



05 September 2025

## Principal's Message

Tēnā Koutou Katoa

### 2025 ERO Report – A Story of Success

It is my pleasure to share our Ministry of Education 2025 Education Review Office (ERO) report with our community. This report reflects what each of us brings to our school daily. Our board, staff, parents and students all go to make St Thomas's the amazing school that it is. This external evaluation reaffirms the approach we take toward 'changing learning in a changing world'. Moving forward we will build on this success to ensure we continue to provide the best facilities and programmes possible for our students and community.

### Quality Teaching Practice

At St Thomas's School, *"Learners experience high levels of success and make excellent progress; outcomes are similarly high for all groups."* This success is no accident. It comes from the commitment of our teachers and leaders to ensure that every child thrives. *"Learners benefit from excellent quality teaching practice that improves progress and achievement in reading, writing and mathematics."*

### A Rich Curriculum for All

Our children don't just learn the basics - they explore the world around them through a rich and varied curriculum. As ERO noted, *"Learners have rich opportunities to learn across the breadth and depth of the curriculum."* Importantly, *"Learners with complex needs are well supported to achieve their education goals."*

### A Safe and Inclusive Environment

We are proud of the culture we have built. *"The school successfully promotes learners' engagement, wellbeing and inclusion."* Classrooms are not only about learning, but also about feeling safe, valued, and respected. *"All staff promote a safe and inclusive learning environment that supports physical and emotional wellbeing, ensuring all learners feel valued, respected and can thrive."*

### Leadership That Inspires

Our leaders and Board are committed to excellence. As ERO stated, *"Senior leaders, staff and the School Board have high expectations for all learners to be successful."* We use data and insights to make good decisions: *"The school board and leadership use a wide range of achievement and engagement data to inform decision making and equitably allocate resources to support all learners."*

We never stop improving: *"A robust cycle of internal evaluation ensures that the school is continuously reflecting, reviewing and improving its practices to meet the needs of all learners."*

### Progress and Achievement

The results speak for themselves. *"The school is meeting Government reading; writing, mathematics and attendance targets set for 2030."* We also make sure our assessment practices lead to action: *"Assessment information is used well to adjust teaching practices to ensure ongoing improvement in teaching and student progress."*

## Welcoming the World

Our school is home to international students. ERO found that *"St Thomas's School has high quality processes for the provision of pastoral care of international students."* These students are welcomed into our learning community: *"The school provides a welcoming, inclusive environment where students are well-supported to participate in a range of activities and integrate into the school's community."*

## The Heart of the Matter

ERO's report of St Thomas's School is clear: we are a community where children succeed, where they are supported, and where every learner is given the opportunity to be the best they can be.

Or as ERO put it: *"Senior leaders, staff and the School Board have high expectations for all learners to be successful. Learner achievement in reading, writing and mathematics is consistently high and outcomes for Māori learners are equitable."* *"The well-resourced curriculum offers opportunities for academic, cultural and sporting engagement. It fosters students' confidence in their identity, language and culture. A variety of learning experiences enable learners to explore and excel in areas of interest and strength."*

Thank you to all our teachers, grounds staff, support and office staff for the outstanding work you do to make St Thomas's School so successful. Please click [HERE](#) for the full report.

## Strategic Plan Community Consultation

Every 3 years we review our Strategic Plan and we are currently working through a refresh for the next 3 years. We would like your input and views on our strategy for the next 3 years. Please click [HERE](#) for the link to the parent survey. We value your input and would appreciate you completing this survey by Friday 19 September.

Ngā mihi nui

**Michael Maher**  
Principal



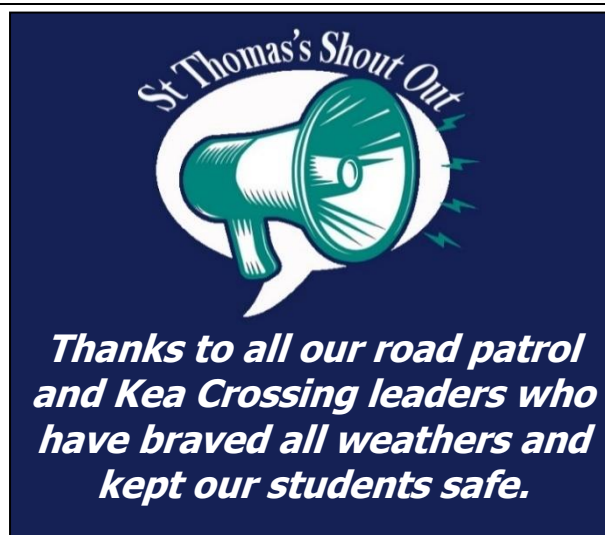
### Upcoming Dates

#### September

- 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
- 10 Board Elections close 4pm**
- 16 Bay Suburbs Hockey
- 18 Y7 & Y8 Social (school hall)
- 19 Last Day of Term 3

