

Aumāngā / Resilience

Whakāute / Respect

Takohanga / Responsibility

22 March 2024

Principal's Message

As you will see from the following photo, our artificial turf area is nearing completion. The contractors will work over the weekend to complete the last of the sand levelling and we expect the artificial turf company to be on site next week to install the turf. This is perfect timing before the winter arrives and will provide us with valuable all weather playing areas. We will keep the school grounds closed after school for the next 2 weeks and on the weekend as we have a lot of truck movements in and out of our school site.

Opening of new turf area and unveiling of school signage

We are installing a new St Thomas's School sign on our entrance stone wall on 5 April. Our Waiata group will be performing from 8:30am to 8:50am in front of school to celebrate this installation. Following that we will open the new astroturf area around 9:00am and our Kapa Haka group and Waiata group will also perform. We invite our parent community to join us for this exciting event.

Coffee and Hot Drinks will be available for the community to purchase from the coffee van which will be on site as part of the unveiling of the new entrance way and astro turf 😊

Small - \$4 for tea, long black or child's hot chocolate.

\$4.50 for coffee

Medium - \$5 per cup

Large - \$6 per cup



Michael Maher
Principal



Reminder New Zealand schools always have the Tuesday after Easter as a holiday.



Good luck to all our students competing in the Weetbix Tryathlon this Sunday.

Upcoming Dates

March

- 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)
- 29 Good Friday – School Closed

April

- 01-02 School closed for Easter Holiday
- 03 School reopens Wednesday after Easter
- 04 Y1 Trip to Botanical Gardens
J9, J10 & J11
- 05 Unveiling of the new entrance way and Astroturf
- 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)
- 12 Last Day Term 1
- 29 First day of Term 2

Out of Zone Ballot

We are holding a ballot to accept a small intake of Year 0 students. These are children who turn 5 after 1 May this year. If you have friends with children who turn 5 this year and who might be interested in attending St Thomas's School, then please let them know.

Applications open 22 March and close off date is 23 April. The ballot will be held on 30 April and applicants will be informed shortly afterwards. Application details are on our [website](#).

Litterless Lunchboxes

As part of our approach to being a sustainable school we encourage litterless lunches to be brought to school. Not only is this better for the wider environment, and a cheaper option than purchasing pre-packaged food, it also reduces the amount of litter in our school. Litterless lunches are lunches that do not contain soft plastic or other single use packaging. See the examples of some of the wonderful litterless lunches being brought to school by our junior students. We would be grateful of your support in this initiative to reduce plastic and rubbish in our school.



Off at the Gate Cell Phone Policy

New government regulations now require all schools to ensure that students do not use or access a phone while they are attending school, including during lunch time and breaks. As such, we have a new student 'Off at the Gate Cell Phone Policy' which has been approved by the Board of Trustees.

A copy of the full policy follows, but the key points for parents are:

- All phones and associated accessories (smart watches, ear buds, etc) **MUST** be switched off and put into students' school bags before they come onto school grounds.
- During school, students are not allowed to use their phone and associated accessories for any reason.
- If students are found in breach of this rule, they will be required to take their phone to the school office where it will be stored until a parent can pick it up. Phones will not be returned to students.

Please see the full policy on the following page.

Off at the Gate Cell Phone Policy

Introduction:

St Thomas's School is responsible for providing a safe and inclusive working and learning environment for all members of our school community. We have an '**Off at the Gate**' policy for all student's phones and related accessories (e.g. smart watches, ear buds, earphones and bluetooth speakers) on the school grounds.

We understand that some parents like their children to have a phone to communicate with their child after school, however, if a parent or caregiver needs to contact their child urgently during the day, **they should call the school office.**

The Purpose:

- Allow students to connect with each other before school starts.
- Prevent unwanted or unauthorised photos, videos or digital recordings from being taken at school.
- Prevent access to social media or unauthorised internet connections before or during school.
- Prevent inappropriate material or media from being accessed, viewed or shared before or during school.
- Prevent disruptions to the classroom teaching and learning programme.

