

11 September 2026

Principal's Message

Road Safety Reminder

At St Thomas's School, the safety of our students is always a priority. As we move through the busy school term, we would like to remind all students, parents, and whānau of the importance of road and footpath safety before and after school.

Whether travelling by foot, bike, or scooter, students are encouraged to stay alert, travel at a safe speed, and take extra care around roads, crossings, intersections, and residential driveways. Visibility can sometimes be limited for both pedestrians and drivers, particularly near driveways, parked vehicles, and corners, so taking a moment to slow down and look carefully can make a significant difference.

We have recently received feedback that serves as a timely reminder that the areas around our school can be very busy before and after school. Students are encouraged to be mindful of vehicles entering and exiting driveways and to take extra care when travelling to and from school. Slowing down, looking carefully, and staying alert can help prevent accidents and keep everyone safe.

We also encourage parents and caregivers to regularly discuss safe travel habits with their children, including the importance of wearing helmets, following road rules, using crossings where available, and showing courtesy and consideration to other road users.

By working together, we can help ensure that all students travel safely to and from school each day. Thank you for your support in reinforcing these important safety messages with your children.

Ngā mihi nui

Michael Maher
Principal



Congratulations to our AIMS Games team who competed all of this week in Mount Maunganui. We are proud of you!

Upcoming Dates

September

- 14 Yr 7 & 8 House Assembly 12pm (Pohutukawa)
- 14 Yr 4 Kelly Tarlton Trip (M4HA & M4CH)
- 15 Yr 4 Kelly Tarlton Trip (M5KI & M5WH)
- 15 Yr 5 Auckland Botanical Gardens Trip
- 15 Board of Trustees Meeting 6.30pm (Staffroom)
- 16 Yr 5 Auckland Botanical Gardens Trip
- 17 Yr 7 Maritime Museum Trip
- 17 Student Lead Learning Conferences
- 18 Yr 1-3 Assembly 9.15am-9.45pm (School Hall)
- 18 School Disco 5pm (School Hall)
- 21 Bay Suburbs Hockey
- 25 Last Day of Term 3

October

- 12 First Day of Term 4
- 16 Whole School Whakatau 9.30am (Canopy)
- 16 Eastern Zone Volleyball
- 16 Mitey Community Afternoon 1.30pm-2.45pm (School Hall)
- 19 Yr 7 & 8 House Assembly 12pm (Rangitoto)

Year 3 Adventure to Tiritiri Matangi Island

What an incredible adventure our Year 3 students enjoyed during their recent trip to Tiritiri Matangi Island. Spread across two beautiful days with some classes visiting on Wednesday and others on Thursday, this once-in-a-lifetime experience gave students the opportunity to explore one of New Zealand's most remarkable wildlife sanctuaries while learning about conservation, biodiversity, and the rich history of Aotearoa.

Students arrived at school bright and early before heading to the Auckland Viaduct to catch the 9am ferry. The excitement was contagious as everyone settled in for the journey, enjoying morning tea, colouring activities, word searches, having chit chats and posing for photos while taking in the spectacular harbour views.

Upon arriving on the island, students were welcomed by knowledgeable volunteer guides who shared fascinating stories about Aotearoa's history, conservation efforts, and the incredible biodiversity that makes Tiritiri Matangi one of New Zealand's most treasured wildlife sanctuaries. Accompanied by their teachers and wonderful parent helpers, students explored a variety of tracks including the Wattle Track, Kawerau Track, Ridge Road, and Hobbs Track. Along the way, they discovered rare native bird species, unique plant life, and even special fungi that many had never seen before. Every walk offered something new to marvel at, while the guides shared golden nuggets of knowledge about the island's remarkable conservation journey and the precious native species that call it home.

The adventure also included visits to the beautiful beaches, the iconic lighthouse, and the Visitor Centre. Many students enjoyed purchasing a small souvenir, knowing that their purchases help support the ongoing protection and maintenance of this very special island. The children were incredibly fortunate to experience such beautiful weather. The sunshine and clear skies made exploring the island even more enjoyable and allowed everyone to fully appreciate the breathtaking scenery.