#### October

- 06 First Day of Term 4
- 08 Out of Zone Ballot closes**
- 09 Eastern Zone Volleyball
- 13 Y7 Youthtown Group 1
- 14 Y7 Youthtown Group 2
- 15 Out of Zone Ballot Day**
- 15 Y6 Trip to Motat
- 16 Y7 & Y8 Immunisations
- 20 Junior Assembly (J7 & J8 Hosting)  
10am (school hall)  
Senior Assembly (M5 Hosting)  
11.45am (school hall)
- 24 Teacher Only Day



## Please Name All Items That Are Brought To School

Please ensure that any items like, bicycles, scooters, balls, shoes, hats and polar fleeces are clearly named. This is to ensure that if an item is handed into the office, we can return to the student.



# IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR THOSE WITH TICKETS TO **ROSENYWOOD**

Our much-anticipated school production is next week! Thank you to everyone who has purchased tickets and shown such strong support.

Tuesday Matinee and Thursday night shows are completely sold out. A very small number of Wednesday night tickets **may** still be available via Kindo.

## **TICKETS TO ENTER THE THEATRE**

- Your **Kindo receipt is your ticket**. Please either print your receipt or have it ready to show on your phone. You will not be admitted to the theatre without evidence of ticket purchase.
- For tickets purchased at the school office, there will be a **list of names at the door**.
- Year 1–3 students attending the Tuesday matinee with their class do not require Kindo receipts – **staff will have class lists for admittance**.

## **SHOW TIMES AND THEATRE ETIQUETTE**

### **Matinee Show – Tuesday 9th September, 12.30pm**

- Theatre doors open at midday, please be seated by 12.20pm and avoid leaving empty seats between groups, as the Matinee Show is sold out.
- There are no food or beverage sales for the Matinee Show. No food or beverages may be taken into the theatre (Selwyn College rules).

### **Evening Shows – Wed 10 September & Thur 11 September, 7.00pm**

- The venue foyer opens at 6.15pm and the PTA will be selling snacks, ice-creams, beer, wine, and soft drinks before the show and at intermission.
- Theatre doors open at 6.30pm. Please be seated by 6.50pm and avoid leaving empty seats between groups as the shows are sold out.
- No food or beverages may be taken into the theatre (Selwyn College rules). Please consume items before entering.

## **CAR PARKING**

Parking is limited. Please plan to arrive early and allow time to park and be seated before the show begins. There are plenty of mobility impairment parks, for those with passes, just outside the theatre.

**WE CAN'T WAIT TO SHARE ROSENYWOOD WITH YOU**  
**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN MAKING THIS A MEMORABLE EVENT**

## Out of Zone Ballot for 2026

Our 2026 Out of Zone Ballot is **only open to the following**:

1. Families who have previously enrolled a child through an Out of Zone Ballot and have siblings to enrol for 2026.
2. Families that have moved out of zone while your child has been attending St Thomas's School and have another child that you would like to enrol for 2026.

If you meet the above criteria, you **must apply through the ballot** if you want your child to attend in 2026.

**No other Out of Zone applications will be accepted.**

Link to application form: [Out of Zone Ballot 2026 Application Form](#).

- Closing date for applications is Wednesday 8 October 2025
- Ballot date is Wednesday 15 October 2025
- You will be notified by the end of Friday 17 October 2025

## Language Classes

The junior classes have been busy exploring languages and learning about different cultures. This term, they have enjoyed discovering more about Germany, from new words and phrases to fun traditions. It has been wonderful to see their excitement and curiosity as they connected with a culture different from their own. One of the highlights was learning how to make traditional German pretzels! The children loved rolling and shaping the dough and their happy, concentrated faces (as you can see in the photos) say it all. It was a hands-on way to bring their learning to life and of course everyone enjoyed tasting the delicious results at the end!



## **Year 7 Boys - Auckland Champs Netball Tournament**

Our Year 7 Boys Netball team headed off to the Auckland Champs on Wednesday 20 August and what a tournament it was! The level of competition was incredibly tough, with some of the best teams from across the city taking part, however our boys rose to the challenge and gave it everything they had.

