

Aumāngā / Resilience

Whakāute / Respect

Takohanga / Responsibility

28 March 2025

## Principal's Message

Tēnā Koutou Katoa

### Classroom Renovation

As part of our 5 Year Property Agreement with the Ministry of Education we have gained approval to renovate rooms J5, J6, J7 and J8 in the junior school. We are replacing 'like for like' with new carpet and vinyl, new wall linings and installing new ceilings. The windows on the south side of the classrooms will also be replaced. The attached toilet blocks will also be upgraded and various electrical and plumbing work carried out. To allow this work to take place as efficiently and safely as possible students in J5 to J8 will move classrooms in Week 10 of this term. The work is expected to take approximately 10 weeks and students will return to the newly renovated rooms for the start of Term 3.

### Teacher Only Days

The Ministry of Education have granted all schools across New Zealand two Teacher Only Days to support schools to implement the changes to the New Zealand Curriculum.

St Thomas's School will use the following dates for Teacher Only Days:

Friday 30 May: Term 2 - Week 5 (Friday before King's Birthday)

Friday 24 October: Term 4 - Week 3 (Friday before Labour Day)

On these two days, teachers will be unpacking the new curriculum approaches and participating in Professional Development. School will be closed to students.

### Education Review Office (ERO)

In Week 2 of Term 2 we welcome the return of staff from the Education Review Office who were last here in 2019. This is an opportunity for us to showcase the awesome teaching and learning which takes place at St Thomas's School and highlight the many achievements of our students. The ERO team will put a report together which we will share with our community once it is finalised.

Ngā mihi nui

**Michael Maher**  
Principal



**A huge thanks to the parent volunteers who participated in our garden working bee today.**

### Upcoming Dates

#### March

- 31 Junior Assembly (J2 hosting)  
10am (school hall)
- Senior Assembly (S9 & S10 hosting)  
11.45am (school hall)

#### April

- 03 Yr 7 & 8 immunisations
- 03 Student Led Learning Conferences
- 07 Yr 7 Youthtown (Group 1)
- 10 Yr 7 Youthtown (Group 2)
- 11 Last Day of Term 1
- 28 First Day of Term 2

#### May

- 12 Junior Assembly (J11 & J12 hosting)  
10am (school hall)
- Senior Assembly (M4 hosting)  
11.45am (school hall)
- 12-13 Photolife School Photos
- 13 Eastern Zone Yr 7 Boys Football
- 15 Eastern Zone Yr 8 Boys Football

**Note:** We have changed the Student Led Learning Conferences to Thursday 3 April.



## Legal Requirements For School Attendance

The Ministry of Education has legal requirements for school attendance. Please see [HERE](#) for our Attendance Protocols and Processes.

## Teacher Profile – Anton Nichols



After having my practicum at St Thomas's last year, I am very excited to come back as a teacher and be a part of the amazing St Thomas's school community. I have worked many years in childcare from nannying, teacher aiding and being a supervisor at a childcare programme.

I aim to have a classroom environment based on positive relationships and respect. Where all students and myself can grow and learn together, whilst acknowledging individuality.

Outside of school I enjoy cooking and exploring foods from many different cultures. I also love to travel and have been fortunate enough to do so with my family. I also love spending time with my cat who I have had since I was Year 0!

## Teacher Profile – Carolyn Agoston



I have taught at many levels of primary school. The Year 1 group is by far my favourite year level. Their joy and exuberance towards life and learning make them a very rewarding cohort.

I believe that children's naturally curious natures should be fostered within an environment that helps them to grow physically, emotionally and mentally and provides them with a balance of challenges and structures to foster independent, capable learners. A strong home school partnership is crucial to support your child's learning. Working together we will be able to maximise your child's potential.

## Swim Sports

On Thursday 20 March, we held our School Swimming Sports at the Sacred Heart Pool, and what an incredible day it was! With 115 talented St Thomas's students from Yr 5 - 8 diving in to compete, the energy and excitement was at an all-time high from start to finish.

It was fantastic to see students pushing themselves in the pool, whether they were racing for podium finishes or simply challenging themselves to give it a go. The level of skill, determination, and sportsmanship on display was amazing, and every student who participated should be proud of their efforts.

A massive congratulations to all our swimmers — it was truly inspiring to see so many students getting involved and showcasing their swimming abilities. An extra special congratulations to six students who have qualified for Eastern Zone Swimming and 24 students who will be competing at Bay Suburbs — an incredible achievement!

A huge thank you also to our teachers, supporters, and timekeepers who helped make the event run smoothly. We're so proud of our students and can't wait for more exciting sporting events to come!

