

26 June 2026

Board Mid Year Update

As we reach the middle of the academic year, the Board would like to acknowledge our teaching staff for the professional way they have responded to the ongoing changes introduced by the Ministry of Education. With raised expectations for student achievement and the implementation of a new curriculum, some variation in achievement data is expected across the country. However, our staff continue to engage in professional development and are managing these changes with confidence and diligence.

We are very pleased with the new canopy and artificial turf, funded by the Board. It is great to see these facilities already being well used, with sports practices and physical education continuing even during wet weather. The installation of air conditioning in Rooms 9 to 12 has also made a positive difference for both students and staff.

Looking ahead, our next project is the development of a middle school playground, which is currently in the tender process. This will be funded through hall hire, PTA contributions, and international student fees. In addition, the Board has partnered with the Ministry of Education to carry out further improvements across the school, including upgrades to classroom spaces and facilities.

We have also increased teacher aide and teaching support this year to better meet the needs of our students. Parent donations continue to play an important role in providing both support and extension programmes, and we sincerely appreciate the ongoing support from our families.

On behalf of the Board, thank you very much for your continued commitment to our school community.

Ngā mihi nui
Michael Maher
Principal



Well done to all our students for your focus, resilience, and effort throughout the term - enjoy a well-deserved break!

Upcoming Dates

July

- 03 Matariki Celebration
- 03 Last Day of Term 2
- 20 First Day of Term 3
- 22 Cross Country Costume Carnival 9.30am
- 24 Whole School Powhiri/Whakatau 9am to 10.30am
- 27 Eastern Zone Netball

August

- 03 Yr 4-6 Assembly (S11 & S12 Hosting) 11.45am (School Hall)
- 07 PTA Parents Afternoon Tea 2.30pm (Staffroom)
- 14 Eastern Zone Boys Basketball
- 17 Eastern Zone Girls Basketball
- 18 Board of Trustees Meeting 6.30pm (Staffroom)
- 19 St Thomas's School Cross Country (Yr 3-8) 1.30pm
- 21 Yr 1-3 Assembly 9.30am (School Hall)
- 24 Bay Suburb Cross Country
- 24 Eastern Zone Cross Country

Year 3 Watercare Education Visit

This week, our Year 3 students from M1 and M2 enjoyed a visit from a Watercare educator. They learned about freshwater insects and how these creatures can tell us about the health of our streams. Students discovered that different insects are indicators of water quality and explored ways we can help protect our freshwater environments. This learning linked closely to our inquiry into caring for our local environment and understanding the importance of healthy waterways. It was especially exciting to have live freshwater invertebrates in our classrooms!

M3 students are looking forward to their Watercare session in Week 11.



"I loved looking at the big freshwater crayfish and learned that its Māori name is kōura." – *Franco*, M2

"I learned that the more bugs we find in the water, the cleaner it is. The bugs are a sign of a healthy freshwater stream, not that the water is dirty!" – *Frankie*, M2

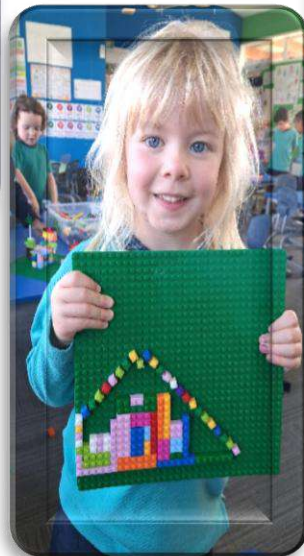


From the Spanish Classroom - Spanish Comes Alive!

This term, our junior students have been enjoying learning about the Spanish language and the rich and diverse cultures of the Spanish-speaking world.

From dancing the lively Spanish Flamenco and the Argentinian Tango to discovering llamas and the ancient city of Machu Picchu in Peru, students have enthusiastically explored different countries, traditions, and ways of life. It has been wonderful to see their curiosity and excitement as they learn more about our world and other cultures.

Gracias!
Ms Dory



Outstanding Achievement – Year 6 Future Problem Solving

We are delighted to celebrate the outstanding results of our Year 6 Future Problem-Solving students! Their dedication, teamwork, and creative thinking have truly made us proud. The students have worked incredibly hard on their topics, demonstrating innovation and persistence throughout the process.

Student's Reflections:

Group 1

Adam Wheeler, Evie Gordon, Olivia Holden, Ethan Gin, Maddie Le Bos, Lydia Michelson

"Our group has really enjoyed working together to help save the critically endangered Sumatran orangutans. To address this issue, we designed a drone system that includes a cleaning station to prevent the spread of germs and viruses to the orangutans. We also focused on making the drones silent and camouflaged so they can safely observe the animals without causing stress.