A heartfelt thank you goes to our wonderful Year 3 teachers who put an enormous amount of planning and organisation into making this trip possible. While it was undoubtedly a long and tiring couple of days, their dedication created an unforgettable learning experience for every child. We are also sincerely grateful to our parent helpers and volunteer guides for their support, enthusiasm, and knowledge throughout the adventure.

The stories, discoveries, and memories made on Tiritiri Matangi Island will stay with our students for many years to come. It was a truly marvellous experience and a wonderful reminder of the importance of protecting Aotearoa New Zealand's precious natural environment.



***Click on the lighthouse to
see more highlights***

"Changing Learning for a Changing World"



ESOL Reading Café

Recently, our ESOL students welcomed their parents and whānau to our ESOL Reading Café, a special event designed to celebrate reading, learning, and the progress students have made throughout the year.

Students created their own reading menus, complete with an appetiser, main course, and dessert. Family members were invited to choose from a variety of reading activities including listening to poems, hearing students read from their ESOL books, enjoying recount writing and speeches, and taking part in fun literacy games together.

The ESOL Room was filled with conversation, learning and plenty of smiles as students proudly shared their work. It was wonderful to see parents and whānau actively involved, encouraging and supporting their children while celebrating their achievements.

Many students reflected on how much they enjoyed the experience:



"My mum said it was super fun and that I did really well. I felt very excited and enjoyed everything I did with my mum!"
Henry Lee, Year 3



"The best thing was playing the memory game with my dad."
Jasper Qiu, Year 7



"I like my appetiser, the 'My Two Homes' poem. Mum likes my dessert, the Matching Game."
Jasper Zhu, Year 4



"When I was reading, I was worried and felt a bit nervous. After I finished, I was happy and excited."
Luna, Year 5



"Overall, I really enjoyed the ESOL Café."
Soyul Kim, Year 8

A big thank you to all the parents and whānau who attended and helped make the afternoon such a success. Opportunities like the ESOL Reading Café strengthen the connection between home and school while helping students build confidence in their reading and communication skills. We are incredibly proud of our ESOL learners and the enthusiasm they showed in sharing their learning with others.

Kids Sing Auckland - Auckland Town Hall

Our choir students had an absolutely fantastic time taking part in Kids Sing Auckland. This wonderful event brought together hundreds of students from schools across Auckland to learn and perform a lively repertoire of songs as one enormous choir. The atmosphere was buzzing with energy, excitement, and plenty of singing, and our students loved being part of such a special musical experience.

It was a fun-filled day and evening, and a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the joy of singing alongside so many other talented young performers.

"Our choir performance was an enjoyable experience, and it was very exciting to perform at Auckland Town Hall in front of a large audience alongside our peers and all the other school choirs participating. We are so grateful to have had this experience."

Olivia, Clara and Lauren, Year 6



Going Green with MITEY!

On Friday 16 October, we invite all students, staff, and whānau to join us in celebrating MITEY Green Dress-Up day by wearing something green to school. This special day recognises the important values of the MITEY programme, including building resilience, managing emotions, making positive connections, and using our voices in healthy and respectful ways.

Our students will take part in a range of fun MITEY activities throughout the afternoon, and we warmly welcome members of our school community to pop in and see MITEY in action. We look forward to coming together to celebrate wellbeing, belonging, and the many ways we support one another at St Thomas's School.

Wear green, get involved, and help us celebrate all things MITEY! ❤️



Success at the NIWA Science Fair

Thirteen of our Year 7 and 8 students recently represented St Thomas's School at the NIWA Science Fair held at Michael Park School. Competing against approximately 150 projects from schools across Auckland, our students confidently presented their investigations, explained their scientific thinking, and responded to questions from the judges. Every student represented our school with pride and professionalism.

