

EWSLETTER

Date: 08/08/2016

Dear St Thomas Aquinas Families,

St Mary Mackillop – A True Australian Pioneer for this Time

Last year I took part in an Australian pilgrimage with other principals from the Diocese of Parramatta. A significant part of this pilgrimage followed in the footsteps of St. Mary of the Cross Mackillop through Victoria and South Australia.

There were many highlights including visiting Saint Mary's first school at Penola, her first Parish (St Francis Church in Melbourne where she was baptised), her first Home for the Destitute in Melbourne and her home for the poor in Kensington, South Australia.

The time provided an amazing opportunity to learn by experience and to reflect on the spirituality of our first Aussie saint whose Feast we celebrate this week.

There were two strong lessons from Mary Mackillop that I took away from the experience:

- 1. Her reliance on God's Providence
- Her unstinting Christian Charity & Love 2.

God's Providence: An exceptional feature of Mary's thinking and spirituality was a belief in Divine Providence. In our 21st century world this thinking is seen as incomprehensible. Mary's belief was centred on the attitude that God was a "good God" and He would take care of us all. Her early life, the difficulties she experienced in her family not only built her resilience to withstand life's challenges but also gave her a solid confidence in God. Her love of God and neighbour was formed out of empathy through adversity.

Charity & Love: In the novel based on Mary's life called, The Black Dress by Pamela Freeman, a young Mary is quoted as saying:

I have found many times since then that if one acts with Christian charity and love, one comes more easily to feel it. The more experience one has of this, the easier it is to move straight to the feeling.

Mary never held a grudge even against those who persecuted her and shunned her by excommunicating her from the Church. Her version of Christian love was demonstrated in action towards others - even those who treated her with distain were given mercy and love.

What Mary did with her life changed the course of Australian history. Mary's movement through the Josephite Order and their outreach to educate the young remains an extraordinary legacy for our nation. Our own school, St Thomas Aquinas was established and run from 1921 until 1975 by her order of sisters.

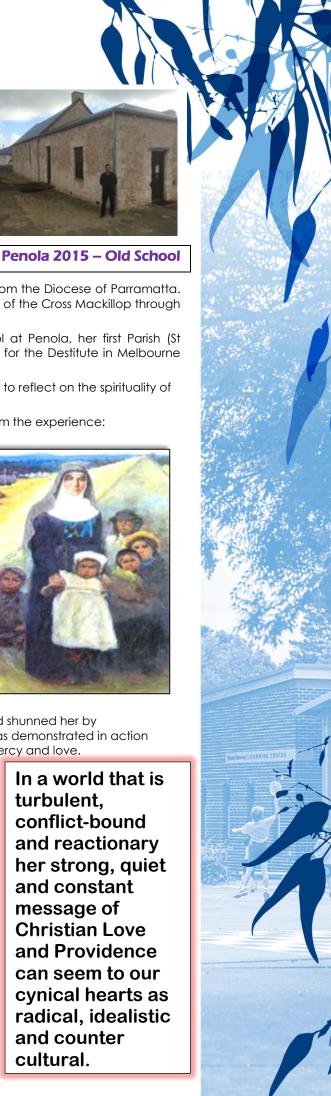
In a world that is turbulent, conflict-bound and reactionary her strong, quiet and constant message of Christian Love and Providence can seem to our cynical hearts as radical, idealistic and

Her patient wisdom and unstinting belief in the goodness of God should act as inspiration and hope for us in this time.

Until next time,

ARosato Sergio Rosato Principal

love one another



Principal's Leave

I wish to advise that I will be on long service leave from Thursday 11 August until Thursday 8 September 2016. During this leave Mrs Mary Clark has been appointed as Acting Principal.

