

8 November 2019

## Building Update

In the next few days the roof will be installed which will keep the building dry and allow the builders to start on timber framing upstairs.

Concrete will be poured on the first-floor deck toward the end of next week.

The contractors are now planning how to demolish the remaining structure which is attached to the office area and it is expected that this will take place over the Christmas break.



**To Medha S (J2) – for receiving the overall highest score in the NZ/Pacific Region for UNSW ICAS Testing – Spelling Bee**

## Upcoming Events

### November

- 11 Bay Suburbs Touch Rugby
- 11 Y5 Bike Safety with Constable Gordon
- 11&12 Year 1&0 MOTAT STEAM van visit
- 13, 14
- & 15 Year 7 Youthtown
- 14 Year 5&6 Athletics Sports Day
- 14 Year 7&8 Vaccinations
- 18 Year 7 Road Patrol Training
- 20 Bay Suburbs Athletics
- 21 Eastern Zone Athletics
- 21 Year 7&8 Catchup Vaccinations
- 28 Year 8 Orientation day at Selwyn
- 28 Year 6 Kea Crossing Rainbows End Day
- 29 Years 0/1 Performance

### December

- 3 Outdoor Adventure Group Okura Walk
- 3 Years 5&6 Boys & Girls Cricket
- 4 Year 8 Rangitoto Climb
- 5 Years 2-4 Athletics Day
- 13 Prize Giving (9.30am at Barfoot & Thompson Stadium)
- Summary Report/2020 Envelopes going home
- 16 Tabloid Sports day
- 18 Last day of term**  
**(school finishes at 12.30pm)**

## Property Modification

Due to health and safety concerns for all of our students and staff and following a strong recommendation from the Ministry of Education, we are modifying our fences on the perimeter of the School. Most of the modifications are straightforward such as putting palings on the inside of fences which border our neighbours to prevent students climbing over or through the fence. Other modifications will be more noticeable including the installation of a pedestrian gate between the junior classrooms and the office area. We have not received an exact date of when the work will begin but it is expected to take place in the coming weeks.

The boundary fence will be approximately 1.8m in height to match our existing fence. The front of the school around the entry to the office area will not be fenced. The pedestrian gate will have similar 'pool latch' access to allow adults to open and close the gate but prevent little people from opening the gate and running out onto the road.

The construction will be undertaken with the same approach to health and safety and management of potential impacts to the school and the local community. Full access to the school grounds and facilities will still be available over the weekends and school holiday periods as it is today.

We realise that the installation of a pedestrian gate in the main entrance area is a change from what we currently have, however our concerns with the busy roads and student safety have increased and this is a project we need to undertake.

<p>Why do we need a fence?</p>	<p>In the last year or two there has been a substantial increase in the number of students, particularly in the Junior School who abscond from classrooms and/or the school grounds into the surrounding streets. While these students and their families are being supported on many levels, the number of incidents has caused significant health and safety concerns and stress for parents and staff.</p> <p>Updates to legal requirements and guidelines concerning our teachers' ability to intervene and restrain children also means that they cannot stop absconding children but must leave the classroom or school grounds to follow the child. This has major safety implications for the absconding students as well as maintaining adequate teacher supervision/numbers within classrooms.</p> <p>Fencing the school will mean that families can be assured their children are safe and that stressful and unsafe situations are reduced for staff. Keeping our children and staff safe is our number one priority.</p>
<p>Will the gate spoil the look or feel of the school?</p>	<p>One negative factor in installing the entrance gate is around the visual and physical barrier this creates between the school and our community, as well as how it will affect the way our school community uses and moves through our school grounds. Experience from other schools who have installed a gate is that parents understand the need for safety and once the gate is installed it just becomes another part of the school's infrastructure.</p>
<p>Will this stop dogs entering the grounds?</p>	<p>It may help to stop people bringing their dogs onto the grounds and leaving dog droppings on our courts and fields.</p>
<p>Controlling access to the school grounds during school hours</p>	<p>There is a legal requirement that all people who come on to the school site during school hours sign in at the office. Although this has been communicated many times, we still have instances of the school not knowing who is on-site at all times due to people not signing in. The new setup will filter all visitors during school hours (excluding drop off and pick up times) via the front office to sign in.</p>

Who pays for the project?