We are delighted to share that 4 projects received "Highly Commended" awards:

- Speed vs Accuracy in Chess – *Robbie Kuang and Andrei Alexeichik* (HC)
- Piezoelectric Shoe – *Sithev Widanapathirana and Jeremy Huang* (HC)
- The Enviro Light – *Chloe O'Brien* (HC)
- Weight to Watts – *Pumindu Rathnayaka* (HC)

Congratulations also to all our students who took part:

Emery Ngakiau, Rāhera Te Ohu, Hajar Khatami, Alexandra Savin-Taylor Ulrich, Mayra Singh, Ah In Shin, and Tyler Lu.

Taking part in the Science Fair requires curiosity, creativity, perseverance, and a great deal of hard work. We are incredibly proud of all students for the effort they put into their projects and for the way they represented St Thomas's School.

A special thank you to the Year 7 and 8 teaching team for supporting students throughout the process, and to Miss Gloster for her assistance with uploading projects, proofreading, and completing the competition requirements.

Ka pai to all our young scientists on an outstanding achievement!



Lost Property Reminder



Our lost property collection has now been moved to the School Office. We currently have many uniform items in our lost property, particularly sweatshirts, that are unable to be returned because they are not named.

If your child is missing a uniform item, lunchbox, drink bottle, or other belongings, please pop in and check. We also kindly ask families to ensure all uniform items are clearly named, making it much easier for lost items to be returned to their owners.

For families looking for a convenient labelling option, iron-on name labels can be purchased here:

<https://preciouslabels.co.nz/collections/iron-on-name-labels>

Thank you for your support!

STS News

To watch the 56th episode of the series, click [HERE](#).

To watch the 55th episode of the series, click [HERE](#).

To watch the 54th 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-notice/>

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

Mark Your Calendar: Term 3



STEP-A-THON

28 August -
18 September



KIDS DISCO

Friday
18 September



CALENDAR ART
stay tuned for
more info

PTA MEETING
9 September
7pm

Step-A-Thon



**100 MILLION STEPS.
\$20,000. 3 WEEKS.**

Week 1 saw a massive effort from our students!

We have raised over
\$13,000+

Keep fundraising!
Remember, there's prizes for the top 3 classes,
top 2 individual fundraisers and spot prizes!



**We Walked A Massive
37,874,400 steps**

This would have taken us nearly all the way around the world...

We were just 2,200km short! We've walked the equivalent of a return journey from Auckland to Rome with a few amazing stops along the way!



START AUCKLAND TAMAKI MAKAURAU → SINGAPORE → DUBAI → ROME → BANGKOK → SYDNEY → AUCKLAND TAMAKI MAKAURAU **FINISH**

There's still 2 week remaining so please keep fundraising!

You can share your child's page link with friends & family all over the world to sponsor them! If you haven't already, set up your child's fundraising page, do so at:

stthomasschoolstepathon.raiseit.co.nz

FAQs & full details: stthomas.school.nz/pta/events

Thank you to Ray White
Ōrākei for sponsoring the
Step-A-Thon!



PROUD EVENT SPONSORS

**Supporting Our
Tamariki**

Krissie Maguire
Edwina Nathan

0275 222 444
021 801 333

* krissie.maguire@raywhite.com
* edwina.nathan@raywhite.com



Morgan Jaffe Real Estate Ltd Licensed (REAA 2008) - Ray White Group

PTA NEWS

The PTA is on
Facebook & Instagram
@ StThomasSchoolPTA

School Disco!

ST THOMAS'S PTA PRESENTS

SCHOOL DISCO

FRIDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER
• **SCHOOL HALL** •

YEARS 0-3
5:00 - 6:30PM
PICK-UP BY 6:45PM
Yr 0 & 1 parents are welcome to stay

YEARS 4-8
7:00 - 8:30PM
PICK-UP BY 8:35PM

**COME DRESSED AS YOUR FAVOURITE
ROCK STARS & POP STARS**

BEST DRESSED WINS A PRIZE!

