



19 September 2025

## Principal's Message

Tēnā Koutou Katoa

Our last newsletter for Term 3 and what an action filled end to the term. A range of activities including students volunteering in the community, sports tournaments, tree top adventures and of course our fabulous school production has provided our students with a range of opportunities to participate and excel. Thank you to our staff for ensuring these activities take place.

## International Students

On Thursday I will fly to Seoul to meet with agents and families who are considering studying in New Zealand. I then travel to Tokyo to attend the Education New Zealand fair to meet agents and families with the same aim. International students provide a rich additional cultural perspective to our school and expand our own students view of the world. The Government is keen to grow the number of international students coming to NZ from its 2024 income of NZ\$3.6 billion to NZ\$7.2 billion by 2034. The income we derive from international students allows us to provide extra support and facilities to all St Thomas's School students.

## Teachers Strike

The unions of primary school teachers, principals, school support staff and Ministry of Education specialist staff have called a national strike day on 23 October 2025 after the unions and Government failed to agree on key issues within the education sector. This strike means that any union member who works at St Thomas's School will not attend work on 23 October. With the number of school staff on strike on October 23, it is likely that the school will remain open and the remaining staff will be supervising students in shared classrooms, but no direct teaching will be able to take place. The school Board will monitor developments prior to the 23<sup>rd</sup> and the Board will decide if it is appropriate to keep the school open or close it for safety reasons.

Thursday October 23<sup>rd</sup> teachers strike day  
Friday October 24<sup>th</sup> teacher only day  
Monday October 27<sup>th</sup> Labour Day

Ngā mihi nui

**Michael Maher**  
**Principal**



***Thanks to the staff,  
parents, students and PTA  
who participated and  
helped with the production.***

## Upcoming Dates 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)
- 21 Board of Trustees Meeting  
(6.30pm staffroom)
- 22 PTA Meeting (7.00pm staffroom)
- 23 Teachers Strike Day
- 24 Teacher Only Day  
(no students in school)
- 27 Labour Day Holiday
- 28 Eastern Zone Touch
- 30 Y3 & Y4 Athletics Day

## November

- 03 Junior Formal Assembly  
9.15am – 9.45am (school hall)  
Senior Formal Assembly  
10.00am – 10.30pm (school hall)

## Rosenwood Production



A huge congratulations to everyone involved in our original Rosenwood production at St Thomas's School. What an incredible week it has been. Three spectacular shows on the stage at Selwyn Theatre. The dedication, commitment, and hard work from every single person involved made the production an outstanding success.

It takes immense effort to learn lines, remember stage cues, master dance routines, and bring characters to life. You showed what can be achieved through collaboration, creativity, and courage - stepping out of your comfort zones to become true storytellers and create something magical together. Your preparation and perseverance paid off, and you delivered unforgettable performances to sold-out audiences. I couldn't be prouder of you all.

I hope that in years to come, whenever you hear Electric Light Orchestra's Mr Blue Sky, The Cure, or Status Quo, you're instantly transported back to this very special time!

Enjoy a well-deserved rest over the school holidays - you've truly earned it.







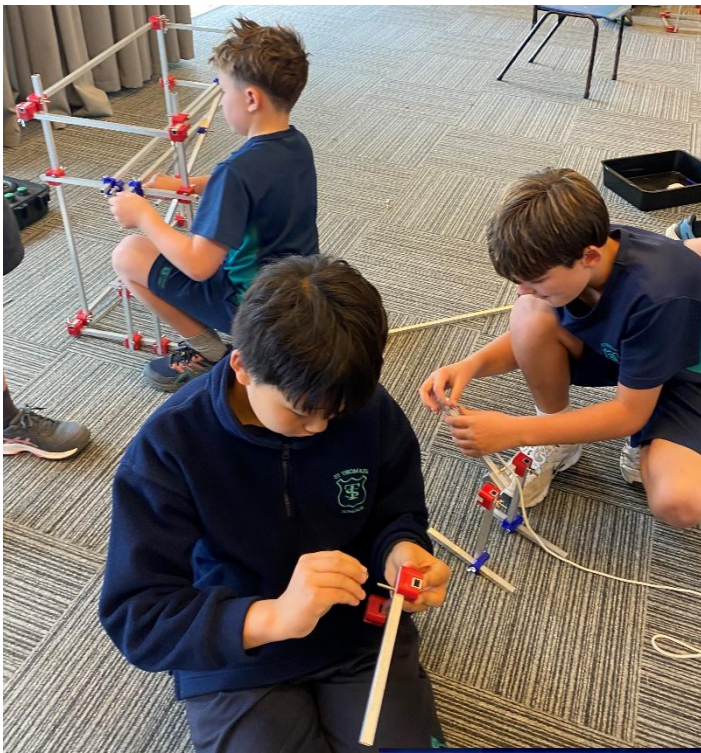
Please find some more photos [HERE](#).

