

12 February 2021

Straight into Learning for 2021

Classroom learning programmes are in full swing and our other departments of Learning Support, ESOL and STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, maths) are now up and running. We replaced all our library shelving and introduced new furniture and layout into the library space over the break and this will be open next week. The library looks amazing and will be a great addition to our literacy programmes. It feels wonderful to finally have the builders off our site and have extra space which we can utilise to provide exciting learning opportunities for all our students.

Powhiri for New Parents, Students and Staff

Next Friday, 19th February, at 9.30am we will hold a Powhiri in our school hall to welcome new whānau, students and staff into the St Thomas's School community. This is continuing what we started in Term One of 2020, which was interrupted by COVID-19 restrictions. It is our way of welcoming new people into 'our place' and provides our kapa haka group the opportunity to showcase their performance skills.

Property Update

During the Christmas break the builders completed the installation of retaining walls and seating outside the new block. This is a welcome addition to the new building and provides students a lovely space to sit during break times. The gates on the cricket nets were repaired and reinstated and are once again ready for our bowlers to practice. The old sandpit in the field was levelled out and filled and is now fenced off to allow the grass to grow. The area where the old classrooms were removed was grass seeded this area is fenced off until the grass grows again. The fencing around the artificial turf area was replaced and the learning through play area at the back of Room J13 and J14 was cleaned out ready for the year ahead.



To all our Students, Parents and Staff for a great start to 2021!

Upcoming Events

February

- 16 Board of Trustees Meeting (6.30pm Staffroom)
- 19 New Whānau Powhiri (9.30am Hall)
- 22 Y7/8 Immunisation Consent Talks
- 23 M4 to Corban Estate Art Centre
- 24 M6 to Corban Estate Art Centre
- 24-26 Y6 Camp

March

- 3 Y7/8 Quick Rip Rugby
- 4 Y5/6 Bay Suburbs Softball
- 4 PTA Picnic (4.30pm – 7.30pm)
- 5 Y7/8 Eastern Zone Softball
- 9 Y5/6 Quick Rip Rugby
- 9 Y7/8 Immunisations
- 11 Parent Information Evening 6.30pm – 8.30pm
- 12 Y5-8 Swimming Sports Day
- 16 Y7/8 Immunisation Catch-ups
- 16 Board of Trustees Meeting (6.30pm Staffroom)
- 17-19 Y1 Safe Walking with Constable Gordon
- 18 Y5 MOTAT Trip
- 22-24 Y2 Safe Walking with Constable Gordon
- 22 Y7/8 Eastern Zone Swimming
- 23 Y7/8 Stardome Trip
- 24 Y5/6 Bay Suburbs Swimming
- 29 Y6-8 Cybersafety Talks with Constable Gordon

April

- 2-6 Easter Break
(NB School is not open on Tuesday 6th April)
- 13 Board of Trustees Meeting (6.30pm Staffroom)
- 14-15 Student Led Conferences
- 16 Term 1 Pizza Lunch Day
- 16 Last Day of Term 1

Parent Information Evening

On **Thursday 11th March** we will be hosting our annual Parent Information Evening from 6.30-8.30pm in the school hall. The themes for the evening are as follows:

- Overview of 2021 St Thomas's School Annual Goals
- What learning looks for a St Thomas's School learner
 - Progressions
 - STEAM
 - Learning Through Play
 - 2021 COVID-19 Plan
 - PB4L
- Vision for St Thomas's School outdoor environment
- PTA

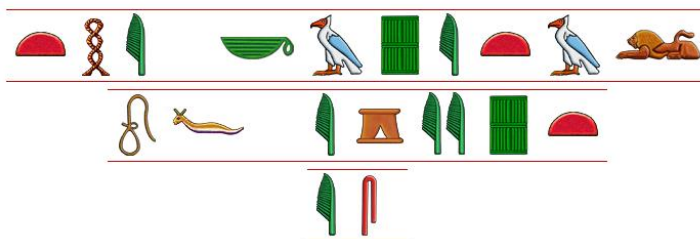
We welcome all our parents to this evening, and we are looking forward to sharing with you our St Thomas's School 2021 key initiatives.

Ancient Egyptians Roam the Halls of St Thomas's School!

Cleopatra (Ms Gwyn), Nefertiti (Divesh), and Ancient Mummy (Mr Winter) were roaming the halls of St Thomas's School this week. A special shout out to Nefertiti (Divesh), we loved the dress!

They appeared at every single classroom talking to the students about the new STEAM learning and the ancient scrolls that had been hidden from sight across the school for students to find.

When a scroll was found the students were to open the scroll very dramatically and decipher the coded message inside. Translators were located near the students to help them decode the message. Once you had deciphered the message you went up to Cleopatra, Nefertiti, and the Ancient Mummy, and told them the coded message in English. If you got it correct you won a 'sweet treat' as Cleopatra (Ms Gwyn) put it.



