



14 August 2026

Principal's Message

Enrolments for 2027

As we begin planning for 2027, we are currently reviewing our enrolments and staffing requirements for next year. To help us with this important process, we ask families to ensure that any younger siblings of current St Thomas's School students who are due to start school in 2027 are enrolled as soon as possible. This is particularly important for families who may have moved out of the school zone, as we need accurate information to support our planning.

We would also appreciate hearing from families of students currently in Years 1 to 7 who do not intend to return to St Thomas's in 2027. Knowing this information early allows us to plan effectively for classes, staffing, and resources to best meet the needs of our students.

Property Update

Construction of our new toilet block is now complete, and this will cater for students who have particular needs in regard to toileting. We also refurbished a staff toilet in this block during the construction to ensure that the facilities are updated to cater properly for staff. In addition, the Board funded replacement of a large area of concrete to minimise the risk of students tripping on the old concrete, which was cracked and uneven.

Work is also currently underway to install fencing around the back of the Pohutukawa Block. This fencing will increase the safety of our younger students and prevent them from accessing the rear of our classrooms, which are out of sight of staff. We are also installing drainage and a low retaining wall to stop this area flooding and becoming muddy in heavy rain. This will be welcomed by our students who use this path each day to access the school bus after school.

Ngā mihi nui

Michael Maher
Principal



Congratulations to our Chess Teams for proudly representing St Thomas's at the Central Auckland Interschool Chess Championship!

Upcoming Dates

August

- 17 Eastern Zone Girls Basketball
- 18 Board of Trustees Meeting
6.30pm (Staffroom)
- 19 STS School Cross Country 1.30pm
- 24 Bay Suburbs Cross Country
- 24 Eastern Zone Cross Country
- 25 S10 & S11 Corban Arts Trip
- 26 S9 & S12 Corban Arts Trip
- 28 Year 1-3 Assembly
9.15am-9.45pm (School Hall)
- 28 PTA Step-A-Thon Kicks Off

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
- 09 Year 0 & 1 Zoo Trip
- 10 Year 3 Tiritiri Matangi Island Trip
- 10 Year 7 Maritime Museum Trip
- 14 Year 7 & 8 House Assembly
(Pohutukawa Centre)
- 15 Year 5 Auckland Botanic Garden Trip

Year 8 Students Recognised for Space Junk Project

A huge congratulations to our Year 8 Future Problem-Solving team, who have been awarded certificates for their outstanding work on the important topic of space junk.

Space junk is an ever-growing problem, and it is going to become much worse in our lifetime unless we do something right now. We learnt a lot from this topic, especially some distressing statistics that will only increase as time goes on. Did you know that a piece of junk the size of a paint chip is enough to completely smash the window of a spacecraft? The average piece of space junk travels at about 28,000 km/h, and there are an estimated 141 million pieces of untracked junk in lower Earth's orbit. These are mostly under 10 cm in diameter, and each one is actually much more dangerous than a bullet at those speeds. It won't be long before these things start falling to Earth. Space junk is also all man-made, as there are almost no tiny rocks or meteorites in lower Earth's orbit to come down and hit Earth. Also, as more and more pieces of space junk collide with each other, they create even more junk to dodge. This is known as the Kessler Syndrome.



(Finn Cassi, Tommy Tran & Henry Keh)

Finally, there is a new company tackling this issue called ClearSpace. It is a Swiss-based company, started in 2019, devoted to cleaning up space debris. Their latest invention is a prototype claw that picks up space junk and brings it back down to Earth. In conclusion, space junk is a major problem that we are only just beginning to understand.

Written by Henry Keh

Years 4-6 Speech Finals

This week, our Years 4-6 Speech Finals showcased the confidence, preparation, and public speaking skills of our students. In the Flash Talk category, where students memorised their cue cards and presented alongside a slideshow they had created, *Clara B* (Year 6) was awarded first place. In the prepared speech category, *Yonal W* (Year 5) placed first, *Jack M* (Year 5) second, *Adam L* (Year 6) third, and *McKenna A* (Year 5) received a Highly Commended award. Congratulations to all finalists for their outstanding efforts and achievements.



Interschool Chess Championship 2026

Congratulations to *Peleg Neuberger, Andrei Alexeichik, Finn Casci, Pumindu Rathnayaka, Sithev Widanapathirana, Yoyo Liao, Jack Holmes, Yonal Widanapathirana, and Sethil Jayasinghe* for representing St Thomas's School at the Central Auckland Primary Interschool Chess Championship.

Competing against some of Central Auckland's strongest chess players and schools was a fantastic opportunity for our students to challenge themselves and gain valuable tournament experience. Our team demonstrated determination, resilience, and excellent sportsmanship throughout the competition, giving their best in every match.

