

27 March 2026

Principal's Message

Tēnā Koutou Katoa

What a fantastic term it's been at our school! From the very first day, our classrooms have been buzzing with energy, curiosity, and plenty of smiles.

Our students have worked incredibly hard and it's been wonderful to see their confidence grow as they've taken on new challenges and celebrated their personal achievements along the way.

Beyond the classroom, the term has been packed with fun! From exciting sporting events, trips and shared celebrations, there have been so many moments that has brought our school community together. A highlight has been seeing our students support one another and truly live out our school values of Respect, Responsibility and Resilience each day.

We'd also like to give a big thank you to our whānau and community for your ongoing support. Whether it's helping with learning at home, attending events, or cheering from the sidelines, you play such an important role in making our school a special place.

As we head into a well-deserved break, we are so proud of everything our students and staff have achieved this term. We can't wait to see everyone back next term, refreshed, recharged, and ready for another exciting term ahead.

Ngā mihi nui

Ingrid May
Acting Principal



Save the Date

Parents-only Beats by Bingo & Auction Night
Saturday 13 June 2026



Congratulations to all our students who have participated in sporting events this term.

Upcoming Dates

March

30 Y8 Mountain to Sea Trip to Goat Is.

April

01 Yr 7-8 House Assembly (Hauraki)
12.00pm to 12.30pm (school hall)

02 Last Day of Term 1

03 Good Friday Holiday

20 First day of Term 2

20 Yr 7-8 Assembly 9.10am to 9.30am
(school hall)

24 Official Opening of the Astro turf

27 ANZAC Day (Observed) Holiday

27 Yr 7-8 Assembly 9.10am to 9.30am
(school hall)

May

04-08 Book Week / Fair

04 Y8 Mountain to Sea Local
Freshwater Investigation

04 Yr 4-6 Assembly 11.45am to 12.30pm
S7 & S8 Hosting (school hall)

04 Y8 Mountain to Sea Trip to Goat Is.

05 Eastern Zone Boys Football (Yr7)

07 Eastern Zone Girls Football

08 Eastern Zone Boys Football (Yr8)

11 Yr 7-8 Assembly 9.10am to 9.30am
(school hall)

12 Bay Suburbs Football

You're Invited to the Official Opening of our Covered Astro Turf

We're excited to invite our wonderful school community to celebrate a very special milestone with us!

Friday 24 April @ 9:00am

Join us as we officially open our brand-new covered astro turf — a fantastic space for our students to play, learn, and thrive all year round!

Coffee Cart Available from 8:15am.

Arrive early to grab a hot drink for yourself and your family. Take the opportunity to pop into your child's classroom for a look around before the ceremony begins.

We would love to see you there as we celebrate together!



Ministry of Education's Expectations for Students' Attendance

The Ministry of Education now require us to inform them regularly with the number of students who have high levels of absenteeism or lateness, with no justified reason so they can monitor these students throughout the year.

Regular attendance at school is important to your child's success and there is a clear connection between going to school regularly and doing well in the classroom. Making sure students attend and engage in learning is a shared responsibility. As a parent, you are responsible for making sure your child attends school every day. If your child is going to be absent or late for any reason it is essential that you let us know as soon as possible. It is important that you advise us via HERO to confirm your child's absence or lateness and provide us with the reason before 9.00am.

We acknowledge that there are genuine reasons students may occasionally be absent or late. However, without regular attendance your child will struggle to make progress.

If your child is absent regularly or late for extended periods, we will reach out to you to discuss the situation. We are committed to supporting your child to attend school.

If you're having difficulty getting your child to school, you can ask for support by:

- speaking with your child's teacher
- sending us a message or email
- calling us

so, we can work with you to develop a support plan that addresses any barriers to regular attendance or lateness.

More information on attendance, including your rights and responsibilities as parents or caregivers, is available on the Ministry of Education's webpage.

Bay Suburbs Softball Tournament

On 17 March, our Year 5 and 6 students headed along to the Bay Suburbs Softball Tournament. What an awesome day it was. Our teams gave it their all across every game, showing great effort, teamwork and determination from start to finish.

We had some outstanding results on the day. A huge congratulations to our Year 5 Boys, who came away with the win, and to our Year 5/6 Girls' mixed team, who also took out first place - an incredible achievement for both teams. Our Year 6 Boys competed in a very tough grade and delivered an impressive performance, showing resilience, skill and excellent sportsmanship throughout the tournament!

We are so proud of all of our students for the way they represented St Thomas's, not only through their performances but also through their positive attitudes and support for one another.

Ka pai to everyone involved - it was a fantastic day of softball!



St Thomas's School Swim Sports 2026

What an amazing day of sport we had at our STS Swim Sports! With just over 100 swimmers taking part, the pool was buzzing with energy, excitement, and healthy competition from start to finish. From the very first race to the last, students gave it their all, showing determination, resilience, and incredible sportsmanship.

It was fantastic to see so many personal bests being achieved, with students encouraging each other from the side and celebrating every effort, big or small. The support from classmates, teachers, and parents made the day even more special, creating a real sense of community and school spirit!!

