

25 July 2025

Principal's Message

Tēnā Koutou Katoa

Welcome back to our third term and an especially warm welcome to all our new families who joined us this term.

Our forest and outdoor science learning area

As can be seen in the following photos, our forest which we started planting in 2000 is really starting to flourish and will provide us with a valuable learning space going forward. The additional 300 specimens we planted at the end of last term will be a welcome addition to this area.



Vandalism and closing the school gates

Unfortunately, we have had more unwelcome visitors to our school over the term break. As well as breaking bottles on the grounds, breaking windows and riding e-scooters across the field they ripped up many of the grasses and trees we had planted last term. The increasing damage to the school after hours is costly in repairing the damage, stressful for our staff and increasingly posing a health and safety risk for our students. To minimise further ongoing vandalism to the school, the gates will need to remain closed on the weekends.

Life Education Caravan

Towards the end of Term 2 we were fortunate enough to have the Life Education Caravan visit our school as well as Harold the Giraffe which you can imagine was a highlight for the students. Students from Year 1-8 all attended 2 education sessions focusing on various concepts that ranged from friendships, resilience, team work, sense of belonging and inclusion.



Ngā mihi nui

Michael Maher
Principal



***To All The students who
Dressed up for the Cross
Country Costume Carnival.***

Upcoming Dates

July

- 28 Junior Assembly (J9&J10 hosting)
10am (school hall)
Senior Assembly (M6 hosting)
11.45am (school hall)
- 30 Y4 - Y6 Better Start Literacy Parent
Workshop 8.30am (School Library)

August

- 04 Y7 & Y8 Speech Finals
- 05 Board of Trustees Meeting
(6.30pm staffroom)
- 06 School Cross Country
- 07 Y2 MOTAT Trip
- 07 Y5 & Y6 Speech Finals
- 09 PTA Quiz Night 6.30pm (Ellerslie)
- 11 Junior Formal Assembly
9.15am – 9.45am (school hall)
Senior Formal Assembly
10.00am – 10.30pm (school hall)
- 12 Bay Suburbs and Eastern Zone Cross
Country
- 14 Eastern Zone Boys Basketball
- 19 Eastern Zone Girls Basketball
- 20 Y5 Museum Trip
- 21 Student Led Learning Conferences



Allum Street Traffic

A big thanks to parents who are following the road rules and our repeated requests for caution on the roads during drop-off and pick-up times.

Please see Auckland Transport school gate safety video [here](#).

Link to Auckland Transport school gate webpage - [Safety at the school gate](#)

The pick-up and drop-off window are still a cause of concern for us however, with the main dangers being:

- Parents double-parking alongside the big tree to allow children out of, or into, their car – this blocks the flow of traffic down Allum Street and creates blind spots for other vehicles.



- Parents double-parking alongside other cars parked within the parking bays to allow children into their car – this blocks the flow of traffic down Allum Street and creates blind spots for other vehicles. It also puts students at risk of being hit by other moving vehicles.



- Parents parking on the yellow lines outside the staff carpark to wait for their children and/or allow children out of, or into, their car – this causes chaos in a number of ways and we will be having random visits from parking wardens to ticket this activity going forward. Yellow lines = no parking, it is very simple.



- Parents performing u-turns outside the school after picking up or dropping off their children. This blocks the road, disrupts traffic flow in both directions, creates blind spots, puts our students and other motorists vehicles in danger and is generally inconsiderate to others and our repeated requests to help keep traffic flowing as freely as possible. Instead of u-turning, please proceed further down Allum Street and exit via another road or turn around where it is safe to do so.



- Parents running, or sending/calling, their children across the road instead of using the crossings. There is a Kea Crossing less than 50m down Allum Street and Traffic Light Crossing less than 50m up Allum Street from this point. Please use the crossings.



Bay Suburbs Netball Tournament

On Wednesday 24 June, a number of St Thomas's School netball teams took part in the annual Bay Suburbs Netball Tournament. It was an incredible day filled with energy, teamwork, and sportsmanship. Our students represented STS with pride, enthusiasm, and a fantastic attitude throughout the day.

We were so proud to see everyone giving it their best, supporting each other, and displaying excellent team spirit on and off the court. A big thank you to the staff and whānau who supported us with coaching, managing, and cheering from the sidelines!

Here are the final placings for our STS teams:

Year 5 Girls – Red Grade
1st Place – STS Diamonds



Year 5 Girls – Grey Grade
4th Place – STS Stars



Year 5 Boys – Green Grade
4th Place – STS Ovals

Year 6 Girls – Black Grade
6th Place – STS Triangles

Year 6 Girls – Yellow Grade
3rd Place – STS Circles



We are so proud of all our players – ka pai team STS!