We are very excited to have been awarded certificates for 'Great Future Problem-Solving Skills,' as we understand how challenging it is to achieve this recognition."



Group 2

Kivain Akmeemanage, Matthew Wheeler, Lily Gordon, Noelle Goh, Katie Yin, Eric Sattinger

"This term, our FPS team has been working hard on creating a booklet about space junk. It is a very serious and rapidly growing problem for modern space travel. We came up with a variety of possible inventions to help solve this issue. Our favourite idea is a sticky net inspired by gecko feet, designed to capture space debris.

We all enjoyed working together on this project and challenging ourselves in ways we don't usually experience. We feel very proud to have been awarded certificates for Creative Problem Solving."

Congratulations to our talented students for their incredible effort and well-deserved success! We look forward to seeing what they achieve next.

Celebrating Success – New Zealand Karate Open 2026

We are proud to celebrate the outstanding achievements of siblings *Sithev Widanapathirana* (S6) and *Yonal Widanapathirana* (M6KE), who recently competed in the New Zealand Karate Open 2026, held in Auckland this month. *Yonal* won two Gold Medals in the Kumite and Kata events. *Sithev* won a Gold Medal in the Kata event.

This prestigious tournament brought together both New Zealand and international competitors, creating a highly competitive environment.

These impressive accomplishments are a testament to their hard work, discipline, and dedication to the sport. We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to their parents for their ongoing support and commitment in encouraging and enabling their children to participate in these activities.



Eastern Zone Hockey Tournament

On Monday 22 June, our St Thomas's School hockey teams headed to Lloyd Elsmore Park for the Eastern Zone Hockey Tournament, and what an incredible day it was. The weather was absolutely beautiful, providing the perfect backdrop for a fantastic day of hockey.

The competition was fierce, with some very strong teams competing throughout the tournament. Our students rose to the challenge and gave every game their absolute best. Both our Boys and Girls teams showed outstanding determination, resilience, and teamwork from start to finish.

Our girls team had an excellent tournament, finishing in an impressive 6th place overall. Our boys team battled hard in a very competitive grade to secure 9th place overall. Both teams should be incredibly proud of their performances and the way they represented St Thomas's School on and off the turf.

A huge thank you to all the parents, whānau, and staff who came along to support and assist throughout the day. Your encouragement and support make a real difference and help create these valuable and memorable experiences for our students.

Ka pai to all involved on an awesome day of hockey!



Bay Suburbs Netball Tournament

What an incredible day we had at the Bay Suburbs Netball Tournament! With around 100 St Thomas's School students attending, it was fantastic to see so many of our tamariki out on the courts representing our school with pride, energy, and enthusiasm.

The tournament ran very smoothly, creating a wonderful day of sport and competition. We were also fortunate to have a break in the weather, with conditions holding out and allowing everyone to enjoy a full day of netball.

One of the highlights of the day was the wide range of students involved. From experienced players to those new to the sport, as well as both boys and girls stepping onto the court, it was awesome to see everyone giving netball a go. Students challenged themselves, built confidence, and developed their skills throughout the day.

A huge thank you to all our staff, coaches, managers, and parent helpers who supported throughout the day. Events like these simply would not be possible without your time, energy, and encouragement.

We are incredibly proud of all our students for the way they represented St Thomas's School on and off the court.



STS News Reaches 50 Episodes!

This week, St Thomas's School News (STS News) celebrates an exciting milestone - our **50th episode!**

