

# NEWSLETTER

No. 8      Date 25/07/2014      Week 2      Term 3

Dear St Thomas Aquinas Families,

This week I had the privilege of speaking to a group of Masters in Teaching students at the University of Western Sydney about what teaching is really like and why it is such an important and rewarding vocation. I say vocation precisely because I firmly believe that teaching isn't simply a job, but a calling. A vocation is about having a vision, being passionate, being committed, about being the master of your craft, and building strong, honest, trusting relationships with your students that allow you to get the best out of them and that helps them to discover what they can do for themselves.

The talk was entitled, *We Take Care of Our Own* after a song written by one of my musical heroes, Bruce Springsteen. The song, for me, epitomises what the vocation of teaching is all about. It's about taking care of every single student who sits in our classrooms, it's about making sure that their talents and aptitudes are nurtured and catered for. It's about empowering our students to take their place in the world, confident that they can contribute successfully and positively to their world. It's also about ensuring that we, as teachers, form strong caring relationships with our students and their families because only from here does true, deep learning occur.

Ultimately, the power of education lies in the fact that it is transformational. It opens up the possibility of changing lives, of things being different, of people pursuing dreams. In my personal case, as I'm sure in many of yours, education transformed the trajectory of my family in a generation. My hardworking and beautiful grandparents in Italy were illiterate peasants who had no choice other than a life of servitude and meagre means.

But my parents, although themselves lacking in formal education, knew innately that it was critical in opening up the world of future possibilities for their children. Thankfully, I was blessed to have been taught by a number of inspirational and dedicated teachers and leaders whilst at school. Their teaching wasn't simply about knowledge but also wisdom – formation and information linked and connected to the real world, its values and truths.

This week many families and teachers met in order to discuss and celebrate their child's progress in their learning journey. These meetings are also about furthering the essential relationship between home and school so that together we can take care of our own.

Until next time,

*S Rosato*

Sergio Rosato  
Principal

## **Peter Kearney - Free Concert this Saturday at STA**

St Thomas Aquinas Parish Springwood is hosting a FREE concert by Peter Kearney this **Saturday 26 July starting at 7.30pm**. The concert will take place in St Thomas Aquinas School Hall (Bishop Manning Learning Centre). *Soup prior to the concert. Tea & Coffee at interval.*

The Concert entitled: *Good Morning, Good People - The Story of St Francis of Assisi* weaves story, song, music and images to retell the life of St Francis of Assisi in a deeply moving & engaging way.

The concert will feature Peter Kearney on vocals, guitar & narration with Roma Dix on flute.

Peter Kearney is one Australia's preeminent Catholic songwriters and musicians. His compositions include 'Where is Your Song?', 'Pentecost', 'The Beatitudes' & 'Fill my House'.

All are very welcome to attend this special, free presentation - donations welcomed.

Registrations appreciated for catering: Terry O'Connell - [realjustice2@bigpond.com](mailto:realjustice2@bigpond.com)

***Where're the eyes, the eyes  
with the will to see?  
Where're the hearts that  
run over with mercy?  
Where's the love that has  
not forsaken me?  
Where's the work that'll set  
my hands, my soul free?  
Where's the spirit that'll  
reign over me?  
Where's the promise from  
sea to shining sea?  
Wherever this flag is flown?  
We take care of our own.***

(Bruce Springsteen)



## **ST THOMAS AQUINAS NEWS**

a: 168 Hawkesbury Rd  
Springwood 2777  
p: 02 4754 2554  
f: 02 4754 3562  
w: [www.staspringwood.catholic.edu.au](http://www.staspringwood.catholic.edu.au)

Parish Priest:  
Father Paul Slyney  
p: 02 4754 1052

*Love one another*



## ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

### 2014 STA Sports Carnival

Last Friday students travelled to Tom Hunter Park for our Annual Sports Carnival. The winter winds were kind to us on the day and this enabled a healthy number of families to attend the event and be part of the day. It was delightful for all to see and hear children participating so enthusiastically and in a spirit of joy and sportsmanship. I commend the students for their conduct and cooperation on the day.



coordination of the carnival.

As in recent years, Brad and Therese Jones from the Ori Café Springwood, organised a fantastic BBQ as well as cakes and other refreshments. The BBQ and food helps to make the carnival a hospitable and enjoyable day for all.

Days such as our Sports Carnival provide the students with opportunities to work together, have fun and challenge themselves. They are days where fond memories of school are made.

The 2014 STA Sports Carnival house scores are as follows:

1 <sup>st</sup> Place – Blue (737 points)	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place– Gold (625 points)
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place – Red (663 points)	4 <sup>th</sup> Place – Green (614 points)

Student achievements will be acknowledged at next Monday's Assembly (28 July).



