

17 October 2025

Principal's Message

Tēnā Koutou Katoa

New Board

Congratulations to our returning Board members Arapeta Albert, Megan Wheeler, Karl Landman, Myriam Gros and Claire Fromow (staff rep) and a warm welcome onto the Board for our new member Keezia Haste. Thank you to all the other parents who put their names forward for the election. It is a positive sign when we have parents who are willing to put time into their child's school. Please see [here](#) for our new Board of Trustees.

Canopy Update

The plans for our new artificial turf and canopy are submitted to Auckland Council and we expect to have building permission shortly with expected start date of 16 December.

New Specialist Toilet

The Ministry of Education have funded the school to install a specialist toilet facility which is purpose built for students who have high needs with regards to toileting. This unit will be constructed next to the PE storage area and is wheelchair accessible to future proof the school for students who have specific needs. Plans are with Auckland Council and expected start date is January 2026.

Important Dates - 2025

Thursday 23 October: Teachers' strike day
Friday 24 October: Teacher only day
Monday 27 October: Labour Day holiday
Friday 12 December: Prizegiving

Important Dates - 2026

Friday 30 January: Meet the teacher appointments
Monday 2 February: First day of Term 1

Ngā mihi nui

Michael Maher
Principal



Thank you to the Kelly Club staff who do an amazing job with our before and after school care programme.

Upcoming Dates October

- 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 Yr5 & Yr6 Mathex Competition
- 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
- 29 ESOL Market Day
- 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)
- 04 Bay Suburbs Touch Rugby
- 05 Y5 & Y6 Athletics Day
- 06 Y7 & Y8 Athletics Day
- 12&13 St Thomas's School Art Fair



Save the Date

Prizegiving: Friday 12 December 2025

Reminder: School Pick-Up Time

A reminder that school finishes at 3.00pm and it is important that children are collected promptly at this time. After 3pm, students are not supervised, as teachers may be attending meetings or preparing for the next day. Some children can become anxious when their parent or caregiver is late, so we appreciate your help in ensuring timely pick-up. If you need care after school, Kelly Club operates a fantastic programme in the school hall. You can find more information [here](#). Thank you for your cooperation and support.

ESOL Café Community Event

Our ESOL Reading Café, held in the last week of Term 3, was a wonderful success! Guests could choose from the special "Reading Menu" that our ESOL students had prepared and were even served a game for dessert. The event was fully booked, with an enthusiastic turnout of parents, friends, and students all coming together to celebrate reading. The atmosphere was lively as the families enjoyed shared reading time, played games, and practiced English in a relaxed setting. It was fantastic to see so many members of our school community engaged and supporting our ESOL learners. What a perfect way to end the term!



Year 6 Trip to MOTAT



Year 6 went to MOTAT this week to launch the start of our Science Fair learning. At MOTAT, we took part in a lesson where we could play with magnets and make a circuit board. We also had a ride on the tram and explored all the other exhibitions.



The part we enjoyed the most was the Code Breakers exhibition as it had lots of fun activities. We also could do the VR experience of flying in a plane over Auckland.



Thank you to the parent helpers for making this trip possible!

By James O and Louis T

Eastern Zone Volleyball Tournament Thursday 9 October 2025

What an incredible day we had at the Eastern Zone Volleyball Tournament! On Thursday 9 October our St Thomas boys and girls teams hit the courts ready to serve, spike and set their way into the new term and they absolutely delivered.

Both teams showed awesome energy and teamwork throughout the day, especially impressive given it was the very first week back at school. The effort, enthusiasm, and determination was on display, with every player giving it their all in every match. From big rallies to powerful serves and some seriously impressive saves, the level of play was amazing to watch.

We are super proud of both teams for representing St Thomas's with pride and passion. A massive thank you as well to our wonderful supporters and parent helpers who made the day possible!!

What a brilliant start to Term 4 sport!



Student Art Exhibition and Fair (Y1-8)

Later this term, we will be celebrating all of our students' amazing 2025 art experience with our very own Art Fair and Exhibition.

The Art Fair will be held in our school hall and will begin with a 2-day exhibition available to everyone in the community with a gold coin donation entry. There will then be a separate evening event where we celebrate the winners of our art awards:

- Class Silver Award
- Class Gold Award
- Supreme Winner/s
- People's Choice Award (one per year group)

Each student (excluding those who have been absent) will have at least one piece of art on display. Some students may have up to three artworks on display. Art may include pencil work, painting, textiles, construction, clay, and murals to name a few.

Student artwork is able to be purchased by families from now onwards via our [Online Shop](#) and any unsold artwork will be available for general sale at the evening event.

Details of the event including dates, times and artwork prices are below.

Art Exhibition General Viewing (gold coin donation entry, payable via online shop or at the door)

Wednesday 12 November

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

Thursday 13 November

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

Art Fair Evening Event and Awards Night

(\$5 ticket per family payable via online shop)

Thursday 13 November

- 6.00pm – 8.00pm

Purchasing Artwork

All original artwork pieces can be purchased from now and up until the Evening Event for \$10 via our [Online Shop](#).



