

27 February 2026

## Principal's Message

Tēnā Koutou Katoa

Thank you to our amazing PTA and our PTA staff rep Emma Cordelle for organising a fabulous school picnic. There was such a lovely vibe to the evening and great to see so many families enjoying the event. Thankfully the weather was also kind to us!



## Canopy Update

We had the opportunity to use the new speaker system at the picnic which sounded really good across the school. Installation of the fabric is complete and fencing is well underway. The artificial turf will be installed the first week of March and the last of the landscaping will be complete soon after that.

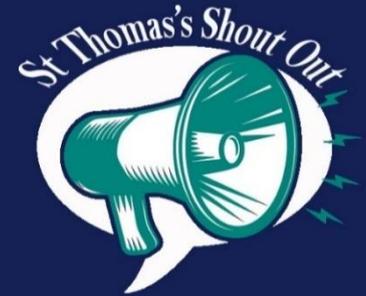


## Air Conditioning

The Board have funded air conditioning units for rooms J9, J10, J11 and J12 and installation was completed this week. These rooms were becoming very hot and students and staff are very appreciative of the cooler environment.

Ngā mihi nui

**Michael Maher**  
Principal



**Congratulations to our fantastic PTA for organising a wonderful school picnic.**

## Upcoming Dates

### March

- 05 Eastern Zone Softball
- 10 Yr 5-8 Swimming Sports
- 17 Bay Suburbs Softball
- 17 Yr 7-8 Immunisations
- 17 Board of Trustees Meeting (6.30pm staffroom)
- 19 M6 Howick Historical Village Trip
- 20 S7 & S8 Howick Historical Village Trip
- 23 Eastern Zone Orienteering
- 24 Eastern Zone Swimming
- 26 Student Led Learning Conferences
- 27 Bay Suburbs Swimming

### April

- 02 Last Day of Term 1
- 20 First Day of Term 2
- 20 - 24 Dance Curriculum Workshop (All Year Levels)
- 27 ANZAC Day Holiday

### May

- 04 - 08 Book Week
- 05 Eastern Zone Boys Football (Y7)
- 07 Eastern Zone Girls Football
- 08 Eastern Zone Boys Football (Y8)
- 12 Bay Suburbs Football

## Meet Emma – Our Amazing Sports Coordinator



Many of you will know Emma from the courts, the field, the poolside . . . or perhaps from an early-morning message about a sports draw change! This is Emma's second year as our Sports Coordinator and she does an extraordinary job creating opportunities for our students to represent St Thomas's, experience competition and develop teamwork, confidence and resilience.

Because sport at primary and intermediate school level has foundations within both school and the community, we thought it would be helpful to explain what the school sports role includes and where community and family-organised sport fits in.

### What the STS Sports Coordinator Role Includes

Emma's Sports Coordinator role is a two-day-per-week position, during which she manages almost all school-affiliated sporting opportunities available to our students.

### School Representative Teams

Emma organises St Thomas's teams for Eastern Zone (Years 7–8) and Bay Suburbs (Years 5–6) tournaments. For each event she coordinates; trials and team selection, communication with families, finding coaches and parent managers, permission forms and medical information, transport, health and safety, uniforms and equipment plus supervision and management on the day.

There can be up to eight BS and EZ tournaments in a single term, so we are very grateful to many of our classroom teachers who help Emma by generously giving up their lunchtimes to coach and support teams.

### Inter-School Events Hosted by St Thomas's

Each school in the Eastern Zone and Bay Suburbs cluster groups is responsible for organising one inter-school event per year. Emma is the overall organiser of:

- Bay Suburbs Netball Tournament
- Eastern Zone Girls' Football Tournament

This involves coordinating multiple schools, creating draws and schedules, arranging venues and officials, organising equipment, managing the day itself, distributing results afterwards and the dreaded task of attempting to resolve a variety of competitive disputes on the day. These events are effectively small sporting festivals and take many weeks of preparation.

### Whole-School Sporting Events

Emma also runs our school events:

- Swimming Sports (Years 5-8)
- Cross Country Carnival (Years 1-8)
- Cross Country Race Day (Years 3-8)

These fun events require extensive planning, paperwork, health and safety processes, staff and parent coordination, and team selections that lead into inter-school competitions.

### AIMS Games (School Teams)

Every second year St Thomas's enters teams in the AIMS (Association of Intermediate and Middle School) Games in Tauranga. This is a nationwide event that involves more competitors and more sporting codes than the Olympic Games! Emma coordinates accommodation, transport, safety planning, uniforms, equipment, coaches and parent helpers for all of our teams - a project that takes months of preparation.

### Teaching Load

Alongside this Sports Coordinator work, Emma also:

- teaches PE to Year 1–6 students two days per week
- works one day per week in a classroom as a teacher

## Where School Sport Ends and Community Sport Begins

Many of our students are also involved in sport outside of school hours, which is fantastic. After-school and evening activities such as netball leagues, miniball, flippaball, water polo and club football are community-run sports. These are organised directly between families and the relevant clubs or sporting organisations. Because of the number of students and the scale of our school sports programme, the school isn't able to form teams, enter leagues, arrange coaches or supervise players for out-of-school competitions.