How it will work:

- All Phones and related accessories **MUST** be switched off before coming onto school grounds. This means upon entry to any school gate.
- Ear buds / headphones are to be removed before entering school.
- During school, students are not allowed to use their phone and associated devices - it is a time for face-to-face social interaction, preparing for class etc.

If a student is found using a device in breach of the rule:

1. The student will take the device to the office, where it will be stored.
2. The student's parents will be contacted and will be responsible for picking up the device. Devices will not be returned to students.

Be aware that students who seriously or repeatedly breach the policy may be banned from bringing **any** device to school.

It is important to note that if students do make the decision to bring a phone to the school grounds, they do so at their own risk. The school is not responsible for any loss or damage caused to any phone.

Ratified by Board

Signed _____

Date _____

Eastern Zone Swimming

On Wednesday 13 March a small team of 6 headed off to Sacred Heart Aquatic Centre to participate in the, always competitive, Eastern Zone Swim Meet. We had some great results and personal bests by our swimmers against some very tough competition from a tough zone catchment. The students participated in various heats followed by finals for those that made the top 8. We finished off the event with a fun Y8 50 metre freestyle relay where the girls invited a couple of other girls to swim with them and the boys entered into the Y8 race. Well done to the girls for a 3rd place and boys for 4th place (with our 2 x Y7 swimmers!).

Well done to those that made the finals:

Theo Z – 50m free, back and butterfly and 100m free

Skyla G – 50m Breaststroke

Also well done to Isla B, McQuade, Huxley T and Blake B for swimming their hearts out in their heats!



Auckland Schools Orienteering Sprint Series Results 2



13 students participated in the event held at Selwyn College on Wednesday 13 March.

Year 8 Girls: Veronika Levanova, Lora Raykova, Senuki Rehansa.

Year 8 Boys: Liam Gallagher, Joshua White, Fedor Nesterov, Christian Colebourne, Lars Wivell.

Year 7 Boys: Dante Salinger, Senula Singappuli Mudiyanseleg, Luke White, Jack Gallagher, Thomas Ren.

Congratulations to the following students who placed in the top 10 for their age group.

Liam - 1st in a time of 11:53, Joshua - 7th.

Dante - 5th, Senula - 6th, Luke - 9th.



Event 4:

The following students participated in the final orienteering event held at Michael Park School on Wednesday 20 March.

Year 8 Boys: Liam Gallagher, Joshua White, Fedor Nesterov

Year 7 Boys: Tommy Tran, Dante Salinger, Luke White, Jack Gallagher, Yuzuru Kimura

Congratulations to the following students who placed in the top 10 for their age group.

Year 8 Boys: Joshua White (5th), Liam Gallagher (6th), Fedor Nesterov (9th)

Year 7 Boys: Dante Salinger (4th), Tommy Tran (6th), Jack Gallagher (10th)

Sprint series final

The series has now finished and the following students have been selected to participate in the finals to represent Auckland Central Zone on Sunday 7 April.

Year 7 boys: Dante Salinger and Luke White

Year 8 boys: Joshua White, Liam Gallagher and Lars Wivell

Pi Day at St Thomas's

Pi Day is celebrated on 14 March (3/14) around the world. Pi (Greek letter " π ") is the symbol used in mathematics to represent a constant — the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter — which is approximately 3.14159. Pi Day is an annual opportunity for math enthusiasts to recite the infinite digits of Pi, talk to their friends about math, and eat pie. Here is how St Thomas's participated in Pi Day.

Year 1

J10 loved learning about Pi - a number that goes on forever and never ends and made some crowns with the first 4 numbers of Pi!



J9 Really enjoyed learning about Pi today. We watched a video that explained what Pi was and then we did an activity that helped us understand that Pi is an infinite number.

