

22 August 2025

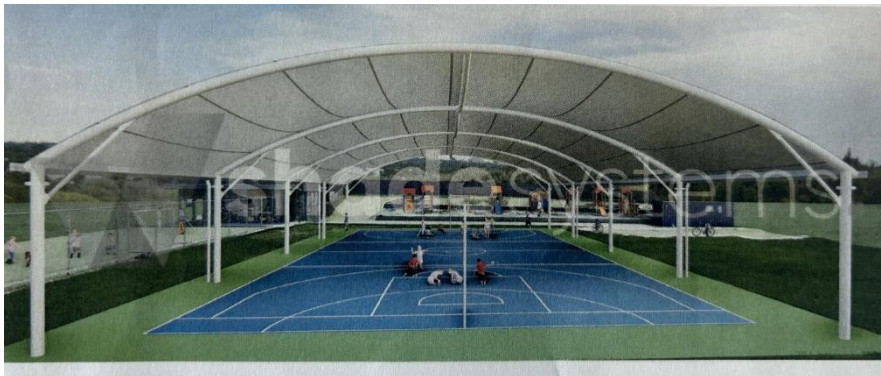
## Principal's Message

Tēnā Koutou Katoa

Exciting News!



After months of working with drainage and civil engineers and carefully moving through a tender process alongside a project manager, we are delighted to announce that we have signed an agreement to proceed with a new artificial turf and full canopy cover. This is a wonderful addition to the quality facilities which we continue to provide for our students. Whether summer or winter, we will be able to have outdoor activities under the canopy. With a sound system and lighting we will also be able to have full school assemblies, something that we are unable to do currently. Depending on council consent process timeframe, the expected start date for the project is late December and completion around end of February.



The white rectangle is where the proposed canopy will go:

Ngā mihi nui

**Michael Maher**

**Principal**



**To all involved in the upcoming "Rosenwood" production. Get your tickets now!**

### Upcoming Dates August

- 25 Junior Assembly (J13 Hosting)  
10am (school hall)  
Senior Assembly (S11 & S12 Hosting)  
11.45am (school hall)
- 28 SPCA Visit to S11 & S12

### September

- 01 Y6 Tree Planting at Selwyn Bush
- 02 Board of Trustees Meeting  
(6.30pm staffroom)
- 03 M3 & M1 Tiritiri Matangi Island Trip
- 04 M2 & M1 Tiritiri Matangi Island Trip
- 08 Junior Assembly (M2 Hosting)  
10am (school hall)  
Senior Assembly (Y7 Hosting)  
11.45am (school hall)

- 09 - 11 School Production "Rosenwood"  
at Selwyn College Theatre

- 16 Bay Suburbs Hockey

- 17 Board Elections close 4pm**

- 19 Last Day of Term 3

### October

- 06 First Day of Term 4





ST THOMAS'S SCHOOL PRESENTS

# ROSENWOOD

Trapped in an underground world of tunnels and rules, sisters Torah and Freya dream of something more.  
Join their daring escape to a land of colour, creatures, and heart . . . in Rosenwood!



## SHOW 1

SELWYN COLLEGE THEATRE

Tuesday 9 September  
12.30pm (matinee)

## SHOW 2

SELWYN COLLEGE THEATRE

Wednesday 10 September  
7.00pm

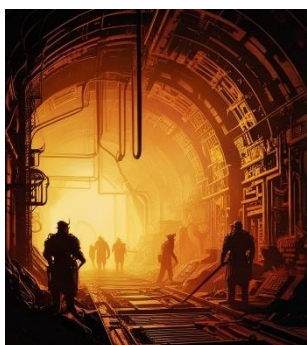
## SHOW 3

SELWYN COLLEGE THEATRE

Thursday 11 September  
7.00pm

# TICKETS ON SALE NOW

Visit our [online shop](#)  
or  
St Thomas's School Office



ST THOMAS'S  
SCHOOL KOHIMARAMA  
AUCKLAND

(09) 528-3938  
[office@stthomas.school.nz](mailto:office@stthomas.school.nz)