If a parent-organised team is made up entirely of St Thomas's students and wishes to enter a tournament under the school name, Emma can help arrange uniform or equipment hire, but the organisation and management of team remains with parents. Similarly, students competing as individual athletes at the AIMS Games attend under family supervision and management.

### Want Your Child Involved in Sport Outside of School?

We strongly encourage participation in community sport. The best way to get started is to contact local clubs directly. Many run excellent junior programmes for primary-aged children.

### Community Sports Clubs Near St Thomas's School

#### Aquatics (Swimming)

- Tāmaki Swim Club - <https://www.swimtamaki.org.nz>
- YMCA Lagoon Pool & Leisure Centre - <https://aucklandleisure.co.nz>

#### Hockey

- Auckland Hockey - <https://www.aucklandhockey.org.nz>

#### Cricket

- Auckland University Cricket Club - <https://www.aucc.co.nz/>
- Parnell Cricket Club - <https://www.parnellcricket.co.nz>

#### Rugby

- Grammar TEC Rugby Club - <https://www.gtecrugby.co.nz>
- Marist Eastern Rugby Club - <https://www.maristeastern.co.nz>

#### Martial Arts

- Eastern Bays Judo Club - <https://www.judoeasternbays.co.nz>
- GKR Karate St Heliers - <https://www.gkrkarate.com>
- Kids Kickboxing at Resolve Fight Systems - <https://resolvefight.co.nz/>

#### Volleyball

Auckland Volleyball - <https://www.aucklandvolleyball.co.nz>

#### Basketball / Miniball

- Basketball Auckland - <https://www.auckland.basketball/>
- YMCA Glen Innes Basketball Programmes - <https://ymcanorth.org.nz/>

#### Gymnastics

- Eastern Suburbs Gymnastics Club - <https://www.esgc.co.nz>

#### Netball

- Auckland Netball Centre - <https://www.aucklandnetball.co.nz>
- Howick Pakuranga Netball Centre - <https://www.hpnetball.co.nz>

#### Tennis

- Kohimarama Tennis Club - <https://www.kohitennis.co.nz>
- St Heliers Tennis Club - <https://www.sthelierstennis.co.nz>

#### Football (Soccer)

- Eastern Suburbs AFC - <https://www.easternsuburbsafc.co.nz>
- Ellerslie AFC - <https://www.ellersliefootball.org.nz>

#### Water Polo

Marist Water Polo Club - <https://www.maristwaterpolo.co.nz>

### A Final Thank You

When school sport runs smoothly it can look simple, buses arrive, games happen and students have wonderful experiences. Behind the scenes, however, is a great deal of planning and care.

Emma's work provides opportunities for students to represent their school, learn teamwork, challenge themselves and most importantly develop a lifelong love of being active. We are incredibly grateful for the energy and dedication she brings to St Thomas's. If you see her on the sideline, please do say hello and thank you!

## 2026 House Captains

Kia ora! The 2026 House Captains welcome you back to a new year of learning and fun! We are all very excited to have this opportunity to make our school an extra positive and fun place! It is our goal to make you eager to come to school every day with a smile on your face. We are going to do this by introducing you to more upcoming events and workshops throughout the year.

### **Xavier Douglas - Kohimarama House Captain**

Kia ora, I'm Xavier, the new Kohimarama House Captain for 2026. I've been at STS since Year 0, so this is my ninth year! I have been here so long it feels like my second home. For eight years I have watched the House Captains doing their jobs and leading the school and I have always been looking forward to the incredible year of Year 8 when I try to get the role. I will ALWAYS try my best to help our house become the best in all aspects and I'm looking at all of Kohi to help me, so try your best guys! I'm really looking forward to the house relay and I hope Kohi can finally triumph against Hauraki, they are so good at the relay. You guys will probably see me playing basketball on the courts with the Pohutakawa House Captain Mithun. Ok Kohi lets see some real sportsmanship this year and try our best guys, GET THOSE HOUSE POINTS!!!! :D



### **Mayra Singh - Rangitoto House Captain**

Kia ora, I'm Mayra and I'm super excited to be the 2026 Rangitoto House Captain! I've been at St Thomas's since Year 1 and I've always looked up to the House Captains who brought energy, teamwork and spirit to our school. Now it's my turn to do the same! I want everyone in Rangitoto to feel proud, get involved, and give everything a go — whether it's cheering the loudest or trying something new. Let's make this year one to remember!



### **Mithun Ketheesan - Pohutakawa House Captain**

Hi, my name is Mithun, and I am proud to be the House Captain of Pohutakawa for 2026. I have been at St Thomas's for more than 8 years. This role means a lot to me and I promise you guys that I will try my level best to be supportive to everyone. Success isn't just about winning, it is about participating and putting in effort. Lastly, if we stay strong and help each other, we will have a great year.



