



25 September 2020

Moving to New Block

Our new building is almost complete and on Thursday morning we had the local kaumatua from Orakei Marae carry out a dawn blessing before we officially entered the building. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, only representatives from the Board, staff and builders attended.

This week we moved classroom furniture from Year 3, 4 and 5 classrooms into their new learning spaces and gave students from these classrooms a quick tour of their space. At the start of Term 4, students will go directly to these new learning spaces as teachers have already started to set them up ready for next term.

The teachers who are moving into the new teaching and learning space have worked with Lisa Horton and Jacque Allen since the beginning of this year in preparation for the move. Lisa is an architect who specialises in how educational spaces can be used effectively to enhance learning and Jacque works with teachers around designing collaborative teaching and learning programmes.

Based on the experience we have had with our current two story block and on the work we have carried out with Lisa and Jacque, we have set up each space to maximise teaching and learning. We will review and modify the layout as we progress through the year and in response to how effectively the layout is working.

In Term 4 we will hold open days for parents to visit the new learning spaces and gain an understanding of how we are planning to operate within it. We have postponed our official opening until Term 4 when all the work is complete and hopefully Covid-19 restrictions have eased.

We are excited to be able to bring our students into these teaching spaces and look forward to having parents and caregivers visit them in Term 4.

Have a safe term break,
Michael Maher



To our Property Manager, Glen Rothery. Glen works so hard and keeps our school looking amazing.

Upcoming Events

October

- 12-23 ICAS Testing
- 20 Student Led Conferences (TBC)
- 21 Student Led Conferences (TBC)
- 22 Out of Zone Ballot
- 22 Y4 Tahuna Torea Reserve Trip
- 26 Labour Day (School Closed)
- 27 Teacher Only Day
(School Closed to Students)**
- 29 Lockdown and Fire Drill Practice
- 30 4.00pm School Disco

November

- 3 Board of Trustees Meeting
(6.30pm in the Staffroom)
- 4 Y7&8 Vaccinations
- 5 ESOL Market Day
- 9-10 Class and Individual Photos
- 11 PTA Meeting (7.00pm in Staffroom)
- 18-20 Y7 at Youthtown
- 21 PTA Quiz Night

December

- 8 Board of Trustees Meeting
(6.30pm in the Staffroom)
- 9 PTA Meeting (7.00pm in Staffroom)
- 11 Prizegiving at Barfoot & Thompson Stadium
- 14 Tabloid Sports Day
- 16 Last day of school
(School finishes at 12.30pm)
NB. After school bus will not be running

Property Report, Term 3 Week 10

After a year of construction, Covid-19 and conundrums, the building is finally finished! Or, close to it. With me, Alex Heaton, getting a guided tour through the new building by Mr Maher himself. I will spend this report telling you about the wonders of this fabulous piece of architecture. Oh, and a few more little things to be completed in the holidays.

Okay, so I'm going to have to explain to you everything inside the building in the order of the way I was shown.

First was the sick bay, which is a nice clean place which connects to the admin block. Equipped with a bathroom, built in bed/resting place and more, it's sure to be a hospitable home for our sick and injured.

Next, the library. Although not yet equipped with its lines of books and shelves, the library struck me as a large space to which students and teachers alike can relax and read a book, with its serene feeling. Also, a beautiful carving has been established, with it having North, South, East, and West all on different sides and the houses are also represented, on each side.

Next, we have the teaching and learning spaces. Large, spacious rooms, perfect for our younger students. With cubby holes that double as tote trays, and fabulous breakout rooms with amazing uses of sliding doors, the spaces are a fine example of a modern learning environment. Even the bathrooms have amazing appliances, such as a Dyson hand dryer in each stall, and nice toilets. The stairs are wide and steady, perfect for several children trying to get up and down. Finally, the views on the top story are breath-taking, and the beautiful window facing the car park is stunning, with several angles providing a feeling of fantasy.

Wow. After so long, this is my last report of this project. This has meant a lot to me and I would like to thank everybody who made this possible; my teacher Miss Thain, Mr Maher and all the workers and people behind the scenes. Thanks to everyone who has read these reports and I hope that you have a great holiday.