## Zoo Recounts – Year 4

Grr. I hear a tiger! I say as I get out of the bus. I was very surprised that I could already hear an animal before I even entered the zoo! I could see that everybody else was also shocked. Finally, we entered the zoo gates and it was packed with people left to the right. But we weren't focused on that, we were focused on finding the animals. After we heard the rules, we started the hunt after a little walk. We saw the giraffe, emu, and zebra. My personal favourite was the zebra. Next up, the one, the only, porcupines! We had a little chat about them before they went to sleep, sadly I didn't get his autograph. Try and guess what we saw next? The lemurs! Who doesn't like those meercats? They're so cute and playful! After that we saw the Turtles and Tortoise and everybody started saying I'm reunited with my dad.

By *Lucca Robinson*

We got on the bus. I'm next to James. The engines rumbled as we took off. We all get ready but as we go a threat comes... A TSUNAMI WARNING we all panic. We luckily make it in time and here is where the fun begins... we get to see giraffes drink and they have... 4 STOMACHS!!! But we got to see legendary stuff like the nocturnal porcupines right before they slept. And the worker feeding crushed bamboo to the cutest red fox/panda ever! But sadly, it never came down. But now we get into groups... MR D was the leader. His MINIONS were Shinya, Chase (Me), Aiden L And W but don't forget about Tony and Jason. We were the calculations group. We marched confidently to the penguins but when we got there, we were shocked! They were all gone so we ran to the dino discovery path...we got there and we heard ROAR everywhere. We found new bones and learnt about earth's history but after that we quickly ran to the centre, but we were too late. The army marched and we were attacked. We luckily made it out though and MR D got an iced latte.

By *Chase Henderson*





## Garden to Table Term 3

Our Year 4-8 students have been busy in the kitchen and the garden this term! In cooking sessions, they've created colourful and tasty meals including cauliflower fried rice, homemade tortillas with fresh slaw, and a delicious broccoli pesto. The students showed great teamwork, creativity, and kitchen confidence.

Out in the garden, classes have been planting seeds and learning how to care for our growing spaces—watering, weeding, and making sure the plants have what they need to thrive. It's been wonderful to see everyone connecting where our food comes from to the meals we enjoy together.

Ka pai to all our young gardeners and chefs for their enthusiasm and effort—our garden-to-table journey is flourishing!



## Bay Suburbs & Eastern Zone Cross Country

On Tuesday 12 August, our St Thomas's runners took to the course for the Bay Suburbs and Eastern Zone Cross Country - and what a fantastic day it was! The sun was shining, the energy was high, and our students gave it their absolute best from start to finish.

We are especially proud of our Year 8 girls' team, who placed third overall - an incredible achievement! Across the school, we had some amazing individual results and strong team performances, with every runner showing determination, grit, and school spirit.

For our Year 4 students, this was their very first time competing at a Bay Suburbs tournament, and they were nothing short of exceptional. They ran with confidence, encouraged one another, and set the bar high for future years.

A huge ka pai to every single student who represented St Thomas's - you made us proud. Thank you also to our parents and whānau who came along to cheer. Your support and encouragement help make days like this even more special.

## Eastern Zone Boys Basketball Tournament

What an epic day of basketball for our St Thomas's boys! On Thursday 14th August, our teams headed to Barfoot & Thompson Stadium to take part in the Eastern Zone Boys' Basketball Tournament. From the very first tip-off, the energy was high, the teamwork was strong, and the determination was clear.

We started the day with two outstanding wins that set the tone for some exciting games. The boys showed off their skills on both attack and defence, working together and pushing hard right until the final whistle. In the end, our team placed third overall in their pool - an awesome result that they can be proud of.

Beyond the scores, what stood out the most was the boys' sportsmanship, resilience, and ability to stay positive and connected as a team. Every player contributed to the effort, and it was fantastic to see them backing each other, celebrating big plays, and enjoying the game.

We're super proud of all our boys for representing St Thomas's with pride and passion it was a day full of fun, competition, and school spirit. Ka pai, boys!



## Eastern Zone Girls Basketball Tournament

The energy continued on Tuesday 19th August as our girls took to the courts at Barfoot & Thompson Stadium for the Eastern Zone Girls Basketball Tournament. It was another epic day, packed with learning, teamwork, and plenty of fun.

