

31 July 2020

Canopy Over Junior Playground

After a few delays along the way we have finally completed the canopy which covers our junior playground. Our junior students can now utilise this area in the sun and rain and it is a wonderful improvement to our school facilities. The canopy was installed with the fundraising efforts of the PTA and we are very grateful for all the work that the parents in the PTA put into the school which benefits all our students.



Student Led Conferences Wednesday 12th August and Thursday 13th August

Just a reminder that the bookings for these have opened. Your child has been working really hard to prepare for these and I know that they are looking forward to sharing their learning with you.

How to book your child's Student Led Conference:

Go to: www.schoolinterviews.co.nz

The Event Code is: yn6yg



**Lana Thain and Judy Clark
who were recipients of the
Board of Trustees annual
study award.**

See article further down

Upcoming Events

August

- 4 Y7&8 Cybersafety Talks
- 5 Y3 Trip to Rangitoto
- 6 Y5 Tiki Tour Trip
- 10 Y6 Cybersafety Talks
- 11 Eastern Zone (Y7&8) Girls Basketball
- 12 PTA Meeting (7.00pm Staffroom)
- 12 Student Led Conferences
- 13 Student Led Conferences
- Eastern Zone (Y7&8) Boys Basketball
- 17 School Cross Country Event
- 18 Board of Trustees Meeting (6.30pm Staffroom)
- 19 Rain Day Cross Country
- 26 Y2 Zoo Trip
- Eastern Zone Bay Suburbs Cross Country

September

- 9 PTA Meeting (7.00pm Staffroom)
- 14-18 Te Wiki O te Reo Maori
- 15 Y8 Bake Sale
- Board of Trustees Meeting (6.30pm Staffroom)
- 17 Y7&8 Social
- 23 Y7&8 Vaccinations
- 24 Y1-8 Open Morning
- Bay Suburbs (Y5&6) Hockey
- 25 Last day of Term

Unsolicited Flexischools Email to St Thomas's Community

It has been brought to our attention that Flexischools have sent an unsolicited email that indicated St Thomas's School is moving to their new app-based communications platform. This is not the case.

We have not engaged with Flexischools regarding their new app and it is not our intention to move to this platform in the future. If you have received this email, please disregard it. **You do not need to download the suggested app.** St Thomas's School has not shared your email address or your data with this company. Your email details were obtained by them when you registered for your Flexibuzz account.

We are currently investigating a new communications platform to replace Flexibuzz which is no longer being supported in the New Zealand market. We will advise parents directly when we have selected the best product for the St Thomas's School community.

We note that the email sent to parents by Flexischools contained the following disclaimer that dissociates them from our school. We are currently working to contact Flexischools to make a complaint about this email on behalf of our community.

This communication is from Flexischools and, unless expressly stated otherwise, the content is not recommended or endorsed by any school or educational institution.

Term 3, Week 2 Property Report

Hello, and welcome back to your fortnightly property report! After three whole weeks since your last supplement of witty writing and radiant reports, I have decided to fill you up straight away!

A canopy has been constructed over the hall to keep our heads dry when walking to assembly and such! Also, the concrete walkway between the admin and new block is almost completed and the carpet is complete on the first floor. As well as that, the electricity is up and running on the second story and concrete has been poured outside of the new classrooms. Plus, just to get you excited, in the next two weeks, by the time of my next report, the car park will be complete, the handrails installed on the walkway, the carpet and lighting put in on the bottom floor and the walkway between the senior and new block should be underway.

Phew, that was quite a mouthful (even though I was writing it down). Anyways, check back in in two weeks' time to get your next update of enlightenment. Otherwise, bye from me!

By Alex Heaton



Online Bullying

A third of 12 to 19 year olds in NZ have been the target of cyberbullying through the internet and/or mobile devices (Page 149 of Challenging Risk: NZ High-school Students' Activity, Challenge, Distress, and Resiliency, within Cyberspace by John Joseph Fenaughty).

At St Thomas's School, we are finding an increasing number of parents who are worried about their child's involvement with online bullying or inappropriate cyber use. Parents are reporting that these issues are frequently happening when their child is on a personal device in their own home and parents approach school staff for help to unpack what is happening.

Though these issues are happening out of school time, they do impact on our students wellbeing and we do our best to support the affected students and their families. It is timely to remind parents of the associated risks your child may be exposed to, or expose others to, while online and the support out there for parents when things do go wrong.

Online issues that involve your child can be very alarming, but similar to any issue your child is faced with, it is also a time for them to grow and develop as a young person. Calmly try to unpack what is going on, seek help where you can (<https://www.netsafe.org.nz/> is a good starting resource) and use it as a learning opportunity for you as a family.

As part of our annual wellbeing programme Constable Gordon will be talking to our Year 6, 7 and 8 students over the next couple of weeks on a range of cyber issues and educating them on how to keep themselves and others safe while online.

