

Aumāngā / Resilience

Whakāute / Respect

Takohanga / Responsibility

05 April 2024

Principal's Message

The unveiling of the new name plate on our entrance wall this morning was a wonderful opportunity for our waiata group to showcase their talent. Congratulations to all who took part in the performance and a special thank you to staff member Alex Titchener who teaches the group. Thank you also to our house captains who had the honour of unveiling our new name plate.

This morning, we also officially opened our new astro turf and thank you to Skyla and Hunter, two of our four sports captains, who cut the ribbon. This 1300sqm all-weather sports area is a welcome addition to our learning facility and very timely with winter approaching. This was a very large expenditure for the Board but it is part of our strategic plan to keep improving our facilities to ensure we have the best possible learning environment for our community. The astro turf is fully fenced to protect the surface from damage. Gates to the astro turf will be locked after school hours as previously we have had after school damage from e-scooters, fireworks, dog poo, chewing gum etc. As we become accustomed to using this facility during the school day we will investigate how we can hire it to after school teams and put any revenue received towards our proposed basketball courts.

The school grounds are closed after school and during the upcoming two week term break. This is because we have contractors moving around the school site with trucks and heavy equipment. These contractors are building a deck and canopy area outside Room 15 and 16 and installing seating and garden beds outside the middle block. It is expected that these projects will be completed during the term break.

Michael Maher
Principal



To our waiata group for their outstanding performance this morning.

Upcoming Dates

April

- 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

May

- 06-07 School Photos
- 17 Junior Assembly (J13&14 hosting)
9.45am – 10.30am (school hall)
- Senior Assembly (Y8 hosting)
11.45am – 12.30pm (school hall)
- 20-24 Book Week
- 21 Bay Suburbs Football
- 21 Board of Trustees Meeting
(6.30pm staffroom)
- 22 Eastern Zone Girls Football
- 28 Eastern Zone Y7 Boys Football
- 30 Eastern Zone Y8 Boys Football
- 30 Junior Formal Assembly
10.00am – 10.30am (school hall)
- Senior Formal Assembly
12.00pm – 12.30pm (school hall)
- 31 Teacher Only Day

Photos of the unveiling



St Thomas's School House Korowai

We are currently working behind the scenes cutting, stitching and designing our house korowai so at the start of Term 2 every student and staff member will be given a house feather which they will design. Their design will be around something that is special to them and / or something that represents who they are. The korowai will be worn at times by students where we celebrate, recognise and honour those around us.



Sports Captains

Skyla Gray:

I'm Skyla and I'm going to be one of your new sports leaders for 2024! In my free time I enjoy playing any sports and I hope to inspire younger students at this school to get involved and find their passion just like I did. I believe sport can bring all types of personalities, cultures and backgrounds together and I'm so excited to be a sports leader in the year of the Olympics.



Asena Mumini:

Hello! My name is Asena, and I am going to be one of your new sports leaders for 2024. In my free time I like playing sports at lunch or either walking around the school and talking with my friends. Sports I do after school are athletics and netball. Getting involved with a sport you love is really fun, and I want to get kids to get involved with a sport and find a sport they will love to do during school and outside of school!



Hunter Abercrombie:

Hello, hello, hello guys, my name is Hunter and I am going to be one of your new sports leaders for 2024 so if you need any help with sports equipment just ask and I'll be there. My passions are playing sports and playing video games (mostly fortnite) this year I'm really excited to be one of your role models for 2024 and if you guys ever see me walking around just come up to me say a little hello and I'll be happy.



Liam Gallagher

Hello my name is Liam and I'm going to be one of your sports leaders for 2024. I love all sports but some of my favorites are rugby, swimming, mountain biking, motocross and hockey. In my free time I love to run and cook. I'm really excited to be one of your sports leaders for 2024 and I'm really looking forward to meeting all of you.



Term 1 Sports Wrap-Up

Eastern Zone Softball

Three teams representing St Thomas's competed in the EZ Softball tournament on Thursday 7 March. These three teams made up of Year 7&8 students gave up many lunchtimes to work hard and train for this tournament. For a number of students, this was their first time playing Softball. All teams played extremely well over the course of the day and produced some great results.



Our Year 7&8 girls team placed 7th, our Year 7 boys finished 3rd and the Year 7&8 boys finished up 2nd place after losing a very tough final to Point England. A massive thank you to Mr Putty & Mr Drucker for all their hard work preparing these teams for a tournament. An added thank you to former student Mahala for giving up her time to umpire for these teams.