Whole School Sports Carnival 2016

Certainly one of the community highlights was our Sports Carnival held on Thursday 28 July at Glenbrook Sports Field. The weather was perfect – mild and windless. The children participated wholeheartedly and encouraged each other. It's always great to see the students dressed in their team colours with many banners and chants and songs prepared for the occasion. This all made for a wonderful community atmosphere. We commend the Year 6 students for modelling this spirit to our younger grades so appropriately. Our gratitude also to the parents who assisted in the running of the carnival, and to the many who attended to support their children.

A sincere thanks to each member of staff who worked as a team in preparing for the day and coordinating the various races. Particular thanks goes to Robert Mullen, Ann Gippel, James Costigan, Lee-Anne Brown & Deb Breytenbach for their work. A note of gratitude also to the parents who assisted with food and hospitality on the day. Particularly David & Kimberley Verriere (Tyson 1C) for organising the BBQ, cakes & refreshments via the Ori Café Springwood. The BBQ and food always helps to make the carnival a warm and enjoyable day for all.

Results:

Total Points per House: 1st - 616 - Blue; 2nd - 602 - Green; 3rd - 573 - Gold; 4th - 553 - Red

Champion Runner Up
Jnr Boy: Alfie Williamson Liam Murphy
Jnr Girl: Mia Grodzicki Chyna Moore

11yrs Boy: Patrick Bourke Riley Barglik
11yrs Girl: Molly Jones Molly Peake

Snr Boy: Nathan Della-Libera **Equal 2nd –** Conna Taylor Matthew Cassidy

Snr Girl: Olivia De La Harpe Keeli Brown









Vietnam Veterans March & Wreath-Laying Service

This annual event will take place this coming Sunday. Our school has a proud tradition of involvement both in the ANZAC Day March and the Vietnam Veterans Day March held annually around this time. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan which occurred on the 18th August 1966 in a rubber plantation near Long Tan in Phoc Tuy Province, South Vietnam. The day provides an opportunity to honour the men and women who served our nation during the Vietnam War and all other operations since then including those who continue to serve today in the Middle East and elsewhere. Students are to meet Mrs Clark, Mr Costigan, Mrs Nightingale and staff near the Fire Station on Macquarie Rd by 10.45am. The march commences at 11.00am and concludes with a wreath-laying service at the War Memorial adjacent to the Sports Club.

Voice of Youth

During the beginning of this term Year 6 students have been working on their Voice of Youth speeches. Voice of Youth is a Diocesan wide public speaking competition for all Year 6 students. Students are required to prepare and present to their class a 2 - 4 minute speech on a topic of their choice. Three students from each class are then selected to compete in the grade final. Well done to the 10 grade finalists who presented their speeches to all of Year 6 on Thursday and thank you to Mrs Clark and Mrs Rosato who adjudicated the finals. Special congratulations to Freya Mylne, Charlotte Harris and David McMaster who were selected to represent St Thomas' at the Blue Mountains Cluster final on Tuesday, hosted at our school between 10-12pm. These students will be presenting speeches with finalists from St Finbar's, St Canice's and Our Lady of the Nativity. **Good luck!**



Jeans for Genes Day – Friday 5 August



Jeans for Genes Day is held on 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 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 that. Today, our school students and staff enjoyed wearing jeans for the day and donated much needed funds for the Institute. A total of more than \$950 was raised for this worthy cause. Thank you for your support.

New Electronic Sign-On System

The school office now has a new Electronic Sign-On System for Parents and Visitors. When **using the system for the <u>first time</u>** it may take you up to 10 minutes to **register your details** and **a photo of you will be taken by the machine**. Information and photo will be printed onto a sticker for you to wear while on premises. All parents and visitors will still need to sign-out when leaving. Please remember to allow extra time for this process when visiting the school.



Musica Viva - Teranga

Last Friday our school hosted a musical troupe from Musica Viva called *Teranga*. The word Teranga means 'hospitality' native Wolof language from West Africa. *Teranga* were fantastic and entertained and inspired our students with the sounds of the fula flute, balafon, and Pape's special 'mobile phone', the tama talking drum. Students learned the importance of ancestral heritage and village fishing culture in songs Sogui and Goumbé, and improvise rhythmic bodypercussion movements in Wa deukebilé. The concert, presented in 3 sessions to our students K-6, engaged them in



the wonder of African music. Thank you to Musica Viva for the quality of their performance and to our music teacher, Leigha Wills for preparing our students so thoroughly for the occasion.

