

Aumāngā / Resilience

Whakaute / Respect

Takohanga / Responsibility

28 February 2025

Principal's Message

Tēnā Koutou Katoa

A huge thank you to our wonderful PTA who organized another successful family school picnic. It was lovely to see so many parents, teachers and children wandering around chatting and enjoying each other's company.

Basketball Courts Update

In 2024 we started fundraising for a new basketball court but unfortunately we had to delay the project when funds were redirected to the repairing and enlarging of our storm damaged artificial turf area.

I am excited to announce that we have reignited this project and the first stage is to carry out soil geo technical and storm water reports to determine the feasibility of the project. Once we are better informed of costs which may be incurred for storm water and foundation depth, we will decide on the next steps and will keep our community informed as we progress.

School Staff

As the year progresses, we will highlight in our newsletter, various members of our staff and Board so that our wider community are aware of people's different roles and responsibilities. See later in this issue for our first installment.

School Donation

Our school donations are a critical part of ensuring we provide the best and most exciting opportunities for your child while they attend St Thomas's School. We really need your financial support whether it is part or full payment of the donation.

Ngā mihi nui

Michael Maher

Principal



Congratulations to our fantastic PTA for organising a wonderful school picnic.

Upcoming Dates

March

- 04 Eastern Zone Softball
- 05-07 Yr 6 Camp – Carey Park
- 07 Junior Formal Assembly
10.00am – 10.30am (school hall)
Senior Formal Assembly
12.00pm – 12.30pm (school hall)
- 13 AURFC Rippa Yr 4
- 18 Bay Suburbs Softball
- 20 Yr 5-8 Swimming Sports
- 24 Senior Assembly (S9 & S10 hosting)
(school hall)
- 24 Eastern Zone Swimming
- 24-28 Yr 8 Camp – Camp Bentzon
- 25 Board of Trustees Meeting
(6.30pm staffroom)
- 28 School Garden Working Bee
(8.45am to midday)
- 28 Bay Suburbs Swimming
- 31 Eastern Zone Orienteering
- 31 Junior Assembly (J2 hosting)
(school hall)

April

- 03 Yr 7 & 8 immunisations
- 07 Yr & Youthtown (Group 1)



School Donations Payment Reminder

We are very grateful to the majority of our community who are able to pay their school donations. Every single donation counts to help minimise how much of the school's financial reserves are used to ensure we continue to offer your children all the extras we provide at St Thomas's and to keep the class sizes as small as possible. St Thomas's School donation in 2025 is **\$495 per student**.

Your school donations go towards paying for things such as sporting equipment, extra learning support and resources, our courts and equipment in the grounds, plus importantly they allow us to provide staff for the STEAM Centre, special education teacher, an occupational therapist, ESOL, Gifted and Talented Education, literacy support and teacher aides for all year levels across the school.

To pay your school donation for 2025, please log in to our Online Shop (accessible via our school website or your Hero app) or by direct payment to ASB Bank, St Heliers 12 3027 0303718 00.
(Please give your student's name and class number as a reference).

If you would like to spread the cost of the donation over the year, you can make partial payments at a schedule that suits you. Please contact our school office if you have any difficulties with this on (09) 528-3938.

Please note that a donation tax receipt can be obtained from Kindo for your donation. To receive a tax credit on your donation, payment must be made by the end of the financial year (Friday, 31 March). You can claim one-third of your full or partial donation as a tax credit.

We sincerely appreciate your support.

Out of Zone Ballot: Siblings of Current Students

This is a reminder to families who have previously enrolled a child as Out of Zone and there are siblings to enrol for 2025, you will need to complete the Out of Zone application online. **Please note that this is only for siblings who will start in Year 1 or 0 this year.** Here is the link to the form: [Out of Zone Enrolment Form](#).

For families that have moved out of zone while your child has been attending St Thomas's School and you have another child that you would like to enrol in Year 1 or 0 for 2025, you will need to do this also.

The deadline for these applications is **21 March, 2025**.

The Ballot will be on **25 March**, and you will be notified of the results by the end of that week.

Change of Date - St Thomas's School Garden Working Bee Friday 28 March 9.00am – 1.00pm

Calling all volunteers!

We are improving our school vege garden with the addition of more planter boxes and a shade house and we need your help so we can achieve this.

If you have any available time between 9.00am to 1.00pm on **Friday 28 March** then please join us with your spade and gloves on the school field. We will finish the morning with a light lunch for our volunteers.



Arapeta Albert – Current Board of Trustees Parent Representative



E ngā mana, e ngā reo, e ngā hau e whā

Kia orana koutau katoa,

Ko Arapeta taku ingoa,

Nō Te Whānau-ā- Apanui, Whakatōhea, Aitutaki ahau.

I am the father of two young girls at St Thomas's. I am excited to help drive sustainable growth through the STS Board. With over 25 years of experience in banking and finance, I pursued my dreams and established my own Financial Advice Business in 2016. I am passionate about sports, travelling, new experiences, and educating my community on financial literacy. What I love about STS is its diverse culture, close-knit community, and the range of opportunities it provides.

I hope every student, staff member, and family at STS can fill their cups with passion, drive, dreams, and core memories.

Nō reira, tēnā tātau katoa.