Bay Suburbs Softball

Our Year 5&6 students also got a chance to represent their school in Softball. Two teams competed in the Bay Suburbs Softball tournament on Wednesday 20 March. These teams trained hard over various lunchtimes in preparation for the tournament. Once again, we had a number of students who were playing their first-ever games of softball.

Both teams progressed well during pool play of the tournament and finished up with some fantastic results. Our boys team finished third place and our girls team took home second place. All of our students represented our school extremely well. A huge thank you to Miss Churches and Mr Goodwin for giving up their time to coach these teams. Another big thank you again to Mahala for helping out with umpiring.



Bay Suburbs Swimming

On Tuesday 26 of March, a talented group of Year 5&6 swimmers travelled to the Sacred Heart Aquatic Centre to participate in the BS Swimming competition. Our swimmers competed in a variety of different races across the day, representing our school extremely well. A big thank you to all the parents who came down and cheered the school on as well as the parents who supported with organising the students for all races. Below are some of our most impressive results from the day.

Results

Year 5 Girls Freestyle: 1st Charlie Tyler, 3rd Georgia Martin
Year 6 Girls Freestyle: 2nd Madeleine Youd-Whittaker
Year 5 Girls Backstroke: 2nd Manon Jannin, 3rd Abbie Tait
Year 6 Girls Backstroke: 3rd Madeleine Youd-Whittaker
Year 5 Girls Breaststroke: 2nd Manon Jannin, 3rd Charlie Tyler
Year 6 Girls Breaststroke: 3rd Mackenzie Lim
Year 5&6 Girls Butterfly: 2nd Sofia Clayton
Year 5&6 Girls 50m Freestyle: 3rd Madeleine Youd-Whittaker
Year 5 Girls Relay: 1st St Thomas's
Year 6 Girls Relay: 1st St Thomas's
Year 5 Boys Relay: 3rd St Thomas's



Eastern Zone Orienteering

36 students took part in the Eastern Zone orienteering competition, held at Monte Cecilia Park in Hillsborough on Monday 25 March. Students were entered into seven different teams and each member of their team completed one of six different courses.


For many of the students, it was their first time competing, and a super challenge for the Year 5&6 students who were competing in the Year 7 age group. There were some very fast times and great individual results, but equally as impressive were all the students who stuck with it, even if finding it a fair challenge, and successfully completed their course. They should all feel very proud of their efforts.

<u>Year 8 Team 1</u> Fedor Nesterov James Nutton Christian Colebourne Joshua White Liam Gallagher	<u>Year 8 Team 2</u> Hunter Abercrombie Shaun Papali'i Skyla Gray Theo Zonneveld McQuade Ingram	<u>Year 7 Team 1</u> Ethan Suppiah Angus Smith Yuzuru Kimura Dante Salinger Luke White	
<u>Year 7 Team 2</u> Lucas Damkat Nate Van Rij Sofia Reyes Mica Sutherland Grace Caseanu	<u>Year 7 Team 3</u> Elizabeth Klemm Jessica Fielder Archie McGregor Marshall Anthony Kusali Geekiyanage	<u>Year 7 Team 4</u> Madeline Youd-Whittaker Bella Hewitt MacKenzie Lim Florence Bowker QuigXin Qu	<u>Year 7 Team 5</u> Tommy Chapman Axel O'Connor Sofia Clayton Oliver Haste Tyler Lu Tommy Tran



Results

One Year 7 boys team and one Year 8 boys team have qualified for the Auckland Champs, which is being held in Bombay (South Auckland) in May. Teams to be announced soon.

<u>Team results</u>		<u>Individual results</u> * individuals going to Auckland Champs in May.	
<u>Year 7 Boys</u> 2nd - Team 7 5th - Team 3 6th - Team 4 7th - Team 5 <u>Year 7 Girls</u> 4th - Team 6	<u>Year 8 Boys</u> 2nd - Team 1 5th - Team 2	<u>Year 7 Girls</u> 1st on course 3 - Sofia Clayton* 1st on course 4 - MacKenzie Lim* <u>Year 7 Boys</u> 1st on Course 4 - Tommy Chapman*	<u>Year 8 Boys</u> 1st on Course 1 - Liam Gallagher* 



Term 1 Updates from Year 3



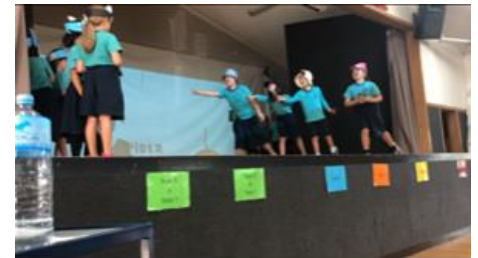
What a fun and busy Term 1 we have had! As part of our topic inquiry, we delved into the fascinating world of insects. A highlight was our in-school visit from an education specialist from Watercare. We discovered what freshwater bugs (macroinvertebrates) are living in our local waterways and zoomed in on them under microscopes. We learnt how to determine the quality of a waterway depending on what bugs are present. We also enjoyed an in-school visit from Sarah the Entomologist (bug scientist!). Sarah taught us the important role bees play in our world and showed us a buzzing beehive.