Kindergarten Excursion to Calmsley Hill City Farm

On Tuesday 2 August our Kindergarten students had the pleasure of travelling to Calmsley City Farm to observe and learn about farm and native animals, their needs, habitats and also to understand the differences and similarities between each species. The children had wonderful fun and the feedback was positive and thoughtful when they each reflected on their farm experience. Sincere gratitude is extended to our dedicated Kindergarten teachers, Teachers Aides and parent helpers who provided valuable assistance on the day.









Student Awards

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



Week 2

Emanuel Borg
Leo Borg
Kian Brown
Mitchell Crouch
Joshua Croucher
Evan Davey
Emilie Dempsey
Cooper Donohue
Marius Edmunds
Baxter Ellem
Audrey Gauci
Lachlan Golby
Blake Gough

Thomas Harris
Charlotte Harrison
Audrey Hodgins
Payton Holmes
Bridie Knibbs
Lachlan Konwerski
Archie Lamont
Scarlett Lia
Jovina Manning
Thomas McGrath
Holly McIlveen
Samuel Moore

Sarah-Jane Noonan-Michels
Bailey Nugent
Kiara Nugent
Bethany Paul
Adrian Perez-Eaton
Martin Perez-Eaton
Anneke Prineas
Bailey Rawding
Hayden Rawding
William Richardson
Ruby Roberts
Mia Rodemark

Annabelle Scurr Maria Todarello Oliver Toth Aidan Venables Lachlan Venables Aiden Wade-Ferrell Kane Walton Grace Wardle Daniel Woods Lola Wyld Angus Young Alyssia Zagarella

Week 3

Cameron Barr
Olive Borbely
Molly Boys
Emma Brickwood
Lucas Brown
Emilia Buhs
Olivia Byrnes
Deanna Caristo
Benjamin Cassidy
Charlotte Croft
Amelia Crouch
Joel Crouch
Mark D'Alessio

Jacob Danks
Erin DeBono
Keith Eddy
Luke Edwards
Audrey Ellem
Leonie Ellis
Chloe Galluzzi
Brendan Golby
Jake Gordon
Benjamin Harrison
Eadi Hazell
Noah Hicks
Jeremy Hodges

Ella Hoppe
James Horner
Alexander Kerkham
Dylan King
Ella Langan
William Lister
Alex Lopez
Brendan Manning
Freya Mylne
Aidan O'Brien
Eydie Peake
Oliver Rizzuti
Lachlan Roberts

Noah Samoluk Addison Schobbe Mackenzie Seymour Liam Sibbald Natasha Springett Kristof Trinajstic Klara Trinajstic Lara Wallace Jackson Williams Hayden Willingham Hamish Wills Sarah Wydmuch

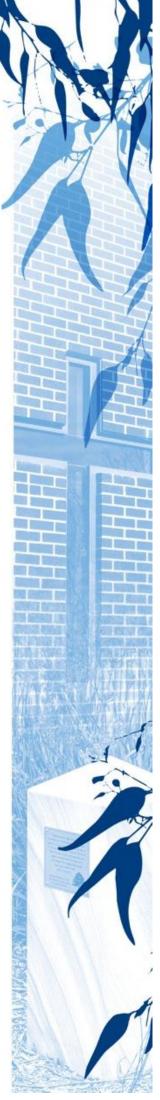
Grandparents Day

Our annual Grandparents Day will be held in Week 9 on Wednesday 14 September 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 at a later date.