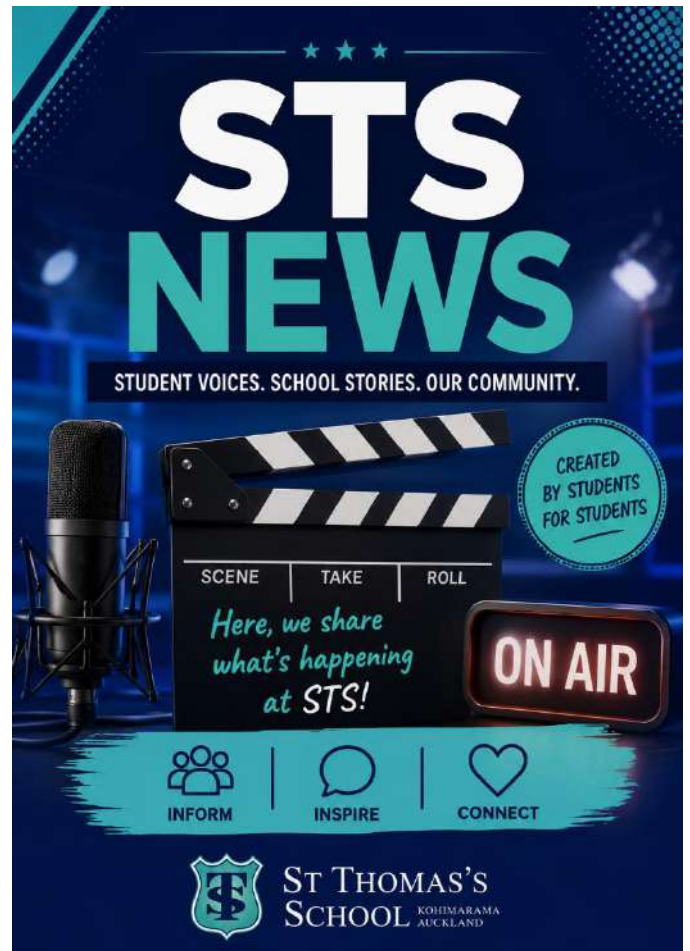
Created by students, for students, STS News provides our tamariki with the opportunity to explore news stories that matter to them, share interesting facts from around the world, celebrate what's happening in our school, and develop confidence as presenters and communicators. Each episode supports students in building valuable skills in speaking, teamwork, research, script writing, and digital media production, all while keeping our school community informed and entertained.

Who knows? We may be nurturing the next Hilary Barry or Jack Tame!

A huge congratulations to all the students who have contributed to making the first 50 episodes such a success. Here's to the next 50!

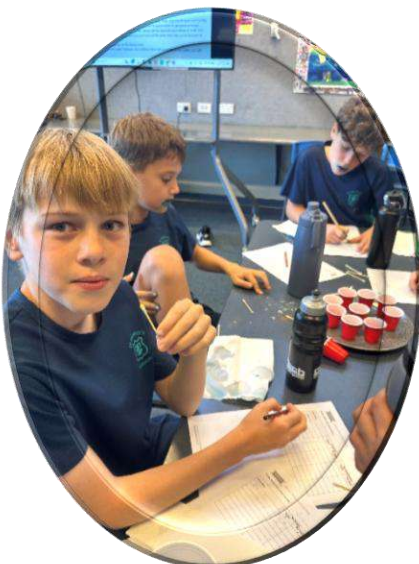
Watch Episode 50 [HERE](#)

All episodes from 2026 can be accessed by students via the STS News Google Classroom using their school email account. Access Code: **fv6tpmyq**



Food for Thought Learning Extension Programme

A group of our Year 6 and 7 students are currently exploring science through food. 'Food for Thought' combines food and science to explore how and why our senses detect and react to certain foods, chemical reactions when foods combine, and other puzzling food related conundrums. This week we have investigated our taste buds (which explains the blue tongues) and tested how saliva and smell affect taste.



Uniform Reminder

We currently have a large number of unnamed uniforms in our lost property, especially sweatshirts making it difficult to return them to their owners. Please take a moment to clearly label all of your child's uniform items. If you've recently purchased any second-hand pieces, remember to update the name labels as well.



A simple name tag makes a big difference in helping lost items find their way back home. Thank you for your support!

Emergency Candle Fundraiser

With winter here and the increased possibility of electricity outages during storms, now is a great time to be prepared at home. We are offering emergency candles that can provide light for up to 40 hours, perfect to have on hand just in case. Candles can be purchased through the school reception.



As an added bonus, all profits from this initiative will go towards supporting our Art Department. A flyer with full details and purchasing information is attached below.

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

ST THOMAS'S INTERMEDIATE

What's happening in our Intermediate School

YEAR 8 MOUNTAINS TO SEA PRESENTATIONS

The final stage of the Year 8 Mountains to Sea was their Sea Action Project sharing session. It was an incredible success, showcasing the inspiring dedication of our students as they proudly presented their amazing action projects to Year 5, 6, and 7 students, alongside our esteemed guests.

We were honored to welcome Orākei Local Board members Sarah Powrie, Margaret Voyce, and Angus McPhee; Bridget Glasgow from Auckland Council; Sophie and Jacob from Mountains to Sea; and Turfa from Ngā Kaitiaki Hapori o Pourewa.

The event highlighted the profound impact of community collaboration and youth-led environmental leadership. Many thanks again to the Orākei Local Board and the Mana Ora Youth Resilience fund for making this possible—we have learnt so much and had some experiences that will make us all more climate conscious.

Please [click this link](#) to read about the eDNA testing and Litta Trap.