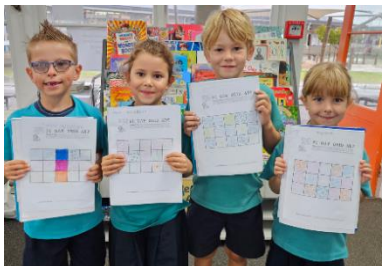
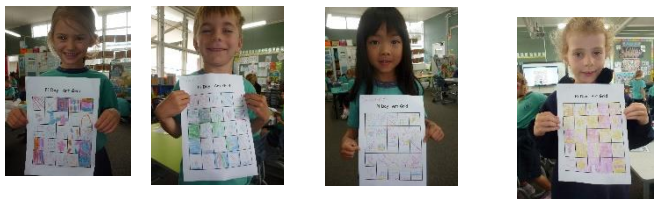


J14 enjoyed learning about the parts of a circle and that Pi is an infinite number.



We also designed and created artworks using different sizes of circles only.

Year 2



The Year 2's enjoyed watching some of the videos that were shared with us and they were blown away by the concept of it being an infinite decimal number. They had lots of fun completing the Pi Day Grid Art activity although some did find it challenging.



Year 4

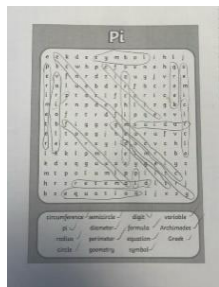
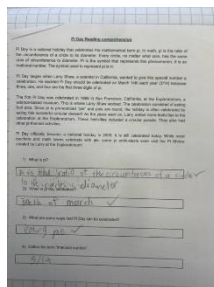
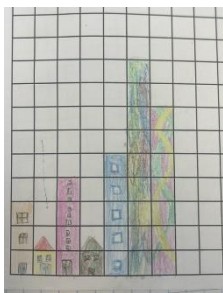
Pi day paper chain- Students made loops of construction paper and recorded each of the 10 digits. Each coloured chain represents a decimal place or a digit.



Students have been busy making Pi Day Skyline Art.

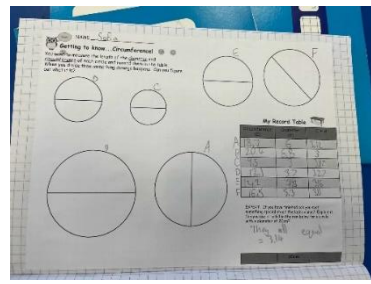
Year 5

Each morning this week we completed a pi-themed warm up activity.



Year 6

Students completed a variety of different tasks which linked to Pi day. These tasks were things such as a circumference discovery worksheet, pie reading comprehension, 'key facts about pie', a kahoot and even some art work around the number.



Year 7 & 8

Students in Year 7 & 8 completed some Pi Day themed artwork.

In S3 students used Pi to calculate the circumference and area of circles.



Enviro Leaders

Naairah Bashir:

Hello! My name is Naairah, and I'm one of your Enviro Leaders for 2024! Some of my hobbies include arts and crafts, cooking and baking. I agreed to become an enviro leader because I want to make the world a better place for us to live in. I hope we do a great job of making some of these things happen!



Chloe Gonzalez:

Kia ora, my name is Chloe, and I'm one of the Enviro Leaders for 2024. I am hoping that we can work together to become a more litter-free and enviro-wise school. In my free time, I'm likely to be reading fiction, painting with watercolours, or both. I love climbing trees, patting cats, and animals, and I'm very excited to help protect nature!



Vianna Baroutian:

Hello! My name is Vianna, and I am going to be your Enviro Leader for 2024! I think we should make our school more environmentally friendly, and I'm really excited to talk to you guys about our enviro topics, and hopefully everyone can have fun and learn something new from them! Thank you!! 😊 🌳 🌱



Joshua White:

I like the environment and I like outdoor activities like climbing trees and looking at insects and plants. My hobbies are making stuff with lego, biking and scootering. I scooter to school almost every day with my friend and his brother. I also like playing board games and drawing stuff. I have four pets: two dogs and two cats.



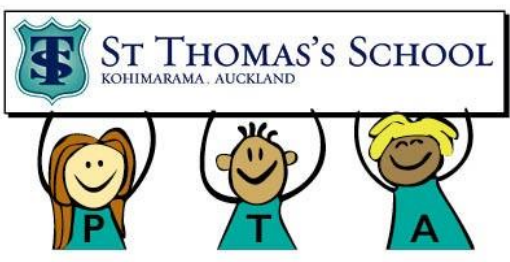
GIRLS RIPPA RUGBY
Have a Go Day
8-13 year old GIRLS

Sunday 24th March
9am -10.30am
Shore Road Reserve

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

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

Grammar Juniors Rugby Football Club
per Angusta ad Augusta



Why not join the PTA or Friends of the PTA?