School Fees

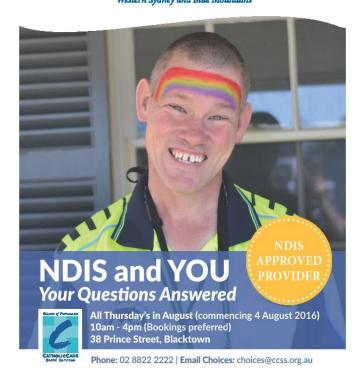
The school fee statements for Term 3, 2016 have been posted out. The due date for payment is Monday 22 August 2016. If you have not received your statement please contact me on 4754 2554 to arrange for a copy to be sent home. If you need to discuss any issues regarding the school fees, please contact me by phone or by email DLawrence1@parra.catholic.edu.au. School fees can be paid by Bpay, Postbillpay, cash, EFOTPOS or cheque.





COMMUNITY NOTICES

CatholicCare Western Sydney and Blue Mountains







BLUE MOUNTAINS YOUTH CHOIR

BMYC is now accepting enrolments for Term 3 2016

For children 8 - 15 years of age who love music, singing and performing in a group, this is a great way to enhance vocal technique! Also a fun way for instrumentalists to improve sight reading and aural skills in preparation for music exams, a great way to make friends and an enjoyable after-school group activity.

Sessions in two Blue Mountains locations:

Katoomba: Wednesdays 3.45pm - 5pm

Springwood: Thursdays 3.45pm - 5pm





Apply online now!



Gateway Family Services

(An activity of Blaxland Uniting Church/ Uniting care)

& Mountains Outreach Community Services presents...

Let's talk about...

The "Strong Willed" & "Sensitive Child"

Parenting styles can differ...



What can we do???

Come along to the 3 Discussion Seminar's

Facilitated by Barry Palm

- ✓ To understand and respond to the "strong willed" and "sensitive child"
- ✓ The meaning of secure boundaries for a child
- ✓ How to maintain family relationships while addressing behaviours of the "strong willed" and "sensitive child"
- ✓ Nurturing and sustaining communication with your children/partner/ support person

Barry Palm is an Educational and communication consultant. For the past 35 years he has been supporting parents, carers and teachers to appreciate and enjoy their roles in nurturing and guiding children to be confident and competent people.

LOCATION: Lawson Public School Adelaide St, Lawson

REGISTRATION:

Thursday 4th, 11th and 18th August

I TIME: 10:00am - 12:00pm CHILDCARE: Available (must be booked) COST: Gold Coin Donation

Gateway Family Services - 02 4739 5963



Penrith Observatory Computing, engineering and Mathematics

What's on in August 2016:

Saturday 13th, 7pm-9pm; Astronomy Night -National Science Week, Special Event Probing Pluto's Atmosphere With Light From Passing Stars - Pluto occultation, when Pluto passes in front of stars. Find out some of the latest news on Pluto including how amateur astronomers have helped detect and understand this dwarf plant's atmosphere. The evening will include a presentation, a 3D astronomy movie, a tour of the dome area and an opportunity to view the night sky through telescopes (weather permitting).

Saturday 27th, 7pm-9pm: Astronomy Night -The evening will include a presentation, a 3D astronomy movie, a tour of the dome area and an opportunity to view the night sky through telescopes (weather permitting).

\$18 adult, \$12 child/concession, \$50 Cost: family.

Bookings are essential. To book and pay for tickets visit:

http://www.westernsydney.edu.au/observatory penrith/penrith observatory/whats on



CATHOLIC CARE SOCIAL SERVICES Solo Parent Services

Younger Widowed Support Group



Has your spouse or partner died and are you searching for someone who understands the enormity of your loss and the impact this is having on your life and your children?

Do you long to connect with others who have experienced a similar loss?

Are you unsure of how to assist your children through their grief? Would you like support as you deal with your changed circumstances?