Junior Assembly Hosted by M3



A big thank you to all the families that came to watch our assembly and for bringing food to our shared morning tea. We had so much fun practising our lines and hope you enjoyed the show!



We look forward to seeing you and your child at our Student Led conferences on Thursday 11 April.

Book Week Term 2

It is exciting to see that we have got Book Week coming back to St Thomas's School. We have got a whole lot of exciting activities taking place throughout the week, for example a character parade, author visits, competitions, and the Scholastic Book Fair. There will be more information and details coming soon so watch the space.

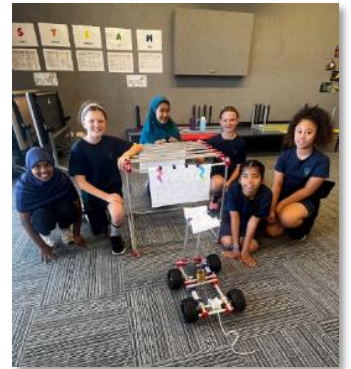


STEAM Centre

It's been a busy start to the year in the STEAM Centre! Our theme this term has been 'PreHistory' where children have learned about the Stone Age right through to the Iron Age. By experiencing hands-on learning, collaborative and problem-solving activities, children have been immersed in the fascinating past.

Some STEAM Missions across Year 1 - 8 have included:

- Designing and building mighty roman aqueducts
- Creating and decorating Bronze Age pottery
- Unearthing the past in a simulated archeological dig
- Learning about the Paleolithic Stone Age and the art of flint knapping
- Using engineering skills to build Flinstone-inspired cars and garages
- Understanding the history of time and making a sundial
- Learning about the Iron Age and designing a Roman shield to be part of a legionary
- Discovering the main aspects of the Ice Age and creating icy art



Year 4 Collaboration Day

All of the Year 4 students had a Collaboration Day. Students were able to move across the Year 4 teachers and complete 5 different activities. The activities were: Treasure Hunt, Collaborative Games, Cup Stacking, Collaborative Art and Ti Rakau sticks. The objective was to teach and help to reinforce student's ability to work in a team to complete a given assignment. Everyone really enjoyed this day!



Year 2 Trip to the Botanic Gardens

We went on the bus to the Botanic Gardens. Then we looked for bugs. We learned about bugs, and how bugs are good. Some pollinate. We saw ducks and a skink near the jungle. We also had some activities to do. I saw tadpoles and frogs. We saw lots of lily pads. Then when it was playtime, Lily, me, Helen, and Sofia went to the Palms. We tried to find the iron plants. We found it and we went back to catch the bus back to school. It was a fun day!

By Charlotte Yee J7



Youthtown Recount

By Aila Duncan and Tessa Prebble S5



On 22 March, Year 7 students went on a trip to Youthtown at Orakei basin. The trip was full of fun water activities, such as kayaking, windsurfing, sailing and stand up paddle boarding. Every group got to do three activities each. Our group did windsurfing, stand up paddle boarding and kayaking.

When we arrived, we all got 10 minutes to eat a quick morning tea. Then, the kind instructor told us what we would be doing there. After that, everybody got dressed and got ready to go into the water!

Our group started with windsurfing, and we had another kind instructor! Like all the activities, we started with a safety brief, and instructions on how to do the activity.

Then, we headed out to the water and jumped on the windsurfing board. The water was cold and none of us wanted to fall in! Although some of us did! The sail was heavy and we took turns holding it up. We drifted downwind a few times, so we got picked up in the rescue boat! Windsurfing took one hour, and after, we headed out to lunch, as we were all very hungry!

After a big lunch, we all went to our next activity. For us, this was stand up paddle boarding. The lady running the activity gave a short briefing, then we paddled out to a flat part in the water which she said was called a wind shadow. There, she gave some really fun challenges like jumping on the board and even doing a roly-poly! After a couple challenges, we all wanted to jump in as we were all very hot by then, so we all stood up and we hopped into the water and swam around for a bit. Finally, she said that we had to swap with the kayakers, so we paddled out to them and swapped with someone.