Watch the Wednesday and Thursday performances [HERE](#).

Ms Gwyn

### ***EPro8 School Play-off***

After a term of developing our engineering and construction skills through the EPro8 Learning Extension Programme, the school final came down, for many teams, to a tie. In fact, for some it was a four way tie which shows just how close the competition was! The resulting tiebreaker decided the top two teams from Years 5-8 who are going through to the Eastern Bays competition next term. We wish them well and congratulate all the other teams who made it such a fierce competition.



0:00:00		
1	STS Monkeys	150
2	STS Warriors	150
3	STS Quarters	150
4	STS Capybaras	150



## Bay Suburbs Hockey Tournament

On Tuesday 16 September, St Thomas's School proudly entered three teams into the Bay Suburbs Hockey Tournament and what an epic day it was! The sun was shining, the competition was fierce, and our players gave it their all on the turf.

Our Competitive Team battled hard against some tough opposition and came away with an impressive result, placing 4<sup>th</sup> overall. Their teamwork, determination, and grit were on full display throughout the day.

Our Development Blue Team had a phenomenal run of games, finishing the day as overall champions, taking first place - an incredible achievement! Meanwhile, our Development Green Team showed huge improvement and skill, even going head-to-head with the Blue Team in a thrilling 1 - 1 draw. They placed 3rd overall after a fantastic effort across all of their matches.

We are so proud of every single student who represented St Thomas's School. They showed resilience, teamwork, sportsmanship and plenty of passion for the game.

A huge thank you to all our wonderful parents and staff who supported us on the day with coaching, managing, and cheering from the sidelines, we truly couldn't have done it without you.

Ka mau te wehi, St Thomas's!



## Chess

My experience at the chess club *By Peleg Neuberger*



When I first signed up for the chess club, I thought I would just play some games with some worthy opponents. But no. The chess club also taught me a lot of things about chess, (if you don't understand it's alright) like how to defend against the scholar's mate, en passant and about all the different kinds of draws. I really enjoyed my experience at the chess club and also playing challenging games with good opponents. I have enjoyed chess since when I was little, so the chess club made Tuesday (which was the day when the chess club was) my favourite day of the week. I also made some friends, like Andrei, who was second place at the chess championship, and we enjoyed playing together. I will definitely sign up for next term.

## Year 7 Abracadabras Netball Team Runner Up

Our Year 7 Abracadabras netball team finished as runners-up in the Grade D section for this season. All the players attended the prize giving together on Saturday, making it a memorable way to celebrate their hard work and dedication. It was wonderful to see their teamwork and enthusiasm throughout the season.

Congratulations to all the players for their efforts. This achievement reflects a huge improvement for most of the students, especially as first-time players.



## Year 6 Volunteering Topic

What an amazing term for our Year 6 students! They really went above and beyond, organising a food drive that collected more than 600 items for the Auckland City Mission. A huge thank you to everyone who donated! The students also learned about the important work of the SPCA and put their creativity to good use by making cat toys to donate to them.



Some students visited a retirement village to sing a song and perform a dance from the Rosenwood Production, "Mr Blue Sky" which everyone loved! They also brought their favourite books to read aloud to the elderly residents and listened to their life stories. We finished with the elderly residents singing to us their favourite song, "You Are My Sunshine".



We also had students volunteer in Year 2 classrooms to help the Year 2s with a craft project. Unfortunately our tree planting was cancelled but we hope this learning inspires our students to volunteer in the future!



## Treetop Adventures

On Tuesday 16 September, some Year 7 students went to Treetop Adventures to complete the William Pike Challenge.

The day started with William Pike students travelling for an hour to Woodhill Park in Muriwai. When we hopped off the bus everyone was excited to get climbing. Before long, we got our harness and helmet and completed the practice/training course. Then, we were released and could complete the courses 1 - 8. Courses 1, 2 and 3 are the lowest and easiest, so for that reason we started with those. First, you climb up a ladder to a platform attached to a tree. You're clipped onto a wire and need to move across obstacles to get to the next platform. At the end, you go down a zipline back to the ground. Some of the obstacles include: walking on wooden planks or going through tunnels and nets. Then courses 4, 5 and 6 are taller and harder than courses 1 - 3. The obstacles are different too: balancing on a thin wire, wobbling between separate, swaying ropes and going on a flying fox.

Last but definitely not least, are courses 7 and 8. They're way higher - level eight is ten meters above the ground! The zipline is 150 meters long, it's so fun.

It was a wonderful day, and it was made possible by Mrs Queale, who organised it and the three other parent helpers who supervised us - THANK YOU!





