

12 December 2025

## Principal's Message

Tēnā Koutou Katoa

As we come to the end of our academic year and our last newsletter for 2025, I would like to thank all our families for attending our end of year prizegiving ceremony earlier today and congratulations to our students who were acknowledged in the prizegiving. Attached you will find the names of all those students.

The day after school closes, contractors will start work on constructing our new canopy and astro turf. If all proceeds as planned this is expected to be completed in February.

I wish a safe and peaceful Christmas to all our families and staff and we look forward to your return in 2026.

Ngā mihi nui

**Michael Maher**  
**Principal**



## Garden to Table - Term 4

This term, our Garden to Table students have been busy harvesting, planting, and cooking healthy, nutritious kai here at school. Because of the students' hard work, our garden has flourished. They grew so much produce that they were able to share the extra kai with our wider community. Our students were especially excited to donate vegetables to Kiwi Harvest, knowing their efforts would help support people in need during the festive season. We hope our tamariki continue their enthusiasm at home by sharing the recipes and skills they've learned with their whānau over the summer holidays.



***To all the students who were awarded or nominated for a prizegiving award.***

## Upcoming Dates

### December

- 15 Students meet their 2026 Teacher
- 15 Colour Run 1.30pm
- 16 Last Day of School  
(School closes at 12:30pm)  
(no school bus running at this time)

All students must be picked up at 12.30pm, as no staff will be on site after this time.

### 2026

#### January

- 30 Meet the teacher day  
(times to be arranged)

#### February

- 02 First day of Term 1
- 06 Waitangi Day Holiday
- 20 PTA Picnic
- 25 - 27 Year 6 Camp at Camp Adair

## Prizegiving

**The William Pike Challenge Excellence award** goes to the student who has completed the required tasks to the highest standard and who has demonstrated outstanding personal development as a result of this Challenge.

The William Pike Challenge Excellence award went to: Csongi Pados

Congratulations to the other William Pike participants:

Akanir Arrasco Bravo, Finn Casci, Juan Chakkalakkal Jobi, Ashton Colebourne, Annaliese Donohue, Thivein Fernando Pulle, Jack Pomeroy, Tu'ipulotu Havea, Amshavi Jeyaseelan, Henry Keh, Mithun Ketheesan, Anise Li, Blake Mountfort, Ryan Mountfort, Afridi Nathan, Sheralee Naude, Daria Nesterova, Sam Nicholson, Allie Nikolovska, Jack Gallagher, Jacob Quinn, Julia Rattenbury, Dante Salinger, Aika Sato, Alexandra Savin-Taylor Ulrich, Mayra Singh, Hollie Spillane, Tommy Tran, Nathan Vallaidam and Luke White.

**The Spirit award** is for a Year 1 – 8 student who faces life with the spirit of resilience and integrity and displays wisdom and compassion beyond their years.

The Spirit award went to: Alicia Scott

**The ESOL award** is for a student in Years 1 – 8 who has made outstanding progress in learning English.

The Nominees were: Hana Bae, Max Fukushima, Jason Peng and Louis Wan

The ESOL award went to: Max Fukushima

**The Claire Hooton award** is for a Year 6 student who shows all round ability in sport. The recipient will have participated fully in school sporting activities, displayed sportsmanship and Fair Play values.

The nominees were: Barnaby Hart, Abbie Tait, Charlie Tyler and Nate Van Rij

The Claire Hooton award went to: Abbie Tait

**The Voss award** is for a Year 6 student. The trophy is awarded to the student who has performed to a high standard in the three fields of the arts, citizenship and sport.

The nominees were: Georgia Martin, Archie McGregor, Ben Wheeler and Annie Yee

The Voss award went to: Georgia Martin

**The Bright award** is for a Year 7 student. It is awarded to recognise outstanding service to the school, as well as good citizenship. The recipient demonstrates persistence with their duty or regular task, courtesy and co-operation, reliability and maturity and an ability to interact successfully with adults and other students of all ages.

