

01 May 2026

Principal's Message

Tēnā Koutou Katoa

A Big Day!



After much fundraising and planning the day finally arrived. Our new multisport artificial turf and canopy is open. Over 600 square metres of covered sporting area to be utilised summer and winter providing a sheltered area for sports and assemblies no matter what the weather may bring. This is a fantastic addition to our school's outdoor learning space and classes are now timetabled to use it for their physical education lessons and our top sporting teams who are participating in the AIMS games later in the year are using it at lunch times.

This is the most significant part of our outdoor learning plan which the Board developed four years ago. With a price tag of over \$600K, it is the costliest project we have done. Funds raised by the PTA, pizza lunches and income generated from our international students' fees have allowed the Board to continue to upgrade our student facilities. This court and canopy will be a wonderful asset for our community for the next 30 years and we are very proud to be able to provide the best facilities and programmes for our student community.

It is timely to note that parent donations are directed towards providing innovative programmes and specialist staff and thank you to those families who pay donations. With your help we can continue to provide additional support and opportunities for all our students while the Board continues to fund improved facilities to ensure we remain the leading school in the eastern suburbs.

Ngā mihi nui

Michael Maher
Principal



Well done to all our students who have participated in the Dance Curriculum this term.

Upcoming Dates

May

- 04-08 Book Week / Fair
- 04 Yr 8 Mountain to Sea Local Freshwater Investigation
- 04 Yr 4-6 Assembly 11.45am to 12.30pm S7 & S8 Hosting (school hall)
- 05 Eastern Zone Boys Football (Yr7)
- 07 Eastern Zone Girls Football
- 08 Eastern Zone Boys Football (Yr8)
- 08 PTA Afternoon Tea 2.30pm (staffroom)
- 12 Bay Suburbs Football
- 18-19 School Photos
- 19 Our Kids Online – Cyber Safety Presentation (School Hall) 6.30pm
- 22 Yr 1-3 Assembly 9.15am to 9.45pm (school hall)
- 25-29 Yr 8 Camp (Kawau Island) (6.30pm staffroom)
- 26 Board of Trustees Meeting (6.30pm staffroom)
- 29 Teacher Only Day (School closed for students)

June

- 01 King's Birthday Holiday
- 04 Yr 2 Zoo Trip

Dawn Whakanoa

Friday began with a whakanoa ceremony, a traditional practice held to open a new building or space. This took place at dawn to uplift the tapu (sacredness). We then moved on to a whakatau, allowing us to uphold the tikanga (customs) of the local iwi (tribe) and to strengthen the connection between tangata whenua (people of the land) and manuhiri (visitors).

Whaikōrero (speeches) from our kaumātua, John Dobson (a respected Māori elder), and Tainui, our Māori specialist teacher, alongside Matthew Rua, a parent, were followed by waiata (songs) from students, staff and parents who braved the morning rain to attend the opening. During the ceremony, we were visited by a beautiful kingfisher, which remained on the fence before eventually flying down onto the new artificial turf, a moment that felt like a positive sign that the tapu had been lifted.

After the dawn ceremony, everyone gathered in the staffroom to enjoy hot chocolate, coffee and kai (food), completing the whakanoa. At 9.00 am, the whole school community, along with parents, returned to the turf, where the ribbon was cut to officially open the area.

Thank you to our house leaders – *Amshavi Jeyaseelan, Xavier Douglas, Mithun Ketheesan and Mayra Singh*, as well as our Māori leaders and parents, for being part of this special occasion.



Dance Curriculum Show Day

A huge thank you to our dance instructor, Manny, from Dance Curriculum for preparing our students for this afternoon's fantastic dance show. We also thank our parent community for coming along to support the shows – what a crowd we had gathered!

We know our students have loved their last two weeks of Dance instruction and we look forward to having Manny back again in 2028.



Earth Day

Last week on 22 April it was Earth Day - a time to reflect on how we care for our planet and to take positive action to protect and restore the natural environment. At St Thomas's School, students recognised this important day by creating seed bombs to take home and plant, helping to encourage new growth in their own communities. Each class also planted a native plant within the school grounds, supporting the development of our native area for future generations to enjoy.

