

13 September 2024

Principal's Message

Waiata Group

Congratulations to our wonderful waiata group and their choir leader, Alex Titchener, who performed at the Kids Sing Competition last week. At times we can overlook the value of the performing arts in students' lives and how it can increase their confidence and self-belief, which then plays out in other areas of their lives, especially their academic life.

The joy of learning takes place in many settings and through many different forms, of which singing and dance are but two. Please see the following link for a video of their performance of 'When I Grow Up' from Matilda the Musical. [See here for Video Link.](#)

Dance Programme Starts Next Week!

Continuing with our performing arts theme the Dance Curriculum Programme is on over the next two weeks at St Thomas's School. Students will experience 10 high-energy dance workshops, each choreographed and led by a Dance Curriculum specialist teacher. These workshops are specifically tailored to each year group, ensuring an age-appropriate and engaging experience for every student.

Workshops start on Monday, 16 September, and the cost for the entire two-week dance programme is just \$22 per student which can be paid via our [Online Shop](#) now.

Check out the link below to see a preview of what your child will be learning: [Watch the Dance Curriculum Preview.](#)

Auckland Primary Teacher Education Collective

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.

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



To the Waiata Group who competed in the Kids Sing Competition.

Upcoming Dates September

- 20 Junior Assembly (M2 hosting)
9.45am – 10.30am (school hall)
Senior Assembly (S11 & S12 hosting)
11.45am – 12.30pm (school hall)
- 24 Bay Suburbs Hockey
- 26 Y7&8 Social (school hall)
- 27 Junior Formal Assembly
10.00am – 10.30am (school hall)
Senior Formal Assembly
12.00pm – 12.30pm (school hall)
- 27 Last Day Term 3

October

- 14 First Day of Term 4
- 24 Eastern Zone Volleyball
- 25 Teacher Only Day
- 28 Labour Day Holiday
- 29 Board of Trustees Meeting
(6.30pm staffroom)

November

- 01 Junior Assembly (J11 & J12 hosting)
9.45am – 10.30am (school hall)
Senior Assembly (Student Leaders)
11.45am – 12.30pm (school hall)
- 05 Eastern Zone Touch

Save the Date

St Thomas's School Prizegiving
Tuesday 10 December 2024

STS News

To watch the sixth episode of the series click [HERE](#).

To watch the seventh episode of the series click [HERE](#).

Environmental Sustainability Challenge

Last week, two teams from St Thomas's competed in the second Environmental Sustainability Orienteering Challenge held at the Arataki Visitors Centre. Teams had to use their orienteering skills to locate positions on the map, run to them, and then complete an environmental theme based problem to earn points, before moving on to the next task. Our teams performed exceptionally well, with the Year 8 team coming 4th overall. A huge thank you to our parent help who enabled the teams to compete.



Selwyn Musical Showcase

A few weeks ago, some lucky students from Years 5 - 8 had the opportunity to attend the Selwyn Musical Showcase. This was a showcase of some of the musical talents from Selwyn College. Thank you to Selwyn College for inviting us to come and watch. It was a great opportunity for our senior students to see what music is like at a college level. Many of our St Thomas's students left feeling inspired and excited to try playing a musical instrument or write a song.



Classical singing

WHY DO I HAVE THIS SONG IN MY HEAD? (some time later)

Oh it's from the Selwyn Musical Showcase. They had everything from jazz remixes of childhood songs to rock and upbeat music. It was awesome. I'm so happy I put my hand up for it. Some of my favourite songs from the musical showcase were the original ones because it gave us nostalgic vibes. The rock band was so fun because it was one of the best closings ever... We had a great day and are grateful for Selwyn College for inviting us!

Ely, Franco and Eli, Y7

Waiata Group Performs at the Kids Sing Competition

On Wednesday 4 September, St Thomas's School Waiata Group attended Kids Sing. The whole Waiata group went on a very fancy bus, with seat belts and curtains, to the Holy Trinity Cathedral in Parnell.

The Waiata Group walked to the outside of the Holy Trinity Cathedral. We got into our lines and waited for the Cathedral to open. A kind lady came to get us to bring us inside the Cathedral. We then went to find our seats. We watched all the other choirs perform before us.