The Nominees were: Gloria Hart, Sheralee Naude, Mayra Singh and Luke White

The Bright award went to: Sheralee Naude

**The Te Toi Ora Cultural Connections award** is for a Year 6 - 8 student who participates in Maori/Pasifika groups, kapa haka and language. Te Toi Ora translates as 'the living knowledge'. It refers to the acquisition of cultural knowledge that will live on in the recipient.

The nominees were: Tara Caffrey, Sienna Lieskounig, Emery Ngakiau and Hollie Spillane

The Te Toi Ora Cultural Connections award went to: Sienna Lieskounig

## Prizegiving continued

**The Blanche Smith award** is for a Year 8 student who shows ability in The Arts; Visual Arts, Dance, Music and Drama.

The nominees were: Denise Guevarra, Mikaela Lowe, Maggie Mayer and Phoebe Taylor

The Blanche Smith award went to: Phoebe Taylor

**The Tony McClean award** is for a Year 8 student with feeling and compassion for others. A student who acts with honesty and integrity in their daily life, has a sense of Fair Play and participates in sport enthusiastically. This student has many interests; tries their best at everything they do. The recipient is both a leader and a great team player.

The nominees were: Tara Caffery, Sa Dah, Axel Farr and Emily Scott

The Tony McClean award went to: Emily Scott

**The Hill award** is for Sportsmanship and is awarded to a Year 8 student. The recipient will have participated fully in school sporting activities, displayed sportsmanship and Fair Play values.

The nominees were: Axel Farr, Rudina Sejdiu, Makayla Sillik and Huxley Tyler

The Hill award went to: Huxley Tyler

**The Sporting Excellence awards** reflect the strong sporting culture within our school at the Year 7 & 8 level. It Awarded to one girl and one boy from Years 7 and 8 who each demonstrate excellence across a range of school sports, whilst also upholding, through sport, our school values.

The nominees for the Girls award were: Summer Atai, Jasmine Braun, Rudina Sejdiu and Makayla Sillik

The Sporting Excellence Girls award went to: Summer Atai

The Nominees for the Boys award were: Jaime Brown, Axel Farr, Ali Morrison, Huxley Tyler

The Sporting Excellence Boys award went to: Axel Farr

One girl and one boy are chosen from Year 8 to receive the **McDermott award**. This is awarded to recognise outstanding service to the school, as well as good citizenship. The recipients demonstrate persistence with their duty or regular task, courtesy and co-operation, reliability and maturity and an ability to interact successfully with adults and other students of all ages.

The nominees for the Girls award were: Makayla Ferry, Mikaela Lowe, Emily Scott and Rudina Sejdiu

The McDermott Girls award went to: Mikaela Lowe

The Nominees for the Boys award were: Blake Burrell, Deneth Herathge, Abdullah Mansuri and Ethan Suppiah

The McDermott Boys award went to: Blake Burrell

**The Principals award** is presented to the Year 8 student who has the highest academic achievement.

The Nominees were: Selin Eser, Emily Scott, Ethan Suppiah and Jayden Zhou

The Principals award went to: Selin Eser

## House Captains

The **House Captains** are awarded to 4 Year 8 students who have demonstrated respect, resilience and responsibility throughout their time at St Thomas' School and will lead our students for 2026.

### The House Captains for 2026 are:

**Hauraki:** Amshavi Jeyaseelan

**Kohimarama:** Xavier Douglas

**Pohutukawa:** Mithun Ketheesan

**Rangitoto:** Mayra Singh

## Auckland Athletics Championships

On Thursday 28 November seven of our students competed at the Auckland Athletics Championships at GoMedia Stadium. We are incredibly proud of Sheralee, Henry, Axel, Makayla, Ava, Summer, and Jasmine for reaching this level - a huge achievement and a real testament to their dedication and hard work!

Sheralee & Makayla both ran outstanding 400m races, Sheralee finishing 12<sup>th</sup> in the Year 7 girls Race and Makayla placing 16<sup>th</sup> in the Year 8 girls race, both just a few seconds behind the first-place runner - an amazing effort on such a big stage. Our Year 8 girls relay team also had a fantastic race in very challenging heat, showing determination, skill, and excellent teamwork.