"We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children". (Native American proverb)



Student and Family Support

As part of our ongoing efforts to support families we have provided a space for a psychotherapist to operate out of our school. Christian Bolland is a qualified psychotherapist who works with children and young people using a supportive, relationship-focused approach. Committed to cultural responsiveness, understanding neurodiversity and trauma-informed care. Christian is experienced in working with neurodivergent children and their whānau to support regulation, communication and engagement.

The service will be 'user pays'. If you are interested in engaging with Christian, please contact the Deputy Principal in charge of your child's year level to find out more.

- Years 1-3 Ingrid May imay@stthomas.school.nz
- Years 4-8 Claire Fromow cfromow@stthomas.school.nz

School Donation

Thank you to all the families who have already paid the school donation of \$495 per student. Please note that a donation tax credit can be obtained from IRD for your donation. Donations can be paid via our online shop.

School donations are tax deductible. You can claim 33 cents back for every \$1 donated through Inland Revenue. Receipts will be sent to you directly through Kindo for your myIR donation claim. Example: \$495 donation → \$165 returned to you. We sincerely appreciate your support.

Our Kids Online

Rob Cope is holding a parents information evening on the dangers and risks of online exposure for children at St Thomas's School on Tuesday 19 May. Rob will help us better understand the online world our kids are living in, understand how to identify the vulnerabilities of our own children in the online space and provide practical solutions to help parents. Rob comes highly recommended and I encourage all parents to attend this 2 hour session. For more information, please see the flyer attached on the next page.

PARENTS EVENING



ST THOMAS'S
SCHOOL
KOHIMARAMA
AUCKLAND

OUR KIDS ONLINE

ROB COPE

- ✓ social media and mental health
- ✓ gaming and the developing brain
- ✓ online predators
- ✓ sexting, porn and pressure
- ✓ AI
- ✓ PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS



We would love to see at least one parent
or caregiver from each family attend.



WHEN

Tuesday
19 May
6:30 – 8:30pm



WHERE

St Thomas's
School Hall



TICKETS

\$10 or 2 for \$15
Purchase via Humanitix



Scan QR code
or visit:
[events.humanitix.com/
ourkidsonline](https://events.humanitix.com/ourkidsonline)



Ex Student Wins the Overall Title at the National Optimist Championships

Zofia Wells has just become the first female sailor to win the overall title at the national Optimist Championships, winning seven races and finishing 18 points clear of the next sailor in the 86-strong fleet.



STS News

To watch the 40th episode of the series, click [HERE](#).

To watch the 41st episode of the series, click [HERE](#).

To watch the 42nd 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>

**Piano, Guitar, Bass
Drums & Violin Lessons**

RIGHT AT SCHOOL!

Why not give it a go this term?

Help your child
boost essential
learning skills that
make a real
difference in the
classroom.

All with zero extra
travel for families

Scan the QR code
to enrol

0800 89 39 39
Or call us!