For students with more than one artwork, a bundle of all original artwork pieces can be purchased for \$15 via our [Online Shop](#). *If your child has more than one piece of art, you will be notified in a separate HERO post closer to the event. We have included a handy 'upgrade' option within the Online Shop for this purpose if you want to purchase artwork early.*

For families where there is more than 1 purchaser, the first to purchase will receive the original art, and the second purchaser will receive an artwork print.

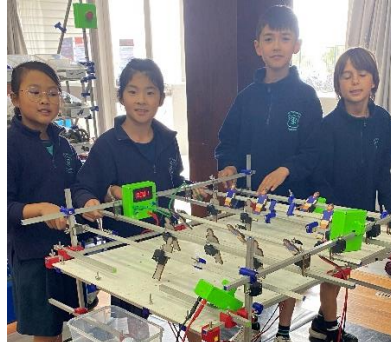
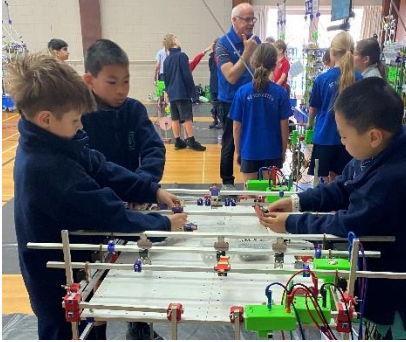
All purchased art will be available for collection from school from Monday 24 November onwards.

We can't wait to share our students' amazing artwork with our community and we appreciate your support in coming along to the exhibition and fair and for purchasing your child/children's art.

EPro8 Challenge

Last week our EPro8 teams participated in the Eastern Bays Inter-school finals of the annual EPro8 competition. The builds were tricky requiring knowledge of electronics and physics and a strong ability to share and listen to ideas from team mates – all within a highly charged environment of other teams and a timer ticking down to zero. Although we didn't place this year, I am super proud of the way all team members conducted themselves, showing perseverance and sportsmanship.

Mrs Snell



Staff Profile – Emma Ryan



I am originally from Whangarei, and I studied Teaching at the University of Otago which was amazing.

Outside of school, I spend most of my time at the gym or at the beach. I am a passionate teacher who believes in making learning fun and hands-on. I acknowledge all of my learners as unique and special, and I strive to build a safe, inclusive and exciting classroom environment where everyone feels supported and ready to learn!

Staff Profile – Rose Stephens



In the classroom, I focus on building strong, positive relationships with my students and their whānau. I love learning about what makes each student unique and using their interests to make learning meaningful and fun.

Outside of school, I enjoy spending time with family and friends, reading, dancing, and exploring the outdoors. It's been great joining the St Thomas's whānau and I can't wait for more fun and learning next year!

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 programme:

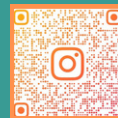
<https://www.stthomas.school.nz/school-holiday-programmes/>

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)

OCT
22

PTA MEETING

7pm in the school staff room

DO **SUPER!** THINGS
WITH THE PTA!

VOLUNTEER

CALLING ALL MUMS, DADS, AUNTIES,
UNCLES, NANAS & GRANDADS, BE A
POSITIVE ROLE MODEL...
JOIN OUR PTA WHĀNAU!

SHARE YOUR TALENT

YOU HAVE SUPER SKILLS
AND KNOWLEDGE
TO SHARE

SUPPORT US

HELP AT OUR EVENTS
BUT SKIP THE MEETINGS.
JOIN "FRIENDS OF THE PTA"

EMAIL US @ STTHOMASSCHOOLPTA@GMAIL.COM

PTA Uniform Drive

CALL FOR UNIFORMS

Have school uniforms that no longer fit?
Donate them to the PTA and help us turn outgrown
clothes into funds for our school via our uniform sales!

Do you have any of the following items:

Size 4:

Long Sleeve Shirts,
Shorts, Jumpers

Size 10:

Long & Short Sleeve Shirts,
Shorts, Culottes, Jumpers

Size 6:

Culottes, Shorts Jumpers

Size 12:

Long & Short Sleeve Shirts,
Shorts, Culottes, Jumpers

Size 8:

Culottes, Shorts, Jumpers

PE UNIFORMS:
all sizes

You can drop them off any time inside the school office

Head to the next
PTA Meeting:

Wed. 22 Oct
7pm

in the school staff room

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

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

FUNDRAISING GOALS

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



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 blast being back together for the start of term 4. The kids enjoyed creating paper helicopters, making filled plane sandwiches and playing musical airports.



DO YOU QUALIFY FOR CHILDCARE SUBSIDIES?

More families now qualify for childcare subsidies and the rates have increased for those already qualified!

BOOK NOW www.kellyclub.co.nz

OSCAR PROGRAMME SUBSIDIES AVAILABLE!

What's happening next week!