## Eastern Zone Swimming

On Monday 24 March, our swimmers had an incredible day at the Eastern Zones Swim Sports. It was a fantastic experience, and we're so proud of all the students who qualified and competed.

A huge congratulations to Julia, who made it to the finals in both the Year 7 freestyle and backstroke events, giving it her all in both races. Emery also put in an outstanding performance, showing great sportsmanship and dedication throughout the day.

Unfortunately, due to a clash with Year 8 camp, our Year 8 swimmers couldn't attend. However, we want to acknowledge their fantastic achievement in qualifying for the Eastern Zone Competition — a huge accomplishment to make it this far. We're incredibly proud of all the swimmers who competed, and even those who couldn't attend, your hard work and effort have been outstanding.

A big thank you to our wonderful supporters and parent volunteers who made this day such a success. Your support is truly appreciated, and we're so grateful for everything you did to make this day possible for our students.

## Bay Suburbs Softball



On Tuesday 18 March, our Yr 5 & 6 softball teams had an incredible day out at the Bay Suburbs Softball Tournament. It was fantastic to see so many students getting stuck in, whether they were experienced players or giving the sport a go for the first time. The level of effort, enthusiasm, and sportsmanship was awesome to watch!

Both of our teams played some outstanding softball, showing great teamwork and determination throughout the day. A huge congratulations to both teams for finishing in 3<sup>rd</sup> place — such an amazing achievement! To top it off, we made it back to school just in time, narrowly dodging a massive downpour of rain!

A huge thank you to our coaches, supporters, and everyone who helped make the day possible. We're so proud of our students and can't wait for more sporting opportunities ahead!



## Camp Carey

Year 6 attended Camp Carey. Students took part in a range of activities such as kayaking, crate stacking, slip 'n' slide, jumping and sliding into the waterhole, and zooming down the flying fox.

The evenings were spent completing the Burma trail, toasting marshmallows by the campfire, having fun at the talent show and star gazing!

Thank you to the amazing parent helpers who came along and made the camp possible!



## Garden to Table

Our Year 4 to 8 Garden to Table programme is well underway and the rewards of our efforts outside are becoming apparent with our garden producing lettuces, herbs, beetroot, feijoas, garlic, broccoli, and beans. We have been able to harvest from the garden each week to produce kai which we all are enjoying sharing at the end of a session. Our budding chefs and gardeners are learning a lot such as hygiene in the kitchen, developing safe knife skills, parts of a plant, seed dispersal, how to set a table, etc. Our vegetable garden is getting a makeover and we will shortly be planting for our winter harvest to include vegetables for delicious and nutritious stir-frys and soups.



## STS News

To watch the 19<sup>th</sup> episode of the series, click [HERE](#).

To watch the 20<sup>th</sup> episode of the series, click [HERE](#).

## St Thomas's Walking School Bus



A Walking School Bus is similar to a normal school bus except children walk to and/or from school along a designated route, under the supervision of adult volunteers (parents), who act as the Walking School Bus driver. Walking School Buses reduce the number of cars on the road, making our environment safer and cleaner. Children also learn about road safety as they walk and get some exercise in a fun and social way.

If you would like to find out more about where our Walking School Bus routes are, or how to start or join a Walking School Bus, contact Alison at [asnell@stthomas.school.nz](mailto:asnell@stthomas.school.nz).

## Public Notices



### Speech & Drama Classes

Shine Speech & Drama classes inspire confidence and imagination, helping students communicate effectively and build self-belief that helps them succeed in life.

SHINE SPEECH & DRAMA covers:

- public speaking
- acting skills
- voice (projection and articulation)
- reading aloud skills
- positive body language
- storytelling
- relationship skills
- option to enter exams through Speech NZ and Trinity.
- Shine Achievement Awards available for all students.

Register [here](#) for Term 2 lessons, beginning Thursday 1 May 2025. Term fees are \$270 for group lessons with 8 lessons guaranteed per term. Sibling discount of 10% for any siblings enrolling.

Any questions please don't hesitate to call Nina on 021-160 9197.

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-notices/>

#### School holiday programmes:

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

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Starting Now!**  
Yummy fruit sticker collection

**Friday 13 June**  
School Disco  
(more info to follow)

**Sat 9 August**  
Quiz Night  
(more info to follow)

**Next PTA meeting:**

Wed. 14 May, 7pm, St Thomas's staff lounge

### QUIZ NIGHT PRIZE DONATIONS

Our popular Quiz Night is coming up on the 9th of August.