We welcome you to our Monthly Support Group

VENUE: Institute for Mission, 1-5 Marion St, Blacktown DATE: 3rd Tuesday of each Month (Feb –Dec)

TIME: 7.00pm – 9.00pm

COST: \$5.00

REGISTRATION
Solo Parent Services
PHONE: Rita – 8822 2222
EMAIL: soloparentservices@ccss.org.au



Director of the Family and Life Office will speak on the Pope Francis apostolic exhortation The Joy of Love (Amoris Laetitia)'

FRIDAY 26 AUGUST

St Paul the Apostle Parish, 40 Buckleys Rd, Winston Hills. Commencing at 7.30pm and concluding with a light supper.

Register attendance by emailing marriage@ccss.org.au or phone Lyn (02) 8822 2222





Visit WWW.CCSS.org.au 🕤 www.facebook.com/CCSSParramatta





Gateway Family Services

(An activity of Blaxland Uniting Church/ Uniting care)

& Connect Presents...



Circle of Security







Relationships make the world go around

The relationship between children and their parents/ caregivers plays a key role in promoting growth and development across all stages of their lives.

This 6 week program is for parents and caregivers with children aged from 0 – 12 years old.

Circle of Security assists parents to look beyond their child's behaviour & focuses on relationships that support children to feel secure in the world. Children who are secure have:

increased increased Empathy Self Esteem

Better Relationships Enhanced School Readiness

LOCATION: Heatherbrae

1 Benang Street, Lawson (across the road from the pub parking)

WHEN: Wednesday 24th August to 28th September 2016

REGISTRATION: Gateway Family Services 1300 316 746 (free call)



Gateway encourages, supports & respects diversity in families & communities. Our Groups are open to everyone







SPRINGWOOD

SPRINGWOOD CRICKET CLUB

Player Registrations

Player Registrations for Season 2016/17 are open and we welcome all new and returning players. Players wanted for: Milo In2Cricket - Ages 4 to 6 (Program Dates to be advised at a later date) Milo Blast - Ages 7 to 10 (Program Dates to be advised at a later date) Junior Teams for each age group from Under 8 to 16's. Senior Teams 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 7th and 8th. Please contact the club directly or for Junior Registrations: Matt Rogers — vpjuniors@springwoodcc.com.au or the Club Registrar: Michelle Williams — registrar@springwoodcc.com.au

Website: www.springwoodcc.com.au
Online Registrations can be made via the following url:
http://www.playcricket.com.au/club-finder/club-details?id=4678



SPRINGWOOD



ST THOMAS AQUINAS PRIMARY SCHOOL, SPRINGWOOD

A Catholic school committed to providing a comprehensive academic and extra curricula education including specialist learning and teaching in Physical Education, Music & Italian

ENROLLING NOW FOR 2017 GRADES KINDERGARTEN TO YEAR 6

Tours of school with the Principal available by appointment by phoning the school on 4754 2554

Contact the school for more information including a School Prospectus.

Email: StThomas@parra.catholic.edu.au
Website: www.staspringwood.catholic.edu.au





10 Ways to Strengthen your Marriage

An engaging discussion on practical ways to strengthen your marriage.

Date: Wednesday 21 September

Time: 7.30pm

Venue: St Thomas School Hall

Entry is free. A light supper will be served. Please register your attendance with Christine at the Parish by phoning 47541052.

10 WAYS TO STRENGTHEN YOUR MARRIAGE

All Parents are warmly invited to attend a **CatholicCare Social Services** presentation of its Marriage Enrichment Program entitled "10 Ways to Strengthen your Marriage". This evening will be held on Wednesday 21 September 2016 at the St Thomas Aquinas School hall commencing at 7.30pm. This interactive presentation will conclude by 9.00pm with a light supper. This event is free. Please register your attendance with Christine at the Parish office on 4754 1052.



