

10 May 2024

Principal's Message

Welcome back to the start of Term Two and an especially warm welcome to our new families who have started this term.

During the break we had a busy time with property improvements. New seating was installed in front of our middle block, decking and a canopy was completed in front of rooms J15 and J16, exterior of hall was painted and our asphalt court received new markings along with installation of extra basketball hoops. This will significantly increase the areas where our students can relax and play, especially over the winter months. New concrete paths were also installed in the junior area to minimise tripping hazards.



These projects were expensive to complete, as was the new astroturf area which alone cost over \$240,000, and funding must be raised by the Board as the Ministry of Education does not provide the funds. The Board raise funds in a variety of ways including through parent donations which are greatly appreciated. I want to thank our parent community for this support.

We also have a number of international fee-paying students and during the term break I visited Korea, Thailand and Taipei to meet with parents of students who were considering sending their children to New Zealand for a period of education. As well as the richness of this cultural exchange, international students provide valuable income which the Board utilises to improve the facilities, keep class numbers low and provide additional programmes and staff. We welcome our international students into our school community and value the diversity and cultural richness which they bring and share with our students.

Michael Maher
Principal



To our staff rock band who are hard at work preparing for their debut performance at the upcoming school quiz night.

Upcoming Dates

May

- 17 Junior Assembly (J13&14 hosting)
9.45am – 10.30am (school hall)
Senior Assembly (Y8 hosting)
11.45am – 12.30pm (school hall)
- 17 Pink Shirt Day
- 20-24 Book Week
- 21 Bay Suburbs Football
- 21 Board of Trustees Meeting
(6.30pm staffroom)
- 22 Eastern Zone Girls Football
- 24 Book Parade and Grandparents
Book Week Morning
- 27 Y3 Trip to Corban Estate Arts
(M3 and half of M1)
- 28 Y3 Trip to Corban Estate Arts
(M2 and half of M1)
- 28 Eastern Zone Y7 Boys Football
- 30 Eastern Zone Y8 Boys Football
- 30 Pizza Lunch Day & Mufti Day
- 30 Junior Formal Assembly
10.00am – 10.30am (school hall)
Senior Formal Assembly
12.00pm – 12.30pm (school hall)
- 31 Teacher Only Day
* School closed for students*

June

- 03 King's Birthday Holiday
- 05 Bay Suburbs Rippa Rugby
- 07 Junior Assembly (J2 hosting)
9.45am – 10.30am (school hall)
Senior Assembly (M4 hosting)
11.45am – 12.30pm (school hall)

Winter Illnesses and Staff Shortages

As we come into the winter months and cold/flu bugs become more prevalent, it is likely that we could experience staff shortages as many other schools already have.

In the event of a number of classroom teachers being absent, the leadership team works through a process to keep the school operating as normally as possible. Our priority is to avoid classroom and/or school closures and measures taken may include:

- Relief teachers in classrooms as would normally happen when a staff member is sick
- In the event of a reliever shortage - using our non-classroom teachers such as our SENCo, literacy support teachers, ESOL teachers and STEAM teachers to take over classrooms until teachers return
- In the event of insufficient suitable staff being available:
 - Splitting classes across a year level
 - Using staff in shared spaces (Years 4 - 8 only) to 'monitor' both classes
 - Closing individual classes or year levels
- In the event of widespread prolonged staff absences - closing the school

The above measures will be rolled out in a scaled manner depending on the situation we find ourselves in. Closing the school will obviously be a last resort and will only be considered after we have exhausted all our resources and/or our low staffing levels have become a health and safety concern for our students and a risk for our staff to manage.

2024 Auckland Environmental Sustainability Orienteering Challenge



On Friday 5 April, two teams from St Thomas's competed in an Environmental Orienteering Challenge at Ambury Regional Park. Teams had two hours to accumulate as many points as possible by using their orienteering skills to navigate themselves to certain points on the map, and once there solve a variety of environmental themed challenges or tasks such as identifying native birds, making butter, searching for cave weta, recognising breeds of sheep and cow, and many more.



It was a fabulous day and our teams put in an impressive effort with our Year 6 team (Luke White, Jack Gallagher, Tommy Tran, and Dante Salinger) placing 3rd in the primary division, and our Year 8 team (Liam Gallagher, James Nutton, Lars Wivell, and Joshua White) placing 3rd overall out of 45 teams. Thank you to our parent help Lenka – without parental support these events could not happen.

Learning Extension Programmes (LEPs)



Three Learning Extension Programmes (LEPs) came to an end last term – The Wonderful World of Film, Cheesemaking, and Art. LEPs provide students with a hands-on opportunity to expand their experiences in a number of curriculum areas. Class sizes are kept small to maximise learning and a variety of topics are offered throughout the year to appeal to the wide interests of our students.

In Art, students from Years 6 – 8 experimented with the mediums of Clay and Perspex to produce items they can be justifiably proud of.

