

NEWSLETTER

No. 10 Date 19/09/2014 Week 10 Term 3

Dear St Thomas Aquinas Families,

Today brings to a conclusion another varied and stimulating school term. It has been filled with an amazing variety of opportunities for the students at our school. Listed below are just a few highlights to remind us of the various aspects of learning that our students have engaged in within the last 10 weeks:

Weekly school assemblies, Seasons for Growth Program, various sports clinics including tennis, Grandparents Day, school photographs, STA Sports Carnival, Genes for Jeans Day, Creative Arts Expo rehearsals & performances, Kindy Pizza Day, Bunnings BBQ, Community Mulching and Garden Rejuvenation Day, Principals Morning Tea for Effort in Learning, Bledisloe Cup visit, Feast of St Mary of the Cross, Year 1 Excursion to Sydney Art Gallery, Vietnam Veterans March, Year 2 to Lewers Gallery, Years 4 & 6 Religious Education Assessment, Zone & Diocesan Athletics Carnivals, Mini Vinnies

Group meetings and Social Justice Initiatives, Year 4 Excursion to Bathurst Gold Fields, weekly School Band practice and performances, Book Week, Voice of Youth, Netball Gala Day, author visit, CSIRO incursion, mathematics groups, weekly Drama Literacy Lessons (K-6), chess club & interschool chess competitions, School Choir performances, weekly Parish Masses, Milo Cup, Family Learning Conferences, Parish Reconciliation Sacramental Program, Royce Simmons Rugby League, Kindy visit to Calmsley Hill Farm, Junior Touch Football, Inter-Diocesan Athletics Carnival, weekly Buddy Reading Program, K6A Sports Carnival, and all that to complement the teaching of Religious Education, English, Mathematics, Human Society and its Environment, Science & Technology, Italian, Music, Physical Education, Personal Development & Health and Creative Arts.

As we reflect briefly on some of the events of the school term I am also mindful of the fact that all our endeavours, educationally, socially and spiritually in relation to our students happen daily within a community climate that is permeated by the Gospel spirit and Christ's model of love.

It is often within the context of our daily work in relationship with others that we find Christ revealed. It is this great love that sustains us for the journey.

Blessings and safe travels to all.

See you in Term 4!

S Rosato

Sergio Rosato
Principal

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY - Tuesday 7 October (after public holiday)

This day will be Pupil Free.

**Students commence for Term 4 on
Wednesday 8 October.**

Thanksgiving Ceremony



Friday 17 October at 1.30pm



All school families are invited to join us for the thanksgiving ceremony to be held at the school on 17 October to commemorate the anniversary of the bushfires, and to say thank you to the many organisations and individuals who have supported the school over the past year.

Preparations are well under way for this significant event. Proceedings will commence at 1.30 pm with an **outdoor liturgy, tree planting and plaque unveiling**. **All guests are then invited to an afternoon tea in the school hall.**

We hope that you will be able to be part of this important school occasion. Thank you to all those involved in the arrangements. A note with details regarding offers of donated cakes for the afternoon tea will be sent home at the beginning of Term 4.

Love one another



**ST THOMAS AQUINAS
NEWS**

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w: www.staspringwood.catholic.edu.au

Parish Priest:
Father Paul Slyney
p: 02 4754 1052

Principal's Morning Tea for Effort in Learning

The following students were acknowledged at a special morning tea last Tuesday for consistent effort in all areas of their learning. **Congratulations and well done** to you all!



Isabelle Blacklock
Isabella Bonnici
Sarah Boxall
Enrique Caraballo
Brianna Collins
Cameron Dempsey
Texas Down
Chloe Galluzzi
Jessica Gomez
Emilia Gosling
Hannah Green
Finn Hartley
Eadi Hazell
Isabel Hill
Henry Hinchliff
Sebastian Jamnicky
Kayden Jeffers
Thomas Larkin
Caitlin Leach
Brady Leehy
Isabelle Leet
Isabella Ligteringen
Lachlan Lloyd

Isabelle Lockley
Shyelo Malim-Martinez
Blake Mazurek
Dylan Mitchell
Cameron Morris
Natasha Nightingale
Ellie Penserini

Ari-Kai Rawlings
Erin Robinson
William Rogers
Mark Rubelj
Isabel Sia-Stone
Lachlan Steadman
Gabriel Valle

Reece Vane
Tiarnah Wanimbo
Ellie Watson
Joshua Williamson
Ryan Woods
Andrew Young
Olivia Young



Students Not Returning for 2015

The school is currently interviewing families for enrolment for 2015. Places are limited in some grades. To enable the school to plan appropriately we would appreciate families of students in Grades K-5 who are not returning in 2015 to please notify the school **in writing as soon as possible**. Your timely attention to this matter would be much appreciated as the implications regarding staffing and resourcing by the Catholic Education Office stem from accurate enrolment numbers.