The MoE is paying for the project.

## ESOL Market Day is the best!

A MORNING FULL OF SHOPPING, GAMES AND FUN

Term 4 is an exciting time for the ESOL students of St. Thomas's School because they celebrate the end of the year by holding a market day.

Market day is a fantastic event and could not happen without the generous donations from the school community and the parent helpers on the day. Thank you for your support!

"Last week on Thursday the ESOL students had a market in the school hall. ESOL Market is an annual event. This market doesn't happen magically. It might look easy to arrange but it takes a lot of parent help to have this much fun." *Noe Year 5*

"ESOL Market Day is a really enjoyable time for ESOL students. You can find second-hand goods and this means treasure for some people. It is fun because it is really similar to shopping!" *Dana Year 5*

"ESOL Market Day is the most fun day for the ESOL students. This year the market day was held in the hall. It was bigger than last year. There were lots of shops. For example guessing challenges, lucky dips, games and a fleamarket." *Meina Year 5*

"Some games were made by students and some were made by teachers. ESOL Market Day is the day ESOL students spend their hard earned Buzz dollars and the kids learned how to haggle and barter." *Pietro Year 5*

"On ESOL Market Day I bought a torch. Then I went to a girl and I bought a bag that had a rabbit called "My Melody" on it. I went to Sumi's store . I got a fish that had some words like mountain, place, bell and fire on it. It was a fishing game with magnets. The fishing game was fun. I went to Space Cave Adventure. I had to go in a dark, scary room, but I had a glow pen to draw with. Then I drank juice and I ate candies. I had an excellent day!" *Aika Year 2*

"I won the construction set at the silent auction because I was the highest bidder. I was so excited. It is cool. I think I will make a racing car and a ship and a bridge." *Koki Year 6*

"The event was amazing. Children learnt how to haggle and bargain for a cheaper price. Dana, a year 5 student who attended market day said, "I got this cute bear for only 30 Buzz dollars, which is a very good price." ESOL Market Day is a lovely memory for the ESOL students who are not going to be here for next year's market." *Alisa Year 5*



*"Changing Learning for a Changing World"*



## Bird Song-athon

Thanks for your effort with the -athon. So far, we have raised around \$13,000.

The following individuals and classes are winners. The winners were announced at assembly on Friday. Any students who have not yet handed in their money are welcome to go to the office to do so.

### Prizes:

Individuals with the most money raised: (these students receive a drone.)

Adam Milivojevic S1  
Aryan Sharma M9  
Anya Nicholson S4  
Shaman Shankar S12

Classes with the most money raised: (these classes receive a pizza lunch.)

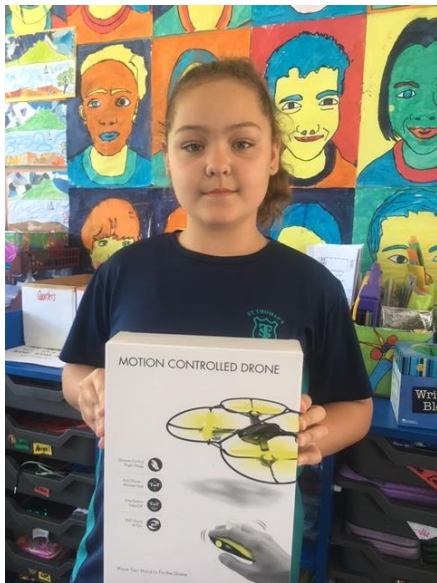
Yr 0-2 S1  
Yr 3-4 M9  
Yr 5-6 S5  
Yr 7-8 S12

Classes with the highest % of participation (these classes receive iceblocks)

Yr 0-2 J5 87%  
Yr 3-4 J4 100%  
Yr 5-6 J12 86%  
Yr 7-8 S11 57%

Iceblock winners and pizza winners (S1, S11, S5, S12, M9, J4, J5, J12) will receive their rewards on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November at lunch time.

