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

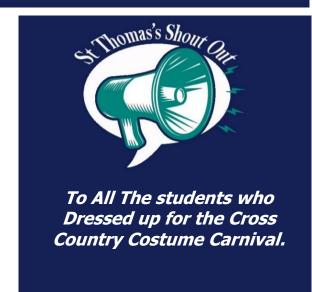
Unfortunately, we have had more unwelcome visitors to our school over the term break. As well as breaking bottles on the grounds, breaking windows and riding e-scooters across the field they ripped up many of the grasses and trees we had planted last term. The increasing damage to the school after hours 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**



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

19

20

04 Y7 & Y8 Speech Finals 05 **Board of Trustees Meeting** (6.30pm staffroom) 06 School Cross Country 07 Y2 MOTAT Trip Y5 & Y6 Speech Finals 07 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) Bay Suburbs and Eastern Zone Cross 12 Country 14 Eastern Zone Boys Basketball

Eastern Zone Girls Basketball

Y5 Museum Trip



"Changing Learning for a Changing World"

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

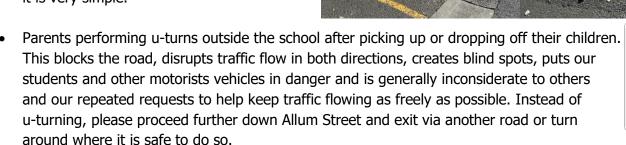
of traffic down Allum Street and creates blind spots for other vehicles. It also puts students at risk of being hit by other moving vehicles.





Yellow lines and 'NO PARKING' signs mean you cannot park here. This includes stopping to allow children into or out of your car.

 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 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.

The safety of our students is important to us. DO NOT risk lives for the sake of a 20 second walk.

"Changing Learning for a Changing World"

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!







"Changing Learning for a Changing World"

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.









UPCOMING EVENTS



ICE BLOCKS

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



MUSICAL SHOWCASE 22 & 23 Auditions at lunchtime



PARENTS AFTERNOON TEA 2:00 - 2:55pm in the school staff room



MUSICAL SHOWASE 6:30pm



PTA MEETING

7pm in the school staff lounge



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

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 guiz 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:







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.



HELP THE PTA!

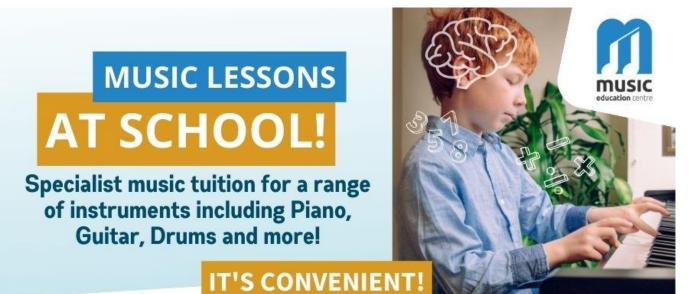
We'd love for you to join us!



Email us at: stthomasschoolpta@gmail.com

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.

Notices



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!**



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-notices/

School holiday programmes:

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



Contact: Ian Palmquist
Phone: 021 0803 3666
Email: stthomas@kellyc

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.





What's happening next week!