Henry had a super impressive 100m race, finishing with a time of 13.42s, only 1.31 seconds behind the first-place sprinter. We're so proud of him for giving it his all against such strong competition. Axel also had a fantastic day, placing 10<sup>th</sup> overall in the 400m, just 3 seconds off the first-place runner and in his discus event, Axel threw 23.34m - very impressive Axel!

We are so proud of all our athletes for their dedication, determination and the amazing way they represented our school. What a brilliant way to finish off the 2025 sports year!



## Farewell Party for our International Students

A farewell party was held on Friday 5 December for our international students who are leaving at the end of this year. These students are:

Hana Bae M3RU  
Yeonseo Park M4RI  
Anna Tanaka S7  
Yully Kim S8  
Woori Bae S10  
Justin Kim S1  
Seoyun Kim S2  
Luca Mann S2



## Year 5 and 6 Bike Skills

Huge thanks to Bigfoot Adventures for running fantastic bike skills sessions for our Year 5 and 6 students! The students were taught crucial lessons in bike and helmet safety checks, as well as essential riding techniques like controlled braking and correct signalling. It was a lot of fun!



## **The Art Exhibition and Awards**

The Art Exhibition and Awards were held a few weeks ago and we would like to celebrate the winners:

### **Year 1**

Supreme winner – Kailey G J12

Gold Winners – Brooklynn S, Ted W, Sadie W, Austen L

### **Year 2**

Supreme winner - Mateo G J7

Gold Winners - Caroline G, Ranuki H, Mateo C, Freddie T, Roshen K

### **Year 3**

Supreme winner - Elon Z M2PA

Gold winners - Mika M, Audrey E, Zoey L, Emily E, Elon Z, Julietta K

### **Year 4**

Supreme Winner - Hannah M5HA

Gold Winners - Louis C, Max C, Sulaiman D, Theodore T, Piper S, Rosie C, Hannah M, James L

### **Year 5**

Supreme Winner - Margo M5KI

Gold Winners- Haru E, Margo M, Nina H, Bella H, Lottie D, Anna T, Lydia M, Alex D, Yasmin G

### **Year 6**

Supreme Winner - Titouan S11 and Eli S9

Gold Winners- Eli P, Manon J, Louis G, Samantha B, Annie G, Titouan B, Adrien A, Kusali G

