

16 August 2024

Principal's Message

Auckland Primary Teacher Education Collective

There continues to be a massive teacher shortage across the country which is forecast to deteriorate further in the coming years. Fewer people are entering university for teacher training and the quality of the courses provided do not always match the needs of our school.

For the past year St Thomas's School has worked with a small group of local schools to set up our own teacher training programme. Meetings were held with several high schools who already have this system in place, and we also had meetings with the Ministry of Education, Waikato University and with Deputy Prime Minister David Seymour who was supportive of our initiative. This year we have successfully ran a pilot program in three schools and are now ready to expand this further.

The programme is suitable to those who hold an undergraduate degree, are keen to become a teacher and who ideally are living in our local community or close by.

It has required a lot of work to get this programme up and running but believe it will be providing a better stream of teachers coming into our profession who are better trained.

St Thomas's School will offer one place to a successful applicant to join the programme in 2025. If you are thinking of a career change, we would love to hear from you. Further details can be found on our website at: <https://aptec.co.nz/>

Michael Maher
Principal



Thank you to all the parents who help coach our sports teams.

Upcoming Dates

August

- | | |
|-------|--|
| 17-18 | PTA Family Photos
(school library) |
| 21 | School Cross Country Event (Y3-8)
1.30pm |
| 22 | Student Led Learning Conferences |
| 23 | Junior Formal Assembly
10.00am – 10.30am (school hall)
Senior Formal Assembly
12.00pm – 12.30pm (school hall) |
| 29 | Bay Suburbs and Eastern Zone
Cross Country |
| 29 | Out of Zone Open Morning |
| 30 | Junior Assembly (J9&10 hosting)
9.45am – 10.30am (school hall)
Senior Assembly (M5 hosting)
11.45am – 12.30pm (school hall) |
| 30 | PTA School Disco
Junior Disco (Years 0-3)
5.00pm – 6.30pm (school hall)
Senior Disco (Years 4-8)
7.00pm – 8.30pm (school hall) |

September

- | | |
|-------|---|
| 05 | Zoo Trip (Y6) |
| 05 | Y7&8 Immunisations |
| 09-13 | AIMS Games |
| 10 | Bay Suburbs Basketball |
| 10 | Board of Trustees Meeting
(6.30pm staffroom) |

Attendance

One of the things we are continuing to focus on this term is student attendance.

If a student misses one day of school every two weeks, they miss more than a whole year of schooling by 16 years of age. As a parent or caregiver, you, alongside our school, play a key role in building strong habits of regular school attendance.

All students are legally required to attend school every day and it is a shared responsibility to make sure students attend and engage in learning from when they first start school.

You must let the school know if your child is going to be absent or intends to be absent for a portion of the school term for whatever reason.

If you're struggling at home with getting your child to school, talk to us. Our school is committed to supporting your child to attend school and building a culture that fosters excellent attendance by having:

- School staff who have strong relationships with students and whānau.
- A school culture that recognises your child and your family for who they are, where they come from and who they want to be.
- A school community that does everything to make sure students are at school, they are participating and progressing in their education.

If data indicates your child has absences issues you may hear from the school in the coming weeks as we reach out to families to see how we can work together to improve attendance.

Parents and caregivers can find more information [here](#).

Applications for Out of Zone Ballot for 2025 are now open!

Important Dates:

Friday 16 August 2024:	Ballot opens
Thursday 29 August 2024: 9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.	Open morning at school
Monday 21 October 2024:	Applications close
Wednesday 23 October 2024:	Ballot held
Thursday 24 October 2024:	Parents notified

Please note: If you have a child currently at St Thomas's School but live out of zone and have another child turning 5 in 2025 then that child's name must go in the ballot.

Talk to your friends if they have a child turning 5 next year to remind them to put their child's name in the ballot.

We will be holding Out of Zone Enrolment ballots twice a year in March and October. If you are interested in putting your name down for one of our ballots, you can do so by completing our online [Enrolment Form](#) available on our website now.

Open morning Thursday 29 August 2024 9.15 a.m. to 10.15 a.m. for in zone and out of zone parents.

2025 St Thomas's School Term Dates

	<u>Start</u>	<u>End</u>
Term 1	Monday 3 February	Friday 11 April
Term 2	Monday 28 April	Friday 27 June
Term 3	Monday 14 July	Friday 19 September
Term 4	Monday 6 October	Tuesday 16 December

2025 New Zealand Public Holidays

Waitangi Day	Thursday 6 February
King's Birthday	Monday 2 June
Matariki	Friday 20 June
Labour Day	Monday 27 October

St Thomas's School Health Curriculum Consultation

Every two years, the St Thomas's School Board of Trustees consults with the parent community about the school's Health programme. The purpose of this consultation is:

- To inform about the content of the Health curriculum.
- To determine, in broad terms, the Health education needs of our students.
- To ascertain the wishes of the school community regarding the way in which the health curriculum should be implemented.