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

School Zone Safety Information

As part of Blue Mountains City Council's Road Safety Program the following information is provided to promote awareness for all motorists and other road users when driving and parking around schools:



Important Reminders Re Parking and School Access

- Vehicles should only be parked in approved places. Parents are reminded that the No Standing/No Parking signs are positioned for significant safety reasons.
- The KISS & DROP area is only used for quick drop-off on school mornings. This is not a parking space.
- As signage clearly indicates the large double gate at the entrance of the school bus bay is <u>not a pedestrian access point at any time</u> - THIS IS A <u>SERIOUS</u> SAFETY ISSUE due to <u>HIGH VOLUME OF TRAFFIC in this grea!</u>
- Parents and visitors are reminded of the strict expectations to sign-in at the office before
 entering the school. <u>ALL</u> visitors are expected to be wearing a <u>VISITORS sticker</u> regardless of the
 length of time they intend being on site.



PARISH NEWS

Way of Mercy

In this Jubilee Year of Mercy, a large Cross and Relics are journeying around our Diocese, to schools, parishes and other selected venues from August to November. Our Parish has been selected to host the Mountains Deanery event for the Way of Mercy Cross on the weekend of 5 & 6 November. At this time people from Blackheath, Katoomba and Lawson parishes will join with us to acknowledge the Year of Mercy in a unique way. The Way of Mercy office is seeking special mercy representatives and enthusiastic people to be part of the travelling team and/or offer their gifts of prayer, music and faith sharing. Please phone (02) 9831 48911 or send an email to pastoralplanning@parra.catholic.org.au if you are able to help. For further information about the Way of Mercy visit the Diocesan website at http://www.mercyhasaface.org.au

Confirmation



Receiving confirmation is like receiving a special grace by which our faith is deepened and strengthened so that it will be strong enough not only for our own needs but for the needs of others with whom we shall try to share it. This special occasion will take place with many of our Year 6 students on Monday 12 September commencing at 7.00pm. We wish God's blessings to each of those children who are undertaking this beautiful spiritual journey.

DIARY DATES

	Manday 0	School Band
	Monday 8	30.130. 24.14
2016	August	12.30pm Assembly – Feast of St Mary of the Cross 3.40pm Leadership Meeting
	9	Voice of Youth for Year 6
TEDM 2	9	10.00 0. 100.01 0
TERM 3	10	3.40pm Staff Meeting 8.30-11.00am School Band
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Week 4		9.20am Parish Mass – Year 2 attending
		11.05am Principals Morning Tea Nepean Zone Athletics – selected students
-	11	8.30am Staff Prayer
		0.30dili Stali Playei
-	12	44.00
	Sunday 14	11.00am Vietnam Veterans Day March
	August	
Week 5	Monday 15	School Band
	August	12.30pm Assembly – 3G presenting
		3.40pm Leadership Meeting
	16	3.40pm Staff Meeting
	17	8.30-11.00am School Band
		8.30am Staff Briefing
		9.20am Parish Mass – Year 5 attending
	18	8.30am Staff Prayer
	19	Year 6 Pilgrimage to Mary MacKillop Place & St Mary's Cathedral
Week 6	Monday 22	School Band
	August	12.30pm Assembly – 1D
		3.40pm Leadership Meeting
	23	Diocesan Netball Carnival – selected students
		3.40pm Staff Meeting
	24	8.30-11.00am School Band
		8.30am Staff Briefing
		9.20am Parish Mass – Kindergarten attending
	25	8.30am Staff Prayer
	26	Diocesan Athletics – selected students

Sent Home Recently:

- Whooping Cough Notice (salmon)
- Seasons Grief Education Program Note
- Kindergarten Calmsley Hill Farm Excursion Note
- Royce Simmons & Greg Alexander Rugby Competition Postponement note selected students
- New Royce Simmons & Greg Alexander Rugby Permission Note (re 11 August) selected students
- New Royce Simmons & Greg Alexander Rugby Training selected students
- Head Lice Note to Year 4
- Staff Sick Leave Announcement to 3S (lilac)
- Sports Carnival Information for Families (orange)
- Jeans for Genes Day Note (blue)
- Musica Viva Video Permission Note Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2
- Nepean Zone Athletics Carnival Permission Note selected students
- Year 6 Mary MacKillop Place Excursion Note
- Vietnam Veterans' and Associated Forces Memorial Day Service (yellow)