The kind lady came to get us to go backstage. There was one room that you must be really quiet in. If you said a word the people watching could hear you. Then she took us in a room called the Oaks Room where we could sing all of our songs really loud. Later after that we went up some stairs that took us to the stage. The choir in front of us was SO good.

As we walked on the stage we got on the risers and stood in our lines. Before Miss T started to conduct, she held up a sign that said you've got this!! Then we sang 'When I Grow Up' first and sang 'O Rushing Wind' and 'He Waiata Matariki'. Once we had finished the audience clapped and we left the stage and went back to our seat. Then we left the building and got on the bus and went back to school.

At six o'clock the Waiata Group all met again at the Holy Trinity Cathedral. When it was time for us to go in we took our seats and waited until the first choir sang. After about 25 minutes there was an interval.

After the interval the kind lady came to get us to go backstage. We didn't get to practice because there were other choirs about to perform. When it was their time to perform we got lined up and walked onto stage and sang two songs. After we had finished there were prizes to hand out. We got some badges and a certificate. After they had handed out all of the prizes all the choirs sang O Rushing Wind together.

Alice and Abbie Year 5



Year 3 Trip to Tiritiri Matangi Island



Year 3 students had a fantastic school trip to the stunning, predator-free Tiritiri Matangi Island. Rather rough seas on Day 1 added a touch of adventure to our journey. Thankfully, Day 2 greeted us with smooth, calm waters and less queasy children!

After weeks of learning about conservation and biodiversity, the students were thrilled to see the island's natural beauty and rich wildlife, including the giant wētāpunga, rare Tieke, and the melodious Korimako. A big thank you to all the parents who joined us and played a crucial role in making the trip a success.



Year 6 Zoo Trip

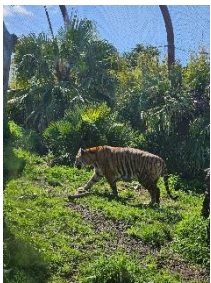


On Thursday 5 September the Year 6 cohort was lucky enough to go on a school trip to Auckland Zoo.

While we were at the zoo we saw spider monkeys. Spider monkeys are in my top three favourite animals. We got to listen to a talk from a keeper about spider monkeys. Here are my favourite facts about spider monkeys: they weigh up to 6 kg and have a circle tail which makes them safe when they sleep. Spider monkeys have four fingers including their thumb and they usually adapt pretty well. They are fast and I mean fast. They swing through the trees at 24 km per hour. If I'm on a treadmill and I go 16 km per hour I'm practically sprinting. Honestly just thinking of 24 km per hour I get tired.

Antoine Snowden S12

Spider Monkey Enclosure in the Zoo: A Journey of Amazing Discoveries!



We left St Thomas's School on Thursday, 5 September at 8:50am ready to go on an incredible journey. In the hall, we formed a line for the buses. "It was really comfy, cosy, and more outstanding than the other buses," one student said. Once we arrived, we had a tour of the New Zealand birds and a discussion about introduced predators such as possums and weasels. It was a great start for the trip.



After the discussion, the zookeepers gave us the opportunity to explore the entire zoo with our parent carer. After taking a long journey around the zoo, we all gathered at the enclosure containing the spider monkeys. At this point, they began talking about spider monkeys, their endangered position, and that they were from South and Central America. How purchasing a product made from a tree with a checkmark at the end contributes to the preservation of trees, thereby helping to rescue the rainforest, spider monkeys, and all other creatures that live in trees. "It was really fun and I learned so many facts," commented an S11 student. This was the second best trip (yet!!!).

Juan Chakkalakkal Jobi S11

The Spectacular Zoo Trip



On Thursday, 5 September, the whole of Year 6 went to the zoo. The zoo was fun, BUT it had its ups and downs. It was a Thursday morning. The sun had just begun rising. The whole of Year 6 was cramped in one small classroom, known as S9. It was so cramped that most people had to stand at the back. After the roll call, we got into the bus. There were two buses, BUT the first bus was SO cramped! When Year 6 got to the zoo, the zoo guides guided us to the starting point in 2 lines. Then we went off to a HUGE TREE. Year 6 was told the rules, divided into groups and went off to explore. Now to talk about the ups and downs of the first quarter. The ups were that the zoo had so many cool facts and animals. We saw baby otters taking a swim, little blue penguins honking at us, a baby tiger sleeping right around the glass, orangutans climbing trees and squirrel monkeys wrestling each other over

who gets to sleep on the bed. The downs were that we went through so many cramped spaces to even get to the zoo. It was all worth it though. The zoo was very fun but TIRING. I am glad we saw some amazing animals at Auckland Zoo.

