



Principal's Message

Tēnā Koutou Katoa

Art Fair

Thank you to all our parents who attended our Art Fair over the week and for the huge turn out last evening for our awards event. The art from your children was amazing and their creative enthusiasm was obvious through the variety and quality of the art on show. A special thank you to our regular art teacher Sara Haddon who put so much work into making this fair such a success, and to Sarah Allen who came in for junior special projects to help. As government changes in the curriculum are emerging which are leading to a more standardised and assessed measurement of each child, it is important that we continue to focus on creativity and problem-solving as these are such an essential part of what makes us human.

Healthy Food and Drinks

We just wanted to remind everyone that the school has a healthy food and drinks policy in place; and we discourage the consumption of high sugar content drinks or confectionary. Please do not include juice, flavoured milk, fruit drinks or sweets in your child's lunch box. The school has drinking fountains for the students to drink from or refill their water bottles throughout the day. If your child has a birthday, do not send them to school with sweets or other sugary treats for their friends or class buddies as they will not be allowed to give them out. We want to work alongside our families to support making healthy food choices for your children. Stopping sweets and sugary drinks entering school is one way of doing so. With Christmas coming up in a few weeks time, please talk to your child and let them know that they are not allowed to bring confectionary to school as gifts for their friends. An additional benefit of no sweets in school is less litter and chewing gum damage to school property including our artificial turf.

Ngā mihi nui

Michael Maher
Principal



***Thank you to all the
Students, Parents and Staff
who participated in the Art
Fair this week.***

Upcoming Dates November

- | | |
|----|---|
| 17 | Junior Assembly (M1 Hosting)
10am (school hall)
Senior Assembly (House Captains Hosting)
11.45am (school hall) |
| 18 | Bay Suburbs Athletics |
| 19 | Y6 Science Fair |
| 19 | PTA Meeting (7.00pm staffroom) |
| 20 | Eastern Zone Athletics |
| 20 | Y3 Trip to Corban Estate Arts
(M3 and half of M1) |
| 25 | Y8 Rainbow's End Trip |
| 25 | Board of Trustees Meeting
(6.30pm staffroom) |
| 26 | Y0 Photos |
| 26 | Y5 Maritime Museum Trip (S7 & S8) |
| 27 | Y1 MOTAT Trip |

December

- | | |
|----|---|
| 01 | Senior Assembly (Y8 Hosting) 11.45am
(school hall) |
| 02 | Y8 Market Day |
| 03 | Y5 Maritime Museum Trip (M6) |
| 04 | Y8 Rangitoto Climb |
| 05 | Parent's Afternoon Tea 2.00pm staffroom |

Save the Dates

Prizegiving: Friday 12 December 2025
Colour Run: Monday 15 December 2025

Art Fair Photos



Planning for Classes for 2026

We are currently planning for our classes for 2026. If your child is not returning to St Thomas's School next year, can you please let the office know.

Important Dates - 2026

Friday 30 January: Meet the teacher appointments

Monday 2 February: First day of Term 1

Focus on Nature



Nature Ninjas – Research has shown that being in nature helps to reduce stress, boosts mood, and supports focus and creativity. Our optional Nature Ninjas programme for senior students (Years 6 and 7) is a hands-on, get stuck in programme that runs once a week. Students plant, dig, weed, grow, and all the while learn about the natural growth of plants - from seeds to sprouts to flowers to fruits, understanding firsthand the connection between nature, pollinators and other creatures that our garden ecosystem

attracts and supports. It is outdoors, active, fun, and social, while promoting respect for the environment. Nature Ninjas is enjoyed not only by those students keen to get involved in improving our environment, but also by students who have a chance to shine in a non-competitive environment, or perhaps sometimes feel overwhelmed in a classroom environment and would benefit from nature time.

If this sounds like something your child would enjoy, please email Alison Snell at asnell@stthomas.school.nz. Places are limited.

Bay Suburbs Touch Tournament

On Tuesday 4 November, our Year 5 and 6 students headed down to Madills Farm for the Bay Suburbs Touch Tournament - and what a day it was! The sun was shining, spirits were high, and the energy was incredible from start to finish.

