



14 March 2025

Principal's Message

We're now well into the second half of Term 1, and what an action-packed term it has been so far! There's so much happening around the school, and it's great to see our students making the most of all the opportunities.

A big shout out to the Year 7 & 8 students who recently represented us at the Eastern Zone Softball Tournament. Next week, our Year 5 & 6 students will be competing in the Bay Suburbs Softball Tournament. We wish them luck - we know they'll do us proud!

Last week, our Year 6 students had an amazing time at Carey Park camp in Henderson. It was a fantastic experience full of fun, adventure, and team-building. Our Year 8 teaching team are in the final stages of prep for their camp on Kawau Island in Week 8, and we can't wait to hear all about it.

Swimming lessons for our Year 1-4 students are ongoing in the school pool. It's great to see them gaining confidence in the water and developing such important life skills.

Our assemblies for the year are now underway. Last Friday, we held our first Formal Assemblies where we celebrated students who received Principal's Awards for Respect, Resilience, and Responsibility - well done to all our award winners! Class-hosted assemblies will start in Week 9 and with specialist teaching now happening on Fridays, these will take place on Mondays instead. Parents of award winners and presenting classes will get advance notice of times from classroom teachers.

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our recent pizza lunch fundraiser with our new supplier, Calimero, in Long Drive. It was a great success! We encourage families to keep getting involved - every dollar raised through pizza lunches and mufti day donations goes straight into improving our school environment for everyone to enjoy.

And finally, just a quick reminder that our school grounds are open to the community on weekends. The gates open automatically at 9:00 am and close at 5:30 pm (Standard Time) or 7:30 pm (Daylight-Savings Time). Please make sure you leave before closing time to avoid getting locked in! If you do get stuck inside, contact Matrix Security on 09 579 1567.

There's still plenty of exciting learning ahead as we head towards the end of Term 1, and we're looking forward to finishing on a high. Thanks, as always, for your ongoing support - we really appreciate it!

Claire Fromow
Acting Principal



Congratulations to our Y7&8 Boys Softball Team for winning the Eastern Zone tournament.

Upcoming Dates

March

- 18 Bay Suburbs Softball
- 20 Yr 5-8 Swimming Sports
- 24 Eastern Zone Swimming
- 24-28 Yr 8 Camp – Camp Bentzon
- 25 Board of Trustees Meeting (6.30pm staffroom)
- 28 School Garden Working Bee (8.45am to midday)
- 28 Bay Suburbs Swimming
- 31 Eastern Zone Orienteering
- 31 Junior Assembly (J2 hosting) 10am (school hall)
- Senior Assembly (J9 & 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

Note: We have had to change the Student Led Learning Conferences date to Thursday 3 April.



Nel Balsdon – Year 3 Teacher



My name is Nelmarie Balsdon (but you can call me Miss Nel!) I am originally from South Africa, where I graduated with a degree in Child & Family Psychology before completing my Teacher Training. I have been very fortunate to have had many opportunities to travel, and I have previously lived and worked in both Northern Ireland and England before relocating to New Zealand in 2019. I absolutely love the kiwi way of life and I do as much as I can around this beautiful country. I am always planning some sort of trip! However, my first passion has always been to be a teacher and it remains a profession that I continue to be proud to be a part of. I believe that teaching in primary requires a holistic approach and that the wellbeing of our students is just as important as academics. I strive to encourage a 'growth mindset' where all my students feel encouraged and supported to try new things. I also encourage the values of 'Manaakitanga' (Respect and care for others), 'Kotahitanga' (Team Work) and 'Rangatiratanga' (Being a leader).

Miriam Gwyn – STEAM Leader

Hello everyone,

I'm originally from Brighton, UK, and came to New Zealand 17 years ago with the idea of 'seeing how it goes!' Suffice to say, it's gone pretty well!

I love working at St Thomas's School and have been here since 2008 — which speaks for itself! Over the years, I've taught Year 0 through to Year 8, but my true passion lies in STEAM, Learning Extension Programmes, and Performing Arts. I'm lucky enough to now focus on these areas, creating exciting, hands-on, and memorable learning experiences.

I believe that when teachers love what they do, students feel that enthusiasm too. My goal is to spark curiosity, creativity, and a love of learning in every child I teach.



Nick Chapman – Board Chair



I've been a member of the Board of Trustees since August 2021 and have served as chairperson since June 2023. Over that period two of our kids have finished up at St Thomas's the youngest is currently at the school in Year 4.

I've always been passionate about education and started my working life as an English language teacher. Now I work as a project manager getting stuff done to help large organisations deliver their strategic objectives.

As a Board member I'm committed to fostering an environment where every student can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. My top priorities are maintaining a strong governance framework and working closely with the school team to support initiatives that enhance learning opportunities and strengthen student well-being.

I look forward to continuing this work as we progress through another exciting school year, and I encourage you all to stay connected and get involved where you can, so together we can ensure our school remains something we can all be proud of.