\$5 CASH ENTRY AT THE DOOR
bring exact change to speed up the line!

BRING EXTRA CASH FOR:

PIZZA (GF AVAILABLE)	SNACKS LOLLIES & CHIPS	DRINKS SODA & WATER	FLURO/GLOW ITEMS
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! All students must be picked up from inside the school grounds by a parent/guardian

Yummy Apple Stickers

If you have any Yummy Apple Stickers at home, please bring them into your class over the next few weeks!





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...

What a fun and busy week we had at Kelly Club getting ready to celebrate all the amazing dads and father figures! We kicked off the Father's Day festivities by whipping up delicious burgers and testing our memory with a tricky round of What's Missing. The kids also brought huge energy to a fun game of Dad's Cricket and crafted awesome kites to hand over on Sunday. Wishing all our Kelly Club families a fantastic Father's Day weekend!



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!

SEPT/OCT 2026 HOLIDAY PROGRAMME
ST THOMAS SCHOOL

WEEK 1	Mon 28 Sep	Tues 29 Sep	Wed 30 Sep	Thurs 1 Oct	Fri 2 Oct
	ARRR ME HEARTIES! Climb aboard and start the long voyage across the seven seas. Will you be a pirate on the ship or a mermaid under the water?	SECRET AGENT Bring your detective skills to Kelly Club today. We are going to be putting your brain to the test with clues and clever obstacle courses! Can you solve the mysterious case?	AUCKLAND ZOO Join us for an awesome trip day to Auckland Zoo to see some amazing animals. Please bring lunch, drink, bottle, jacket and shoes. Extra \$20 for the day.	RACE THE CLOCK! The name of the game today is speed. See what you can achieve in just 60 seconds with our wacky win in a minute challenges. Book in quick, the clock is ticking!	KIWIANA DAY Celebrate who we are and all things New Zealand! Gumboots, Pavlova, Rugby, Ki o Rahi and more!
WEEK 2	Mon 5 Oct	Tues 6 Oct	Wed 7 Oct	Thurs 8 Oct	Fri 9 Oct
	A TRIP TO THE ISLANDS Put on your flower lei as we take an imaginary trip around the islands. There is so much to see and explore!	WHEELS DAY Bring your bikes, scooters or other wheels for races, obstacle courses and relays and then see what else you can make move. Please remember your helmet!	INFLATABLE WORLD Join us for an awesome trip to Inflatable World. Please bring lunch, drink, bottle, jacket, socks and shoes. Extra \$20 for the day.	CHILD VS WILD Have you got what it takes to survive in the wild? Come and learn some tips and tricks at Kelly Club to have fun in the outdoors.	FUN-TASTIC FRIDAY Get ready for silly games, crazy challenges, and non-stop fun! Step into our wacky world and let the adventures begin.

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



BOOK ONLINE NOW AT www.kellyclub.co.nz

love tennis

- THIS SUNDAY -

10 - 2PM

ORAKEI TENNIS CLUB
2 KUPE STREET, ORAKEI

FREE COACHING
GAMES AND PRIZES
JUNIOR - \$110 + NEW RACQUET*

*NEW MEMBERS ONLY - RACQUET SIZE 21-25 INCH - SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY



SWIMMING PROGRAMME

BUILD SKILLS. GROW CONFIDENCE. HAVE FUN!



We're especially excited to welcome **6-7 year olds!**

Making Waves Aquatics is a dynamic swimming programme dedicated to fostering a love for swimming and guiding athletes of all ages and abilities to achieve their personal best.

With expert coaching, inclusive programs, and a focus on technique, fitness, and fun, we empower swimmers to grow, compete, and make waves — in and out of the pool.

Contact Us



makingwavesaquaticsnz@gmail.com



[@MAKINGWAVESAQUATICS](https://www.instagram.com/MAKINGWAVESAQUATICS)



021 129 2760

Our programme includes:

Technique & Skill Development



Fitness & Conditioning



Goal Orientated Progression



Team Building & Confidence



Pathway to Competition



love tennis

OPEN DAY FOR KIDS & PARENTS!