To be part of the consultation, we invite parents of St Thomas's School students to complete our [Health Curriculum Consultation Survey](#).

Feedback given in this survey will help our Board of Trustees decide on which aspects of the Health Curriculum are a priority, and how these curriculum areas will be delivered within the school.

We encourage every St Thomas's School parent to complete this survey to ensure we implement a Health Curriculum that meets the needs and expectations of our whole community.

Relationships and Sexuality Education

Included in the survey is a section that covers learning about relationships and sexuality, which is part of the New Zealand Curriculum in Health.

Effective relationships and sexuality education takes a positive view of sexual development as a natural part of growing up. It is vital to the overall wellbeing of children and young people. Relationship and sexuality education also has a place in the wider school by helping to create a safe and inclusive physical and emotional environment for everybody.

Today the world is changing rapidly and Aotearoa New Zealand is more diverse than ever before. Students are experiencing an increasing awareness of changing family structures, shifting social norms in relation to gender and sexuality, the rise of social media, and the increased use of digital communications and devices.

All young people deserve an education that enables them to develop healthy relationships, to become positive in their own identities, and to develop competencies for promoting and sustaining their own wellbeing and that of others.

There will be a range of views in our community about the place of relationships and sexuality education, and some of these will be based on cultural and/or religious beliefs. In all our teaching we aim to respect differences in culture and religion.

Please Note: Parents are able to withdraw their child from all or part of relationships and sexuality education if they wish.

Follow this link to find out more about the [New Zealand Relationships and Sexuality Education Curriculum](#).

Future Problem Solving Success!

Our Year 8 Future Problem Solving (FPS) team have been working on a particularly complex topic about living in a digital world (Tokyo, 2044) using XR Technology. XR stands for 'Extended Reality' and covers the entire spectrum of "reality" technologies like Augmented Reality (AR), Virtual Reality (VR) and Mixed Reality (MR). It is the next step in the digital world, revolutionising consumer experiences. The group worked hard to get their head around the topic and displayed some very mature thinking, which earned them certificates for 'Perceptive Thinking'.

The topic all FPS groups are now working on is 'Tourism'. It is all about becoming a "voluntourist" in The Sea of Cortez Marine Reserve without having any previous experience and the dangers that these can have on a unique eco system. All the groups are enjoying this subject and have learnt some biology, geography and economics in the process!



A Year 6 FPS Group hard at work with Mrs McDonald on this term's 'Tourism' topic.

AIMS Football Team

On Sunday 11 August, some of the AIMS football team went to Madills Farm to fundraise for their tournament in September. We successfully raised over \$500 from selling Culley's Hot Sauce. We had a full stand loaded with Culley's sauce and corn chips for sampling. We decided to do this on the day of a tournament and a women's premier game, so there were many keen buyers both paying in cash and bank transfer. We had a great time and sold over 40 bottles of the fabulous, delicious Culley's limited edition St Thomas's Hot Sauce. (Get some before it runs out!)



Farewell Morning Tea for Short Term International Students



Our STS Waterpolo Team takes Bronze and Eastern League Update

A couple of weekends ago our St Thomas's Tsunami A waterpolo team participated in the NZ Waterpolo Tim Sonderer Intermediate grade tournament. This tournament sees 50 schools from across Auckland and the country play across 3 days, with lots of games to battle it out for school honours! STS went unbeaten through their 5 games of pool play, taking on Murrays Bay Intermediate in the semi-final. A close 5-4 loss (it could have gone either way!) meant a playoff for the bronze medal match. The final saw the team take on Carmel College which STS dominated for an 8-4 win and the bronze medal. This is their second bronze in 2 tournaments which is down to some great strategic gameplay and hard training in the pool bright and early every week. One more tournament to go this year being the North Islands so we're looking forward to finishing the year on a high!

As always, a massive thanks to the parents for making this happen, trekking all over Auckland to pools and their enthusiastic support for the kids and to coach Lily Baldwin from Selwyn College (an ex STS student) and assistant coach Connor Robers (also Selwyn) for freely giving up their time to support and guide the team. We couldn't do it without them!

Our Eastern League continues every Friday at the Sacred Heart College pool with 2 STS teams participating – one in the A grade and one in the B grade. Our Tsunami A grade team currently sits at the top of a very tight table with finals rounds coming up. Our B grade team is progressing really well with a lot of the team new to the sport and learning more every week. There are a lot of dedicated students attending training at 6:30am every Friday morning! Most importantly everyone is having fun and showing great sportsmanship.

STS News

The STS news crew have worked so well, learning their new skills in script writing, presenting and editing.

If you'd like to watch the second episode of this series, click [HERE](#).

