



31 July 2026

Principal's Message

Changing Educational Landscape

Quite a few mandated curriculum changes are underway including introducing a new country wide assessment tool in 2027.

The SMART (Student Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting Tool) educational platform is owned by the New Zealand Government's Ministry of Education, which contracted the Australian educational technology provider Janison Solution Pty Ltd to build and deliver the software. This tool is currently being trialled in some schools, and the Australian company is working to iron out glitches in the software. From next year this SMART tool will play a part in determining where students from Year 3 to Year 8 are placed in relation to the New Zealand Curriculum. Staff at St Thomas's will continue to explore this evolving tool and will use it next year as part of our overall assessment approach.

Changes to Parent Reporting in 2027

From the beginning of 2027, all New Zealand schools will be required to make changes to the way they report student progress and achievement to whānau. These changes reflect new Government requirements designed to provide families with clearer, more consistent information about how students are progressing in relation to the refreshed New Zealand Curriculum.

While this will result in some changes to the format and content of our school reports next year, our commitment to supporting students and maintaining strong partnerships with whānau remains the same. We know that reporting is an important way of sharing your child's learning journey, and we will keep you informed throughout the transition. Later this year, we will provide more detailed information about what these changes will look like, what they mean for your child, and what you can expect from reporting in 2027.

Ngā mihi nui
Michael Maher
Principal



Every lap, every step, every effort counts. Well done to all students training for Cross Country!

Upcoming Dates

August

- 03 Yr 7&8 Science Fair
- 05 Musical Showcase
7pm-7.30pm (School Hall)
- 12 Yr 4-6 Speech Finals 11am
(School Hall)
- 13 Yr 7&8 Speech Finals 11am
(School Hall)
- 14 Eastern Zone Boys Basketball
- 17 Eastern Zone Girls Basketball
- 18 Board of Trustees Meeting
6.30pm (Staffroom)
- 19 STS School Cross Country 1.30pm
- 21 Year 1-3 Assembly
9.15am-9.45pm (School Hall)
- 24 Bay Suburbs Cross Country
- 24 Eastern Zone Cross Country

September

- 04 Year 1-3 Assembly
9.15am-9.45pm (School Hall)
- 07 Year 4-6 Assembly (M6 Hosting)
11.45am-12.30pm (School Hall)
- 07-11 AIMS Games Mount Maunganui
- 08 Bay Suburbs Basketball
- 09 Year 3 Tiritiri Matangi Island Trip
- 10 Year 3 Tiritiri Matangi Island Trip
- 10 Year 7 Maritime Museum Trip

Whakatau Welcomes New Students, Families and Staff

Last Friday, we held a Whakatau (Māori welcoming ceremony) to warmly welcome our new international students, their families, and two new teachers to our school community.

The ceremony began with a karakia (blessing), followed by a welcome from Whaea Drina, who represented Ngāti Pāoa. Our waiata group then sang to tautoko (support) her words of welcome before the formal proceedings concluded with a final karakia.

After the ceremony, everyone gathered in the staffroom to share kai. This provided a wonderful opportunity for our new families to meet staff, connect with one another, and begin building relationships within our school community.

This Whakatau marks the beginning of a new tradition at our school. We look forward to welcoming all new students, families, and staff in a way that reflects Te Ao Māori values of manaakitanga (hospitality and caring for others), whanaungatanga (building relationships), and belonging. Through this kaupapa, we hope everyone who joins our school community feels welcomed, valued, and connected from the very beginning.



Cross country provides a wonderful opportunity for students to develop fitness, perseverance, and resilience while working towards personal goals. We are proud of the positive attitude and determination shown by our students and look forward to celebrating their achievements at the final event later this term.



Mitey in the Junior School

Our Year 1-3 students have been busy learning through the Mitey programme, exploring emotions, friendships, strengths, and resilience. Inspired by the symbolism of a kākahu, students discovered how individual strengths come together to create a strong and supportive community. From colourful artwork to thoughtful reflections on kindness and bravery, our tamariki continue to show what it means to care for themselves and others.

Year 1-3 students proudly showcasing their My Kākahu learning through art, reflection, and discussion.



Being Brave, written by Mateo

One day at school, I saw my friends getting bullied near my classroom. My friends looked at me and said, 'please help us, a Year 8 is bullying us.' And I said to myself should I help my friends or should I not help my friends? I decided to help my friends even though he was a 10 year old. When I tried to help, the bully was taller than us. Even some of his friends were also taller than me and I was terrified. I said "stop bullying my friend" and he stopped. I was amazed and I played with my friend. I felt very brave and was proud of myself for helping my friend.

Learning About Water with Watercare

On Wednesday and Thursday, the Year 2 classes were visited by Sarah from Watercare. Sarah taught us about how water can become polluted in rivers and streams, and how water treatment plants clean and filter water so it is safe to use in our homes. We were even able to see a small model of the large filters used in the treatment process.