Tevita Tu'ipulotu Havea S12

"Changing Learning for a Changing World"

The trip to the Auckland Zoo was a wonderful experience. We saw lots of wonderful animals like giraffes, crocodiles & even rhino's. Another thing that we did was a workshop on native, endemic & introduced animals. It was very interesting and was delivered by our guide PJ. My personal favourite bit was the New Zealand native birds' dome. It was relaxing and soothing to hear the sounds of the birds. *Zackariah Hodges S12*



School Netball Season 2024



Year 7 Shooting Stars

This season, the Year 7 girls Shooting Stars team have been representing St Thomas's School in the Auckland Netball Intermediate League at the St Johns courts. Every Tuesday we would play a 40 minute game against other schools from across Auckland. During the season we played 13 games and won 8 of them. Our last game ended up being the grand final for first place in our grade and, unfortunately, we lost 17-15 to come second. Overall, we had a great season, learnt a lot and we were all very sad that it had to end. Special thanks to our coach Josh Taylor. *Tessa Prebble*

Year 6 Stingers

Brrr! The buzzer goes for the end of the game! I love netball so much. It makes me feel happy and proud. This season we have had a great time - we've had wins and losses but the whole point of playing netball is to have fun and try something new! Netball definitely deserves a five star rating! I can't wait for next season and I'm so proud of my team! *Mackenzie Lim*

The Year 6 STS Stingers went undefeated in the regular season this year and were promoted to the top grade for the final few rounds for some challenging and exciting games.



Year 5 Lightning

"I'm Ollie Lucas and I play netball for the Year 5's Lightning Team. It's my first time playing and I'm the only boy in my team. It is fun and I really enjoy it. The matches are really exciting, especially when we play against another St Thomas's team. I think more people should play netball."



I was so happy when I got to play netball for the first time this year. On the day of our first game, I knew I wanted to play netball for my whole life. It's just the best team sport. *Cléa*

Year 5 Wild Wolves



Hi, our names are *Sienna & Jess* and we are in Year 5.

Sienna: I think that netball is probably the best sport I have ever played so far. I love learning the new and fun skills and playing with my awesome team Wild Wolves. Netball is fun and competitive and I'm really glad that I picked this sport otherwise I would've missed out on all the fun! Thank you!

Jess: I'm very proud of my team the Wild Wolves & I love playing netball with my friends. It is very fun & I think you should try it! We won most of our games and I think that *Ange* should be the Coach of the Year! Thank you!

Year 3 Sporty Spices

The Year 3 team, aka the Sporty Spices, had a fantastic first season. The girls were an enthusiastic bunch who were keen to learn the new netball skills and worked well together as a team.



Here is what they said about netball:

I love how our team works together. *Thea*.

I like netball because I get to play it with my friends. *Harriet*.

It's so fun wearing our school sports uniform and playing netball especially at night with my friends. *Amber*.

It's fun making new friends through netball. *Jade*.

I love netball because I got to meet more friends at St Thomas's. *Fearne*.

Getting to play a sport I love, throwing a ball with my friends and having fun! *Bridie*.

I love being with my friends after school and being a team. *Ava*.

Year 5 Flames



Year 4 Tigers



Year 3&4 Cheetahs



Year 1&2 Stars



Year 8 STS Shooters



Year 7&8 Archery



I did archery along with my archery group for 1 hour. The instructor was very impressive. He told us not-so-fun facts about archery in the war while we had our turns shooting. I am very happy I got to give a shot at archery in the safety of my school.

Shiza Ahmad, S6

On the 20 August, we got to do archery for 1 hour. It was really fun and interesting. We learnt how to hold a bow and arrow properly and even got to shoot the arrow at some fun targets. The targets were big, but most of us missed it. We tried to do different tactics like firing at the same time or just firing when you're ready. We really enjoyed it and hope to do it again soon!