Sports Carnival 2014



### School Photographs – next Wednesday, 30 July

Each student should now have been given a photo order envelope to take home. These **envelopes are now due back at school.** If you would like to order a family photo please return the slip attached to the photo envelope as soon as possible. **If you have not received a photo envelope for your child please call the office as soon as possible.**

All students must come to school on photo day in full winter school uniform with the correct black shoes. (Please refer to the Parent Handbook for details.)

## 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!



Larissa An U  
Annalise Blattman  
Leo Borg  
Skye Boyden  
Thea Breytenbach  
Emma Brickwood  
Isabella Bridge  
Ysobel Chalice  
Michael Christof  
Zoe Cini

Brianna Collins  
William Crighton  
Amelia Crouch  
Finn Cullinane  
Jacob Danks  
Lachlan Dempsey  
Alison Edwards  
Audrey Gauci  
Jeremy Harris  
William Hinchliff

Kayden Jeffers  
Chloe Kitching  
Eliza Manners  
Ebony Manning  
David McMaster  
Jack Murphy  
Abby Oag  
Gigi Orobello  
Jack Reynolds  
Jack Savage

Cooper Selinger  
Hayli Shiels  
Ariella Smith  
Conna Taylor  
Gabriel Valle  
Isaac Wardle  
Alfie Williamson  
Benjamin Williamson  
Olivia Young  
Alyssia Zagarella

## Newsletter Omission

Our apologies to Summer Harrison and Caitlin Murphy whose names were omitted from our last Update's weekly awards list. Congratulations to you both on your great effort!



## Italian Forum

On the final day of last term, Friday 27 June, we held a very exciting Pasta Day for the children in Year 3 as part of the cultural component of their learning of Italian. Visiting Italian pasta chef Cristiano Ferrari (bearing a striking resemblance to our own Chris Chenoweth) spoke to the children about making and eating pasta and demonstrated how to make lasagne and fettucini.

The children were then treated to a pasta dish which was prepared by six of our wonderful Year 3 mums: Donna Shore, Mel Watson, Kerry Jones, Rachel Pagitz, Kim Down and Karleen Hutchings.

Many thanks to Cristiano for sharing his wealth of knowledge and experiences with us and to the parents, without whom we could not have had a Pasta Day. **Jenni Wurf, Teacher of Italian**

## Book Club

Book Club was distributed this week to each class. **All orders must be placed by Monday 4 August. We will no longer be accepting any orders after the due date so please make sure you get them in on time.** Please check that order forms are filled out correctly including both the child's name and class. Credit card payments must be made online first and the receipt number needs to be recorded on the order form.



## Grandparents Day – Thursday 7 August

Our annual Grandparents Day will be held in Week 4, on Thursday 7 August commencing at 12 noon. The day will involve a liturgy, picnic in the school grounds and open classrooms during the afternoon. More information will be sent home shortly.

## Enrolment Information and Reminders

The school is currently receiving a number of enrolment enquiries for 2015. With this in mind it is timely to outline the criteria used for enrolment in our Diocese. St Thomas Aquinas is required to follow the Diocesan Enrolment Policy. Information regarding enrolments can be viewed on the Catholic Education Office web site [www.parra.catholic.edu.au](http://www.parra.catholic.edu.au). The Diocesan Policy states eligibility as follows:

- Children whose fifth birthday occurs on or before 31 July are eligible for enrolment for Kindergarten that year.

Enrolment preference is given, in order, to:

- baptised children of Catholic families who live in the local parish
- baptised children of Catholic families from other parishes
- baptised children of other Christian denominations
- non-Catholics

Catholic schools have a strong religious dimension and people of other faiths who wish to enrol in Catholic schools should be willing to participate in the religious activities of the school. Non-Catholic students are accepted into Catholic schools in accordance with each school's enrolment vacancies. Siblings of children already enrolled in the school are considered by the same criteria above. However, within each of these categories, a sibling of a child already enrolled will have preference over an applicant who does not have a sibling enrolled in the school. Special consideration may be given to children of non-Catholic families for:

- compassionate reasons
- family situations requiring a special pastoral approach
- parents' intentions regarding their own and their children's faith development
- family circumstances involving family relocation
- enrolment of siblings

## School Fees

Statements have been sent home to all families for the current term. Due date for payment is 19 August. Unless you have a formal arrangement, please pay by the due date. Otherwise please contact Deborah Lawrence, School Finance Secretary, to organise an arrangement.







