

8 November 2024

Principal's Message

We need your help!

We are busy planning our programmes and staffing for 2025 to ensure that we continue to provide exciting opportunities for our students. To do so we require financial support from our parent community, as Ministry funds only cover the essentials. The best way parents can support the school financially is through our school donations. We appreciate that some families are under financial stress with the cost of living, and we have received 15% less school donations this year than in 2023. School donations go towards:

- Extra Teacher Aides to support literacy and numeracy across the school.
- Teacher and Teacher Aides to support English as a Second Language (ESOL).
- Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO).
- School Counsellor.
- Learning Extension Programme (LEP), Gifted and Talented Education.
- Environmental Science Programme.
- STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths) Programme.
- Smaller class sizes.
- Playground Equipment and Sports Co-ordinator.

With the generosity of your donations, we will be able to continue to fund these extra resources for your child. Thank you so much to those families who have already paid - your contributions are greatly appreciated. If you have not already paid, please click [HERE](#) to pay your donation.

Class Placements 2025

We are currently sorting class placements for next year. It is critical that if your children are not returning to St Thomas's next year, that you let the office know.

Michael Maher
Principal



To our Year 7 Team 'STS Builders' for placing First in their EPro8 Auckland Regional Competition.



Upcoming Dates

November

- 12 Bay Suburbs Touch Rugby
- 13 Y5 & Y6 Athletics Day
- 14 Y7 & Y8 Athletics Day
- 15 Junior Formal Assembly
10.00am – 10.30am (school hall)
Senior Formal Assembly
12.00pm – 12.30pm (school hall)
- 19 Bay Suburbs Athletics Day
- 20 Yr2 & Yr3 Cricket Sessions
- 21 Eastern Zone Athletics
- 21 Y2 Trip to MOTAT
- 22 Junior Assembly (STEAM hosting)
9.45am – 10.30am (school hall)
Senior Assembly (STEAM hosting)
11.45am – 12.30pm (school hall)
- 25 New Entrant Photos
- 25 Y3 & Y4 Ukulele Jam Dilworth College
- 26 Y8 Trip to Rangitoto Island
- 27 Y6 Science Fair

Save the Date

St Thomas's School Prizegiving
Tuesday 10 December 2024 10.00 a.m.
Doors open at 9.30 a.m.

Exciting New Learning Programmes for 2025

In 2021 we launched our fantastic STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths) programme led by Miriam Gwyn and her team of STEAM teachers. The programme has enabled every student at St Thomas's School to experience a wide variety of learning activities under the STEAM umbrella in a fun, hands-on way, and over 500 students this year have been involved in the STEAM Learning Extension programme which targets higher level learning in more specific areas of the STEAM Curriculum such as robotics, film making, food technology, food science, dance, drama, graphic design, forensic science, EPro8 engineering, environmental science, architecture and construction. Over the last four years, feedback from students and whanau has been overwhelmingly positive about the STEAM programme.

With the increase in government funded classroom release time from 2 days in 2023 to 5 days in 2025, we now have the ability to offer a more extensive specialist teaching programme. From Term 1, 2025 St Thomas's School students will receive termly specialist teaching in:

- Physical Education (Years 1-6)
- Languages (Years 1-3)
- Performance (Years 4-8)
- Visual Art (Years 4-8)
- Garden to Table (Years 4-8)

We have recruited high quality specialist teachers in each of these subject areas who are all looking forward to developing and extending student passions.

Physical Education	Languages	Performance	Visual Art	Garden to Table
				
A focus on fundamental movement skills for junior students, and skill development for those in older primary years.	An introduction to a variety of languages including Te Reo Maori, German, Spanish, Italian, French and more.	Our performance programme will focus on drama and stage performance with some dance and fun improv acting included.	A range of visual art techniques and mediums will be explored to develop students' creativity and self-expression.	Building skills for life through highly practical hands-on experiences both in the kitchen and the garden.

Public Notices

Please see our website for details about:

Clubs and activities: <https://www.stthomas.school.nz/clubs-and-activities/>

Community notices: <https://www.stthomas.school.nz/community-notice/>

School holiday programmes: <https://www.stthomas.school.nz/school-holiday-programmes/>

ICAS Assessment Results

St Thomas's School has been facilitating students in Years 4 - 8 to participate in the world-renowned ICAS competition as an optional activity for many years.

ICAS is an online academic competition that is designed to assess students' higher order thinking and problem-solving skills in English, Mathematics, Science, Writing, Spelling Bee and Digital Technologies. Each assessment celebrates students' accomplishments by providing opportunities for recognition and development. Across every ICAS assessment participating students receive a certificate in one of the following award categories:

- High Distinction – the top 1% of all participants
- Distinction – the next 10% of all participants
- Credit – the next 25% of all participants
- Merit – the next 10% of all participants
- Participation – all remaining participants

ICAS assessments were conducted during Term 3 and the following students received outstanding results:

Mathematics

- Oliver Levi, Year 4 – Distinction
- Reddington Chen, Year 5 – Distinction
- Ryan Lim, Year 7 – Distinction

English

- Annaliese Donohue, Year 6 – High Distinction
- Chloe Gonzalez, Year 8 – High Distinction
- Lydia Mitchelson, Year 4 – Distinction
- Reddington Chen, Year 5 – Distinction

Writing

- Madeline Murney, Year 4 – Distinction
- Tommy Tran, Year 6 – Distinction
- Chloe Gonzalez, Year 8 – Distinction

Digital Technologies

- Ethan Suppiah, Year 7 – High Distinction
- Oliver Levi, Year 4 – Distinction
- Eddie McBeth, Year 6 – Distinction

Spelling Bee

- Kate Yin, Year 4 – High Distinction
- Madeleine Le Bos, Year 4 – Distinction
- Eddie McBeth, Year 6 – Distinction
- Yuzuru Kimura, Year 7 – Distinction

STS News

To watch the tenth episode of the series, click [HERE](#).