Learning music supports all areas of
learning through **developing**

Confidence
& Creativity

Concentration
& Memory

Discipline
& Focus

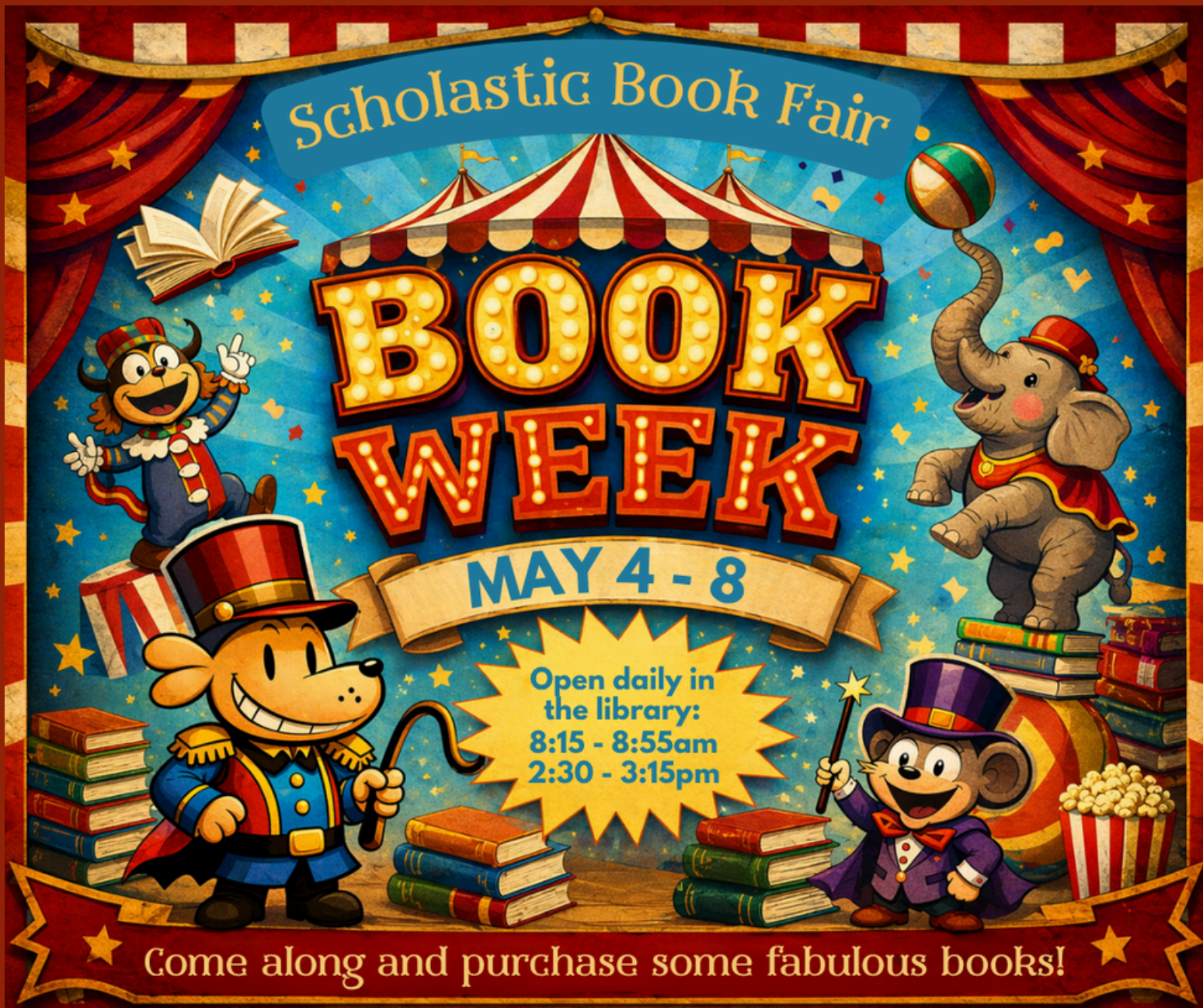
and so much
more!

musiceducation.co.nz

THE BOOK WEEK CIRCUS IS COMING TO SCHOOL FROM 4TH – 8TH MAY.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR WILL BE OPEN DAILY IN THE LIBRARY:

8:15AM – 8:55AM & 2:30PM – 3:15PM



Come along and purchase some fabulous books!

CHARACTER PARADE: FRIDAY, 8 MAY

Light refreshments from 9am. Parade at 9:45am

Students:

You're encouraged to dress up as your favourite book character.

Parents & Grandparents:

Enjoy light refreshments, browse the book sale & watch the parade.

We look forward to a week of book filled fun!

PTA NEWS

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

Donations Needed For Online Auction

DONATIONS NEEDED FOR OUR ONLINE AUCTION

From \$5.00 - \$5,000, all donations help.
Have a think...
can your business donate anything?

VOUCHERS
DISCOUNTS
EXPERENCES
PRODUCTS

Let us know if your business can help!
Reach out to us at: StThomasSchoolPTA@gmail.com

NOT YOUR GRANDMA'S BINGO!