What does the PTA Do?

The PTA holds several fundraising events each year to raise money to put towards the needs of the school, as identified and agreed with by the school board.

There is always a senior staff member and a small number of parents that come along to each **monthly** meeting held in the school office between 7pm-8.30pm. This is an important opportunity to share information about our children's schooling and ideas about future fundraising events.

Friends of PTA (FOPTA)

We know there are members of the community who are keen to help and want to get involved. Many parents are not able to commit to attending monthly meetings held at the school. However, if you can help in any way, please complete the form using the link below to add your name to our 'Friends of the PTA' mailing list.

We will only use your details to ask for help with PTA related activities and events. We will never send you any advertising material. There is no obligation to help at any time.



St Thomas Annual Quiz Night (Saturday 15th June)

Our next big upcoming event is the annual quiz night for parents, relatives and friends. This is an adult only evening and one of our most profitable events of the year. We are always in need of parent helpers for set up and/or help throughout the evening as well as any donations of products or services we can add to our fundraising auctions on the night. If you can help in any way, please complete the link below and we will be in touch.

<https://forms.gle/u8U5KtYeGVmSzQKV8>

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 school 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 (AGM) 7pm, Wednesday 3rd April 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



VIOLIN LESSONS 2024

ST THOMAS'S SCHOOL

2024

ABOUT THE LESSONS

The new St Thomas's violin lesson program will be targeted towards our beginner students, hoping to encourage the next generation of amazing musicians. Lessons will be once a week for 30 minutes. There are two options for your child's lesson structure...

1. **Small Group Lessons:** These lessons will have two students per 30 minute lesson. Ideal for beginners, this will allow students to learn alongside other students of a similar level to them. Students can either select another student to work with, or will be paired with another student of similar ability to them. *These lessons cost \$200 a term.*
2. **Individual Lessons:** Better suited to more advanced musicians, individual lessons are 30 minute long lessons with just one student per lesson. This allows the tutor to work one on one with your child for the full 30 minute lesson. *These lessons cost \$300 a term.*

Lessons will be during the school day, and students will be excused from class to attend their lesson.



HAVE QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions please feel free to reach out to Alex Titchener.

To sign up for lessons in Term 2 2024, please see the sign up form on Hero, or contact Alex on the email below.

Email:
atitchener@stthomas.school.nz

INSTRUMENT

The lesson cost stated above does NOT include an instrument. You have two options to obtain an instrument for your child.

1. **Buying a violin:** This is a challenging option as there are a variety of violins at a variety of prices. If you would like to buy your child a violin, please consult with Alex Titchener for more information on purchasing a violin.
2. **Violin hire:** Hiring an instrument is a great option for beginner instrumentalists, as they get to give an instrument a go without the cost associated with buying a new one. There are a variety of companies that hire violins, however at St Thomas's we work closely with KBB Music Shop and would highly recommend them for all your instrumental needs. For more information on hiring from KBB, please go to the KBB website.

If you are unsure or would like support in finding the right instrument, please contact Alex for more details.



A FUN PROGRAMME
THAT KIDS LOVE!

Tuesday 2 April
EASTER TUESDAY

**OSCAR
PROGRAMME
SUBSIDIES
AVAILABLE!**

**Conditions apply*

ST THOMAS'S SCHOOL

We've got an amazing Easter Tuesday programme planned, including an Easter Egg Hunt, baking, crafts, games and more!

Book online now for our fun-filled one day holiday programme. See you there!

Full Day: \$55
7am-6pm

School Day: \$45
8:30am-3pm

Contact: Ian Palmquist

Email: stthomas@kellyclub.co.nz

Phone: 021 0803 3666

Facebook: @KellyClubStThomas

BOOK ONLINE NOW AT www.kellyclub.co.nz