It was awesome to see every student out there giving their all, showing great teamwork, sportsmanship, and determination. The sidelines were buzzing with cheers from supporters, and the players did our school proud. We had some outstanding results across the board, with our Year 5 girls team taking out first place - an amazing achievement!

A huge thank you to all the parents who helped with transport, coaching, and supporting throughout the day. These events simply wouldn't be possible without you. We're so proud of all our Year 5 and 6 students for representing our school with such enthusiasm and heart - what an epic day!



International Karate Achievement

Sithev and Yonal Widanapathirana recently represented New Zealand in the 2025 National Karate Championship held in Japan. The tournament was highly competitive. Sithev and Yonal competed in two categories. They delivered outstanding performances and received certificates of participation.

STS News

To watch the 29th episode of the series, click [HERE](#).

ESOL Market Day

Last week we had the ESOL Market. We needed to use buzz money to buy things. When I went to the ESOL Room, I saw many stalls. Ali and I set up our stall and we sold out very quickly. After that I bought a mystery bag, and I put it on our stall. My mum and my sister were happy because I bought something they really needed.

By Jason S6

I decided to make a game called Lucky Rainbow Flip Game. First, pay \$5. Then do the paper, scissors, rock game for your card. After that, pick a card that you think will win a high prize. Lastly, you can collect your prize! More than one person won the 2nd highest prize of \$10 (double deal prize).

By Louis Y5

The best thing at ESOL Market Day was the girls' raffle basket because it had such cool stuff. I liked the cat plushie and the mini kitchen, so paid 60 buzz dollars for six raffle tickets. I was so surprised and happy because I won it!

By Madina Y5

I decided to sell my two puzzles. One of them was an Earth puzzle and the other one was called Wacky World. The Wacky World puzzle was crazy people doing something weird. Some of them were funny and doing dumb things. I had 128 Buzz dollars, and I bought a tennis racket, a dog that sticks to your arm, fish slippers, a bag for my mum, a bath bomb and a toy car. Someone bought my puzzle and I got 10 dollars because I gave them a deal and I bought flowers with it.

By Amirkhan Y5

For ESOL Market I decided to make cards and sell my cards for 3 Buzz dollars each. If you buy two, one is for free. I sold 12 cards. I made different cards. One was a pizza card and my teacher bought it. My friend got the tree card, and one person bought ten cards and paid lots of buzz dollars. I bought a board game for my sister. The name of the game was "Game of Life."

By Kendra Y5

I paid so much money to get the Bey Blades raffle. I bought 5 tickets and there were only 10 tickets sold altogether, but I didn't win. I was disappointed. However, I won the little tea pot set and some chopping boards for Mum and Dad.

By Martin Y4

Aashna and I offered back massages. Ms Kirsty gave her massage chair to us, and we made a shop sign. We charged 10 Buzz dollars for 5 minutes and we used a timer. The children really liked it, and we made a lot of money.

By Mahdia Y7

The best thing about ESOL Market Day was the games. I liked the target shooting best. You had to shoot little blocks with a small Nerf gun and there were different levels. I chose the medium level and I won lots. I kept hitting level 3.

By Ali Y7

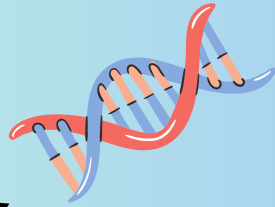
On ESOL market day I bought a toy doctor's kit for my little brother. He was thrilled. I also bought other things.