YEAR 7 GIRLS LEADERSHIP SYMPOSIUM

On Wednesday 24th June, 5 Year 7 girls attended the St Kentigern Girls School LeadHERship Symposium. It was an incredibly engaging and valuable experience in which they learnt about what makes a good leader, about supporting others, and built on their current leadership skills.

The Head Girls from St Kentigern College, St Cuthberts, Diocesan, and Baradene formed a leadership panel and answered questions about their leadership, and Alexia Hilbertidou who founded GirlBoss gave an inspiring talk about all she has achieved. It was inspiring to hear these leaders talking about and share how they got to where they are today, and how to be an effective leader. We were all inspired!



KOHIMARAMA HOUSE ASSEMBLY

On Monday 15th June, Kohimarama held their House Assembly.

It was fantastic to see everything we have been up to this term! We had some Year 8's sharing their projects from Mountains to Sea as well as their experience at Camp, and some Year 7's share their Calendar Art.

Kohimarama did a fantastic job of running the Assembly, sharing their House Chant at the end!

We are looking forward to Pohutakawa's Assembly in Term 3!



PTA NEWS

Keep up to date with all things STS and follow the PTA on Facebook & Instagram:

@ StThomasSchoolPTA

Mark Your Calendar

EVERY FRIDAY

ICE BLOCKS

From 3pm, by the main gate
Weather permitting!

COMING IN TERM 3

-ATHON
CALENDAR ART
MUSICAL SHOWCASE
SCHOOL DISCO

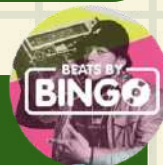
KEEP COLLECTING

YUMMY STICKERS

Keep collecting those Yummy stickers & labels and bring them into class

Parents-only night & Online Auction

NOT YOUR GRANDMA'S BINGO!



What a night!

A huge thank you to everyone who came along to our parents night – Not Your Grandma's Bingo. From the incredible costumes to the fantastic atmosphere, it was such a fun evening and a great chance for our school community to come together. We're also thrilled to share that our Online Auction was also a huge success. These events raised over \$7,000 towards our fundraising goals! Thank you to everyone who attended, bid, donated, volunteered, and supported us. We couldn't do it without you!



Upcoming PTA Meetings

29 JULY • 28 OCT • 25 NOV

7pm in the staff room

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.

 stthomasschoolpta@gmail.com

St Thomas's Arts Programme Fundraiser

Lifelight Emergency Candle -\$10 each (Discounted School Price - Was \$25)

Join us in raising funds for some Art and photography equipment for our school's Art Programme.

We are seeking volunteer families to sell 5 candles among their neighbours, friends or workplaces.

Register your interest by emailing shaddon@stthomas.school.nz
A bag with 5 candles will be sent home with your child.

- Lifelight Emergency Candle is a unique gift
- Necessary for Houses, bach, boat, car, and emergency kit
- Burn time up to 40 hours
- Practical and safe to use in emergency situations
- Self-standing candle with matches attached
- \$0.50 from all sales donated to NZ Red Cross
- Payment via KINDO or cash.
- Individual candles collected at reception.





OPEN EVENING

For Students and Parents/Caregivers

THURSDAY – 30 JULY AT 6:45PM

The evening will begin with an address from the Principal. This will be followed by a tour of the school and an opportunity to meet teachers and students across all Learning Areas.

We look forward to welcoming you.

ENROLMENTS

**Details are on our website:
[www.selwyn.school.nz/New Students](http://www.selwyn.school.nz/New_Students)**

Please complete the online enrolment process. We encourage early applications.

Out of Zone applications for 2027 are welcome as we have places available.



HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

Mon 6 – Fri 17 July



Join us for a fun-filled School Holiday Programme! Our Fizz Bang Pop Day will have you fizzing! Enjoy craft, cooking activities, awesome games **& MUCH MORE!**

Some activities may need to be swapped for other exciting ones! Go online to check out a full, up-to-date timetable for your school.

**OSCAR
PROGRAMME
SUBSIDIES
AVAILABLE!**

**Conditions apply*

BOOK ONLINE NOW AT
www.kellyclub.co.nz

JULY 2026 HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

ST THOMAS SCHOOL

A timetable and full programme information is available online or at the programme venue.

Who can attend: Children aged 5-13 yrs

General Information: We believe in giving children opportunities to do the things they love and enjoy in a supportive and encouraging environment. Our friendly staff are passionate about working with children. They are provided with training on behaviour management techniques, first aid and activity planning/delivery.

What do you need to bring: Shoes and appropriate clothing, jacket or sweatshirt, hat, drink bottle and food for morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea.