THEME: Bee Kind Term 4 Week 3, 20th October 2025					Teacher Only Day Full day bookings available on our website
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	
7:00 - 8:15 am	Colouring in Comp & Structured Free Time	Bumble Bee Puppets & Structured Free Time	Dance Battle & Structured Free Time	Origami & Structured Free Time	
8:15 - 8:30 am	Game: Chicken Tag	Game: Staff Choice	Game: Head it, Catch it	Game: Insect Fruit Basket	
3:00 - 3:10 pm	Sign In & Free Time	Sign In & Free Time	Sign In & Free Time	Sign In & Free Time	
3:10 - 3:30 pm	Intro & Afternoon Tea Noodles & Fruit	Intro & Afternoon Tea Sammies & Fruit	Intro & Afternoon Tea Cheese Toasties & Fruit	Intro & Afternoon Tea Sammies & Fruit	
3:30 - 3:45 pm	Game: Zip Zap Boing	Game: Rainbow Rush	Game: Crab Football	Game: Tug of War	
SENIORS 3:45 - 4:30 pm	COOKING Bumble Bee Balls	CRAFT Pom Pom Bees	GAME Queen Bee	DISCOVERY Pollination Experiment	
JUNIORS 3:45 - 4:30 pm	COOKING Bumble Bee Balls	SPORT Steal the Flower	CRAFT Bee Kind Flower	GAME Buzzy Bee	Teacher Only Day Full day bookings available on our website
4:30 - 4:40 pm	Tidy Up	Tidy Up	Tidy Up	Tidy Up	
4:40 - 5:20 pm	Playground	Playground	Playground	Playground	
5:20 - 5:30 pm	Homework & Quiet Time	Homework & Quiet Time	Homework & Quiet Time	Homework & Quiet Time	
5:30 - 6:00 pm	Snack Time Baking	Snack Time Raisins	Snack Time Muesli Bars	Snack Time Potato Sticks	

E: stthomas@kellyclub.co.nz

kellyclub.co.nz/stthomas

P: 021 080 33666



BOOK ONLINE NOW AT www.kellyclub.co.nz



**KELLY
CLUB**

**A FUN PROGRAMME
THAT KIDS LOVE!**

Friday 24 October
**TEACHER ONLY DAY
PROGRAMME**

**OSCAR
PROGRAMME
SUBSIDIES
AVAILABLE!**

*Conditions apply

ST THOMAS SCHOOL

Yee-haw! Ride on down to Kelly Club Country Carnival. Join us for some carnival games and other carnival fun! Book online now for our fun-filled one day programme. See you there!

Full Day: \$59
7:00am – 6:00pm

School Day: \$49
8:30am – 3:00pm

Half Day: \$41
7:00am – 12:30pm or 12:30pm – 6:00pm

Contact: Ian Palmquist
Phone: 021 0803 3666

Email: stthomas@kellyclub.co.nz
Facebook: @KellyClubStThomas

BOOK ONLINE NOW AT www.kellyclub.co.nz



A fantastic opportunity for your child!

Shine Speech & Drama classes inspire confidence and imagination, helping students communicate effectively and build self-belief that helps them succeed in life.

Here's what people are saying about Shine's lessons ...

"He got up and spoke in front of the school. He would never have done that before"
— James' Mum

"Thank you so much for calmly and reassuringly, through zoom after zoom, guiding the boys' through their tasks. Thank you for all the extra energy and organisation that has gone into all of this. You've been simply fantastic!" - Catherine

"....the best speech and drama teacher working in New Zealand today." NZ Herald

SHINE SPEECH & DRAMA covers:

- public speaking
- acting skills
- voice (projection and articulation)
- reading aloud skills
- positive body language
- storytelling
- relationship skills

Option to enter exams through Speech NZ and Trinity
Shine Achievement Awards available for all students

Meet our new Shine tutor at St Thomas's School – Fiona



ICF Accredited Coach
A.T.C.L Speech and Drama Teaching, LTCL Acting
Human Synergistics Accreditation, LSI and GSI
Master's International Business, University of Auckland

Fiona brings a wealth of experience and a passion for communication. She has had an active career in the performing arts, including acting in theatre, film, and television. Her performance career highlights include being a finalist in the Fisher and Paykel Best Actress Award and nominated for a Best Supporting Actress award for her role as Ruth Duggan in the 1999 Film and Television Awards for the TV Drama Duggan alongside John Bach. Her performances include roles in other TV shows and films like Hercules: The Legendary Journeys, Street Legal, Plain Clothes, The Cult and Shortland Street, as well as feature film roles. More recently, she performed in the award-winning play Seed at the Basement Theatre.

Register [here](http://www.shine.school.nz/enrol-st-thomas) for lessons (www.shine.school.nz/enrol-st-thomas). Term fees \$270 for group class. 8 lessons guaranteed per term. Sibling discount of 10% for any siblings enrolling.

Any questions please don't hesitate to call Nina on 021 160 9197 or Fiona 021 583 049

MUSIC LESSONS AT SCHOOL!

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

IT'S CONVENIENT!

Give your child the opportunity to enjoy **music lessons right at their school!** Our individualised lessons are **fun, educational,** and designed to **develop their skills.**

Learning music supports your child's growth by developing:

confidence

creativity

concentration

and so much more!

Scan the QR code for more info

SCAN ME

0800 89 39 39
Or call us!