We also saw some brilliant teamwork in house relay event at the end of the day, where strategy, timing, and encouragement all came together to create an exciting race. Every participant represented St Thomas's with pride, and it was inspiring to see their smiles, determination, and enthusiasm throughout the day.

A huge thank you to all the parents, whānau and staff who helped make the event run smoothly and cheered our swimmers on. Ka mau te wehi, St Thomas's - what a memorable and successful Swim Sports day!



Term 1 Art Programme

It has been a very busy term with a group of classes from Years 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 having art sessions. We have used various media, including sewing monster character plushies, paper construction portraits, weaving using looms and adding felt touches as an owl, constructing puppets, drawing realistic panthers, some Tim Burton Portraits art (always a favourite), water colour mandalas, among others. The children's finished art will be displayed in their class or in the Art room. It will be returned to students later in the year to take home.



Candle Making

This week, the art monitors and leaders were lucky enough to have expert candle maker Jennifer Del Bel from Downlights NZ teach them about the science of candle making and were able to create their very own beautiful candles that smell divine.



St Thomas's Arts Programme Fundraiser



We are selling Lifelight Emergency Candles for \$15 Special Price (Retail \$24.95). \$0.50 from all sales will be donated to New Zealand Red Cross.

Payment can be made via the Kindo shop or purchased with cash at the school reception. If you pay by Kindo, candles can be collected by an adult on Thursday 2 April from 3.00pm to 3.15pm from reception.

Thanks to the parent volunteers and Mrs Haddon, who have made the candles under Jennifer's watchful eye.

Book Week

The countdown to Book Week is on!

We are excited to celebrate a week filled with stories, imagination, and creativity.

Book Week will run Monday 4 May – Friday 8 May.

The Scholastic Book Fair will be open in the library each day from 8.15–8.55am and 2.30–3.15pm.

We warmly invite you to come along, browse, and discover some wonderful books.

A variety of engaging activities will take place throughout the week, with the highlight being our Character Parade at 9.45am on Friday 8 May. Parents and grandparents are warmly invited to join us for this special event.

More information will be provided closer to the time outlining the various activities. We look forward to seeing the many creative and colourful costumes on parade!



STS News

To watch the 38th episode of the series, click [HERE](#).

To watch the 39th 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**

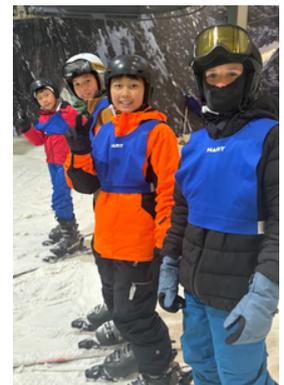
here: <https://musiceducation.co.nz/pages/mis-enrolment>

ST THOMAS'S INTERMEDIATE

What's happening in our Intermediate School

SKIING LESSONS AT SNOWPLANET: YEAR 7

The Year 7's were offered the exciting opportunity to attend 5 skiing sessions at Snowplanet. The sessions involve an hours lesson with an instructor on either snowboards or skis. The sessions so far have been a success and thoroughly enjoyed by all! Seasoned skiers are able to continue to build on their skills, while those who have never skied or snowboarded before are taught the basics! It has been amazing to see the progression in their skill levels!



MOUNTAINS TO SEA: YEAR 8

On Wednesday 25th March Year 8 went to St Heliers beach as part of their Mountains to Sea project.

The students had the opportunity to snorkel through this marine habitat. We also had the chance to learn about the marine life and take part in a beach clean-up.

On Monday we will head to Goat Island Marine reserve to see how this compares!





We are delighted to partner with Mitey to grow and support the mental health and wellbeing of all our students.

The Sir John Kirwan Foundation has designed Mitey with NZ teachers and the University of Auckland to provide an evidence-based approach to teaching mental health education to primary and intermediate aged children.

It is built around the NZ curriculum and embedded into everyday learning, to ensure children are equipped with the age-appropriate skills and knowledge they need to recognise and respond to mental health issues in both themselves and others before they enter teenage years.

Mitey has successfully implemented its approach to schools across NZ, and we are excited to be included.

THIS IS HOW IT WORKS

A Mitey coach will work with staff to develop teaching and learning. This will also ensure Mitey is tailored to our school's unique culture and community.

Mental health education will be taught by our teachers in every classroom with the skills, knowledge and understanding of mental health woven into what is already being taught.

Parents and the whole school community are an integral part of Mitey's approach and as with all our learning your engagement and support is a key aspect of educating our students.

We are delighted to partner with Mitey over the next few years to grow and support the mental health and wellbeing of all our students.