Family Portrait Day – Saturday 25 October – Save the date!

The school will be hosting this special fundraiser event for any interested St Thomas Aquinas families. Either 10" x 13" family portrait photo or A3-sized pencil sketch will be available for just \$25.00. More information will be sent home next term.

ACARA (Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority) Privacy Notice

Information required to determine the Index of Community Socio-educational Advantage (ICSEA) for schools

This notice is from the Australian curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA), to advise you that ACARA has requested your child's school to provide ACARA with information about you and your child. Your school may disclose to ACARA information such as your child's gender, date of birth, country of birth, background language, residential address, parental occupation and parental education.

This information is disclosed to ACARA under the ACARA Act 2008 for one or both of the following purposes:

- formulating national reports consisting of aggregated data on school performance; and
- assisting government to formulate policies in relation to education matters.

ACARA will not disclose this personal information to any third party. If you do not want your school to provide this information to ACARA, please advise your school with seven (7) days of receiving this notice.

Further information about ACARA can be obtained from the ACARA website at www.acara.edu.au

St Thomas Aquinas Walking Group

Commencing Wednesday 8 October. The group will meet after school drop-off **every Wednesday morning at St Columba's College**, under the stone archway, at **9.15am**. If there is enough interest in the walking group, free exercise classes led by a personal trainer could commence in 2015. *Walk off stress and get fit with other parents at your own pace.* The group will be coordinated by Celia Vagg, Community Outreach Worker for CatholicCare Social Services, Diocese of Parramatta. For more information contact Celia on 0499 077 511, email: celia.vagg@ccss.org.au or the web: www.facebook.com/catholiccarebm



Blue Mountains Musical Society – 'CATS'

Tickets are now on sale for our 70th production, CATS, which will be playing at the **Lighthouse Theatre, 338-356 Wentworth Road, Orchard Hills**. **Show times:** 5, 6, 7 & 8 November – 8pm; 8 November – 2pm (Auslan Interpreted Performance); 9 November – 3pm. The following students from St Thomas Aquinas Primary are in this production:

Isabella Bridge
Tia Cross

Alana Kenn
Emily McMaster

Natasha Nightingale
Lilli Thompson

Steffani Sroczyński

Tickets: Adult - \$40, Concession - \$35, Child (under 16 yrs) - \$30, Midweek (Wed & Thurs) - \$30, Group 10+ - 10% discount. For bookings go to www.bmms.org.au

Student Awards

Congratulations to the following students, who received Merit Awards at this week's School Assembly. Well done on your efforts everyone – keep up the good work!



Luke Arnold
Breanna Banks
Riley Barglik
Eliza Barr
Samantha Bourke
Ferris Carey
Liam Carr
Michael Christof
Reid Clarke
Aden Cullinane
Tyler Frost
Jack Fuge
Jakub Grus

Charlotte Harris
Isabella Higginbotham
Henry Hinchliff
Audrey Hodgins
Willow Hookings
Connor Hume
Katelyn Jones
Hayden Keogh
Abigail Larkin
Connor Le Breton
Prudence Lia
Amber Lovric
Preston Mamo

Blake Mazurek
Thomas McGrath
Holly McIlveen
Kate McIlveen
Bernie Miall
Macklin Miall
Addison Miller
Genevieve Miruzzi
Olivia Mountain
Oliver Neale
Wilkin Payens
Skyler Pick

Cooper Potter
Trinity Power
William Richardson
Thomas Rizzuti
Sahara Rodemark
Samantha Schroeder
Flynn Shiels
Mayah Shore
Amelia Steadman
Amelia Synnott
Benjamin Tracey
Julia Young

Italian Forum



On Tuesday of this week we held a Pizza Day for the children in Kindergarten. Dom and Melissa from Mamma Mia Pizza and Pasta Restaurant in Springwood showed the children how to make real, authentic Italian pizza and also cooked pizza for the children to eat. We are very grateful to Dom and Melissa for the generosity of their time and for the pizzas! Mamma Mia Pizza and Pasta Restaurant is located at 1/107 Macquarie Road, Springwood (opposite the Oriental Hotel). **Jenni Wurf, Teacher of Italian**



Kindergarten Pizza Day



Australian Youth Choir to visit St Thomas Aquinas

A representative of the Australian Youth Choir (member of the National Institute of Youth Performing Arts Australia - NIYPAA) will be visiting STA on **Tuesday 21 October** to speak to students from Years 2 – 6 interested in a voice appraisal. Programs run by NIYPAA help students learn to sing or dance, develop their musicianship and performance skills, make new friends and become part of a wide circle of performers. For more information on NIYPAA go to www.niypaa.com.au

Winter/Summer Uniform Changeover

Official changeover to summer uniform is the first day of Term 4. Please refer to the Parent Information Handbook for details.