This is where you come in! We need help obtaining prize donations to make our event even more special and raise funds for the school. If you can contribute or know of businesses that might be interested, please get in touch with the PTA.



### YUMMY STICKERS

The Yummy sticker sports gear promotion is on again! Help St Thomas's school get a share of the \$200,000 worth of free sports gear.



Collecting is easy!

- buy your Yummy apples
- peel off stickers or cut-out labels from bags
- stick them on a sticker/cut-out label chart
- once your sheet is ready, bring it into class

**Start collecting your Yummy Apple stickers and cut-out labels now!**

Visit the PTA Facebook page, scan the QR codes below or visit: [yummyfruit.co.nz/schools/](http://yummyfruit.co.nz/schools/) to download and print your collection sheets today! Each classroom will also have charts you can add to.



Sticker Sheet



each cut-out label is worth 10 stickers!



Cut-out Sheet

### SECOND HAND UNIFORMS

Please donate your pre-loved uniform(s) for us to sell as part of our fundraising efforts!

We're always in need of more uniform items, so if you have any tucked away that no longer fit, we'd love to have them for our second-hand uniform sales events! Please drop them off to the school office.



### FUNDRAISING UPDATES

Thanks for all your support last year! In 2024, we were able to raise \$50,000 which went towards purchasing new uniforms and equipment for sports, arts & cultural activities. Additional funds were put towards the new basketball court.

Our 2025 fundraising efforts will go towards enhancing the STEAM programme - including new equipment & resources. Any additional funds will go towards the new basketball court. We've already been able to raise nearly \$5,000 this year from the school picnic & second-hand uniform sales.

### ICE BLOCK FRIDAYS

From 3pm every Friday (weather permitting)

\$2 each or 3 for \$5

Under the tree outside the office



### HELP THE PTA!

We'd love for you to join us! Whether it's helping at events or sharing ideas, every bit helps. No big commitment - help as much as you're able.

If you're interested in getting involved or learning more, come along to the next PTA meeting or get in touch.

### CONTACT US



Email us at: [stthomasschoolpta@gmail.com](mailto:stthomasschoolpta@gmail.com)



Find us at: [St ThomasSchoolPTA](https://www.facebook.com/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...

This week was full of stories during our "Once upon a time" theme at Kelly Club. We created fire breathing dragons, dressed up during our fantasy relays and felt like royalty with our beautifully created crowns.



**KELLY CLUB**  
**GET PAID TO HAVE FUN!**

If you're passionate about giving kids the best in quality care, we'd love to have you on our team!

**GET IN TOUCH** [jobs@kellyclub.co.nz](mailto:jobs@kellyclub.co.nz)

### What's happening next week!

		<b>THEME: Hour of Power</b> Term 1 Week 9, 31st March 2025				Weekly Activities Plan Kelly Club St Thomas
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
7:00 - 8:15 am	Paper Plane Comp & Structured Free Time	Fort Building & 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: Staff Choice	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 Yogurt & Fruit	Intro & Afternoon Tea Sammies & Fruit	Intro & Afternoon Tea Sausage Rolls & 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	
<b>SENIORS</b> 3:45 - 4:30 pm	<b>SPORT</b> Volleyball 	<b>COOKING</b> Green Smoothies 	<b>CRAFT</b> Wind Car 	<b>GAME</b> Electric Fence 	<b>DISCOVERY</b> Static Electricity 	
	<b>DISCOVERY</b> Foam Clouds 	<b>COOKING</b> Green Smoothies 	<b>SPORT</b> Volleyball 	<b>CRAFT</b> Handheld Windmill 	<b>GAME</b> Keep on Recycling 	
4:30 - 4:40 pm	Tidy Up	Tidy Up	Tidy Up	Tidy Up	Tidy Up	
4:40 - 5:30 pm	Snack Time Popcorn	Snack Time Baking	Snack Time Biscuits	Snack Time Crackers	Snack Time Vege Chips	
5:30 - 5:45 pm	Playground	Playground	Playground	Playground	Playground	
5:45 - 6:00 pm	Homework & Quiet Time	Homework & Quiet Time	Homework & Quiet Time	Homework & Quiet Time	Homework & Quiet Time	

E: [stthomas@kellyclub.co.nz](mailto:stthomas@kellyclub.co.nz)

[kellyclub.co.nz/stthomas](http://kellyclub.co.nz/stthomas)

P: 021 080 33666



**BOOK ONLINE NOW AT** [www.kellyclub.co.nz](http://www.kellyclub.co.nz)





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