= *The capital of Egypt is...?*

Written by: Ellen, Zara, Roxy and Lily - Year 8

STEAM Centre



STEAM is an integrated approach to learning which uses Science, Technology, Engineering, The Arts and Mathematics to develop children's dialogue, critical thinking skills and inquiring minds.

The STEAM Centre is a new opportunity for young learners at St Thomas's School to discover new interests in these areas, collaborate with others and immerse themselves in rich learning experiences. The active, hands-on approach to learning is aimed to encourage meaningful engagement and passion through real-world contexts and creative design.

This term's STEAM theme is Ancient Egypt and will be a fun and interesting new learning experience for years 1-8. We can't wait to get started next week!

Ms Gwyn and the STEAM Team

2020 ICAS Results

High Distinction

- Olivia Xia (Y4) - English
- Isla Baldwin (Y4) - English
- Zakary Suppiah (Y5) - English
- Chloe Xu (Y5) - English
- Jasmine Salinger (Y8) - Digital Technologies

Distinction

- Adam Chen (Y3) - Maths
- Cici Yu (Y3) - Maths, Science, Spelling
- Isaac Russell (Y3) - English, Science
- Olivia Xia (Y4) - Maths
- Timothy Tsui (Y5) - Maths
- Zakary Suppiah (Y5) - Maths, Science
- Chloe Xu (Y5) - Maths
- Melody Xu (Y5) - Maths, English, Spelling
- Cohen Holmes (Y5) - Spelling
- Isaac Lin (Y6) - Maths
- Hannah Xia (Y6) - Maths
- Jack Lienert (Y7) - Maths, English, Science
- Annabelle Chen (Y7) - Digital Technologies
- Alex Chittenden (Y7) - Science
- Shiva Sivakumaran (Y7) - Spelling
- Samuel McKnight (Y8) - Digital Technologies

Student Medications

If students require any medications to be administered during school time these medications must be held in the sickbay and administered by a first aid trained member of staff. Students should not have any medications in their school bags, apart from asthma inhalers if they are confident in using them.

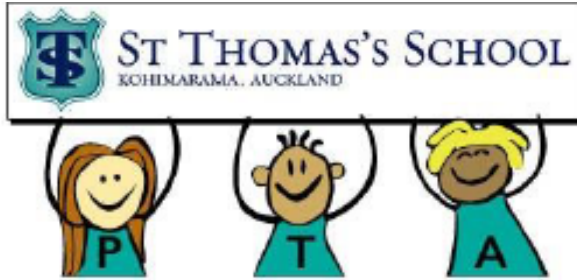
All medications require parents to complete an Administering Medication in School form which can be picked up from the office. This is then sent to sickbay along with the medication.

Gate Opening Times

The main gate, between the administration block and J1, will be opened at 8.15am each morning for students to enter. We would like parents/caregivers to say goodbye to their children at the gate in the mornings from Monday to Thursday. We will continue to have Whānau Friday for our community to come onto the school site. The gates will be locked at 9.00am and will be kept locked until 2.55pm when everyone is welcome onsite to pick up their children.

The Kohimarama Road gate will only be open in the afternoons from 2.55pm until 3.15pm.

PTA News Issue #1 2021



Welcome back to what will hopefully be a slightly less disruptive year of fun & frivolity - we have plenty of events lined up to help!

Our first, and most important Community event is the School Picnic:
Thursday 4th of March from 5-8pm on the school field
(Rain date is 2 weeks later; Thursday 18th of March)

If you can help out on the night, or you would like to be a part of our cultural stands, please contact us on the email below.

Sausage
Sizzle
& Pizza

DJ Fetu

Books &
Toys

Hot Chips
Hotdogs

RIDES!

Cultural Stands
& Performances

2nd hand
uniforms

If you would like to donate Baked Goods to sell, just bring them along on the night!

Note that whilst some vendors will have EFTPOS, we encourage you to bring cash.

We are super excited to add a new event to our fundraising calendar this year.
For the first time, ever, we will be having a.....

SCHOOL CAMP OUT!

On the school field, over-looking our beautiful Rangitoto.

Mark the date on your calendar now: Saturday 20th March

More details on pricing and how to book a tent site will follow in the coming weeks.



ICE BLOCK FRIDAY'S

Every Friday in Term 1 from 3pm under the tree outside the Office.
\$2 each, or 3 for \$5



PTA AGM

Weds 3rd March, 7pm in the School Staffroom.
Everyone Welcome!

Our next PTA meeting is **Weds 3rd March** from 7.30pm, upstairs in the School Staffroom. All welcome! 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!

Are you the next great pop star?



the music education centre

We are the largest specialist music provider in Auckland. Teaching music is what we do!

We are completely focused on giving your child the best musical learning possible.

Our programmes are individualised to develop your child's musical passion and ability.