In Cheesemaking, students from Years 3 – 5 learnt about the science behind cheesemaking (separating curds and whey) and made butter and three different cheeses.



The 'Wonderful World of Film' delved into teaching students in Years 6 – 8 about how the very first moving images were made. Children stepped back in time to become historic filmmakers creating some amazing physical examples of capturing images and moving images through making zoetropes, kinetoscopes, a conveyor-belt cinema, a pinhole camera and the humble flipbook! Students also learnt about the silent-movie era and added their own music to some classic Charlie Chaplin films.

In Term Two we are pleased to offer Forensic Science for selected students in Years 3 – 8. Art and Science of the Brain for Students in Years 6 – 8.

Pink Shirt Day

Pink Shirt Day is next Friday 17 May. Students can come to school wearing a pink top to show their support for the day and do their part to eliminate bullying by celebrating diversity and promoting kindness. Students who do not have a pink top could add something pink to their uniform, e.g. stickers or ribbons.



Book Week 20 -24 May

The countdown is on for the forthcoming Book Week.

The Scholastic Book Fair will be in the library daily at 8.15am - 9.00am and 2.30pm – 3.15pm.

Come along to browse and purchase some fabulous books. We have a lot of exciting activities planned, with the grand finale being the Character Parade on the morning of Friday 24 May and our visiting Grandparents joining us for morning tea. We look forward to seeing all the lovely costumes too.

Year 3 School Trip

In Week 5, Year 3 students will head by bus on their first school trip of the year to Corban Estate Arts Centre in Henderson. Students will have the opportunity to complete a topic related art piece with specialist art educators. There is a cost to attend the trip which can be paid via our online shop, Kindo or at the office.

Trip dates are:

M3 & half of M1 – Monday 27 May.

M2 & half of M1 – Tuesday 28 May.



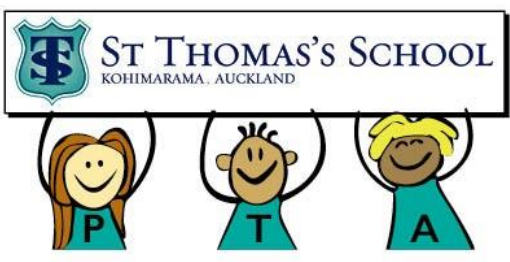
Community Notices

Please see our website for details about clubs and activities:

<https://www.stthomas.school.nz/clubs-and-activities/>

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PTA News

Issue #24 2024

St Thomas's School Spell-athon has launched!

Our St Thomas's School Spell-athon fundraiser was launched last Tuesday. We are raising funds for sports and cultural uniforms and equipment through sponsorship. Please see the letter that came home with your child last week or just head to <https://stthomasschoolspellathon.raiseit.co.nz> to sign up for a fundraising profile for your child(ren). Spell-athon Testing day - Thursday 16 May

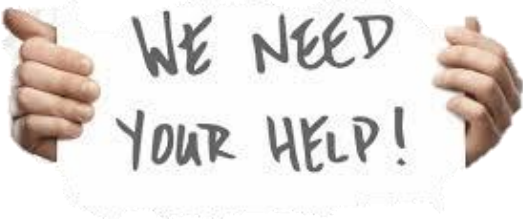


We have some great spot prizes up for grabs – details on the website. The first prize draw was last Friday. A big congratulations to the winner, Mason Reynolds from J12 who won some ear pods!

If you haven't done so already, create your child(ren)'s fundraising page today and support our fundraising efforts.

Annual Quiz Night Reminder

We are open to various forms of donations, such as gift certificates, products, services, or experiences that you believe would appeal to our attendees. Your donation will be prominently displayed during the event, and we will actively promote your business both before and after the event through our social media platforms and event materials.



If you can support St Thomas's School in any way, please contact one of our PTA volunteers who will be more than happy to collect your donation at a time convenient for you. stthomasschoolpta@gmail.com

WATCH OUT FOR UPCOMING EVENTS IN TERM 2

- **Ice Block Fridays** - every Friday (weather permitting) \$2 each or 3 for \$5. Under the tree by the office.
- **Spell-athon Testing Day** – Thursday 16th May
- **Quiz Night** – Saturday 15th June. Watch this space for more information.

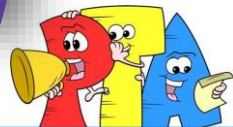
REMINDERS

Second Hand Uniforms:

Donate your preloved uniform for us to on-sell. Please drop off at the school office.

Yummy Stickers

Remind your children to stick their Yummy stickers from their fruit to the class sticker sheet.