Thanks so much again for your support and thanks to the PTA and Keri Brown (-athon designer and organiser) for their effort.



## **Waterpolo**

Congratulations to St Thomas's Waterpolo Team who competed in the New Zealand Waterpolo North Island 7&8 Championships last weekend. This tournament marked their fourth and final tournament together as a team for 2019. The students have been highly committed training twice a week and competing in the eastern league throughout the year on top of tournaments. They have grown from a group of individuals, many new to the sport, to a competitive team who have represented their school with pride and displayed excellent sportsmanship. Waterpolo is a very physical game and demands a great deal of the children, not only fitness and game awareness but also resilience and determination. Well done to all the players involved and a special mention to our students who received team awards.



Ben Jamison - Most Valuable Player  
Mace Cadwallader - Most Improved Player  
Best Offensive Player - Maxximo Ly  
Best Defensive Player - Ella O'Brien  
AIMS Games Team Player - Sami Lawler



# NEWS

## House T-shirts on sale again!

Place your order through Flexibuzz payment portal before Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November for delivery in 2 weeks' time. Don't miss out, these are great quality shirts in your child's House colour!

## Order your Christmas Ham!

This year with the support of Saint Johns Butchery, the PTA will be selling hams for Christmas.

Free range, naturally cured and smoked  
4/4.5kg hams - \$75

Order online now via the payment portal on Flexibuzz. Once purchased, you will need to email us [stthomasschoolpta@gmail.com](mailto:stthomasschoolpta@gmail.com) with your Flexibuzz receipt and let us know when you would like to pick up your ham from Saint Johns Butchery - any time from December 16.



## NEED TO CONTACT US AT THE PTA?

For any PTA related events, fundraisers or general enquiries please do not hesitate to contact us – [stthomasschoolpta@gmail.com](mailto:stthomasschoolpta@gmail.com)

Also, make sure you have joined our 'St Thomas's School Community' Facebook page for updates and reminders.

**We are currently looking for a new Treasurer, if interested please contact us.**

## St Thomas's School Celebrations Disco!!!

Friday 15<sup>th</sup>  
November

\$5 Entry (cash)  
DJ FETU

Year 0-3 session 5 - 6.30pm

Year 4-8 session 6.45 – 8.30pm

**Come dressed themed for your favourite celebration – Christmas, Matariki, Halloween, St Patricks Day, Diwali, Hanukkah, Chinese New Year...you decide!**

Food, drinks and glow sticks available on the night (cash only from \$2-\$5).

**If you are able to help on the night please contact the PTA – [stthomasschoolpta@gmail.com](mailto:stthomasschoolpta@gmail.com)**



**PIZZA LUNCH**  
Wednesday  
13<sup>th</sup> November

## St Thomas's Tasting Event Postponed until 2020



## ICE BLOCK FRIDAYS

\$2 or  
3 for \$5

## Catch up on measles vaccination

The measles outbreak is continuing, so it's still important to catch up on your children's vaccinations.

Children will get very sick with measles.

They also can miss school activities like sports, concerts and camps.

The friends of a child with measles may also have to stay at home if they are unvaccinated.

**See your doctor - it's FREE.**

Do it now, so measles doesn't interfere with end-of-year activities and get-togethers.

**If you suspect measles please stay at home and call your doctor or Healthline (0800 611 116) for advice.**

**Measles info at: [arphs.health.nz/measles](http://arphs.health.nz/measles)**



# KidsLink

linking schools & parents with  
trusted services for kids & teens

Learning

Behaviour

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*counsellors, assessment services, sports, preschools, before & after school care, tutors, play therapists, vision and hearing, extra-curricular activities, osteopaths, teen careers & motivation, dentists, psychologists, in-home childcare, speech language therapists, chiropractors, dance & drama, dyslexia specialists, dieticians, physiotherapists, holiday programmes, OT's, driving instructors, self confidence, parent education...*

[www.kidslink.co.nz](http://www.kidslink.co.nz)