## Jeans for Genes Day- Friday 1 August

Jeans for Genes Day is the first Friday in August each year and is more than an excuse to wear your favourite pair of jeans – it's an initiative to raise much-needed funds for Children's Medical Research Institute. The work of the scientists at Children's Medical Research Institute (CMRI) has a single aim - to improve and extend the lives of children everywhere. One in twenty children is born with a congenital abnormality or genetic disease. That's over 12,000 children born in Australia each year. CMRI is dedicated to changing this. For more information visit [cmri.org.au](http://cmri.org.au)

St Thomas Aquinas will be supporting this initiative next Friday 1 August. **All students are invited to wear jeans and bring a gold coin donation.**

## DIARY DATES

<b>2014</b>  <b>TERM 3</b>  <b>Week 3</b>	<b>Monday 28 July</b>	9.05am Cuppa & Chat 12.30pm Assembly – KB presenting <b>(and Sports Awards)</b> 3.40pm Leadership Meeting
	<b>29</b>	3.40pm Staff Meeting
	<b>30</b>	<b>School Photographs</b>
	<b>31</b>	8.30am Staff Prayer Kindergarten Excursion to Calmsley Hill City Farm
	<b>1 August</b>	<b>Jeans for Genes Day</b> Year 3 Incursion – Mini Worlds
<b>Week 4</b>	<b>Monday 4 August</b>	9.05am Cuppa & Chat 12.30pm Assembly – 3CH presenting 3.40pm Leadership Meeting
	<b>5</b>	Royce Simmons Cup Stage 2 Rugby League 3.40pm Staff Meeting
	<b>6</b>	8.30am Staff Briefing Parish Mass – Year 3 attending Drama/Literacy – KB & KL
	<b>7</b>	<b>12.00pm Grandparents' Day</b>
	<b>8</b>	Feast of St Mary of the Cross Nepean Zone Athletics Carnival – selected students Drama/Literacy - KM, Years 1 & 2

## COMMUNITY NEWS

**Faulconbridge Cricket Club Registrations:** On **Saturday 2 August** outside **Oriental Hotel, Springwood** the Faulconbridge Cricket Club will hold their registration day for the 2014-15 season from **10.00am to 6.00pm**. A free BBQ will be provided for all attending, as well as bocce competitions with giveaways throughout the afternoon. The cricket club has places for cricketers from the age of 5 up to adults. For more information, please contact Sue Fletcher on 0413 032 688; email: [fletchis@bigpond.net.au](mailto:fletchis@bigpond.net.au) or visit the website at <http://faulconbridgecc.nsw.cricket.com.au>

**St Monica's Fete- Saturday August 2, 9am-3pm:** St Monica's Fete is a Hawkesbury tradition that celebrates the close relationship St Monica's Primary School and the Parish of Richmond have with the Hawkesbury. Come along and take your chances on the Chocolate Wheel or in the Raffle while tasting scones and jam, cakes, slices and other Fete favourites. Of course this can be followed by a generous serving nachos, hotdogs, corncobs or enjoy a full range from our BBQ. Fossick around in the Book Stall and White Elephant for that unexpected treasure! While the kids are enjoying a range of rides like the Jumping Castle, Cup & Saucer, Rocking Tug, Inflatable Lost Temple, Storm, Simulator, Giant Slide and Dodgems or visiting Treasure Island and having their faces painted! There will also be displays from the Fire Brigade, Hawkesbury Radio, Police, Karate, Zumba, the choir and dancing. Take the time to wonder through the stalls selling candles, jewellery embroidery, scarves, clothes, fruit and vegetables and lot's more. Meet old friends and make some new ones and find out why St Monica's fete is at the heart of the Hawkesbury.

**Seasons For Growth – Bereavement Support Program:** CCSS Solo Parent Ministry is running its next Seasons for Growth Program for adults commencing on Tuesday 5th August 2014. This small group Program runs for five consecutive Tuesdays and is open to anyone grieving the death of their spouse or partner. See Notice Board for Flyer. Venue: CCSS Centre 51-59 Allawah St Blacktown. Date/Time: 5 Tuesdays from 5 August -10.00am – 1.00pm. Cost: \$80.00. Information and Registration- Ph. 9933 0205 or email: [soloparentministry@ccss.org.au](mailto:soloparentministry@ccss.org.au)

**1-2-3 Magic – Lower Mountains Parent Group Program:** Learn how to understand and manage your child's difficult behaviours. Suitable for parents of 2-12 year olds. **Wednesdays 27/8, 3/9 and 10/9/14** from **6.30 to 8.30pm** at **Warrimoo Public School, 16-30 Florabella Street, Warrimoo**. Call Gateway Family Services on 4739 5963 or 1300 316 746. Cost – gold coin donation.

## Sent Home Recently:

- Athletics Carnival BBQ order form (*blue*)
- Spectator Information note for Sports Carnival (*gold*)
- FLC Appointment Booking notes
- FLC note to 2D
- Penrith RSL Chess Competition Permission note - selected students
- Seasons Grief Education Program note (*lilac*)
- Milo T20 Cricket Competition Permission note – selected students
- Industrial Action note (*red*)
- Head Lice notes to Kindergarten and Year 1



Scan with your smartphone or tablet for more information.

[www.staspringwood.catholic.edu.au](http://www.staspringwood.catholic.edu.au)