORS 3:45 - 4:30 pm	COOKING Goopy Spaghetti Pies	CRAFT Ooey Gooney Chalk	GAME Guess The Goo	DISCOVERY Goopy Slime Bubbles	SPORT Don't Step On The Mess
					
JUNIORS 3:45 - 4:30 pm	COOKING Goopy Spaghetti Pies	SPORT Don't Step On The Mess	CRAFT Sparkly Dinosaurs	GAME Guess The Goo	DISCOVERY Ocean Slime
					
4:30 - 4:40 pm	Tidy Up	Tidy Up	Tidy Up	Tidy Up	Tidy Up
4:40 - 5:15 pm	Playground	Playground	Playground	Playground	Playground
5:15- 5:30 pm	Homework & Quiet Time	Homework & Quiet Time	Homework & Quiet Time	Homework & Quiet Time	Homework & Quiet Time
5:30 - 6:00 pm	Snack Time Baking	Snack Time Raisins	Snack Time Muesli Bars	Snack Time Potato Sticks	Snack Time Corn Thins