By Courtney Y4

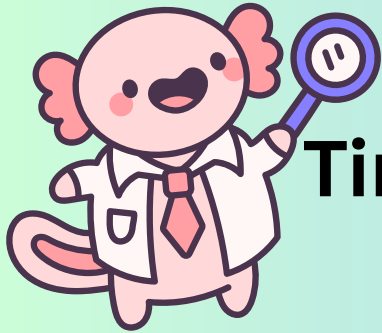


Year 6 Science Fair

Date: Wednesday 19th November



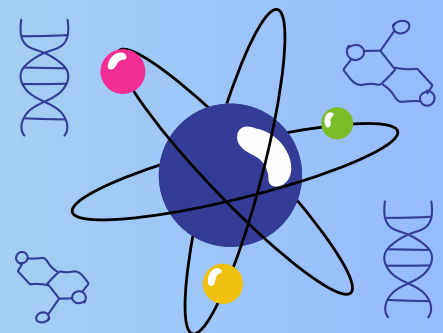
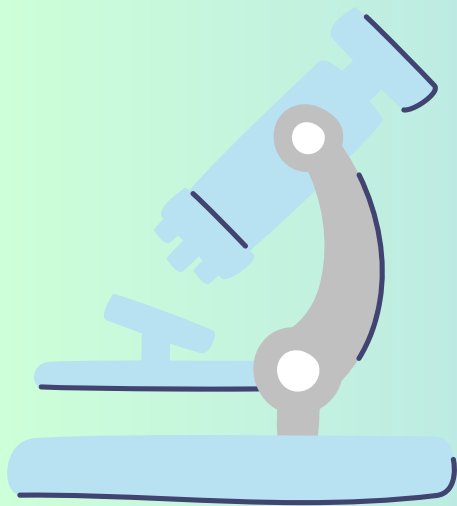
Where: In The Year 6 Classes. Please enter through S12 and leave from S9



Times to visit: 9:30am – 10:30am

11:00am – 12:30pm

1:40pm – 2:30pm



SCIENCE FAIR

Notices



Kids and smartphones—what's the big deal?

Join us for St Thomas's first **Smartphone Free Childhood** parent gathering.

Thursday 4 December

6:30–8pm

St Thomas's Staff Lounge

Access through the front office and up the stairs

This national charity supports parents in delaying giving smartphones to kids. We're getting together for a relaxed chat about the movement and how we can make it work for our community.

Hosted by St Thomas's parents and Smartphone Free Childhood ambassadors, Rebecca McBeth and Dr Katey Mitchelson. Rebecca is a journalist and editor working in the health technology sector. Katey is a child and adolescent psychologist.

All parents, caregivers, and STS staff are warmly welcome. Come along and join the conversation.

www.smartphonefreechildhood.co.nz

TRIPLE P PEAK MOMENT - SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGING SOCIAL MEDIA FOR YOUR FAMILY: RULES, BOUNDARIES AND BIG EMOTIONS

Imagine your whānau is navigating social media challenges with confidence and connection.

You're setting boundaries calmly. Tamariki feel heard and supported. Screen time is balanced. Big emotions come and go. What would that be like for you? Compared with now?

Whether kids are on social media or not, it's a good time to have a gentle conversation about rules and boundaries and what these might look like for your family.

Why? Because research shows that when parents set limits, monitor children's use and reduce their own social media activity, kids are less likely to have problems with social media.

Positive parenting strategies can create a calmer family atmosphere, leading to more fulfilling relationships, and better mental health for everyone.

Read Triple P's latest articles and find out how to [move beyond social media guilt and manage big emotions](#), and how to [set rules and boundaries that work for you](#).

And don't forget to check out their comprehensive [online courses](#).

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:

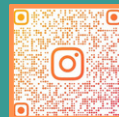
<https://www.stthomas.school.nz/school-holiday-programmes/>

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)

NOV
19

PTA MEETING

7pm in the school staff room

DEC
5

PARENT'S AFTERNOON TEA

2:00 - 2:50pm in the school staff room

DEC
15

COLOUR FUN RUN

On the school field from 1:30pm

St Thomas's PTA presents...

COLOUR RUN

2025

Monday, 15 December
from 1:30pm on the school field

Students will have separate time slots depending on their year level

IT'S THE MOST COLOURFUL DAY OF THE YEAR!

\$5.00 per child - Pay now via Kindo

If you'd like to help, you can also sponsor another child
by donating an extra \$5.00

What to Bring:

- White /light coloured cotton shirt
- Towel
- Goggles (highly recommended)
- Change of clothes

Parents, feel free to come and watch

PTA UNIFORM DRIVE

SECOND-HAND UNIFORMS NEEDED

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!
Drop them off any time inside the school office

Next uniform sale:
Friday, 30 January 2026 @ Meet the Teacher day

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

ICE BLOCK FRIDAYS



From 3pm Friday!
(weather permitting)

\$2 each or 3 for \$5

Find us at the big tree outside the office

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!