## Student Art Exhibition and Fair (Y1-8)

Soon we will be celebrating your child's art experience this year, by having their own art feature in the first of its kind - St Thomas's School Art Exhibition & Fair.

We aim for each student to have a piece of art on display (some may have more) that could include pencil work, painting, textiles, construction, clay, and murals, to name a few.

All art can be purchased from now and up until the Awards Night for \$10 via Kindo.

For students with more than 1 art piece, for an additional \$5 you can purchase all the original art. For families where there is more than 1 purchaser, the first to purchase and pay will receive the original art, and the second purchaser will receive the artwork print.

All purchased art will be available for collection from Monday 24 November onwards.

### Parent and Community Viewing (Gold coin entry)

Wednesday 12 and Thursday 13 November:

- Morning Session: 8.30am - 9.30am
- Afternoon Session: 2.00pm - 4.00pm

## Art Fair Evening Event and Awards Night

Thursday 13 November 6.00pm – 8.00pm.

\$5 ticket per family available now via Kindo.

At the evening event, celebrate the winners of our art awards - Class Silver Award, Class Gold Award, Supreme Winner/s and People's Choice Award (per year group).

Any unsold art will be available for general sale at the evening event.



## **Staff Profile – Gill Ramsbottom**



I have been teaching for many years, mostly in New Zealand. This is my second year at St Thomas's School. I come from South Africa and I have lived in New Zealand for 30 years. Needless to say, I am an All Blacks supporter!

I have three sons who are 20, 23 and 26 and I have spent a lot of time being involved in managing their sports teams which has been great fun. On a personal note, I enjoy kayaking, camping and outdoor activities. My favourite season is Summer and I love going to the beach and swimming.

## **Staff Profile – Jen Taylor**



My passion is for teaching early literacy and numeracy. It is so rewarding to see children gaining confidence as readers, writers and budding mathematicians! I also love to teach Art and Music and have worked as a Primary Music specialist teacher across multiple age levels.

I have two children of my own at St Thomas's. My son James is in Year 6 and my daughter Lily is in Year 3. When not in the classroom I love to spend time with my family, read, play board games and puzzles, bake treats and relax at the beach.

## **Staff Profile – Claudia Harper**



I am originally from South Africa, where I graduated with degrees in Psychology and Linguistics and a degree in Education. I have experienced schools across the world such as Mauritius, China and South Africa. I arrived in New Zealand in 2020 and have thoroughly enjoyed teaching here. I enjoy doing arts and crafts and making things. I also love nature walks, music and I have a soft spot for dogs. I am a very passionate teacher, who enjoys helping children reach their full potential and I want to make a positive impact on the lives of all the children I teach. I believe each student is unique and special in their own way. I am a big believer in creativity, critical thinking, a growth mindset and flexibility.

## **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/>



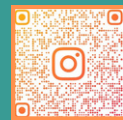
# PTA NEWS

THE PTA IS ON  
FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM

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

Search for: StThomasSchoolPTA

 stthomasschoolpta@gmail.com



Instagram



Facebook

## UPCOMING EVENTS

EVERY  
FRIDAY

### ICE BLOCKS

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

ON  
NOW

### YUMMY APPLE STICKERS

Keep collecting and bringing them in!

SEPT  
1-22

### CALENDAR ART- ON NOW

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

OCT  
22

### PTA MEETING

7pm in the school staff room

## It's Calendar Art Time!

Each item is printed with your own child's art they created at school, making it a one-of-a-kind gift that's personal, affordable & high quality. Ideal for sending overseas this upcoming holiday season.

Calendars  
Greeting Cards  
Sketch pads  
Mouse mats  
Diaries



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



Questions? Email the PTA at: [StThomasSchoolPTA@gmail.com](mailto:StThomasSchoolPTA@gmail.com)



## KEEP BRINGING IN YOUR YUMMY APPLE STICKERS!

Help us get a share of \$200,000 worth of free sports gear.  
If you have any stickers at home, bring them into class today!



## DID YOU KNOW THE PTA DOES THAT?!

### WE HOST ROCKIN' FUNDRAISERS!

-Athon	Calendar Art	Family Photo Day	Parents Afternoon Tea
Family Summer Picnic	Student Disco	Ice Block Fridays	Colour Run
Second-hand Uniform Sales	Christmas Hams	Musical Showcase	Parent's Quiz Night

The PTA is a fun way to support St Thomas's and make a difference. We're a friendly group of mums and dads who love running events for our school. But we need more volunteers to join our PTA whānau so we can keep putting on great events for our kids.

Come to a meeting or email [StThomasSchoolPTA@gmail.com](mailto:StThomasSchoolPTA@gmail.com).  
We'd love to have you!

## 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