After learning about water treatment, the students had the opportunity to create and test their own water filters using sand, bark, cotton balls, and paper towels. Through lots of experimenting and teamwork, they discovered that a combination of cotton balls and paper towels was the most effective filter.

It was a fun and engaging hands-on learning experience that helped students better understand the importance of clean water and the processes used to keep our water safe.



Eastern Zone Netball Tournament

On 27 July, our St Thomas's School netball teams headed to the Eastern Zone Netball Tournament for an incredible day of competition. We were proud to have six teams representing our school, with every player giving their absolute best from the first whistle to the final game.

Although the day began with chilly temperatures, beautiful blue skies soon appeared, providing fantastic conditions on the courts. Throughout the tournament, all six teams delivered excellent performances, celebrating some great results and demonstrating just how much they have developed over the season.



It was wonderful to see our students play with confidence, determination, and teamwork. Whether they were scoring goals, making crucial interceptions, or encouraging one another from the sidelines, every player represented St Thomas's School with pride. The resilience, sportsmanship, and positive attitudes displayed throughout the day were outstanding and made us incredibly proud.

A huge thank you to our coaches, managers, teachers, and the many parents and whānau who supported our teams. Your time, encouragement, and enthusiasm helped make the tournament such a memorable experience for our students.

Ka pai to all six teams on a fantastic tournament. We could not be prouder of the way you represented St Thomas's School both on and off the court.

STS Honey Now on Sale!

Our school bees have been busy, and we're excited to announce that STS Multi Floral Honey is now available for purchase. Harvested from our very own on-site hive and beautifully packaged with student-designed labels, each 250g jar is available for \$20. Stock is limited, so get in quickly! All proceeds go towards supporting our environmental programme.



Learn Te Reo Māori - Parent Session

Whānau are invited to join a beginner-friendly Te Reo Māori learning session on Monday, 15 September, from 3:15pm to 4:30pm.

This opportunity is primarily for parents and caregivers who are interested in developing their own Māori language skills. Children are welcome to attend; however, parents/caregivers will be responsible for supervising them throughout the session.

If you would like to participate, please complete the registration form below:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfBgpfm7bP814rfJytqZ3PuCldM4-Stg40L2_eVFzK-oDLGbQ/viewform?usp=sharing&ouid=110610911277754646971

We look forward to learning together as a whānau community.

STS News

To watch the 52nd episode of the series, click [HERE](#).

To watch the 51st episode of the series, click [HERE](#).

To watch the 50th episode of the series, click [HERE](#).

Skill Samurai Free Coding & Technology Trial

Calling all St Thomas families! Skill Samurai is offering a FREE coding and technology trial class for students, with a limited number of places available.

- 📅 Friday 26 September
- 🕒 3:00pm - 4:30pm
- 💰 Free of charge
- ⚡ Limited to 15 students

Skill Samurai is working to make coding and technology education more affordable for our community. The more students who enrol after the trial, the lower the weekly class cost becomes for everyone:

- 10 students enrolled: Classes reduce to \$40 per week
- 15 students enrolled: Classes reduce to \$35 per week

Places are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis, so be sure to register early.

🔗 Book your free trial today: <https://skillsamurai.co.nz/st-thomas>

Let's work together to help make technology education accessible and affordable for more students!

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.week.nz/school-holiday-programmes/>

Music lessons right at

school 🎵 Complement your child's school experience with music lessons! Piano, guitar, bass, drums, and violin lessons available at school, helping students build confidence, creativity, and lifelong skills. 🙌 **Enrol here:** <https://musiceducation.co.nz/pages/mis-enrolment>

PTA NEWS

**The PTA is on
Facebook & Instagram
@ StThomasSchoolPTA**

Yummy Apple Stickers

COLLECT YUMMY APPLE STICKERS!

**Help us get a share of \$200,000 worth
of FREE sports gear**



The more stickers we collect, the more sports gear we'll get for our school!

Put stickers on your class sheets or download your own sticker sheet
@ Yummyfruit.co.nz and bring in to class by Friday, 2 October.



Mark Your Calendar

COMMING
IN
TERM 3

- MUSICAL SHOWCASE: 5 AUG
- SCHOOL DISCO: 18 SEPT
- -ATHON: COMMING SOON
- CALENDAR ART

**KEEP
COLLECTING**

YUMMY STICKERS

Keep collecting those Yummy stickers & Cutout Labels



EVERY
FRIDAY



ICE BLOCKS

Follow Us!

**THE PTA IS ON
FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM**

Search for: StThomasSchoolPTA

Follow us for the quickest way to see what's going on!



FOLLOW US ON
FACEBOOK



StThomasSchoolPTA



Upcoming PTA Meetings

9 SEPT, 28 OCT, 25 NOV
7pm in the staff room

Join Friends of the PTA

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



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...

We've had the best time with the Kelly Club Games this week! We hunted down hidden flags, got creative with chalk art, and battled it out in World Cup hockey.