For many of our players, this was one of their first experiences playing competitive basketball and what a fantastic job they did! The girls embraced the challenge, supported one another, and showed amazing improvement as the day went on. By the end of the tournament, the confidence and skill growth across the team was clear to see.

Our girls placed fifth, which is a brilliant achievement and something to be proud of. Even more exciting was seeing so many students keen to give basketball a go, with smiles on their faces and a great sense of enthusiasm.

We couldn't be prouder of the way our girls represented St Thomas's with courage, teamwork, and positivity. This tournament was the perfect opportunity to build skills, friendships, and confidence on the court - and we can't wait to see what the future holds for basketball at our school.





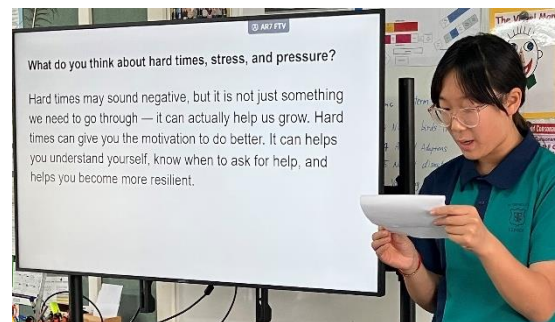
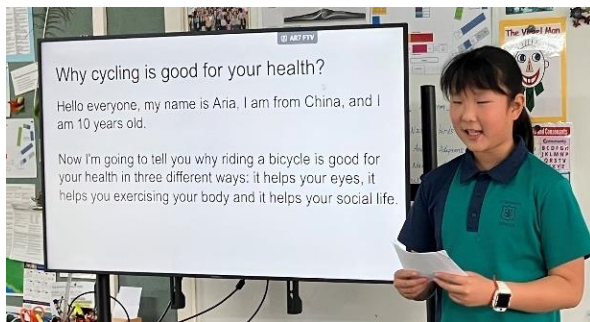
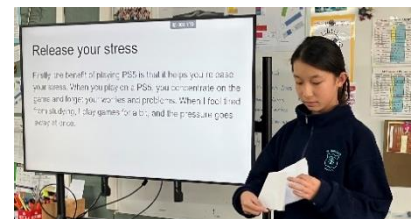
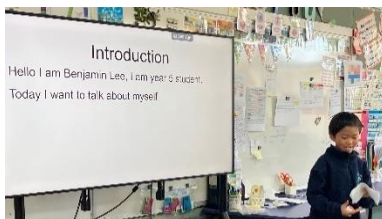
## Short Term International Students' Farewell Party

A big thank you to Sarah Liu and the class teachers who hosted our short-term international students this term.



## Speeches in the ESOL room

Last week we held a very special event in the ESOL room, where our emergent English-speaking students shared their speeches in front of a supportive audience of parents and whānau.



The students spoke on a wide range of engaging topics - from personal journeys such as *About Myself* and *The Life of My Dog and Me*, to cultural insights like *About China* and *The Importance of Te Reo Māori*. Some children highlighted their hobbies and interests - *Golf*, *My Hobby: Magic*, *Favourite Sports*, *Food and K-Pop*, and *What Are the Good Things About Playing PS5*. Others offered persuasive and thoughtful reflections on wellbeing and growth, with speeches such as *Hard Times Can Help Us Grow* and *Why Riding a Bicycle Is Good for Us*.

A special thank you goes to Cynthia and Teri, our International Student Language Assistants, who supported the students with their speech writing and practice. Their guidance and encouragement made a real difference in helping the children shine.

Speaking in front of an audience takes a great deal of courage, and every student from Year 4 to Year 8 should feel very proud of their clear delivery, interesting topics, and the confidence they showed.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you to all the parents who were able to join us on the day. Your presence and support were much appreciated.



## Year 5 & 6 Rehu Tai Speech

On Thursday 21 August, Georgia Martin (Year 6) and Clara Bruce (Year 5) represented our school by competing in the Rehu Tai Remuera Cluster Speech Finals.