Netsafe NZ offer a range of support for parents to help them deal with cyber safety and explain what to do in the event your child becoming involved in an online incident. <https://www.netsafe.org.nz/parents-bullying/>

MORE ADVICE AND INFORMATION

- [Netsafe's online bullying, abuse and harassment service](#)
- [Online safety for parents](#)
- [About the Harmful Digital Communications Act](#)
- [More advice for parents from Netsafe](#)

Congratulations

Congratulations to staff members, Lana Thain and Judy Clark, who were recipients of the Board of Trustees Annual Study Award. The award is offered to teachers at St Thomas's School who are studying part time. This is one way the Board supports staff to improve their practice and ensures that there is a culture of continuous improvement across the school.

The award of \$2000 was split between Lana and Judy to help offset the cost of their studies. Judy has used her part of the award to complete her Graduate Diploma for Teaching English while Lana is using her part to complete a Postgraduate Certificate in Digital and Collaborative Learning.

New Arrivals for St Thomas's Staff

Congratulations to Charlotte Jackson on the arrival of Isabella May, born 10th of July at 3.13pm weighing 3.21kg (7 pounds).

Also, congratulations to Sarah Barratt-Boyes on the arrival of her baby girl, Milla on the 30th June.

Thank You to Simon Green and the Team at Building Wash

Every year Simon Green and his team at Building Wash Services come into our school and start the two-day long job of washing the outside of all our buildings, and as always, they have done an amazing job.

It is an absolute pleasure having Simon and his team from BWS on site they are always professional, respectful and exceptionally hard working.

We cannot thank Simon and BWS team enough for donating their time and equipment to ensure that our school's buildings are left at an exceptionally high standard of cleanliness.



King's Exchange Football Game

On Wednesday, the 29th of July, our St Thomas's Football team travelled to King's Prep School in Remuera for our first competitive game after lockdown. The team faced a very tough opposition, where we had to consider our every little move. The King's pitch was much wider than our school's one, so it was a little bit more running. The opposition had scored 4 goals in the first half. During half time, Divesh gave us an inspiring pep-talk to keep our heads up and keep fighting. We did start strongly and came close to scoring many times in the second half. Although they scored a few more in the second half, we were passing and communicating a lot more and played with true sportsmanship and a never give up attitude. Our squad had, unfortunately left with a 9-0 loss. Although we won the hearts of our supporters and the opposing team as well. A big thank you to our parent helpers and Divesh who helped us on the day and well done to all of those who played in the St Thomas's Football team.



By Jasmine Foster and Molly Willis

Team players: Leonardo Pescy, Lachlan Zonneveld, Shiva Sivakurmaran, Mizuki Okawa, Semesi Fakafu - Captain, Jamie Foster, William Meleisea, Ved Divekar, Sean Wilson, Sam Howe, Joel Everett, Riley Hancock, Daniel Hann, Jasmine Foster and Molly Willis - Vice Captain.

King's Exchange Hockey

On Wednesday the 29th of July, our school mixed hockey team travelled down to King's Prep School in Remuera and played a tough match against the King's top team. Since AIMS was cancelled, we arranged for King's to play a friendly game against us. Our team was made up of both girls and boys from year 7 & 8 and was captained by Hayden Hills which included Amber Thomas, Sara Revell, Gabe Davidson, Connor McKay, Lily Pastiroff, Roxy Pastiroff, Harry Wood, Mitchell Smith, Jack Lienert, Louis Harland and our goalie Daniel Farnworth. We had many good plays which also led us to 1 goal that was scored by our centre forward Sara. We also had some really good defensive plays by Daniel, Jack and Roxy who saved the majority of King's opportunities that came into the defensive circle. But overall, everyone had a great game and enjoyed the day. We also want to give a big thanks to Miss Johnson who organised the whole thing and coached the team, Sarah Hills for umpiring and all the parents for the help with transporting us to the venue and supporting the team.

By Sara Revell and Amber Thomas



Eastern Zone Netball Competition

On Thursday the 30th of July, St Thomas's competed in the Eastern Zone Netball Tournament. We had two year eight girls, one year eight boys, two year seven girls and one year seven boys' team. This was a fun-filled day and all teams put their absolute best foot forward.

The Year 8 girls A team played their 1st game against Kohimarama School. In the first half it was neck and neck, but we pulled away in the second half and won the game 11-3. Our second game was against Churchill Park School. The game was close in the first half, but in the second half we worked better as a team and we ended up winning the game 10-4. Our third win was against Stanhope this was tough as they were quite fast at moving the ball down the court and good at working together. The final score was 10-3 to us. For our last pool game, we versed Point England, they were by far the most skilful and strongest team in our pool. We all put our best foot forward, the result was: 14-4 to Point England. We ended up placing second in our pool, so we went through to the semi-finals. In our semi-final we versed Bardene's A team. In the first half we were down by two goals, but we kept persevering and did not give up. The final score was 11-6 to Baradene. That left us in the playoffs for 3rd and 4th. We were up against Ellerslie School. They were a strong team, they worked well together and were very skillful. Unfortunately, Ellerslie ended up winning this game. Overall, it was a great day out in the sun, and we did really well as a team!