Principal's Awards

Excellence

Cherie Li – J16

Yun Sun – M9

Leadership

Bradley Thomas – J8

Connections

Ava Revfeim – J2

Donald Diep – S1

Passion

Miller Hawthorn – S6



Signing off, Alex Heaton, Year 8, House Captain of Pohutukawa

OUR NEW TEACHING AND LEARNING SPACES



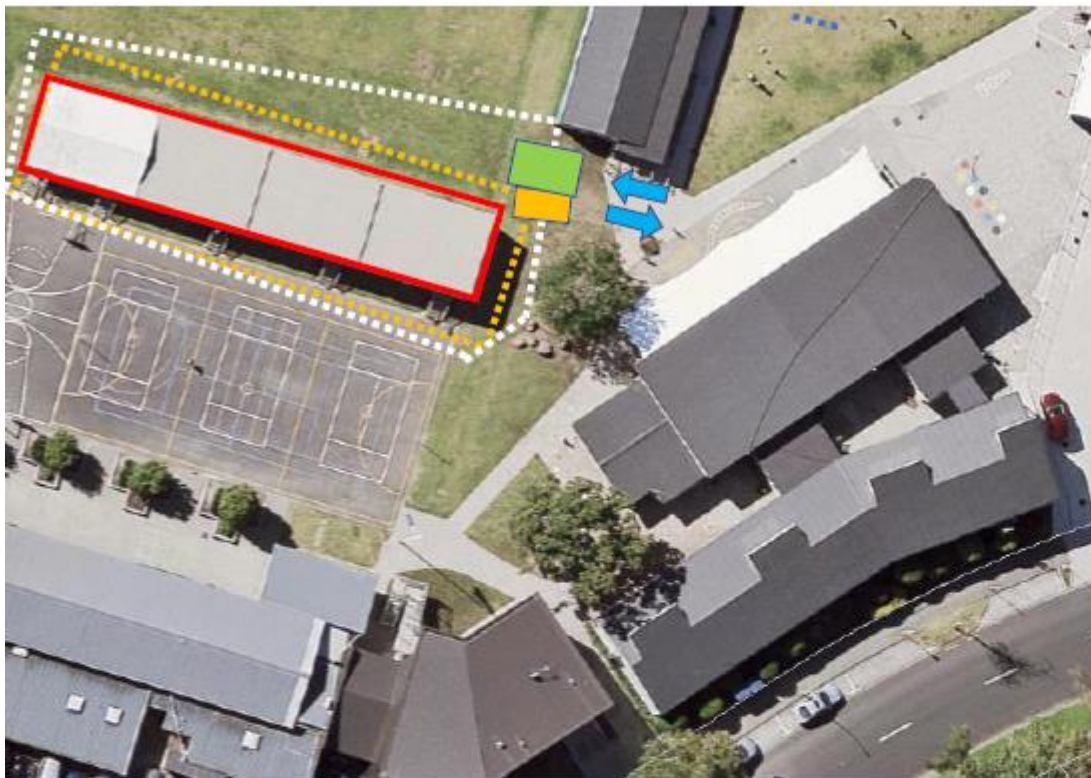
Demolition of Rooms M 8,9,10,11.

These rooms will be demolished during the term break and there is no community access to our school site for the next two weeks.

RE: ST THOMAS SCHOOL ASBESTOS REMOVAL

We wish to advise we have programmed the demolition of 4 classrooms over the coming school holiday period which have been confirmed to contain asbestos (see pictured).

The removal of asbestos containing materials will be **taking place 26th September – 10th October 2020**. Please be assured that all Asbestos Containing Materials will be safely removed from the site under an Asbestos Removal Control Plan developed in accordance with the requirements of the WorkSafe New Zealand, Health and Safety at Work (Asbestos) Regulations 2016.



Legend:



Truck/Bin Location



Site Entry/ Exit



Dirty Zone



Asbestos Removal Area



Fencing & Warning Signage &
Boundary Fencing



Monitoring Points (if required)



Decontamination Area/Unit

Term 3 Progress Report Reminder

A reminder that your child/children's Term 3 progress reports are available via the real-time parent reporting portal: <https://www.atschool.co.nz/>

Login details were re-sent to all parents earlier today. If you have not logged in before, you will need to use this link within ONE WEEK or it will time out and a new link will need to be requested.

For any parents wanting physical copies of termly reports, please remember to download and/or print these before 31 December 2020, as all termly reporting information will be rolled over (and therefore unavailable) after this date.

Hero Parent Communication App

As mentioned in our previous newsletter, we will be migrating our school systems to 'Hero', a school community communications app. The migration will happen over the holidays and we intend to begin using Hero to communicate important information and events with parents from the start of Term 4.

In 2021, the Hero system will be extended to include Real-Time Reporting on your child/children's academic progress. Hero will be a one-stop-shop for all communication which is something parents have asked for in recent surveys.

To prepare for this change, you can now install the Hero app on your mobile phone or other device. The app can be downloaded for both Apple and Android systems from the App Store or Play Store. **You will not be able to connect to your Hero account until our migration date of Friday 9th October.** After this date, we will be requesting that all parents set up their Hero accounts and begin using this system for receiving communications (including newsletters) and reporting absences.

Once the system is set up, we will send out reminders and further instructions on how to use the app.