Community Notices

Please see our website for details about:

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

Community notices: <https://www.stthomas.school.nz/community-notice/>





PTA News

Issue #29 2024

PTA School Disco – Come Dressed in Yellow

Come and join us for the St Thomas's School PTA Disco!

It's that time of the year when St Thomas's School kids can spend a fun evening of dancing with their friends and making new ones.

Friday 30th August (Daffodil Day) In the School Hall
\$5 Entry pp - Cash Door Sales Only (this is a cash only event)
\$1 of all door sales will be donated to the Cancer Society

- Junior Disco (yrs 0-3) 5pm – 6.30pm
- Senior Disco (yrs 4-8) 6.45pm – 8.15pm

There will be Pizza \$3 per slice (GF cheese available)
Sale on the night for \$1, \$2 & \$3:

- Popcorn & chips
- Lollies
- Soft drinks/water
- Fluro/glow goodies
- Tattoos & more



Please pick up your children at the end of their Disco as they are not be permitted to leave the school grounds without a caregiver.

WATCH OUT FOR UPCOMING EVENTS IN TERM 3

- **Ice Block Fridays** - Every Friday (weather permitting) \$2 each or 3 for \$5.
- **Family Photos** - 17th & 18th August – This Weekend (Spaces still available)
- **School Disco** - 30th August

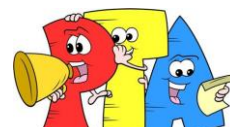
REMINDERS

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 4th September** 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!





Contact: Ian Palmquist
Phone: 021 0803 3666
Email: stthomas@kellyclub.co.nz
Website: kellyclub.co.nz/st-thomas



KELLY CLUB ST. THOMAS UPDATE

What's been happening...

We enjoyed being centre stage last week. We had a talent show, made song down a string devices and painted some incredible artwork. Special shoutout to Robbie, who amazed everyone while playing the piano. We have some really talented students at Kelly Club.



What's happening next week!

		THEME: Staff Choice! Term 3 Week 5, 19th August 2024				Weekly Activities Plan Kelly Club St.Thomas
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
7:00 - 8:15 am	Sand Castles & Structured Free Time	Playdough & Structured Free Time	Lego building & Structured Free Time	Colouring Comp & Structured Free Time	Kid's Choice & Structured Free Time	
8:15 - 8:30 am	Game: All on One Side	Game: Cat & Mouse	Game: Concentration	Game: Crab Soccer	Game: Post it Note Challenge	
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 Popcorn & Fruit	Intro & Afternoon Tea Sammies & Fruit	Intro & Afternoon Tea Spag Pizza's & Fruit	Intro & Afternoon Tea Sammies & Fruit	Intro & Afternoon Tea Fairy Bread & Fruit	
3:30 - 3:45 pm	Game: Rob the Nest	Game: Simon Says	Game: Wheelbarrow races	Game: Scatter Ball	Game: Freeze Tag	
SENIORS 3:45 - 4:30 pm	GAME Mafia 	DISCOVERY Pokemon Training with Corban 	SPORT Ultimate Frisbee 	Baking Cookies 	CRAFT Clay Sculpting 	
	GAME Popcorn with the parachute 	CRAFT Clay Sculpting 	GAME Musical Chairs 	Baking Cookies 	DISCOVERY Pokemon Training with Corban 	
JUNIORS 3:45 - 4:30 pm						
4:30 - 4:35 pm	Tidy Up	Tidy Up	Tidy Up	Tidy Up	Tidy Up	
4:35 - 4:50 pm	Playground	Playground	Playground	Playground	Playground	
4:50 - 5:15 pm	Homework & Quiet Time	Homework & Quiet Time	Homework & Quiet Time	Homework & Quiet Time	Homework & Quiet Time	
5:15 - 6:00 pm	Snack Time Crackers	Snack Time Corn Thin	Snack Time Chips	Snack Time Baking	Snack Time Kid's Choice	

E: stthomas@kellyclub.co.nz

kellyclub.co.nz/stthomas

P: 021 080 33666



BOOK ONLINE NOW AT www.kellyclub.co.nz



ANXIETY WORKSHOP

*Supporting your child through anxiety and worry
Supporting our kids to develop resilient mental health*

TUESDAY 24 SEPTEMBER, 7PM

Life throws a lot our way and it can be hard to push past obstacles as an adult, let alone as a child! A little bit of anxiety is helpful but too much can be overwhelming. As parents, supporting our children through seasons of stress also looks like allowing them to develop resilient mental health. This talk offers parents insights into a child's world and understanding of their developing emotions. We'll unpack anxiety and consider the impact of social pressure, technology and current events. Parents will gain practical strategies to create a nurturing environment where children can be challenged, supported and ultimately thrive.

**DIOCESAN SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
CLYDE STREET, EPSOM**



SCAN ME TO RSVP