To watch the eleventh episode of the series, click [HERE](#).

Unplugged Rebels

St Thomas's is joining a new initiative called Unplugged Rebels. This is a grassroots movement driven by parents and educators throughout NZ who are working together to delay the age at which tamariki are given access to smartphones and social media. The aim is to support healthier, balanced screen use for our children. If you'd like to know more, please take a moment to view the poster below or visit www.unpluggedrebelsnz.com and consider signing up for the newsletter. Look out for more information and Unplugged Rebels events in our community beginning in 2025.



UNPLUGGED REBELS NZ

WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT THEN?
It's a community group to encourage **parents to rally together to delay smartphones and social media**. It is also a space for those who have already made the jump to learn about how best to protect your child moving forward.

BUT WHY DELAY SMARTPHONES?
Well... there is a growing mountain of research which is showing us how smartphones can be **a serious threat to the safety and mental health of our tamariki**. Peer pressure and society's expectations can compel us parents to conform and provide smartphones at younger and younger ages.

Risk of cyber bullying
Addictive
Impair sleep
Academic distraction
Increase rates of depression
Increase anxiety
Affects behaviour and relationships
Expose children to sexual content

When the herd is running towards a cliff, the one running in the opposite direction is the rebel.

...Be that sheep. Baa.

YOU CAN FIND US...
   
WWW.UNPLUGGEDREBELSNZ.COM

AS SEEN ON THE AM SHOW




BOOK YOUR CHILDS COLOUR RUN TODAY

Thursday 5th December 1.30pm On the school field

This is a school wide PTA and teacher run event where all money raised will go back to the school.

It's a ton of fun where parents and teachers get to throw colour powder at the kids while they embark on a hugely fun and wet obstacle course.

Students will have separate time slots depending on their year level.

Entry - \$5 per person

BOOK THROUGH KINDO TODAY!

What to bring:

- T-shirt (preferably white and made of cotton)
- Towel
- Change of clothes, including something warm
- Goggles (optional)



WATCH OUT FOR UPCOMING EVENTS IN TERM 4

School Colour Run - Thursday 5th December 1.30pm on the school field. \$5 pp

Christmas Hams & Turkeys - Sales open end of November.

Look out for more info on Hero

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 **TBC** in November, 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



Contact: Ian Palmquist
Phone: 021 0803 3666
Email: stthomas@kellyclub.co.nz
Website: kellyclub.co.nz/st-thomas



KELLY CLUB ST THOMAS'S UPDATE

What's been happening...

During radical robots week, we enjoyed playing musical robots, designing cheese bots and making cardboard robots. Ezra's team even built a remote control for their robot that could make theirs do all sorts of cool things. It was also awesome to see some Halloween costumes before some of the kids went trick or treating as well.



What's happening next week!

THEME: Wheels Week Term 4 Week 5, 11th November 2024					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Flag Making & Structured Free Time	Cardboard Supercars & Structured Free Time	Finger Painting & Structured Free Time	Mini Race Tracks & Structured Free Time	Homemade Pikelets & Structured Free Time
	Game: Kiwis & Kangaroos	Game: Kids Yoga	Game: Balloon Tag	Game: Limbo	Game: Angry Birds
	Sign In & Free Time	Sign In & Free Time	Sign In & Free Time	Sign In & Free Time	Sign In & Free Time
	Intro & Afternoon Tea Mac'n'cheese & Fruit	Intro & Afternoon Tea Sammies & Fruit	Intro & Afternoon Tea Tomato Pasta & Fruit	Intro & Afternoon Tea Sammies & Fruit	Intro & Afternoon Tea Pikelets & Fruit
	Game: Human, Paper, Scissors, Rock	Game: Duck, Duck, Goose	Game: Toilet Tag	Game: Follow the Sergeant	Game: Cat & Mouse Tag
SENIORS 3:45 - 4:30 pm	DISCOVERY What's the Best Surface	SPORT Obstacle Course	COOKING Wheel Pizza	CRAFT Drivers License	GAME Cops & Racers
JUNIORS 3:45 - 4:30 pm	SPORT Obstacle Course	CRAFT Number Plates	COOKING Wheel Pizza	GAME Car & Spoon Race	DISCOVERY What's the Best Surface
	Tidy Up	Tidy Up	Tidy Up	Tidy Up	Tidy Up
	Playground	Playground	Playground	Playground	Playground
	Snack Time Potato Stick	Snack Time Corn Thins	Snack Time Baking	Snack Time Raisins	Snack Time Muesli Bars
	Homework & Quiet Time	Homework & Quiet Time	Homework & Quiet Time	Homework & Quiet Time	Homework & Quiet Time
E: stthomas@kellyclub.co.nz kellyclub.co.nz/stthomas P: 021 080 33666					



BOOK ONLINE NOW AT www.kellyclub.co.nz

"Changing Learning for a Changing World"

This production is starring several St Thomas's School Students

PRINCIPAL SPONSOR:

Little Umbrella

AUCKLAND LIVE

FOUNDATION NORTH GROUND

Four Winds

HERMITAGE GROUP

Chau Wan Cultural Association of New Zealand

UBU THEATRE COMPANY LIMITED

NATIONAL YOUTH THEATRE
THE LITTLE UMBRELLA SEASON OF

Alice

A
WONDERLAND
MUSICAL



30TH NOV
— 1ST DEC

Kiri Te Kanawa Theatre
Aotea Centre

TICKETS FROM
ticketmaster

AN ALVER & DOY PRODUCTION

4
SHOWS
ONLY