Eastern Zone Hockey Tournament

On Tuesday 17 June, St Thomas's School proudly sent three teams to compete in the Eastern Zone Hockey Tournament. It was a fantastic day out on the turf, with all of our students showing great determination, teamwork, and resilience.

For some of our players, it was their very first time playing hockey in a competitive setting – and they absolutely rose to the challenge! We were super impressed with how quickly they picked up the game and supported each other throughout the day.

Each team gave it their all in every match, and it was amazing to see their confidence grow as the day went on. There were some close games, some great goals and lots of positive sideline support from our STS whānau.

A huge thank you to the teachers, coaches, and parents who helped make the day run so smoothly. We're incredibly proud of all our players!



Eastern Zone Netball Tournament 2025

On Monday 21 July, St Thomas's School proudly took six teams to the Eastern Zone Netball Tournament - and what a day it was! The sun was shining, the courts were buzzing, and our players were absolutely on fire from start to finish.

Our teams showcased some incredible netball throughout the day - sharp passing, clever strategy, and amazing teamwork were on full display. A special shoutout goes to our Year 7 Boys team, who finished first equal in their grade - an outstanding achievement and a true testament to their effort and teamwork!

We're so proud of every single player who represented our school. Whether it was your first time or you're a seasoned pro, you played with passion, determination, and fantastic sportsmanship all day long.

A huge thank you to our dedicated coaches, umpires, staff, and wonderful parent supporters who made the day possible. Your energy, encouragement, and organisation were key to the success of this event.

Ka mau te wehi, St Thomas's - what an awesome way to kick off Term 3 sport!

Welcome To All Our New International Students

At the beginning of this term, we welcomed families from China and Korea, who joined our school community.



Peace Run

Did you know that the global Peace Run has run in over 150 countries and that at the end of last term it came to Kohimarama? A group of Year 7 students participated in a joint Peace Run with Orakei Primary school. Having taken the relay torch from Orakei school, we ran with it along Tamaki Drive and back to school where all the Year 7 and Year 8 students were waiting in the hall. We then had the Peace Run organisers talk to us about what peace means to each of us and how peace can start with us. After that we all went outside and took turns holding the relay torch and making our own wish for peace. I hope mine comes true! My favourite part was when I got to hold the torch.

By Jordi



Cross Country Costume Carnival



Arts Term 2 Update

Here is a peak at what has been happening in the Art Room in Term 2: <https://youtu.be/U4-Roiwzt0A>

Mrs Haddon

Staff Profile – Keryn Churches



I have been at St Thomas's for 3 years as both a Teacher and Team Leader in the Year 5 team. I am in my 12th year of teaching and thoroughly enjoy the role and all it brings. I enjoy creating a positive and nurturing classroom environment which both challenges students and allows them to show creativity. My passions are in Mathematics and Physical Education and I thoroughly enjoy coaching sports teams around the school.

Outside of School, you can find me on the sideline of a sports field cheering my sons on. I enjoy playing sports, cooking, reading books, and spending time with my family. When I am not doing these things, I can be found watering my extensive indoor plant collection...it takes a while!

Staff Profile – Monique Riddle



I have taught many year levels at primary schools across Auckland. My own education was at St Cuthbert's College and I have a double major degree in psychology and education. I am a mum to my twin daughters.

I like to see all students carrying high expectations of themselves and always aiming for personal excellence across all academic areas. I enjoy seeing students feel a sense of accomplishment in their learning. I highly regard integrating school values into the curriculum and ensuring all students have a sense of connectivity and belonging.

St Thomas's School PTA NEWS

Connect
WITH US

@StThomasSchoolPTA



Instagram



Facebook

UPCOMING EVENTS

EVERY
FRIDAY

ICE BLOCKS

From 3pm, under the tree
outside the office.
(weather allowing)

JULY
25

PARENTS AFTERNOON TEA

2:00 - 2:55pm in the school
staff room

JULY
30

PTA MEETING

7pm in the school staff lounge

JULY
22 & 23

MUSICAL SHOWCASE

Auditions at lunchtime

JULY
30

MUSICAL SHOWCASE

6:30pm

AUG
9

QUIZ NIGHT

Buy your tickets today!
Auction starting soon

QUIZ NIGHT - GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!

This year's theme - SPACE!

Come dressed in your best space-inspired outfit! There's
spot prizes for the best outfits.