Spanish Club

One of our amazing Teacher Aides – Doriana Degradi – has been running a Spanish Club, Thursday mornings before school, for our Spanish speaking students. As well as speaking Spanish, the club have been listening to Spanish music, doing some Spanish dancing and designing a logo for the club. There are plans to expand the club to include other languages in 2021, but for now, any Spanish speaking students wishing to join, should email Judy Clark jclark@stthomas.school.nz

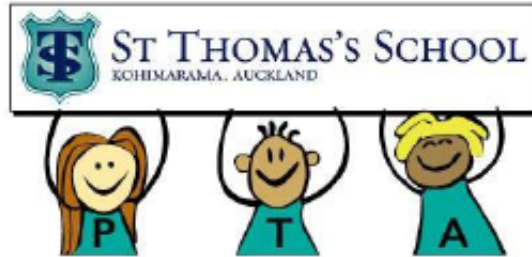
Term 4 – Sun Safety

Please remember that in Term 4 hats are compulsory for all students and we advise that sunscreen is applied before school each day. Also, please ensure your child brings a drink bottle to school every day.

Road Safety

Please remember that when crossing the road, you should be setting an example for your children and crossing at the controlled crossings. There is a Kea crossing on Allum Street and the lights on the corner of Allum Street and Kohimarama Road.

PTA News Issue #8 2020



NEW DATE!

QUIZ & AUCTION NIGHT

Due to the current situation & the uncertainty of changing Covid Alert Levels, we have made the difficult decision to postpone our Quiz & Auction Night to Term 4. Our new date is now:

SATURDAY, 21ST NOVEMBER

See the flyer below for more information, and how to purchase tickets.

HUGE thanks to our
Major Sponsors,
without whom we
couldn't make this
happen.



YUMMY STICKERS

Keep collecting your Yummy stickers! Every sticker counts toward new sports equipment for the school.



SCHOOL DISCO!
Friday 30th October
details to come

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, being held in Term 4.



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



Term 4 2020: MYSTERY GARDEN

(Mixed Media drawing & stencilling on fabric covered board)

Imagine a sunny day exploring the end of the garden looking into the bushes at ground level. The sun-dappled environment is what you will create by applying dye to a fabric covered board – a mystical garden backdrop in lush colours. Stencilling to create layers, pencils & pastels to enhance your foliage & delicately drawing critters of your own design

**8 Weeks Tuesday 20th October to 8th December 2020
3:15-5:15pm**

ART CLASSES

AT SCHOOLS, AFTER SCHOOL

Term 4 2020 @ St Thomas School

Fine Young Artists is an inspirational **fine arts programme** designed for children who are **passionate about art.**

Every term, children take part in an exciting new programme based on the works of well-known local and international artists. Our 8-week course is the perfect way to develop your child's artistic potential.



ENROL NOW! www.fineyoungartists.co.nz P: 09 6341995 E: enquiries@fineyoungartists.co.nz

Holiday Soccer with Billy Harris

Billy's running a camp in the second week of the holidays at Okahu Bay. 5-8 October, 9am-midday, \$20 a day.

Contact Billy to enrol at billyharris2000@hotmail.com or 027 2799042

LET'S GET WIGGY!

FIND THE WIGS AROUND ST HELIERS AND BE IN TO WIN!*

START AT PAPER PLUS ST HELIERS!

St Heliers
your village by the sea

PROUDLY SUPPORTING
Child cancer FOUNDATION

*T's & C's apply.


AUCKLAND UNIVERSITY
CRICKET CLUB

GIRLS CRICKET

All ages girls cricket programme

Come and join in with our 70 plus junior girls members and have some cricket fun. There are teams for all skill levels including softball teams in Under 9, Under 11 and Under 13 grades and hardball teams in U14, U15. Game formats are focused on fun, teamwork and spirit, learning and practising key cricket skills while playing a short and fast moving game in a social environment.

AUCC focus on keeping friends and school groups together where possible to maximise the fun. Team up with your friends and schoolmates and join up with AUCC!

To register visit aucc.co.nz
For more information contact our Girls' Convenor
Michelle Tsui or mgtsui@hotmail.com




AUCKLAND UNIVERSITY
CRICKET CLUB

15 WEEKS FOR \$99
SAVE 40%
Register before 30 September

HAVE A GO CRICKET

5 – 6 year old's fun cricket programme

Our summer programme runs from 4:15 to 5:15pm at Colin Maiden Park. Our team of professional coaches ensure the kids learn new skills in a fun and enjoyable environment whilst you can relax and enjoy the start of the weekend.

Get a group of friends together and enjoy a Friday evening at Colin Maiden Park!

To register visit aucc.co.nz
For more information contact our Club Manager
at 09 528 7931 or manager@aucc.co.nz




AUCKLAND UNIVERSITY
CRICKET CLUB

JUNIOR CRICKET

7 – 10 year old's cricket programme

AUCC offers the chance for fun with junior cricket. Game formats are focused on learning and involvement, practising key cricket skills while playing a short and fast moving game. Competing with teams from local clubs, AUCC supports parents volunteers to provide teams with a great way to start the weekend.

Most games are Friday Spins or Saturday 10.30am leaving your weekend free for other family activities.

AUCC focus on keeping friends and school groups together where possible to maximise the fun. Team up with your friends and schoolmates and join up with AUCC!

To register visit aucc.co.nz
For more information contact our Club Manager
at 09 528 7931 or manager@aucc.co.nz