Every game pushed them to lift their performance and they responded with fantastic teamwork, accurate passing and great defensive pressure. What stood out most was the boys' resilience and sportsmanship. They never gave up, supported one another and represented St Thomas's with pride.

We are incredibly proud of this team - not only for how they played, but for the way they carried themselves on and off the court. Ka pai, boys, on an awesome effort at the Auckland Champs!

## **Auckland Cross-Country Championships**

We are incredibly proud of two of our students, Sheralee Naude and Axel Farr, who qualified to compete at the Auckland Cross-Country Championships held at the Pukekohe Showgrounds on Thursday 22 August.

This is a huge achievement, as qualifying for Auckland Champs means being among the top runners across our whole region. Sheralee and Axel both ran outstanding races on a tough course, showing real determination and resilience.

Both students achieved outstanding results: Sheralee placed 17th overall and Axel finished 13th. These are fantastic achievements and a real reflection of their hard work, commitment and training over the season.

It was fantastic to see their efforts pay off at such a high level of competition. What an awesome experience to represent St Thomas's on the Auckland stage.

Well done Sheralee and Axel!



## **Celebrating Our Netball Superstar: Emily Maire!**

As the netball season comes to an end, we just want to take a moment to give a huge shout out to Emily Maire for all the incredible work she's done for STS Netball over the past few years.

Emily has been an amazing organiser, communicator and overall superstar behind the scenes, supporting both parents and coaches. She's been a fantastic resource, always lending a hand, coordinating events, keeping everything running smoothly and making sure every team has what they need.

We cannot thank her enough for her dedication, energy and unwavering support of STS Netball. Emily, your hard work, positivity and commitment do not go unnoticed. We truly appreciate it and are so, so grateful to have had you as part of our netball community.

Thank you, Emily!

## Intermediate National Wrestling Champs

Congratulations to Emery Ngakiau who represented St Thomas's School at the Intermediate National Wrestling Champs. She had an amazing time and gave it her all, competing against girls from Te Atatū and Henderson Intermediate and she came away with a gold medal!



## Bay Suburbs Basketball Tournament

What an incredible day we had down at the YMCA Panmure Lagoon Stadium for the Bay Suburbs Basketball Tournament! Both of our teams gave it their absolute all on the court and we are so proud of the way they represented our school.

Our boys team played some fantastic basketball throughout the day, showing great teamwork, skill and determination. Their hard work paid off, finishing second overall in the entire tournament - such an outstanding achievement! Our girls team also shone, giving it everything in some very tough games and finishing in sixth place. Both teams showed such awesome sportsmanship and school spirit and we couldn't be happier with the effort, energy, and pride they displayed.

A huge thank you to all the parents who came along to support and help out on the day. We really do appreciate your time and encouragement - days like these wouldn't be possible without you.

And finally, a special thank you goes out to Khent and Caprice, our two amazing Year 8 boys who came down to help us umpire. There were so many positive comments made about you both and we are so lucky to have you representing our school in such a great leadership opportunity. Thank you once again, Khent and Caprice - you did us proud!



## Year 3 Tiritiri Matangi Trip

Our Year 3 classes were blessed with two days of beautiful sunshine for their trips to Tiritiri Matangi Island. For many of our parents and students, it was not only their first visit to the island, but also their very first time on a ferry – which made the adventure even more special!



Students were thrilled to spot Aotearoa's unique and endemic birds such as tīeke, tītīpounamu, and the rare kōkako with its striking blue wattles. A real highlight was also seeing a giant wētāpunga up close. Many also enjoyed learning about the history of the island, especially the lighthouse and how flags were once used to signal to ships.



- "My favourite part was being able to see the birds we had been learning about in class in real life!" *Dale*
- "I loved going on the ferry – it felt like we were going on a big adventure!" *Yuna*
- "The lighthouse was amazing. I didn't know people used flags to talk to ships." *Jack*

A huge thank you to the parent helpers who supported us on these trips – we couldn't have done it without you!



## Environmental Sustainability Orienteering Challenge

Last Friday a team of 4 Year 7 students participated in the Environmental Sustainability Orienteering Challenge at the Arataki Visitors Centre where they had to navigate their way around a course to find particular checkpoints and then answer environmental based knowledge questions before navigating their way to the next checkpoint. This all needed to be done in as quick a time as possible, while also accumulating as many checkpoint points along the way as they could. It involved the team planning their route in advance, supporting each other with both the physical and knowledge aspects and communicating and agreeing on decisions in a timely manner. The STS Bio Pickles did very well, completing all checkpoints within the 2 hour timeframe. A special thank you to our fabulous parent helper, without whom this trip could not have gone ahead. We now look forward to the next event in November.