Thank you for your ongoing trust and support. If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to reach out via the BOT contact details on the school website.

Eastern Zone Softball Tournament

On Tuesday 4 March, two St Thomas's teams competed at the Eastern Zone Softball Tournament. The kids were incredible, and it was amazing to see them out on the field, giving it their all. With a mix of experienced players and students trying softball for the first time, both teams showed incredible effort, teamwork, and sportsmanship throughout the day. A huge congratulations to our Yr 7 & 8 girls team, who placed 3rd, and our Yr 7 & 8 boys team, who took out 1st place! An amazing achievement! A big thank you to Mr Putty, Mr Drucker and Miss Cordelle for coaching and supporting the teams. Also, a special shoutout to former student Mahala, who kindly volunteered as an umpire — your help was so appreciated!

Well done to all our students who represented St Thomas's with pride!



School Bus

Please remind your children to always tag on and off the school bus with their AT HOP card. This means Auckland Transport can accurately track the numbers of students on buses and adjust services where necessary. Another tip is to enable the auto top-up feature on your child's AT HOP card. This means the balance will automatically top up once it falls below the figure you set.

Moth Plant Pod Competition

It's that time of year again for the annual Moth Plant Pod competition. These plants are a pest – the vines strangle our native plants and the sticky flowers trap our bees and other insects. Register as an individual, a family, or as a team, and enter St Thomas's as your school. We will then receive sacks and distribute them to you for the collection of moth plant pods. This counts as community service for William Pike and Duke of Edinburgh. All information can be found on the flyer attached and further copies are available at school reception. Any queries please contact Alison Snell at school.



MOTH PLANT POD COMPETITION.

**Kua kite koe i tēnei tarutaru?
Have you seen this weed?**

Moth Plant is spreading quickly, killing our native plants!

Help your local community get on top of controlling this pest plant and win some prize money for your efforts!

2 Categories – Preschool and Open (Primary/Intermediate/Secondary combined!)

If you are a student in the Ōrākei District, grab some friends and gather as many Moth Plant Pods as you can – the team or individual with the most Pods and small vines pulled out by the roots wins!

Registrations are now open – get in quick – you must be registered before midnight, Wednesday 27th of March 2024 – please scan QR code below or visit: <http://tinyurl.com/2s674hk6>.

For Terms and Conditions Please See: <http://tinyurl.com/22ex9ch9>

Competition will run from Thursday 28th March to Monday 6th May.



To find out more please contact:
orakeimothplant@gmail.com An
Ōrākei Local Board funded project
in association with Nga Kaitiaki
Hapori o Pourewa - The
Community Guardians of Pourewa



VEGE GARDEN WORKING BEE

Our vegetable garden is getting a make-over and we would love your help in assembling new garden beds, filling them with soil and building a greenhouse.

If you have any free time between 9.00am - 1.00pm on Friday 28 March please pop along to lend a hand (note the change of day from Saturday 29 March as previously advertised).

Any questions please contact Alison Snell at school.

Camp Carey

Last week, 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 camp fire, having fun at the talent show and star gazing!

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



WORKING BEE 

Come and help us build our school vege gardens! Stay as little or as long as you want!

When: Friday 28th March
Time: 9.00am - 1.00pm
Where: On the field
What to bring: Spade, Gloves, Water, sunlotion



Lunch provided!



STS News

To watch the 17th episode of the series, click [HERE](#).

To watch the 18th episode of the series, click [HERE](#).

Public Notices

Dilworth School

Open Day: Sunday 30 March – Senior (Yr 9 – 13) Open Day – 2pm - 4pm. Parents can register online: dilworth.school.nz



OPEN EVENING
For Students and Parents/Caregivers

THURSDAY 27 MARCH AT 6:45PM

The evening will begin with an address from the Principal. This will be followed by a tour of the school and an opportunity to meet teachers and students across all Learning Areas.

We look forward to welcoming you.

ENROLMENTS


Details are on our website:
www.selwyn.school.nz/New Students

Please complete the online enrolment process. We encourage early applications.

Free Introduction to Volleyball

Learn the basic skills, the rules and put them to the test in a fun game!


Who:	Any year 5 or 6 student who is keen to learn Volleyball
When:	1 to 2pm on Sunday 23 rd March or Sunday 6 th April (choose 1 to attend)
Where:	Small Gym, Barfoot Stadium, Kapa Road
Other Info:	This session is tailored for 9-11 year olds and will introduce them to KiwiVolley which is an easy version of volleyball and features: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- A smaller court area and a lower net- A lighter and softer ball- Fewer numbers of players- Simple rules



Register by emailing us at: kiwivolleyball25@gmail.com

Numbers are limited so if your child is keen please send us an email to register their interest and include their name, age and which Sunday is preferred. We'll email you back confirming your child's spot.

Plus keep an eye out for a new KiwiVolley competition starting up in Term 2.