### **Year 7**

Supreme Winner - Ava S6

Gold Winners - Sara S, Sheralee N, Nathan V, Renata M, Ava S, Tommy T, Tyler L

### **Year 8**

Supreme Winner - Richard S4

Gold Winners - Jayden Z, Shiza A, Axel F, Richard Z, Seoyun K, Emily S, Maggie M

**Most Resilient Artist** - Olivia C Y7

**Most Original Art - Monopoly Stones** - Rudra J and Nathan V Y7

### **People's Choice** (Voted on by students and visitors)

Y1 Andia J10

Y2 Hannah J6

Y3 Julietta M1

Y4 - Cherry M4

Y5 Madeleine

Y6 Georgia S4

Y7 Anise S6

Y8 Mia S1

### **Principal's Selection**

Hannah Y4

Jayden Y7

Tommy Y7

Elise Y6

Sofia Y6

Hein Y6

Manon Y6

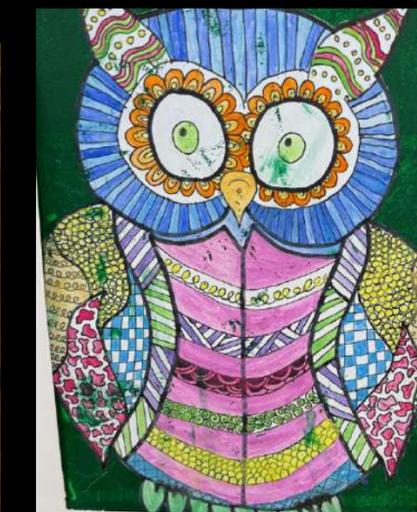
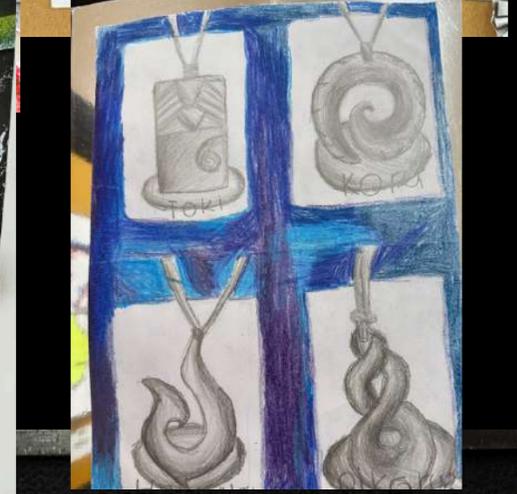
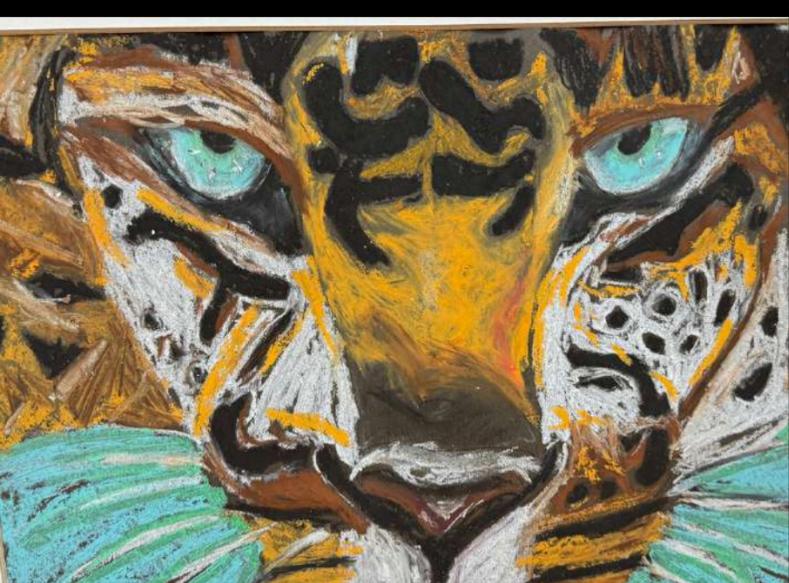
Clementine Y8

Mikaela S1 Y8

**Most Votes - Monopoly Stones** – Nathan and Rudra Y7

A huge thanks to all of the incredible artists who worked hard on their projects throughout the year. A special thanks to Claire who was a huge support and organiser behind the scenes and on the night, and the teacher helpers behind the scenes, on the day, and after, the judges and our office ladies who provided lots of last minute items!!

*Mrs Haddon Visual Arts Teacher*



## Staff Profile – Michelle West



I'm now in my third year of teaching, having taught across Science, Technology, Art, and Digital Technologies. Before becoming a teacher, I spent 11 years working in business and was also involved with Guiding and Sea Scouts - experiences that strengthened my belief in teamwork, resilience, and community.

I grew up moving around the world in a military family, including four years in Holland while attending school in Germany. These experiences sparked my love of languages, travel and exploring new places.

My daughter's dyslexia journey inspired me to pursue teaching and shaped my belief that learning should build confidence, curiosity and growth. Building strong, trusting relationships with you and your whānau is at the heart of my teaching.

## Staff Profile – Vanita Patel



I have been teaching for 18 years and no two days have ever been the same. I absolutely love helping students learn and grow. I enjoy exploring new ideas and projects with my class, making our environment a place where students feel welcomed, supported and ready to succeed.

When I'm not teaching, I enjoy running and travelling to different places with my family. I also love cooking and gardening.

I have had a great first year in the St Thomas's community and I believe that a classroom is a place where everyone feels valued, supported and excited to learn.

## STS News

To watch the 32<sup>nd</sup> episode of the series, click [HERE](#).

To watch the 33<sup>rd</sup> episode of the series, click [HERE](#).

To watch the 34<sup>th</sup> episode of the series, click [HERE](#).

Find every single episode of this year's episodes [HERE](#).

## 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/>

# Ordering is super easy



Go to [myschool.co.nz](https://myschool.co.nz) to find your school list



Check that you want everything on the list



Enter your details and choose how to pay



Pick when you want your order delivered, before Christmas or in the new year



Your delivery is under way **plus you're in to win \$1,000 cash\***



**ORDER IN DECEMBER**



**AND BEAT THE RUSH...**

## Choose how you pay

You can pay by internet banking, credit card or debit card. Plus, we've partnered with Zip, so you can pay in 4 interest free payments over 6 weeks and still get your order right away.