## Staff Profile – Diane Jackson



I've been teaching for about 15 years and enjoy the variety each day brings. Before teaching I worked in technical roles in printing and manufacturing. I enjoy going for walks and exploring the beaches, native bush and amazing places we have in New Zealand. I have also been lucky enough to visit some other countries over the years. There's always something new to learn about.

## Notices

Please see our website for details about:

### Clubs and activities:

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

### Community notices:

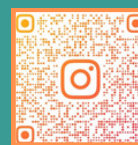
<https://www.stthomas.school.nz/community-notices/>

### School holiday programmes:

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

# PTA NEWS

Connect  
WITH US  
@StThomasSchoolPTA



Instagram



Facebook

## UPCOMING EVENTS

EVERY  
FRIDAY

### ICE BLOCKS

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

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!

SEPT  
1-22

### CALENDAR ART- ON NOW

Turn your child's school artwork into the perfect gift!

## It's Calendar Art Time!

Turn Your Child's Artwork into the Perfect Gift

To place your order:

1. Go to [www.kidsartworks.com](http://www.kidsartworks.com)
2. Entrance Code: **KZ1056**
3. Enter your child's room # and name

Payment can be made on the website via  
credit card or account2account.

**Don't  
Miss  
Out**

**Order NOW until  
22 September**

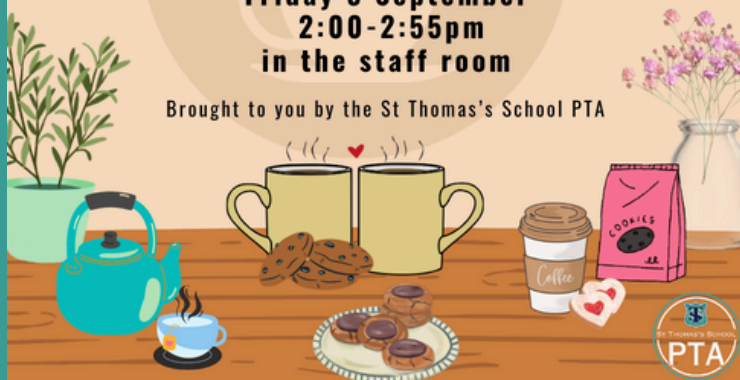


## Parents and caregivers... need a pick-me-up before school pickup?

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

Everyone is welcome,  
**Friday 5 September**  
**2:00-2:55pm**  
**in the staff room**

Brought to you by the St Thomas's School PTA



## ICE BLOCK FRIDAYS

From 3pm (weather permitting)  
Find us at the big tree outside the office



**Drinks:**  
**\$3 each**

**Ice Blocks:**  
**\$2 each or 3 for \$5**  
Lemonade, Berry, Orange & Lime

**Chips:**  
**\$3 each**

## THE PTA IS ON FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM

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

**Search for: StThomasSchoolPTA**

## 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.

## HELP THE PTA!

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

[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...

This week, we began our project for the Kelly Club star awards competition in October. We had a lot of fun coming up with ideas on ways to show why we are the best Kelly Club in New Zealand. We can't wait to see what we come up with!

Also, we have brought on Coach Murphy to the team. Welcome to the team Murphy!



**KELLY CLUB**

**OSCAR PROGRAMME SUBSIDIES AVAILABLE!**

**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)

### What's happening in the Holidays!

**KELLY CLUB**

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

**OSCAR PROGRAMME SUBSIDIES AVAILABLE!**

	Mon 22 September	Tues 23 September	Wed 24 September	Thurs 25 September	Fri 26 September
<b>WEEK 1</b>	<p><b>BOOTCAMP MADNESS</b> Join us for fun obstacle courses, test your strength and fuel up with energising treats!</p>	<p><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.</p>	<p><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.</p>	<p><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 &amp; paper.</p>	<p><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.</p>
	Mon 29 September	Tues 30 September	Wed 1 October	Thurs 2 October	Fri 3 October
<b>WEEK 2</b>	<p><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!</p>	<p><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!</p>	<p><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.</p>	<p><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.</p>	<p><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.</p>

**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)