We have lessons in piano, guitar, drums and other instruments starting in term one right here at school! [Enter the URL below into your browser to enrol your child today!](https://pw304-b54866.pages.infusionsoft.net/)

<https://pw304-b54866.pages.infusionsoft.net/>

"Music lessons have transformed our son... The experience has been so positive that his little sister is now learning and receiving all the same benefits."

– Rien & Andrew

0800 89 39 39
www.musiceducation.co.nz

Speech & Drama for aspiring kids

"Nina Burchett is one of the best children's drama teachers working in New Zealand today."

—New Zealand Herald

Thursdays 12.35pm - 1.20pm at St Thomas's School

Kids learn to speak confidently, communicate effectively, improve their listening skills and use their imaginations.

shine
SCHOOL OF CONFIDENCE

nina@shine.school.nz
021 160 9197
www.shine.school.nz

LESSONS INCLUDE:

- Public Speaking
- Acting & Drama Skills
- Vocal Skills (vocal quality, articulation, grammar)
- Poetry & Story-telling
- Reading Aloud
- Positive Body Language (posture, eye contact)
- Manners



TENNIS IS BACK AT ST THOMAS' SCHOOL

Term 1 2021

Kiwi Tennis is excited to bring tennis back to St Thomas' School in term 1 2021.

Book online at www.kiwitennis.co.nz for a lunchtime session. All equipment provided, all ages welcome!



Where?

St Thomas' School Playground



When?

Term 1 2021
Monday lunchtimes
12.45pm - 1.25pm



Cost?

\$70 for a 7 week term

coaching@kiwitennis.co.nz

(022) 8981212

www.kiwitennis.co.nz

MINDFUL PARENTING COURSE

With Counsellor Shirley Pastiroff

MINDFUL PARENTING COURSE

This popular course will arm you with research-based parenting techniques and tools that help you stay calm in the middle of even the most chaotic days. Learn how to reduce stress, improve family relationships and create deep, lasting connections with your children.

WHERE & WHEN

Glendowie Primary School
217 Riddell Rd

DATE: starting Wednesday 17 February 2021
TIME: 7.30 - 9pm for 6 weeks

COST: \$150
Special couples rate: \$250 per couple

Renew Your Mind



Course facilitator:
Shirley Pastiroff
Counsellor and mum of 5

TESTIMONIALS

"Life-changing. I have recommended it to everyone who will listen"
- Mum of 2: ages 5 and 2

"All parents should be put on this course"
- Dad of 3: ages 10, 7 and 4.

"Fabulous. Informative. Empowering. Thought-provoking. Inspiring"
- Mum of 3: ages 16, 13 and 10

SIGN UP ONLINE: renewyourmind.co.nz/mindful-parenting

After School Art Classes in St Thomas's School

Our art classes will further your child's artistic skills and creative ability! They will have fun in a friendly environment while learning about a wide variety of art mediums and techniques.

When: Mondays (8 sessions in Term 1) or Wednesdays (7 sessions in Term 1), 3pm-5pm

Where: Pohutukawa Building, St Thomas's School

Cost for Monday class: \$208 including all materials

Cost for Wednesday class: \$182 including all materials

Please contact Yulia to enrol or for more information. Phone: 021 308 207; email: artyulianz@outlook.com



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**Summernova Waitematā
Harbour Clean-Up**

**SAT
13
MARCH
12-2PM**

Register at
sustainablecoastlines.org/events

TE ATATU PENINSULA Harbour View Reserve
SHOAL BAY / NORTH SHORE Milford Reserve
TAMAKI ESTUARY Point England Reserve

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH AUCKLAND UNLIMITED



MEADOWBANK

Night Market



FRIDAY 12 FEB | 4PM - 8:30PM
MEADOWBANK SHOPPING CENTER



SUPPORT LOCAL
Shop LOCAL





Youth and Teens Functional Fitness Programme

Incorporating functional fitness into a child's daily routine helps to create a solid foundation for the many different movements their bodies need to perform. Understanding each movement and why they are doing it instils in your children a love of exercise, a healthy relationship with their body and what it can do; as well as building integrity, and respect for their peers.

The functional movements involve exercises that are fundamental to all things our youth need to do when they play – pull, push, run, throw, climb, lift and jump. All of the movements are taught safely and effectively under the close supervision of thoroughly trained youth coaches. No two workouts are the same, so they never get bored and the novelty of each workout keeps them excited about participating.

Participants become well-rounded, better at any and every sport that they play. Our workouts increase competence in all aspects of fitness: Endurance, Strength, Flexibility, Speed, Coordination, Agility, Balance, and Accuracy.

Youth Classes (Ages 7-12)

Tues & Thurs at 4pm - 4:45pm

Teens Classes (Ages 13-17)

Mon. Wed. Fri at 4:30pm - 5:20pm

For more information or to enrol in classes, email info@crossfitnz.co.nz