ONLINE AUCTION • DJ • MUSICAL BINGO W/ "BEATS BY BINGO"

SATURDAY, 13 JUNE 7^{PM} - 12^{AM} @ THE ST THOMAS'S SCHOOL HALL

This grown-ups-only event is one of our biggest fundraisers of the year!



Mark Your Calendar

15
MAY



'CUPPA-AT-PICKUP'
2:30-2:55PM

Pop up to the staff room for a free coffee, tea & biscuit

22
MAY

SECOND-HAND UNIFORM SALE

2:50 - 3:20pm

Near the front gate,

13
JUNE

PARENT'S NIGHT & AUCTION

Online Auction, Musical Bingo, & DJ

EVERY
FRIDAY

ICE BLOCKS

Weather permitting

Help the PTA

Want to help with fundraising events?

Join "Friends of the PTA" WhatsApp group! Lend a hand when you can. You'll still be making a big difference at our events. **Email us!**

Upcoming PTA Meetings

6 MAY • 10 JUNE • 29 JULY • 28 OCT • 25 NOV
7pm in the staff room

2026 Fundraising

Starting in 2026, PTA fundraising will go towards the building of a playground geared towards our middle school students! This will likely be a multi-year goal for us. Thank you for supporting our fundraising efforts!





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...

Last week, we had a special time honouring our heroes with ANZAC activities. Kids enjoyed "Army Challenges" like tug-o-war and a planking face-off, made beautiful poppy mosaics, and baked fresh ANZAC biscuits. It was a lovely mix of fun, teamwork, and remembrance.



KELLY CLUB

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: Mother's Day Term 2, Week 3, 4 May 2026 | | | | Weekly Activities Plan Kelly Club St Thomas's |
|---------------------------|---|--|--|---|---|--|
| | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | |
| 7:00 - 8:15 am | Cup Towers & Structured Free Time | Fort Building & Structured Free Time | Origami & Structured Free Time | Mother's Day Cards & Structured Free Time | Homemade Cookies & Structured Free Time | |
| 8:15 - 8:30 am | Game: Mum Says | Game: Noodle Tag | Game: Balloon Stomp | Game: Caterpillar Race | Game: Wacky Relays | |
| 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 Tomato Pasta & Fruit | Intro & Afternoon Tea Sammies & Fruit | Intro & Afternoon Tea Sausage Rolls & Fruit | Intro & Afternoon Tea Sammies & Fruit | Intro & Afternoon Tea Homemade Cookies & Fruit | |
| 3:30 - 3:45 pm | Game: Human Paper, Scissors, Rock | Game: Duck, Duck, Goose | Game: Toilet Tag | Game: Follow the Sergeant | Game: Mum Says | |
| SENIORS 3:45 - 4:30 pm | DISCOVERY Coffee Filter Flowers | COOKING Heart Shape Pastries | CRAFT Coasters | GAME Mum's Favorite Things | SPORT Soccer Run | |
| | | | | | | |
| JUNIORS 3:45 - 4:30 pm | SPORT Soccer Run | COOKING Heart Shape Pastries | GAME Mum's Favorite Things | CRAFT Why I love.. | DISCOVERY Coffee Filter Flowers | |
| | | | | | | |
| 4:30 - 4:40 pm | Tidy Up | Tidy Up | Tidy Up | Tidy Up | Tidy Up | |
| 4:40 - 5:10 pm | Playground | Playground | Playground | Playground | Playground | |
| 5:10 - 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 Popcorn | Snack Time Baking | Snack Time Raisins | Snack Time Crackers | Snack Time Vege Chips | |

E: stthomas@kellyclub.co.nz

kellyclub.co.nz/stthomas

P: 021 080 33666



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, 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.

Register [here](#) for term 2 lessons, beginning **Thursday 7th May 2026 12.35-1.20pm**. Term fees are \$278 for group lessons with 8 lessons guaranteed per term. Sibling discount of 10% for any siblings enrolling. Quote **FREE TRIAL** when booking to receive the first class free!

Any questions please don't hesitate to call Nina on 021-160 9197.