Once we were all in a kayak safely, we paddled out to the kayak instructor and she got one person to jump in the water. When one person from our group was in, she gave us a talk on how to save yourself. Then she let the volunteer try themselves. After a while, they managed to get back in the kayak. Then, she got two people to get out of their kayak and flip them. We all had to help them get back in! We all found it very hard, but in the end, we managed to do it.

Finally, we paddled over to the stand up paddle boarders and played a quick game with a ball, where you had to throw it between your team, and you had to try to get people out.

To finish the day off, we all participated in bringing up the kayaks, windsurf boards, paddle boards and the rescue boats. We then headed to the changing rooms to get dressed, and we took the bus back to school.



We had a very fun day, and I'm sure everybody else did too!

A fantastic opportunity for your child for Term Two!

Shine Speech & Drama classes inspire confidence and imagination, helping students communicate effectively and build self-belief that helps them succeed in life.

Here's what people are saying about Shine's lessons ...

"He got up and spoke in front of the school. He would never have done that before"

— James' Mum

"Thank you so much for calmly and reassuringly, through zoom after zoom, guiding the boys' through their tasks. Thank you for all the extra energy and organisation that has gone into all of this. You've been simply fantastic!" - Catherine

"....the best speech and drama teacher working in New Zealand today." NZ Herald.

SHINE SPEECH & DRAMA covers:

- public speaking
- acting skills
- voice (projection and articulation)
- reading aloud skills
- positive body language
- storytelling
- relationship skills

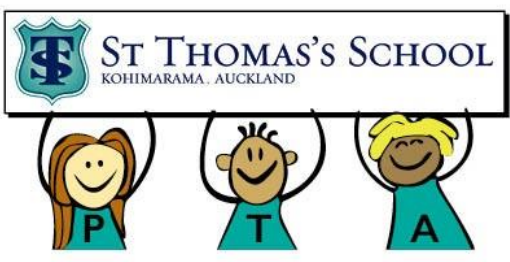
Register here <https://www.shine.school.nz/enrol-st-thomas>

Any questions please see our website <https://www.shine.school.nz/> email shine@shine.school.nz or call Nina on 021-160 9197

Holiday Soccer with Billy Harris

15 - 17 April at Okahu Bay, 9am-midday. \$20 a day.

Text Billy to enrol on 0272799042



St Thomas's School Annual Quiz Night Fundraiser

The St Thomas's School PTA are holding one of our largest annual fundraiser events by means of a themed quiz night and silent auctions for family and friends of the school.

This year we are holding our Quiz Night on Saturday 15th June, and we are expecting approx. 100+ people to attend. Proceeds of the evening this year will be going towards a new full-size basketball court and upgrading our existing courts.

We are reaching out to business owners to ask for donations in the form of goods or services that we can include in our silent auctions. If you can support us, your generous donation would not only help us raise crucial funds for our school but also showcase your business to a diverse audience of attendees. Past events have drawn dozens of community members, and your support would be recognised by and appreciated by all.

We are open to various forms of donations, such as gift certificates, products, services, or experiences that you believe would appeal to our attendees. Your donation will be prominently displayed during the event, and we will actively promote your business both before and after the event through our social media platforms and event materials.

If you can support St Thomas's School in any way, please contact one of our PTA volunteers who will be more than happy to collect your donation at a time convenient for you.

Thank you for considering our request

Your PTA



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



OPEN EVENING

For Students and Parents/Caregivers

THURSDAY 2 MAY AT 6:45PM

The evening will begin with an address from the Principal. This will be followed by a tour of the school and an opportunity to meet teachers and students across all Learning Areas.

We look forward to welcoming you.

ENROLMENTS

Details are on our website:
[www.selwyn.school.nz/New Students](http://www.selwyn.school.nz/New_Students)


Please complete the online enrolment process. We encourage early applications.



HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

ST THOMAS'S SCHOOL

WEEK 1

Mon 15 April	Tues 16 April	Wed 17 April	Thurs 18 April	Fri 19 April
				
KELLY CLUB NINJAS	RAINFOREST ADVENTURE	MINI GOLF	WHEELS DAY	ROCK 'N' ROLL

WEEK 2

Mon 22 April	Tues 23 April	Wed 24 April	Thurs 25 April	Fri 26 April
			PROGRAMME NOT ON TODAY	
BUBBLES & BOUNCE	SERGEANTS & SOLDIERS	THE LETTER S	ANZAC DAY	HUMAN BOARD GAMES

BOOK ONLINE NOW AT
www.kellyclub.co.nz