Jaime Brown and Adam MD Shafi, S4

Archery was fun, I liked it. It inspired me to recreate "across," which is my original manga. I made Ali (the main character) good with a bow and arrow since his inspiration is Tighnari from Genshin Impact (along with Naruto, who doesn't use a bow and arrow). It also felt like I'm Caramel Arrow Cookie from Cookie Run Kingdom! She uses a bow and arrow in the video game. Plus, I wish I could hold 3 arrows at the same time.

Denise Guevarra, S5



ESOL Speech Presentations

A big thank you to the parents who attended and supported their children at the ESOL speech presentations, and to our committed ESOL team, especially Cynthia, Masako and Farida for organising an experience that provided students with a valuable opportunity to practice public speaking in a supportive environment.

Student Contributions

My Presentation Experience

My name is Ali Taha. I am from Afghanistan. I started studying at St Thomas's school at the end of Term 2 this year. I am receiving ESOL support to improve my English.

This term all students Year 4 and above had to do a speech in front of their teachers and classmates. My speech was about myself and my country. Giving a presentation in front of other students and parents was a challenging yet rewarding experience for me. At first, I felt nervous because I had to speak in front of so many people. However, I knew that this was an important opportunity to share my ideas and show what I had learned.

I spent a lot of time preparing for the presentation. I practiced speaking clearly and confidently. I also made sure that my slides were interesting and easy to understand. On Monday the 2 September we did our presentation in the ESOL room. I was so nervous because I was the first person to do my speech, so I took a deep breath and reminded myself that I was ready.

During the presentation, I focused on making eye contact with the audience and speaking slowly. I could see that they were interested in what I was saying, which gave me more confidence. By the time I finished, I felt proud of myself for overcoming my fear and delivering a successful presentation.

This experience taught me the importance of preparation and confidence. It also showed me that I can achieve great things when I push myself out of my comfort zone. I hope to have more opportunities to present in the future because it helps me grow as a student and as a person.

Ali Y6

My mum and other parents came to watch and support us. My sister Seoyun's topic was Korean culture, and I talked about myself. I think everyone did well. My mum said, 'It was a very good speech.' I was very nervous before my speech, but after, I was super happy."

Juwon Y5

My mum came to watch our presentation. My speech was about Korean culture, and my brother talked about himself. I think I did well, and my mum said, 'It was a good presentation. Both of you did a great job!' I felt pleased!"

Seoyun Y7

We had ESOL speech presentations in ESOL room after lunch. I was very scared but also excited to present my speech, which was about why cross country should be banned. At the beginning of it, I lost all of my cue cards and I was placed second to last to present. Although my dad didn't agree with my topic, I think I did well. I had practiced hard for 4 weeks. I even have an idea of the next speech, I will write "Why no one should have friends".

Henry Y4

"Changing Learning for a Changing World"

My parents came to support me. When it was my turn, I was 100 percent scared and nervous, I even skipped one sentence. I was worried, unsure of what others might think. In the end, my parents praised me, "You did well!" I believed I was not that bad. This is my first year doing a persuasive speech. Writing the speech was not easy at all.

Louis Y4

My speech was about the things that I like about myself, my school in Vietnam and Vietnamese food. I was nervous. If I had had more practice, I could have done better. After my speech, I was relieved.

Anna Y7

My family came to support me. My speech was about myself, my family, the things that I like about myself, my school in New Zealand and my school in China. I was excited to present my speech to my family. I did good, my mum and brother were proud of me. I think I learned a lot from the speech.

Jason Y6

10 students came to do their speeches and their parents came to watch. My speech was talking about my country. I was nervous because there were lots of people looking at me. My presentation was bad because I skipped one of the parts of the speech. If I could do my presentation again, I think I could do it better.