Emma Cordelle – Sports Coordinator

Hi everyone! I'm super excited to be stepping into the role of Sports Coordinator and PE Teacher at St Thomas School this year. Last year, I was a Year 3 classroom teacher here, and I'm thrilled to now be focusing on sports and physical education.

I grew up in Queenstown and started skiing when I was just three years old. Between learning to walk and run, I played just about every sport under the sun — thanks to my incredible primary school PE teacher, who inspired me to become a teacher today.

My favourite sports are football and netball, but I also have a love for volleyball, snow sports, dance, touch rugby, and so many more! I can't wait to share my passion for sports with the school community, helping students develop skills, confidence and a love for being active.

I'm looking forward to an exciting year ahead!

Emma Cordelle/Miss C.



Dory de Gradi – Languages Teacher

Ciao a tutti! I'm so happy to be back at St. Thomas's after welcoming my gorgeous daughter, who is now 1 year old! This year, we will be learning all about languages, and I can't wait to share my love for them with you.

A little about me: I'm originally from Italy, and I love to travel and learn about different cultures. When I was 15, I lived in Oregon, USA, for a year. Later, I spent time in Germany and Spain, and in 2019, I moved to New Zealand with my partner. In class, I believe learning should be fun! I want you all to feel happy and confident, explore new things, and work together. I'm excited to meet each of you and help you discover all the exciting things languages can offer!

Hasta la vista, Dory



STS News

To watch the 16th episode of the series, click [HERE](#).

Public Notices

Dilworth School

Open Day: Sunday 30 March – Senior (Yr 9 – 13) Open Day – 2pm - 4pm. Parents can register online: dilworth.school.nz

Please see our website for details about:

Clubs and activities:

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

Crocodiles Gymnastics offers a free trial class on weekend mornings at St Thomas's School hall. Bookings are essential. To reserve a spot, please email them at crockogym@gmail.com

Community notices:

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

School holiday programmes:

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



Thank you for Picnicing with us!

What a fabulous turnout!

It was lovely to see our school community come together to enjoy some family fun. Even though we had torrential rain for the start, it certainly didn't put a damper on the rest of the afternoon.

A big shout out to our wonderful parent helpers on the BBQ, year 7's at the coke stand, Kelly Club and the year 8 facepainting team - you were awesome!



WATCH OUT FOR UPCOMING EVENTS IN TERM 1



PTA AGM – Wednesday 19th March 7pm, in the staffroom – All welcome

Ice block Sales – Every Friday under the tree by the office. 2.50pm-3.15pm

REMINDERS

Second Hand Uniforms - Donate your preloved uniform for us to on-sell. Please drop off at the school office during school hours.



Why not consider joining the PTA in 2025? 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 PTA (AGM) meeting **Wednesday 19th March, 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...

Week 3 was staff choice at Kelly Club. The coaches came up with some awesome ideas that the kids would enjoy. We made slime, clay animals and enjoyed a healthy treat filled with many different fruit. Thanks for another fun filled week at Kelly Club!



KELLY CLUB
FUN PROGRAMMES THAT KIDS LOVE!
 Our programmes are focused around various activities including arts & crafts, cooking, sports and discovery!
BOOK NOW www.kellyclub.co.nz

What's happening next week!

		THEME: Colourful Autumn				Weekly Activities Plan
		Term 1 Week 5, 3rd March 2024				Kelly Club St Thomas's
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
7:00 - 8:15 am	Card Games & Structured Free Time	Playdough & Structured Free Time	Autumn Placemat & Structured Free Time	Charades & Structured Free Time	Homemade Cupcakes & Structured Free Time	
8:15 - 8:30 am	Game: Bean Bag Toss	Game: Balloon Stomp	Game: Boss of the Balls	Game: Rainbow Rush	Game: Football	
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 Thins & Fruit	Intro & Afternoon Tea Sammies & Fruit	Intro & Afternoon Tea Cheerios & Fruit	Intro & Afternoon Tea Sammies & Fruit	Intro & Afternoon Tea Homemade Cupcakes & Fruit	
3:30 - 3:45 pm	Game: Staff Choice	Game: Master	Game: Space Invaders	Game: Scatter Ball	Game: Lonely Ghost	
	GAME Pie Eater Tag	DISCOVERY Oobleck	SPORT Cricket Tee-Ball	COOKING Caramel Apples	CRAFT Nature Postcard	
SENIORS 3:45 - 4:30 pm						
	CRAFT Leaf Spray Art	GAME Rainbow Rush	DISCOVERY Oobleck	COOKING Caramel Apples	SPORT Cricket Tee-Ball	
JUNIORS 3:45 - 4:30 pm						
4:30 - 4:40 pm	Tidy Up	Tidy Up	Tidy Up	Tidy Up	Tidy Up	
4:40 - 5:30 pm	Playground	Playground	Playground	Playground	Playground	
5:30 - 5:45 pm	Snack Time Vege Chips	Snack Time Popcorn	Snack Time Biscuits	Snack Time Baking	Snack Time Crackers	
5:45 - 6:00 pm	Homework & Quiet Time	Homework & Quiet Time	Homework & Quiet Time	Homework & Quiet Time	Homework & Quiet Time	

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BOOK ONLINE NOW AT www.kellyclub.co.nz