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Gateway Family Services – Parenting after Separation Focus on Kids

This **six-session course** is designed for parents who are separated and want to learn more about managing ongoing relationships with former partner, while supporting their children. Parents attend separately from their former partner.

The course will:

- help parents to understand and respond to the needs of children after a separation,
- identify ways for parents to support children, even when there is conflict between parents,
- provide an opportunity to meet others in a similar situation.

When: 13 October to 17 November 2014 from 10.00am to 12.30pm

Where: 70 Old Bathurst Road, East Blaxland

Cost: On a sliding scale, based on income

Childcare: Available (must be booked)

Pre-group: 22 September and 29 September

Interviews: By appointment

To register your interest or for more information about any of our courses or seminars, please contact by phone on 4728 4800.

PARISH NEWS

First Holy Communion

Parent Meeting (one only) **Monday 13 October at 7.00pm.** You must attend this meeting if you wish your child to proceed with the First Communion program. Enquiries please phone the Parish Pastoral Centre on 4754 1052.



Scan with your smartphone or tablet for more information.

www.stspringwood.catholic.edu.au

DIARY DATES

2014 TERM 4 Week 1	Monday 6 October	LABOUR DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY
	7	STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY – Pupil Free
	Wednesday 8	Term 4 Commences for students 2.15pm Romeo & Juliet Bell Shakespeare Performance in Hall – Years 5 & 6
	9	School Band Year 6 Yearbook Photos
	10	Stage 3 Touch Football
Week 2	Monday 13	9.05am Cuppa & Chat 12.30pm Assembly – World Mission Month 3.40pm Leadership Meeting
	14	Diocesan Basketball – selected students 3.40pm Staff Meeting
	15	8.30am Staff Briefing Parish Mass – Year 3 attending School Band to St Columba's Seasons Sessions
	16	8.30am Staff Prayer
	17	1.30pm Thanksgiving Ceremony

COMMUNITY NEWS

Penrith Cricket Club Holiday Coaching Clinic: Catering for all ages and abilities including Junior Groups and Advance Specialist Groups, providing introduction to cricket and skill development. Clinic held **from 29 September to 1 October 2014** from **8.30am to 12 noon at Dukes Oval, Emu Plains.** **Total cost: \$140** – includes coaching by fully accredited coaches for children aged 5 – 16 years; batting, bowling and fielding drills; net sessions; foot speed, agility and fitness; prizes and giveaways. Head coach is Michael Wholohan, Level 3 Coach Cricket Aus, Penrith Cricket Club Coach, 2009 Cricket NSW Coach of the Year. Book early to avoid disappointment on 0419 470 695.

Kids Visual Arts Holiday Workshops: These holidays **Hughes Studio** is offering 3 days of exciting Visual Arts activities for children from Monday 22nd September – Wednesday 24th September at **Springwood Community Arts Centre.** Monday Classes include **'Creatures of the Deep Blue'** Mixed Media and Watercolours, followed by a workshop in **Plaster Sculpture.** On Tuesday children can engage in a full day **Glass Mosaic workshop** inspired by Australian natives and on Wednesday students can gain experience in **Intaglio Drypoint Printing** using the printing press in a printmaking workshop inspired by winged insects. Classes are coordinated by Hughes Studio Director, Caitlin Hughes who is a qualified and highly experienced art teacher and practitioner. For more information please visit www.hughesstudio.com.au.

Springwood Swimming Club Registrations: Come and join a family friendly local club. Race nights are held at 6.45pm every Thursday in summer, and fortnightly in winter at Springwood Aquatic Centre. **Registration will open from Saturday 20th September.** New members are invited to come along to TWO FREE trial club nights before you register. Registration Fees for 2014/2015 are \$90 per swimmer and \$20 non-swimmer for year round swimming. Visit our website: www.springwoodswimmingclub.com.au or e-mail us at: info@springwoodswimmingclub.com.au

Sent Home Recently:

- Diocesan Touch Football Excursion Permission Note (rescheduled) – selected students from Years 5 & 6
- 4C Harry Potter Movie Viewing Permission note

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