Akinesi Y8



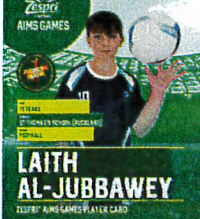
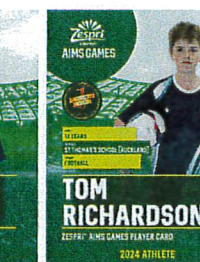
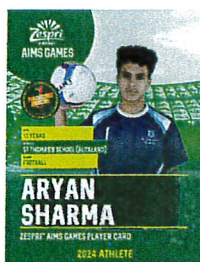
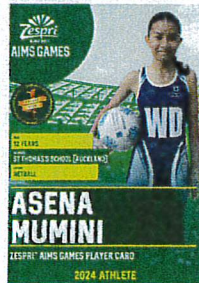
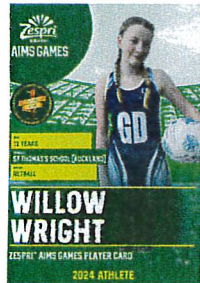
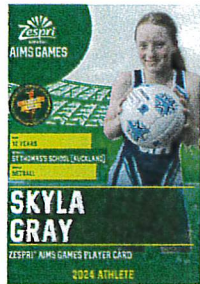
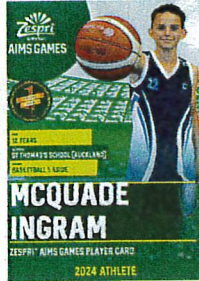
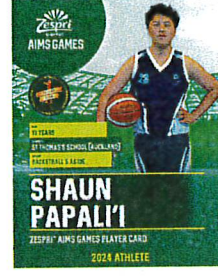
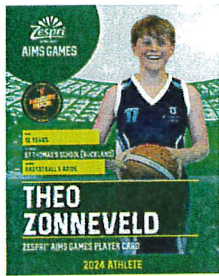
AIMS GAMES

Over the past 6 days, 34 Year 7 & 8 students have been taking part in AIMS Games. AIMS Games is a week long sporting festival held in beautiful Tauranga for intermediate aged students.

This year St Thomas's sent Football, Basketball, Netball & Orienteering teams. These teams trained over many early mornings and lunchtimes over the past 6 months in preparation for their sports.

All our teams represented the school extremely well and came away with some great results over the duration of the week.

A massive thank you to all the teachers, coaches, managers and parents for their commitment and support in ensuring AIMS was a success.





A SUCCESSFUL DAFFODIL DAY DISCO

O what a night!

A big thank you to all those who attended and helped us raise funds for The Cancer Society and our school.

The Disco was a huge success, and we could not have done it without the help of our amazing parent helpers, the year 6's who designed our wonderful decorations and all those who helped on the stalls. Thank you.

We raised \$500 for the Cancer Society!
Well done St Thomas's School.

Yummy Stickers

Please remember to return all yummy sticks sheets to either the school office or classrooms as soon as possible.

Family Photos

If you have not done so already, please pick up your photos from the school office.



WATCH OUT FOR UPCOMING EVENTS IN TERM 3

Ice Block Fridays - Every Friday (weather permitting) \$2 each or 3 for \$5.
Under the tree by the office.

REMINDERS

Second Hand Uniforms:

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



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 **Wednesday 18th 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!



Facebook/StThomasSchoolPTA



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



KELLY CLUB ST THOMAS'S UPDATE

What's been happening...

We had a lot of fun with our We are Stars theme this week! We played an exciting game of Star Catchers and we had so much fun working on our Kelly Club stars submission! We designed posters, created slideshows, and even filmed our own videos!



KELLY CLUB
FUN & EXCITING HOLIDAY PROGRAMMES!
 We give your kids the opportunity to do the things they enjoy in a supportive and encouraging environment.
BOOK NOW www.kellyclub.co.nz

What's happening in the Holidays!



General Information: We believe in giving children opportunities to do the things they love and enjoy in a supportive and encouraging environment. We provide quality childcare in safe and fun surroundings for children out of school. Our holiday programme is focused around sports, games, and outings to local attractions. Our friendly staff are passionate about working with children. They are provided with training on behaviour management techniques, first aid and activity planning/delivery.

Who can attend: Children aged 5-13 yrs

What do you need to bring: Shoes and appropriate clothing, jacket or sweatshirt, hat, drink bottle and food.

Food: Please bring plenty of packed food and drink for morning tea/lunch/afternoon tea. Lunch will be from approximately 12:30pm to 1:00pm each day.