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

What's happening next week!

THEME: Staff Choice! Term 3 Week 3, 3rd August 2026					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7:00 - 8:15 am	Lego Comp. & Structured Free Time	Beads & Structured Free Time	Board Games & Structured Free Time	Comic Books & Structured Free Time	Baking & Structured Free Time
8:15 - 8:30 am	Game: Infection	Game: Freeze Tag	Game: Red Light, Green Light	Game: Trivia	Game: Kid's Choice
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 Sammies & Fruit	Intro & Afternoon Tea Pizza & Fruit	Intro & Afternoon Tea Sammies & Fruit	Intro & Afternoon Tea Popcorn & Fruit	Intro & Afternoon Tea Muffins & Fruit
3:30 - 3:45 pm	Game: Rob the Nest	Game: Infinity Tag	Game: Silent Ball	Game: 4 Corners	Game: Flinch
SENIORS 3:45 - 4:30 pm	GAME Dodgeball 	DISCOVERY Stars Awards Planning 	SPORT Football 	Coach Being slimed! 	CRAFT Paper Airplane Races
	SPORT Football 	CRAFT Rock Painting 	GAME Dodgeball 	Coach Being slimed! 	DISCOVERY Stars Awards Planning
JUNIORS 3:45 - 4:30 pm					
4:30 - 4:40 pm	Tidy Up	Tidy Up	Tidy Up	Tidy Up	Tidy Up
4:40 - 5:15 pm	Playground	Playground	Playground	Playground	Playground
5:15 - 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 Crackers	Snack Time Oreos	Snack Time Veggie Chips	Snack Time Raisins	Snack Time Muesli Bars

E: stthomas@kellyclub.co.nz

kellyclub.co.nz/stthomas

P: 021 080 33666



BOOK ONLINE NOW AT www.kellyclub.co.nz

Help Us Lower the Cost of Skill Samurai Classes for Everyone!

BUILD
CODE
CREATE



Hi St Thomas Families,

We have some exciting news from Skill Samurai, and we need your help to make it happen!

We believe every child deserves access to quality coding and technology education, and we're on a mission to make our classes more affordable for our community. The more students who join us, the more we can lower the price for everyone.

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:



We're offering a **FREE** trial class – no commitment, no cost, just fun!



Limited to **15 spots only**



Friday 26th
from 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM



Completely **FREE**

Spots are strictly limited and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

IF WE REACH AFTER THE TRIALS:



10 students signing up → **\$40**
classes drop to just /week



15 students signing up → **\$35**
classes drop to just /week

That means by spreading the word to just a few families, we can **make a real difference** for everyone.



Book your free trial today at:
skillsamurai.co.nz/st-thomas



Let's build **something great** together,
one student at a time!

Warm regards,
The Skill Samurai Team



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.

“He spoke in front of the whole school! He never would have done that before.”

James' (9) Mum

Shine Speech & Drama classes build spoken excellence and inspire confidence and imagination.



Now available at St Thomas School, Shine Speech & Drama lessons teach:

public speaking
voice projection and articulation
reading aloud
acting

positive body language
storytelling
relationship building
self belief

St Thomas School begin in term 3 on Thursday 30 July

- Thursday lunchtimes 12.35-1.20 PM

8 lessons in the term. 10% Sibling discount available.

[ENROL HERE](#)

Term fees are \$278 for group class and \$335 for the exam class.

If you have any question please email shine@shine.school.nz.

“... the best speech and drama teacher working in New Zealand today.”
New Zealand Herald

shine
SCHOOL OF
CONFIDENCE

Piano, Guitar, Bass Drums & Violin Lessons



RIGHT AT SCHOOL !

Why not give it a go this term?

Give your child the opportunity to develop valuable strengths through music education that support success both in and out of 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

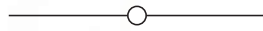




DANCE COLLECTIVE

ballet | jazz | musical theatre | contemporary | acrobatics

Quality dance tuition.
Enrolments are now open!



dancecollectivenz@gmail.com www.danceco.co.nz

Classes in St Heliers and Glen Innes. Principal: Corinne Yee



Contact us for a **FREE** trial class.

Weekend & After School

NETBALL SKILLS CLINICS



Looking for opportunities for your child to play netball outside of school? Join our 6 week programme with netball skills and match play. Individual registrations, open to boys & girls.

After-School Clinics:

St Johns
Monday afternoons
Years 1-8
10 Aug - 14 Sept 2026

Windmill Park
Tuesday afternoons
Years 1-8
11 Aug - 15 Sept 2026



Weekend Clinics:

St Johns
Sunday afternoons
Years 1-8
16 Aug - 20 Sept 2026



For more information please contact:

Caitlin Smardon, Development Programme Officer

T 09 280 4129 or M 021 577 105

E development@aucklandnetball.co.nz

www.aucklandnetball.co.nz