Get your tickets today! \$60 per person

Includes entry, food and entertainment! 8 people per table.
Book your tickets today!

Have a team of 8?

- Book your individual tickets on KINDO
- Then email the PTA with everyone's names and your team name.

Don't have a team?

No worries! If you're coming solo or don't have full team of 8

- Book your individual ticket(s) on KINDO & we'll match you up with a great group for the night!
- Want to be sit with your partner/friend? Email the PTA and let us know who.

Email the PTA at: StThomasSchoolPTA@gmail.com

Silent Auctions

Bid on amazing items! Auction will start soon and end
10pm on 9 August.

Even if you can't make the quiz night, you can still participate!



SATURDAY, 9 AUGUST

6:30PM - 11:30PM

**ELLERSLIE FOOTBALL CLUB ROOMS
12 ELWOOD PLACE, ELLERSLIE**

IT'S QUIZ TIME!

**JOIN US FOR AN AWESOME CHILD-FREE NIGHT
WITH GREAT ENTERTAINMENT, YUMMY NIBBLES,
CASH BAR & PLENTY OF LAUGHS!**

Proudly sponsored by:



COIMEX

LOVE MUSIC?

COME ENJOY AN
EVENING OF GREAT
MUSIC AND SUPPORT
OUR TALENTED
STUDENTS AT THE
PTA'S MUSICAL
SHOWCASE!

AUDITIONS:
22 & 23 JULY AT LUNCHTIME

SHOWCASE:
30 JULY @ 6:30PM
DOORS OPEN @ 6PM
\$10 ADULTS / \$5 CHILDREN
IN THE SCHOOL HALL



*Parents and caregivers...
need a pick-me-up before school pickup?*

Why stand outside waiting for the gates to open?

Come up to the staff room for a free
afternoon tea with hot drinks, snacks, and a
chance to relax before picking up the kids.

Everyone is welcome,
**Friday 25 July
2:00-2:55pm
in the staff room**



HELP THE PTA!

We'd love for you to join us!

Whether it's helping at events or sharing ideas, every bit helps. No big commitment - help as much as you're able.

Our fundraising efforts for 2025 will go towards enhancing the STEAM programme with new equipment & resources.

If you're interested in getting involved or learning more, come along to the next PTA meeting or get in touch.



Email us at: stthomasschoolpta@gmail.com

Notices

MUSIC LESSONS AT SCHOOL!

**Specialist music tuition for a range
of instruments including Piano,
Guitar, Drums and more!**

IT'S CONVENIENT!



Have your child's **music lesson right at their school** and give them the opportunity to develop their skills through our **individualised lessons that're both fun and educational!**

**Learning music supports all areas
of learning through developing**



confidence



creativity



concentration



**and so much
more!**

Please scan this QR Code
to visit our website for
more information.



SCAN ME

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/>



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...

It's been a great week with our best buds. We worked together in blindfolded challenges, made friendship treats and tried on some silly costumes that we came up with in our props box.



OSCAR PROGRAMME SUBSIDIES AVAILABLE!

A NZ FAMILY BUSINESS FOR NZ FAMILIES!

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What's happening next week!

THEME: Staff Choice! Term 3 Week 3, 28th July 2025					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7:00 - 8:15 am	Lego Comp & Structured Free Time	Board Games & Structured Free Time	Colouring Comp & Structured Free Time	Beads & Structured Free Time	Baking & Structured Free Time
8:15 - 8:30 am	Game: Freeze Tag	Game: Red Light, Green Light	Game: Riddles	Game: 4 Corners	Game: Kid's Choice
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 Sammies & Fruit	Intro & Afternoon Tea Cheerios \$ Fruit	Intro & Afternoon Tea Sammies & Fruit	Intro & Afternoon Tea Popcorn & Fruit	Intro & Afternoon Tea Brownies & Fruit
3:30 - 3:45 pm	Game: Octopus	Game: What's the time	Game: Black Magic	Game: Down by the Banks	Game: Chain Tag
SENIORS 3:45 - 4:30 pm	GAME Mafia 	DISCOVERY Star Awards Prep 	SPORT Football 	COOKING Cupcake Decorating 	CRAFT Rules Wall Design
	SPORT Football 	CRAFT Bead Jewelry 	GAME Parachute Games 	COOKING Cupcake Decorating 	DISCOVERY Puzzles and Riddles
JUNIORS 3:45 - 4:30 pm					
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 Chips	Snack Time Potato Stix	Snack Time Crackers	Snack Time Oreos	Snack Time Xxxx

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BOOK ONLINE NOW AT www.kellyclub.co.nz