Programme activities: Programme activities are adapted to suit children of all ages and children may be grouped by age depending on numbers. Programme activities may vary without notice dependent on weather conditions and programme numbers.

Payment details: Payment is required before the holiday programme begins. An invoice will be issued when a completed booking is received. All payment details will be included on the invoice.

Work and Income OSCAR Subsidy: Parents / caregivers that meet certain criteria will be able to access a WINZ subsidy to help cover the cost of our programme. For more information visit www.workandincome.govt.nz.

Please note: Every care will be taken to ensure the safety of your child/ren and their property. However, organisers of Kelly Club accept no liability for any injury sustained to your child/ren or any loss or damage to his/her property whilst at a programme. If your child/ren are collected late after the conclusion of the programme you will be charged \$20 per 15 minutes or part thereof.

Website: kellyclub.co.nz/st-thomas
Contact: Ian Palmquist
Email: stthomas@kellyclub.co.nz
Phone: 021 0803 3666
Facebook: @KellyClubStThomas
Address: 113 Allum St, Kohimarama

OCTOBER 2024 HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

ST THOMAS'S SCHOOL

	Mon 30 September	Tues 1 October	Wed 2 October	Thurs 3 October	Fri 4 October
WEEK 1	 WILD WILD WEST Howdy partner! Come on down for a good old-fashioned barn dance. There's something for every cowgirl and cowboy!	 SECRET GARDEN Today we embark on a leisurely stroll through the secret garden, taking in the beauty of the natural surroundings and discovering hidden treasures along the way.	 AUCKLAND ZOO Join us for an awesome trip day to the Auckland Zoo. Please remember a big lunch, drink bottle, shoes and a hat. \$20 extra for the day.	 DIY DAY Turning someone's junk into someone else's treasure. Design it. Construct it. And then test it!	 GALAXY DEFENDERS Time to save the world against the Empirical Transport yourself to a galaxy far, far away to see if you have what it takes!
WEEK 2	 ROARING SAFARI Keep your eyes peeled as we embark on a wild Safari. Trudge through the mud, climb over the trees, we wonder what you'll see! Don't worry, there'll be plenty of time for monkeying around.	 MAKEOVER VS MUDDY Sit back, relax, and pamper yourself with hair, make-up, and nails or get your hands dirty in a muddy adventure. The choice is all yours!	 BOTANICAL GARDENS Join us for an awesome trip day to the Auckland Botanical Gardens. Please remember a big lunch, drink bottle, shoes and a hat. \$20 extra for the day.	 VILLAINS & SIDEKICKS Calling all kids! Let's work together to stop the villains.	 FREAKY FRIDAY It's going to be a freaky kind of day with challenges that put your bravery to the test!
	FULL WEEK: \$295 7am-6pm	FULL DAY: \$58 7am-6pm	SCHOOL DAY: \$48 8:30am-3pm	EVENT DAY: Extra \$20 (Included in Full Week)	



BOOK ONLINE NOW AT www.kellyclub.co.nz



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Crocodiles Gymnastics

Crocodiles Gymnastics invite Y1 - Y3 students to a free gymnastics class at St Thomas's. It's a common belief that doing gymnastics is about learning skills. However, here at Crocodiles Gymnastics we focus on children's overall development including following instructions, resilience, focusing, self-esteem and confidence. Why don't you come and try?

Venue: St Thomas's School Hall Time: Sunday, 22 September at 11.15
Booking by email is essential, please email us on: crockogym@gmail.com

Public 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/>

School holiday programmes: <https://www.stthomas.school.nz/school-holiday-programmes/>



St Thomas's School is excited to offer an Eastern Suburbs AFC after school football programme.

These sessions are:

- High energy, fun and age appropriate;
- Designed to improve football skills and promote teamwork in a safe environment;
- Coached by NZ accredited coaches and ESAFC Senior players.

Any queries, contact:
community@esafc.org.nz



PROGRAMME DETAILS

When:

Term 4, 2024
Mondays 3:15 - 4:15pm,
14th October - 9th December

Cost: \$160

Book Online:

easternsuburbs.org.nz/community/suburbs-in-schools/