By Sophie Barry and Zara Pomfret

The Year 8 boys played their first game against Bailey Road, it was a fast-paced game and we all worked well together. The final score was 11-3 to us. The next game was against St Heliers we got lots of goals and we won 11-5. The third game was against Kohimarama and we comfortably won this game 21-7. For our final pool game, we versed Stonefields. We ended up winning this game as well. After topping our pool, we played in the semi-finals against Glendowie, unfortunately we ended up losing by one point. Nonetheless we kept our

"Changing Learning for a Changing World"

sportsmanship standards high. We were all very upset about the loss, but Coach Shanice was really helpful and told us we still did really well. Our final game was a loss and was against Sylvia Park, they were tall and outmatched us physically, but we still took the match into extra time. After playing a hard day of netball we were given ice blocks by our coach for playing well.

By Ben and Mirai



2020 Cross Country Costume Carnival (In loving memory of Tanya Laurence)



St Thomas's Waterpolo Team 2020

Congratulations to the following students who were selected for the St Thomas's Tsunami Intermediate Waterpolo Team 2020.

Ben Jamison (Captain)
Ella O'Brien (Vice-Captain)
Sami Lawler
Erin Lawler
Zara Pomfret
Lily Baldwin
Mace Cadwallader
William Rattenbury
Lachie Zonneveld
Liv James
Andee Campbell



Reserves: Tia Dutton & Alex Fokin

Coaches: Emma O'Brien, Terry Lawler, Bella Jacka

Waterpolo can be considered to be almost a combination of sports, as water polo players are required to have the endurance and speed of a swimmer, the shooting, passing and dribbling skills of a football player and a rugby player's strength to battle for the ball. It is a very physical game played in a 25m pool where the players can not touch the ground, in a game of four quarters and at this level lasts about 30 minutes.

The squad is comprised of a group of experienced players from the 2019 team, as well as club players and those new to the sport. They were all happy to get back in the pool after lockdown and resume their training twice a week as a team. They swim on a Thursday before school for an hour in the lovely new Swimtastics building and then again bright and early Friday for 1 ½ hours at Sacred Heart in the deep 25m pool

The Intermediate Eastern League has begun at Sacred Heart where they play a game every Friday. They have started the season with some very convincing wins and intend to keep the winning streak going. The team are looking forward to competing in two weekend tournaments approaching, Winterfest August 14th-16th and Tim Sonderer 29th August- 30th. They will finish the season in term four competing in the North Island Championships 29th October – 1st November.

The coaches wish to congratulate the team on their selection and commend all squad players for their commitment to training and their good sportsmanship when representing the school. Finally, a huge thank you to all the parents supporting their children in this squad - they couldn't do it without you. Maybe we will beat them at the next kids vs parents game!!!

PTA News Issue #6 2020

Zoom in (Ctrl+Plus)



QUIZ & AUCTION NIGHT SATURDAY, 5TH SEPTEMBER

We encourage you to grab a team and come to our Non-Bon Voyage Quiz & Auction Night, dressed as your favourite holiday destination. Details of the evening, and how to purchase tickets are included in the poster that follows.

We would also love to hear from you if you have a service or a product donation that could go toward the Auctions on the night.

Please email us at stthomasschoolpta@gmail.com if you can help in any way. It is only through the generosity of our school community that we can make this event happen and raise precious funds for our school.

CALENDAR ART



Our children are currently creating a piece of artwork which will be available for you to purchase in a calendar or card format. Everyone has put many hours into creating their artwork and would feel very special if you were able to purchase it. We will send home more information about how to purchase your child's calendar art in the coming weeks – they make great Christmas gifts!

WHENUA A-THON



We are working on our A-thon for this year, based on the learning being done in the school around our Whenua; having a sense of belonging & a strong sense of resilience. Coming together as a community & connecting to landmarks.

A-thon sponsorship cards will be coming home soon, we'd encourage you to support your child's learning by helping them to learn their A-thon questions and sponsoring them for the test.

We're always looking for more members. If you'd like to know more, contact us at stthomasschoolpta@gmail.com or come along to the next PTA meeting. We'd love to have more members, many hands make light work!



We encourage you to contact us with your thoughts & suggestions any time at stthomasschoolpta@gmail.com and don't forget to Like us on Facebook!



Facebook/StThomasSchoolPTA

ST THOMAS'S PTA PRESENTS OUR
ANNUAL QUIZ NIGHT!

NON BON VOYAGE!



Buffet
Table

Live and
Silent
Auctions

Book a
Table for Ten
\$500

SATURDAY 6:30PM
5TH SEPTEMBER
SCHOOL HALL

BOOK YOUR TABLE THROUGH
STTHOMASSCHOOLPTA@GMAIL.COM

WWW.JESSICABROWNDISIGNER.COM

THANKS TO OUR
MAJOR
SPONSORS

SAINT
JOHN'S
BUTCHERY

COIMEX
INTERNATIONAL
LTD

**We need YOU.
Slow down around schools**



"School is Back – please remember to drive at a safe speed around our school. This makes it safer for everyone, and students love to be able to walk, scoot or ride to school! Let's all take the time to be kind to one another, walking to school if we can, and driving safely around schools."