The following link will take you to Mitey's homepage if you wish further information
www.mitey.org.nz

MITEY.ORG.NZ

PTA NEWS

The PTA is on Facebook & Instagram @ StThomasSchoolPTA
stthomasschoolpta@gmail.com

Mark Your Calendar

EVERY FRIDAY

SAVE THE DATE

13 JUNE

KEEP COLLECTING

ICE BLOCKS

From 3pm, under the tree by the main gate

PARENT'S NIGHT & AUCTION

Save the Date! Online Auction, Musical Bingo, DJ, Dancing, Food & Drinks

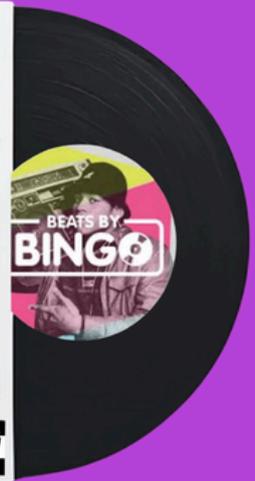
YUMMY STICKERS

Keep collecting those Yummy stickers & Cutout Labels

Parents-only night! Save the Date

NOT YOUR GRANDMA'S BINGO!

DUST OFF YOUR OLD RECORDS, CDS, CASSETTES & MP3S, BOOK THE SITTER AND START PLANNING THOSE COSTUMES, WE'RE GEARING UP FOR MUSICAL BINGO AND DANCING THE NIGHT AWAY. THIS ONE IS JUST FOR THE GROWN-UPS!



STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFORMATION, HOW TO BOOK YOUR TICKETS & ONLINE AUCTION

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE PTA CREW

SAVE-THE-DATE

SATURDAY, 13 JUNE 7-12PM

DON'T MISS MUSICAL BINGO WITH "BEATS BY BINGO", DJ, FOOD, DRINKS & SILENT AUCTION



Yummy Apple Stickers



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/ cutout labels at home, bring them into class today!

Collection Sheets: Yummyfruit.co.nz

Upcoming PTA Meetings

6 MAY	28 OCT
10 JUNE	25 NOV
29 JULY	

Join Friends of the PTA

Not ready for a full commitment?

Join "Friends of the PTA". Joining means you can lend a hand when you can without the full commitment. You'll still be making a big difference at our events.





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...

Face Painting, jester races and a jester show are ways that we showed off our clowning skills this week at Kelly Club. It's been a hilarious week of wacky dress-ups and silly jokes.



KELLY CLUB

OSCAR PROGRAMME SUBSIDIES AVAILABLE!

CELEBRATE THE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR WITH US!

Our end-of-year half-day programme is full of exciting activities that will guarantee your kids have a great time!

BOOK NOW www.kellyclub.co.nz

What's happening in the Holidays!

KELLY CLUB **APRIL 2026 HOLIDAY PROGRAMME** ST THOMAS SCHOOL

OSCAR PROGRAMME SUBSIDIES AVAILABLE!

	Mon 6 April	Tues 7 April	Wed 8 April	Thurs 9 April	Fri 10 April
WEEK 1	<p>PUBLIC HOLIDAY</p> <p>PUBLIC HOLIDAY</p> <p>Easter Monday!</p>	<p>EGGSTRAVAGANZA</p> <p>Hop along for our Easter 'Eggstravaganza'! Bring your looking eyes for our Great Easter Egg Hunt. Who knows what kind of goodies you may find!</p>	<p>GAME ON!</p> <p>Get ready to kick, pass and dodge! Come along and join in games of Football, Touch and Dodgeball.</p>	<p>THE 5 SENSES</p> <p>Experience the wonders of taste, smell, sound, touch, and sight through fun, discovery, and adventure.</p>	<p>FEE-FI-FO-FUN</p> <p>Fee-fi-fo-fun! Giant board games, giant ball games and giant fun. Are you up for the giant challenge of today?</p>
WEEK 2	<p>FIDGET FRENZY</p> <p>Spin and twist your way through the day! Make your own fidget spinners, play hula hoop twister and even cook yummy fidget pizza.</p>	<p>BOLLYWOOD FUN</p> <p>Step into the colourful world of Bollywood as we dance, craft, cook, and play! Enjoy Bollywood beats, colourful crafts, tasty Indian treats, and play Cricket and Hockey.</p>	<p>PIRATE PICKLE'S PUPPET PARTY</p> <p>Join us for a magical live show at TAPAC as Pirate Pickle and friends bring stories to life, followed by a fun playground stop. Please bring lunch, drink bottle, shoes and a hat.</p> <p>Extra \$20 for the day.</p>	<p>KELLY CLUB SURVIVOR</p> <p>Out-smart, out-laugh, out-think. Build a fort, play Capture The Flag and take part in our team challenges!</p>	<p>FOODIE FRIDAY</p> <p>Whip up delicious creations, bake sweet treats, and help us build our very own Kelly Club recipe book full of yummy ideas.</p>

Pricing:
FULL WEEK: \$290 (7:00am - 6:00pm)
SCHOOL DAY: \$51 (8:30am - 3:00pm)
FULL DAY: \$61 (7:00am - 6:00pm)
EVENT DAY: Extra \$20 (Not Included in Full Week)
HALF DAY: \$42 (7:00am - 12:30pm or 12:30pm - 6:00pm)

Contact: Ian Palmquist
Email: stthomas@kellyclub.co.nz
Phone: 021 0803 3666
Facebook: @KellyClubStThomas
Address: 113 Allum St, Kohimarama

BOOK NOW AT kellyclub.co.nz/st-thomas

Further information: www.kellyclub.co.nz/hp#info



BOOK ONLINE NOW AT www.kellyclub.co.nz