Please see our website for details about:

Clubs and activities:

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

Crocodiles Gymnastics offers a free trial class on weekend mornings at St Thomas's school hall. Bookings are essential. To reserve a spot, please email them at crockogym@gmail.com

Community notices:

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

School holiday programmes:

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

APRIL 2025 HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

ST THOMAS SCHOOL

A timetable and full programme information is available online or at the programme venue.

Who can attend: Children aged 5-13 yrs

General Information: We believe in giving children opportunities to do the things they love and enjoy in a supportive and encouraging environment. Our friendly staff are passionate about working with children. They are provided with training on behaviour management techniques, first aid and activity planning/delivery.

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

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.

Prices & Session Times:

Full Day: \$59 **Event Day:** Extra \$20
7:00am – 6:00pm

School Day: \$49 **Half Day:** \$41
8:30am – 3:00pm 7:00am – 12:30pm or 12:30pm – 6:00pm

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



BOOK ONLINE NOW AT www.kellyclub.co.nz



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 blast with our colourful autumn theme this week. We played colour rush, made beautiful leaf drawings and even had a dance party on the playground.



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

OSCAR PROGRAMME SUBSIDIES AVAILABLE!
*Conditions apply

What's happening in the Holidays!

KELLY CLUB **APRIL 2025 HOLIDAY PROGRAMME**
 ST THOMAS SCHOOL

OSCAR PROGRAMME SUBSIDIES AVAILABLE!
*Conditions apply

	Mon 14 April	Tues 15 April	Wed 16 April	Thurs 17 April	Fri 18 April
WEEK 1	 HYBRID HOOPLA Let's see how wild things can get when crazy ideas collide! Create your own hybrid - it could be a zebra monster truck, uni-cats, or foot-baseball.	 TIME TRAVEL A day with no limits! See if you can be the first to invent a time machine and imagine moving through the ages of the past and exploring the future!	 MOTAT Join us for an awesome trip day to MOTAT to learn about transport and technology. Please remember a big lunch, drink bottle, shoes and a hat \$20 extra for the day.	 EGGSTRAVAGANZA Hop along for our Easter 'Eggstravaganza!' Bring your looking eyes for our Great Easter Egg Hunt. Who knows what kind of goodies you may find!	PUBLIC HOLIDAY GOOD FRIDAY
WEEK 2	PUBLIC HOLIDAY EASTER MONDAY	 GLITTER VS GOO Get ready for a day of sensory exploration! Let's mix up some goo and get messy. Don't forget to bring a change of clothes.	 KC'S GOT TALENT Today we're discovering the hidden talents that Kelly Club kids have an offer! We can't wait to see what you've got.	 ANZAC HEROES Work together as a team to overcome challenges, big and small, and embody the spirit of our ANZAC heroes.	PUBLIC HOLIDAY ANZAC DAY

Pricing:
FULL DAY: \$59 **HALF DAY:** \$41
 7:00am - 6:00pm 7:00am - 12:30pm or 12:30pm - 6:00pm
SCHOOL DAY: \$49 **EVENT DAY:** Extra \$20
 8:30am - 3:00pm

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

BOOK NOW AT
kellyclub.co.nz/st-thomas

Further information:
www.kellyclub.co.nz/hp#info



BOOK ONLINE NOW AT www.kellyclub.co.nz



St Thomas's School PTA AGM – Wednesday 19th March (All Welcome)

Information about the PTA and AGM

PTA Membership

All staff and parents/caregivers of pupils at St Thomas's School are automatically "Members" of the PTA and are expected to abide by the PTA code of conduct when assisting in PTA organised events.

- The Executive Committee shall consist of a Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, and Communications Officer, elected at each Annual General Meeting ("AGM") of the Association.
- The Executive Committee are to sign position agreements confirming their acceptance of the responsibilities to be fulfilled.

PTA Objectives

The objectives of the association are as follows:

- To plan and organise fundraising ventures to raise funds to purchase equipment, materials and improve facilities that benefit the whole school and all pupils;
- To organise social events for the parents/caregivers of the school community; and
- To provide a link between the pupils, their families and the School.

Annual General Meetings ("AGM")

- The AGM shall be held once every calendar year within six months of the end of the financial year. Such intended AGM must be advertised in the school newsletter at least two weeks prior to such meeting taking place.

The agenda of the Annual Meeting shall include:

- Minutes of the last Annual Meeting;
- Chairperson's annual report;
- Annual Financial report;
- Election of Executive Committee; and
- General Business.
- Election of the Executive Committee



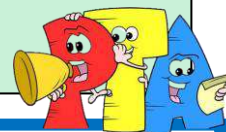
WATCH OUT FOR UPCOMING EVENTS IN TERM 1

PTA AGM – Wednesday 19th March 7pm, in the staffroom – All welcome

Ice block Sales – Every Friday under the tree by the office. 2.50pm-3.15pm

REMINDERS

Second Hand Uniforms - Donate your preloved uniform for us to on-sell. Please drop off at the school office during school hours.



Why not consider joining the PTA in 2025? 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 PTA (AGM) meeting **Wednesday 19th March, 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