Zip Pay in 4 is available to approved applicants only and subject to completion of satisfactory credit checks. For more information visit [myschool.co.nz/zip](https://myschool.co.nz/zip). T&Cs and late fees apply. Zip Co NZ Finance Limited FSP 598969.

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## Pick when you want it



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## Help your school

Earn School Rewards with every order. It's our way of giving back to the community, and it helps your school get the extra things they really need.

See [myschool.co.nz/school-rewards](https://myschool.co.nz/school-rewards) for terms and conditions.

**Order in December**

and be in to

**WIN \$1000\***

5 prizes to be won



\*PROMOTION TERMS & CONDITIONS: 1 - 31 December 2025. The promotion (Promotion) gives you the option to order in December and choose whether you receive the goods in December 2025 or January 2026. 1. The Promotion is only available for orders placed online at [myschool.co.nz](https://myschool.co.nz) in December 2025. 2. If you buy in December 2025 you will be automatically entered into the draw. The prize is \$1000 cash, 5 to be won. The winners will be notified by 23 January 2026 by telephone or email. Inability to contact any winner by close of business on 30 January 2026 will result in the prize being forfeited and a further draw will be conducted. Winners consent to their name and photo being used for public relations purposes relating to this promotion. 3. School stationery lists are published as soon as your school has approved them for publication. OfficeMax is not responsible if the Promotion is shortened due to any delay in OfficeMax receiving approved lists. 4. Payment options include: internet banking, credit/debit card, or Zip (Zip Pay in 4 is available to approved applicants only and subject to completion of satisfactory credit checks. For more information visit [myschool.co.nz/zip](https://myschool.co.nz/zip). T&Cs and late fees apply. Zip Co NZ Finance Limited FSP 598969). 5. School donations and other charges will be charged when you place your order. These are paid direct to the school and will show as a separate transaction. Payment for school donations and other charges can only be made by internet banking (if your school has opted for this payment method) or on your credit/debit card. 6. The Promoter is OfficeMax New Zealand Limited, 30 Sir Woolf Fisher Drive, East Tamaki, Auckland.

# 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

DEC 12

**CHRISTMAS HAMS FUNDRAISER**  
Lock in your order TODAY via a deposit on Kindo.  
**Orders until tonight, 12 Dec**  
Pickup: 15 - 24 Dec

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

**IT'S THE MOST COLOURFUL DAY OF THE YEAR!**  
Get ready to run, dance, skip or cartwheel your way through a rainbow explosion of fun.

**\$5.00 per child - pay now via Kindo**  
You can also sponsor another child by donating an extra \$5.00

**WHAT TO BRING:**

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

Some surprise elements proudly donated by:  
**THE BAY'S Swim Magic**  
St Thomas's students special pricing:  
New enrolments get 4 weeks at ½ price!

**Final Day to Order!**

## PTA Christmas Hams

Hams brought to you by Mapari Meats, the high-end butchery on Lunn Ave

Mapari-Made  
Half Champagne Ham  
(approx. 5kg)

**\$125 each**

Mapari-Made  
Whole Champagne Ham  
(approx. 10kg)

**\$240 each**

**Lock in your ham order today by paying the deposit\* via Kindo. Last orders: Friday, 12 December**  
\*Deposit is non-refundable

**Head to Mapari Meats, pay the remaining amount & collect your ham between: Dec. 15 -24th**  
Address: Stoneridge on Lunn Ave, Shop 13 - 101 Lunn Avenue

**MAPARI MEATS**

## 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

*Thank you for all your support this year.  
We had a blast fundraising and hosting events.  
Enjoy the holidays and the summer break.  
See you in 2026!*

*Merry Christmas from the PTA*

A massive 'thank you' to our PTA members that are leaving at the end of the year. Your hard work, dedication and passion has made the PTA what it is today.

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](mailto:STTHOMASSCHOOLPTA@GMAIL.COM)