FREE JUNIOR TENNIS COACHING

Sunday 13 September • 10am–12pm

For ages 3–11, older junior beginners,
and juniors aged 10+ with some tennis experience.



PLUS FREE ADULT COACHING!

Beginner Quickstart • 12–1pm
Cardio Tennis for intermediate
to advanced players • 1–2pm



**Tennis Auckland &
Tennis NZ Club of the Year**



11 Marau Crescent, Mission Bay
Coaching with Tennis One New Zealand



SPACES ARE LIMITED — BOOK NOW



www.missionbaytennis.co.nz



EVERYONE IS WELCOME — COME AND GIVE TENNIS A GO!



TRY UNDERWATER HOCKEY

MINI LEAGUE
Year 6-9
Students

Term 4
Tuesdays
7:30-8:30pm
20 Oct-1 Dec.

Glen Innes
YMCA
122 Elstree Ave
Glen Innes

\$70 for the term

Gear - Mask, snorkel and fins. Glove and stick.
Bring what you have and we can provide the rest.

To Register scan QR Code:



Underwater Hockey is a fast-paced, inclusive sport played at the bottom of the pool. It's a great next step for swimmers, waterpolo players or those wanting a team sport. It promotes water confidence, builds lung capacity, teamwork and spacial awareness.

And its great fun!

For more information visit our website
aucklandunderwaterhockey.com



SCHOOL HOLIDAY WATER POLO PROGRAM



**MONDAY 5th -
WEDNESDAY 7th
OCTOBER**



**9:30 - 11:30AM
EACH DAY**



**SACRED HEART
AQUATIC CENTRE**

ALL AGES WELCOME



A dedicated program tailored to kids new to water polo, wanting to learn the sport or try something new



Set your child up for a new sport in Term 4 or 2027



Great coach to player ratio



Games, skills and fun

\$110

(FOR THE
3 SESSIONS)



EMAIL

under12s@maristwaterpolo.co.nz FOR QUESTIONS OR TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST.

Spring School Holiday Programme

Scan for
programme:



Choose from two activities:

CLUB HOUSE

Loads of fun on site every day!

Short day: 9am - 3pm

Full day: 7:30am - 6pm

ADVENTURE SEEKERS

Awesome adventures around Auckland

Full day: 7:30am - 6pm

*Short days are not available

ENROL ONLINE

villagesquare.org.nz/shp-enrol

28 Sept - 9 Oct



Spring School Holiday Programme

Monday 28 September — Friday 9 October 2026

WEEK ONE

Mon 28 September

Tues 29 September

Wed 30 September

Thurs 1 October

Fri 2 October

CLUB HOUSE

On-site activities

Silly Sports Day

The Great Escape

World Chefs: Philippines

Monster Mash

Birds of a Feather

\$60 - \$69

ADVENTURE SEEKERS

Trips

Cinema

Odysseum

TIMEZONE

Running Grid

Skateland

\$92.50

WEEK TWO

Mon 5 October

Tues 6 October

Wed 7 October

Thurs 8 October

Fri 9 October

CLUB HOUSE

On-site activities

Collectors Club
Bring your Ooshies

Neon Jungle

World Chefs: Germany

Ocean Explorers

Spooky Spectacular

\$60 - \$69

ADVENTURE SEEKERS

Trips

Tip Top Factory

Gravity Trampoline Park

Archie Brothers

Vertical Edge

NO ADVENTURE SEEKERS TODAY.
Join us at Club House.

\$92.50



BALMORAL

Balmoral School 19
Brixton Road
Mt Eden

EPSOM

Epsom Normal Primary School
41 The Drive,
Epsom

PARNELL

Parnell Community Centre 545 Parnell Road
Parnell

Read full activity details and enrol online at

villagesquare.org.nz/shp-enrol

The Village Square Trust thanks Auckland Council for their support