Payment details: Payment is required before the holiday programme begins. An invoice will be issued when a completed booking is received. All payment details will be included on the invoice.

Work and Income OSCAR Subsidy: Parents/caregivers that meet certain criteria will be able to access a WINZ subsidy to help cover the cost of our programme. For more information visit www.workandincome.govt.nz.

Please note: Every care will be taken to ensure the safety of your child/ren and their property. However, organisers of Kelly Club accept no liability for any injury sustained to your child/ren or any loss or damage to his/her property whilst at a programme. If your child/ren are collected late after the conclusion of the programme you will be charged \$20 per 15 minutes or part thereof.

Prices & Session Times:

Full Week: \$290 **Full Day:** \$61 **Event Day:** Extra \$20
7:00am – 6:00pm 7:00am – 6:00pm (Not Included in Full Week)

School Day: \$51 **Half Day:** \$42
8:30am – 3:00pm 7:00am – 12:30pm or 12:30pm – 6:00pm

Website: kellyclub.co.nz/st-thomas

Contact: Ian Palmquist

Email: stthomas@kellyclub.co.nz

Phone: 021 0803 3666

Facebook: @KellyClubStThomas

Address: 113 Allum St, Kohimarama



BOOK ONLINE NOW AT www.kellyclub.co.nz


WEEK 1

Mon 6 July


MONDAY FUNDAY

Get ready for a day packed with laughter, silly games, and nonstop fun at Kelly Club!

Tues 7 July


FIZZ, BANG, POP!

Explore awesome experiments like elephant toothpaste, bubbly fun, fizzy painting, and even make a tasty fizzy treat!

Wed 8 July


LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!

Whether you are a natural in front of the camera or prefer working behind the scenes, there is something for you today!

Thurs 9 July


MATARIKI

It's a time for celebration as the Māori New Year begins! There will be food to share and kids will enjoy playing traditional Māori Games.

Fri 10 July

PUBLIC HOLIDAY
ENJOY MATARIKI

Enjoy celebrating Matariki with your friends and whānau.

WEEK 2

Mon 13 July


BRICK BONANZA

Let your imagination run wild! Join us for some creative brick fun. We can't wait to see what you build!

Tues 14 July


VIVE LA FRANCE

Ooh la la, join us for all things French as we celebrate Bastille Day with crepes, crafts and French sporting games!

Wed 15 July


MINIONS AND MONSTERS

Join us at the movies! Follow the Minions as they search for monsters. When things go wrong will they be able to save the planet? Please bring lunch, drink bottle and shoes.

Extra \$20 for the day.

Thurs 16 July


KC SPEED RACERS

Today is about everything speedy! Build your own miniature speed racer, race through obstacle courses and play speedy games. Join us to see how fast you can go!

Fri 17 July


PYJAMA PARTY

Wear your best pyjamas to Kelly Club for a day of slumber mania! We will make some yummy treats, play some classic party games and build a comfy fort.

Pricing:
FULL WEEK: \$290
 7:00am – 6:00pm

FULL DAY: \$61
 7:00am – 6:00pm

HALF DAY: \$42
 7:00am – 12:30pm or 12:30pm – 6:00pm

SCHOOL DAY: \$51
 8:30am – 3:00pm

EVENT DAY: Extra \$20
 (Not Included in Full Week)

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




WATER POLO

FLIPPABALL

TRAINING SESSIONS
FOR YEARS 2-6



SUNDAYS IN TERM 3



AUGUST 9TH, 16TH, 23RD, 30TH,

SEPTEMBER 6TH, 13TH, 20TH,

10:00AM-11:00AM AND 11:00AM-12:00PM



COST:
\$161.00
FOR THE TERM



LOCATION:
SACRED HEART
AQUATIC CENTRE



**ALL ABILITIES
WELCOME!**



If you would prefer to trial a Flippaball training session first,
or if you have any questions, please email
under12s@maristwaterpolo.co.nz



REGISTER HERE BY 5TH JULY

FLIPPA BALL IS A GREAT SPORT FOR BUILDING WATER CONFIDENCE
AND DEVELOPING TEAM SKILLS, ALL WHILE HAVING FUN!



SUBURBS IN SCHOOLS

ST THOMAS'S SCHOOL

St Thomas's School is excited to offer an Eastern Suburbs AFC after-school football programme.

A high energy, fun and age appropriate programme designed to improve football skills and promote team work.

Mondays 3:15 - 4:15pm
St Thomas's School
July 20 - September 21

**REGISTER ONLINE
FOR TERM THREE**



easternsuburbs.org.nz/community/suburbs-in-schools/