### **Amshavi Jeyaseelan - Hauraki House Captain**

Kia ora, my name is Amshavi and I am delighted to be the 2026 house captain for Hauraki! Ever since I came to St Thomas's in Year 5, I have wanted to be a House Captain. I am looking forward to organising and helping out at exciting events this year as I have participated in a lot of school events last year. I'm also dedicated to encouraging a strong sense of teamwork, sportsmanship, and school spirit. I'm very passionate about seeing our house succeed. Let's make this our best one yet!



## More Photos from the PTA Picnic



## Ramadan Celebrations

This week the Year 8 Cultural Leaders teamed up with some other Year 7 and 8 students to lead some Ramadan crafts for Years 1-4. The students learned about the significance of Ramadan and how it is celebrated and chose from a range of activities. They reflected on the things that they were thankful for and worked together to create cool and creative art!



## STS News

To watch the 35th episode of the series, click [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/>

**Music lessons right at school** 🎵 Personalised lessons designed to support your child's confidence, focus, and learning — with no extra travel for families. 📌 **Enrol here:** <https://musiceducation.co.nz/pages/mis-enrolment>

# PTA NEWS

The PTA is on  
Facebook & Instagram  
@ StThomasSchoolPTA

 stthomasschoolpta@gmail.com

## Mark Your Calendar

EVERY  
FRIDAY

### ICE BLOCKS

From 3pm,  
under the tree by the gate

MARCH  
18

### PTA MEETING & AGM

Starting @ 7pm  
in the school staff room  
Anyone is welcome to join!

MARCH  
20

### 'CUPPA-AT-PICKUP'

2:30-2:55pm  
pop up to the staff room for  
a free coffee, tea & biscuit

## Family Picnic Success!

What a fantastic afternoon; our school picnic was a huge success! It was so lovely seeing families & friends picnicking on the grass, children racing around with friends and everyone enjoying great food (including incredible sausages from Mapari Meats).

A big thank you to the parent, student & whānau volunteers and the whole PTA crew who helped make the day run so smoothly. Events like this truly capture the heart of the St Thomas's School community. And thanks to your support, we were able to raise more than \$3,000 towards our fundraising goals.



## Join the PTA

Be a super role model! We all know that being involved in your child's education has a HUGE impact. The PTA is the perfect place where your presence, experience and ideas can help. Imagine the difference you can make!

### Not ready for a full commitment?

Join "Friends of the PTA".  
Joining means you can lend a hand at our events when you can without the full commitment.

Email us!





**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...

Festival Lantern was a success this week. We created paper lanterns, cooked up sweet rice dumplings and learned how to make lightning in a bottle. Such a fun way to light up a room.



### What's happening next week!

		<b>THEME: The Wild West</b> Term 1 Week 5, 2nd March 2026				Weekly Activities Plan Kelly Club St Thomas's
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
7:00 - 8:15 am	Wanted Posters & Structured Free Time	Origami & Structured Free Time	Board Games & Structured Free Time	Playdough & Structured Free Time	Homemade Cookies & Structured Free Time	
8:15 - 8:30 am	Game: Bean Bag Contest	Game: Balloon Stomp	Game: Duck, Duck, Goose	Game: Toilet Tag	Game: Football	
3:00 - 3:10 pm	Sign In & Free Time	Sign In & Free Time	Sign In & Free Time	Sign In & Free Time	Sign In & Free Time	
3:10 - 3:30 pm	Intro & Afternoon Tea Corn Chips, Salsa & Fruit	Intro & Afternoon Tea Sammies & Fruit	Intro & Afternoon Tea Cheese Toasties & Fruit	Intro & Afternoon Tea Sammies & Fruit	Intro & Afternoon Tea Homemade Cookies & Fruit	
3:30 - 3:45 pm	Game: Kids Choice	Game: Master	Game: Rainbow Rush	Game: Scatterball	Game: Wink Sleeper	
<b>SENIORS</b> 3:45 - 4:30 pm	<b>CRAFT</b> Wild West Bandana 	<b>GAME</b> Water Gun Shootout 	<b>DISCOVERY</b> Pan for Gold 	<b>SPORT</b> Escape from Jail 	<b>COOKING</b> Cornbread 	
	<b>DISCOVERY</b> Pan for Gold 	<b>SPORT</b> Sheep Herding 	<b>CRAFT</b> Hobby Horsing 	<b>GAME</b> Wagons & Horses 	<b>COOKING</b> Cornbread 	
4:30 - 4:40 pm	Tidy Up	Tidy Up	Tidy Up	Tidy Up	Tidy Up	
4:40 - 5:20 pm	Playground	Playground	Playground	Playground	Playground	
5:20 - 5:30 pm	Homework & Quiet Time	Homework & Quiet Time	Homework & Quiet Time	Homework & Quiet Time	Homework & Quiet Time	
5:30 - 6:00 pm	Snack Time Vege Chips	Snack Time Fruit Salad	Snack Time Popcorn	Snack Time Baking	Snack Time Veggie Sticks	

E: stthomas@kellyclub.co.nz

kellyclub.co.nz/stthomas

P: 021 080 33666



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