Clara's speech was called 'The Koala Crisis' and placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 'Flash Talk' section. Georgia's speech was called 'The Land That Taught Me to Stand' and placed 4<sup>th</sup> in the 'Prepared Speech' section. Well done to both girls - what a fantastic achievement for you both!





## Staff Profile – Pranita Naidoo



I love to travel, and have enjoyed going to South Africa, Vietnam, Malaysia and Dubai. I like to make my classroom a fun and inclusive environment. I particularly enjoy the arts and music, so I have lots of colour in my classroom! I have an orange cat named Frankie and she is very clever. I enjoy hearing about all my students' passions and the beautiful cultures they bring into our classroom.

## Staff Profile – Eve Harris



I am excited to be part of the wonderful community here. When I'm not at school, you can find me taking care of the menagerie that is my garden, complete with a dog called Saturday, a cheeky black and white cat called Pip, and some chickens who are full of attitude. I enjoy being out in nature and enjoying the taongas of Aotearoa.

## Notices

### Crocodiles Gymnastics

Crocodiles Gymnastics offers a free trial class on Saturday mornings at St Thomas's School hall. Bookings are essential. For more info or to reserve a spot, please email us at [crockogym@gmail.com](mailto:crockogym@gmail.com).

### Making Waves Aquatics - YMCA Glen Innes Pools

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 programme:

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



# Food Drive



We are partnered with City Mission food bank For more information go to [aucklandcitymission.org.nz](http://aucklandcitymission.org.nz)



STS School



Week 6-8  
STS School

## What to bring

### Food

Canned food, Cereal, Long lasting food appliances, Canned fruits  
Toiletry  
Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, Toilet paper, Deoderant, Floss, Soap and shampoo

### Baby and younger

kid appliances  
Baby fourmula, Baby food, Nappies (any size), Baby wipes and Baby powder

WHEN YOU DISCOVER



THAT YOU CAN  
DONATE CANNED FOOD



Glendowie College Parents Association invites you to...



## RAISING RESILIENT KIDS: SUPPORTING GROWTH IN A CHANGING WORLD



Learn how to support young people to thrive with confidence and resilience and how to recognize the signs of helpful versus unhelpful stress. A practical session for all parents and caregivers.

With clinical psychologist **DR MARY MILLER**  
[mindtherapy.co.nz](http://mindtherapy.co.nz)

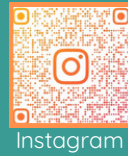


7PM  
TUESDAY 16 SEPTEMBER  
GLENDOWIE COLLEGE HALL  
BOOK ONLINE - ALL WELCOME



# PTA NEWS

Connect  
WITH US  
@StThomasSchoolPTA



## UPCOMING EVENTS

EVERY  
FRIDAY

### ICE BLOCKS

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

AUG  
27

### PTA MEETING

7pm in the school staff room

SEPT  
5

### PARENTS AFTERNOON TEA

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

SEPT  
9-11

### SCHOOL PRODUCTION

Get your tickets on KINDO today!

## JOIN OUR PTA WHĀNAU

*We'd love for you to join us!*

With a few of our wonderful members leaving at the end of the year as their tamariki move on to high school, we'd love to welcome some new faces to our group. The more people involved, the easier it becomes.

We meet just twice a term (and yes, there's food & drinks!). It's a fun and rewarding way to make a real difference at St Thomas's and support our community.

Come along to one of our upcoming meetings or email us at [stthomasschoolpta@gmail.com](mailto:stthomasschoolpta@gmail.com). It's a great opportunity to find out more about the PTA, the fundraising events we organise and how you could help.

### Friday Ice Block Sales

You'll find our PTA crew selling ice blocks, drinks and chips under the big tree by the front gate every Friday from 3pm. We ask that you please be patient as we work through the very busy line as fast as we can. We're all parents and volunteering, so please be kind.

Thanks for your continued support of this fundraiser, we love seeing you each Friday!



### Quiz Night Success!!

Thank you to all the parents, teachers, staff and family that came out to the PTA Quiz Night! The costumes were incredible and we all had the best night quizzing, dancing, drinking and eating! The event was a huge fundraising success thanks to everyone who came out and those who were bidding on items from the online auction. A big congrats to all the online auction winners!