We are incredibly proud of their participation and effort as they continue to develop their skills and compete alongside some of the region's top young chess players.

A special thank you to the parents and volunteers who supported our students throughout the day, assisting with transport, supervision, and encouragement. Your support helped make this opportunity possible and was greatly appreciated.



Young Ocean Explorers Visit

This week, our school was fortunate to welcome Jess Bishop from Young Ocean Explorers, whose presentation linked perfectly with our recent science learning about water and oceans. Jess shared fascinating insights into how marine animals live and adapt in New Zealand waters, helping bring our classroom learning to life.



Students were amazed to learn that only 0.35% of New Zealand's waters are protected. Jess also demonstrated how smoke bubbles can help us understand a humpback whale's remarkable "bubble-net feeding" technique, where a ring of bubbles is used to trap small prey such as krill. Another highlight was discovering that New Zealand orca are the only orca populations in the world known to hunt stingrays by flipping them onto their backs, making them vulnerable.



It was an engaging and informative session that inspired curiosity about our unique marine environment and the importance of protecting it

Wellness Reminder

As we move through the peak of winter, we've noticed an increase in coughs, colds, and other seasonal illnesses across the school. With the recent cold, wet, and ever-changing weather, many children and staff have unfortunately been feeling unwell.

To help keep our school community healthy, we kindly ask families to keep children at home if they are sick or showing symptoms of illness. While we understand that children can sometimes be disappointed to miss school, rest and recovery are important and staying home when unwell helps prevent illnesses from spreading to classmates and staff.



Our sick bay has been particularly busy in recent weeks, and we are seeing more students and staff affected by winter bugs. By keeping unwell children at home until they are feeling better, you can help reduce the spread of illness and support a healthier learning environment for everyone.

Thank you for your continued support, care, and understanding. Please take care, stay warm, and look after yourselves and your whānau during this challenging winter season.

PTA Musical Showcase

On Wednesday 5 August, the PTA hosted a wonderful Musical Showcase in the school hall bringing together talented performers from across the junior and senior school.

The evening began at 6:30pm and was filled with an incredible variety of performances with plenty of family and friends there to cheer our students on. We enjoyed beautiful violin and piano performances as well as impressive performances on the drums and guitar.

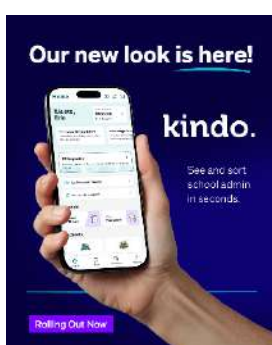
Every act was fantastic, and it was wonderful to see our students confidently sharing their talents with the school community. A huge congratulations to everyone who took part. You should all be incredibly proud of yourselves!

A special thank you to the PTA for organising such a fantastic evening and to all the families who came along to support our talented performers.

Written by Hosts Isabelle and Arshia



Updated Kindo (Online Shop) System for Parents and Caregivers



Kindo has a fresh new look. The updated experience is now rolling out to caregivers, making school admin even easier to manage.

Watch what's new (2 mins) 🖱️ <https://bit.ly/4fWYaMc>

STS News

To watch the 53rd episode of the series, click [HERE](#).

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

To watch the 51st 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>

ST THOMAS'S INTERMEDIATE

What's been happening in our Intermediate School

SCIENCE FAIR

Since mid-Term 2, the Year 7 and 8 students have been working extremely hard on their Science Fair. Their hard work culminated on Monday in Week 3 when they shared their completed projects with judges, whānau, and the students of our school.

The students conducted in-depth projects using the scientific process. Students worked on their projects both at school and home, with learning taking place in class to support their projects. It was fantastic to see a lot of cross-curricular learning happening, with students applying concepts they had learnt in Reading, Writing, and Math as well as Science in a practical situation.

The first two weeks of school were very much focused on their projects, with the students completing their projects and 'zhuzhing' their Science Fair boards. The students all wrote and rehearsed their 'elevator pitches' which they would say to the students, judges, and whānau as they came to view their project, telling them all about their experiment and what they learnt.

A huge thank you to all the whānau who came along to see the projects and have been supporting the students with their projects at home, and also to the students for the hard work they have put into their projects. A big thank you also to the teachers for supporting the students through this learning and to our wonderful judges who gave up their time to thoroughly look at each and every project in Year 7 and 8. They had a tough job choosing students and their projects to go through to the NIWA Science Fair! Congratulations to the following students for being selected for NIWA:

Tyler Lu and Lian Van Der Merwe

Hajar Khatami

Alex Savin-Taylor Ulrich and Mayra Singh

Robbie Kuangs and Andrei Alexeichik

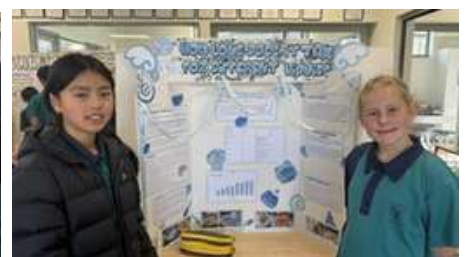
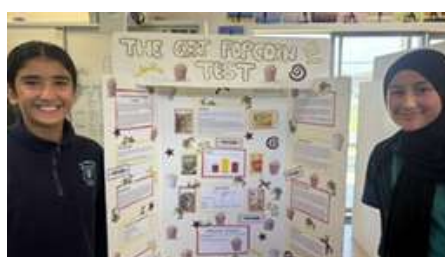
Samaira Bashir and Chloe O'Brien

Rāhera Te Ohu and Emery Ngakiau

Sithev Widanapathirana and Jeremy Huang

Pumindu Rathnayaka

Ah In Shin



PTA NEWS

The PTA is on
Facebook & Instagram
@ StThomasSchoolPTA

Mark Your Calendar: Term 3

STEP-A-THON

Starts
28 August

KIDS DISCO

Friday
18 September

CALENDAR ART

stay tuned
for more info

PTA MEETING

9 September

Step-A-Thon Fundraiser

Active kids are happier, healthier & ready to learn, so this year's -athon fundraiser is all about getting our kids moving!

We're getting ready to launch something that will encourage our kids to move, play and have fun while building healthy habits that can last well beyond the school day.

More details coming soon...

MOVE YOUR BODY. POWER YOUR MIND
STEP-A-THON
FUNDRAISER

Musical Showcase Success

Thank you to all the students who performed in last week's Showcase. It was fantastic to see their talent & so many families there to support them. What a fantastic evening!



Ice Blocks

A massive THANK YOU to



NEW WORLD
Stonefields

for donating ice blocks to our
Friday fundraiser!

Every Friday from 3pm,
weather allowing

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Each classroom has collection sheets & can be found at YummyFruit.co.nz



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 had such a great time during Staff Choice week at Kelly Club. The kids stayed busy with dodgeball, rock painting, and football out on the field. The highlight was definitely sliming Coach Jonas for Red Nose Day—everyone was cracking up. It was easily one of our favorite weeks so far!



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 Rated 4.44 stars out of 5 by our parents in our 2023 national survey.

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What's happening next week!

THEME: Kelly Club Rocks! Term 3 Week 5, 17th August 2026					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7:00 - 8:15 am	Colouring Comp & Structured Free Time	Lego Building & Structured Free Time	Painted Rocks & Structured Free Time	Origami & Structured Free Time	Homemade Muffins & Structured Free Time
8:15 - 8:30 am	Game: Chicken Tag	Game: Staff Choice	Game: Musical Statues	Game: Heed it, Catch it	Game: Captains Coming
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 Yoghurt & Fruit	Intro & Afternoon Tea Sammies & Fruit	Intro & Afternoon Tea Spaghetti on Toast & Fruit	Intro & Afternoon Tea Sammies & Fruit	Intro & Afternoon Tea Homemade Muffins & Fruit
3:30 - 3:45 pm	Game: Zip Zap Boing	Game: Rainbow Rush	Game: Crab Football	Game: Bang	Game: Musical Statues
SENIORS 3:45 - 4:30 pm	COOKING Rock Cakes 	CRAFT Kelly Club Banner 	GAME Find your Partner 	DISCOVERY Kelly Club Stars 	SPORT Party Obstacle Course
	COOKING Rock Cakes 	CRAFT Kelly Club Banner 	SPORT Party Obstacle Course 	DISCOVERY Kelly Club Stars 	GAME Which kid is it?
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 Baking	Snack Time Raisins	Snack Time Muesli Bars	Snack Time Potato Sticks	Snack Time Corn Thins

E: stthomas@kellyclub.co.nz

kellyclub.co.nz/stthomas

P: 021 080 33666



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SUMMER KIDS TOUCH RUGBY 2026



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AND BUILD CONFIDENCE**



**GET ACTIVE, HAVE FUN
AND ENJOY SUMMER!**



**AT
MADILLS FARM,
KOHIMARAMA**

DATES



**WEDNESDAY
28TH OCTOBER
TO
9TH DECEMBER
2026**

TEAM SIZE



**6 PLAYERS
+ RESERVES**

TIMES



NIPPERS (YEARS 1-2)	4.00 – 4.30 PM
JUNIORS (YEARS 3-4)	4.30 – 5.00 PM
MIDDLE (YEARS 5-6)	5.00 – 5.30 PM
SENIOR (YEARS 7-8)	5.30 – 6.00 PM

PRICE



**\$600
PER TEAM**

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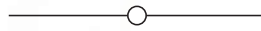
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