Why not consider joining the PTA in 2024? It's fun, rewarding and most of all, benefits the school and our Tamariki. Contact us on the email below or come along to our next monthly meeting to find out what we do. Next meeting **7pm, Wednesday 8th May in the school Staffroom.**

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

Wk 1 29 April	Worldwide Welcome		Haere mai, accueillir, welcome back to Kelly Club!
Wk 2 6 May	Marvellous Mums		Let's celebrate the amazing mother & mother figures in our lives.
Wk 3 13 May	Fab Fashion		Strut your stuff this week at Kelly Club!
Wk 4 20 May	Science Challenge Week		Have you got what it takes to compete in science challenges? Come along and find out.
Wk 5 27 May	Staff Choice		The staff have got you covered with a week filled with their favourite activities.
Wk 6 3 June	Embrace our Earth		Let's slow down, step back and connect to the earth.
Wk 7 10 June	Friendship Fun		Friends are epic! Let's make some more and have some fun at Kelly Club this week.
Wk 8 17 June	Kids Choice		It's up to you what we do at Kelly Club this week.
Wk 9 24 June	Matariki		Let's celebrate Matariki with the Maori New Year celebrations.
Wk 10 1 July	Red Nose Week		Join us in supporting healthier children, with brighter futures, this Red Nose Day!

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7:00 - 8:15 am	Paper Plane & Structured Free Time	Wearable Arts & Structured Free Time	Cup Towers & Structured Free Time	Kids Choice & Structured Free Time	Homemade Brownie & Structured Free Time
8:15 - 8:30 am	Game: Simon Says	Game: Noodle Tag	Game: Rob the Nest	Game: Tissue Dance	Game: Wacky Relays
3:00 - 3:10 pm	Sign In & Free Time	Sign In & Free Time	Sign In & Free Time	Sign In & Free Time	Sign In & Free Time
3:10 - 3:30 pm	Intro & Afternoon Tea Mac & Cheese & Fruit	Intro & Afternoon Tea Sammies & Fruit	Intro & Afternoon Tea Yoghurt & Fruit	Intro & Afternoon Tea Sammies & Fruit	Intro & Afternoon Tea Homemade Brownie & Fruit
3:30 - 3:45 pm	Game: Blindfolded Explorers	Game: All on One Side	Game: Midnight	Game: 4 Corner Dodgeball	Game: Turkey Tag
SENIORS 3:45 - 4:30 pm	SPORT Goal Dodgeball 	COOKING Designer Pizza 	CRAFT Button Art 	GAME Lucky Jacket 	DISCOVERY Tie Dying 
	GAME Tissue Dance 	COOKING Designer Pizza 	SPORT Fashion Relays 	CRAFT Button Art 	DISCOVERY Tie Dying 
4:30 - 4:40 pm	Tidy Up	Tidy Up	Tidy Up	Tidy Up	Tidy Up
4:40 - 5:15 pm	Playground	Playground	Playground	Playground	Playground
5:15 - 5:30 pm	Homework & Quiet Time	Homework & Quiet Time	Homework & Quiet Time	Homework & Quiet Time	Homework & Quiet Time
5:30 - 6:00 pm	Snack Time Popcorn	Snack Time Baking	Snack Time Biscuits	Snack Time Crackers	Snack Time Vege Chips

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7:00 - 8:15 am	Flag Making & Structured Free Time	Sun & Moon & Structured Free Time	Finger Painting & Structured Free Time	Staff Choice & Structured Free Time	Homemade Pikelets & Structured Free Time
8:15 - 8:30 am	Game: Kiwis & Kangaroos	Game: Bouncing Ball Challenge	Game: Balloon Tag	Game: Limbo	Game: Angry Birds
3:00 - 3:10 pm	Sign In & Free Time	Sign In & Free Time	Sign In & Free Time	Sign In & Free Time	Sign In & Free Time
3:10 - 3:30 pm	Intro & Afternoon Tea Rice Bubble Cakes & fruit	Intro & Afternoon Tea Sammies & Fruit	Intro & Afternoon Tea Tomato Pasta & Fruit	Intro & Afternoon Tea Sammies & Fruit	Intro & Afternoon Tea Homemade Pikelets & Fruit
3:30 - 3:45 pm	Game: Human, Paper, Scissors Rock	Game: Duck, Duck, Goose	Game: Toilet Tag	Game: Follow the Sergeant	Game: Cat & Mouse Tag
SENIORS 3:45 - 4:30 pm	DISCOVERY Lead Sinker 	SPORT Test Tube Relays 	COOKING Fizzing Lemonade Scones 	CRAFT Mini Planets 	GAME Burst The Atoms 
	SPORT Test Tube Relays 	CRAFT Coffee Filter Art 	COOKING Fizzing Lemonade Scones 	GAME Science Bingo 	DISCOVERY Fizzing Ice 
4:30 - 4:40 pm	Tidy Up	Tidy Up	Tidy Up	Tidy Up	Tidy Up
4:40 - 5:10 pm	Playground	Playground	Playground	Playground	Playground
5:10 - 5:30 pm	Homework & Quiet Time	Homework & Quiet Time	Homework & Quiet Time	Homework & Quiet Time	Homework & Quiet Time
5:30 - 6:00 pm	Snack Time Potato Sticks	Snack Time Corn Thins	Snack Time Baking	Snack Time Raisins	Snack Time Muesli Bars