And of course a final massive thank you to all the businesses that donated auction items and our main quiz sponsors:



## THE PTA IS ON FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM

Follow us for the quickest way to see what's going on!

Search for: **StThomasSchoolPTA**

### HELP THE PTA!

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.



[stthomasschoolpta@gmail.com](mailto:stthomasschoolpta@gmail.com)





**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...

We had a lot of fun exploring space this week. We made footprint rockets, raced with our balloon rockets and played some space Iron on the turf. We even started the week with rocket fruit kebabs.



**CELEBRATE THE  
END OF THE  
SCHOOL YEAR  
WITH US!**

Our end-of-year half-day programme is full of exciting activities that will guarantee your kids have a great time!

**BOOK NOW** [www.kellyclub.co.nz](http://www.kellyclub.co.nz)

**OSCAR  
PROGRAMME  
SUBSIDIES  
AVAILABLE!**  
\*Conditions apply

### What's happening in the Holidays!

**SEPT/OCT 2025  
HOLIDAY PROGRAMME**  
ST THOMAS SCHOOL

**OSCAR  
PROGRAMME  
SUBSIDIES  
AVAILABLE!**  
\*Conditions apply

WEEK 1	Mon 22 September	Tues 23 September	Wed 24 September	Thurs 25 September	Fri 26 September
	 <b>BOOTCAMP MADNESS</b> Join us for fun obstacle courses, test your strength and fuel up with energising treats!	 <b>SUPER SQUAD</b> What super hero will you be? Choose your favourite and come along in costume. Lots of super fun to be had! We'll see which supers win in an epic game of hero-ball.	 <b>ICE SKATING</b> Join us for an awesome trip day to Paradise Ice Skating. Please remember a big lunch, drink bottle, shoes and a hat. \$20 extra for the day.	 <b>ARTY PARTY</b> Let's get creative and have fun making a mess! Join us for a day of games, arts and crafts as we look at many ways to use paint & paper.	 <b>OUT OF THIS WORLD</b> Climb aboard the Kelly Club spaceship as we shoot off into the galaxy. Let's see what we can find in outer space.
WEEK 2	Mon 29 September	Tues 30 September	Wed 1 October	Thurs 2 October	Fri 3 October
	 <b>GREEN THUMBS</b> Get ready to grow some fun! Bring your green thumbs and enjoy everything about our gardens. We will plant seeds, soak up the sun and finish with a magic garden tea party!	 <b>DRAGONS AND UNICORNS</b> Step into a magical world and test your bravery as you slay the mighty dragon, or perhaps you'll fly through the clouds with the unicorns. You decide today!	 <b>AUCKLAND ZOO</b> Join us for an awesome trip day to Auckland Zoo to see some amazing animals. Please remember a big lunch, drink bottle, shoes and a hat. \$20 extra for the day.	 <b>SPIN OUT</b> What spins and twirls? Wheels of course! Bring your bikes, scooters, and skateboards for a wheele fun day! No Helmet, No Ride.	 <b>MYSTERIOUS MONSTERS</b> There's no need to be afraid of the monsters at Kelly Club today! They may be mysterious but they are fun and friendly.

**Pricing:**  
**FULL WEEK:** \$300  
7:00am – 6:00pm  
**SCHOOL DAY:** \$49  
8:30am – 3:00pm  
**FULL DAY:** \$59  
7:00am – 6:00pm  
**HALF DAY:** \$41  
7:00am – 12:30pm or 12:30pm – 6:00pm  
**EVENT DAY:** Extra \$20  
(Included in Full Week)

**Contact:** Ian Palmquist  
**Email:** stthomas@kellyclub.co.nz  
**Phone:** 021 0803 3666  
**Facebook:** @KellyClubStThomas  
**Address:** 113 Allum St, Kohimarama

**BOOK NOW AT**  
[kellyclub.co.nz/st-thomas](http://kellyclub.co.nz/st-thomas)

Further information:  
[www.kellyclub.co.nz/hp#info](http://www.kellyclub.co.nz/hp#info)



**BOOK ONLINE NOW AT** [www.kellyclub.co.nz](http://www.kellyclub.co.nz)