

NEWSLETTER

No. 5 Date 26/05/2015 Week 6 Term 2

Dear St Thomas Aquinas Families,

Year 6 Camp to Vision Valley

In Week 4 I had the great joy of joining our Year 6 students and their teachers on a 3-day camp retreat at Vision Valley.

Year 6 Camp is an important rite of passage for our students in the final year of their primary school journey. It provides a wonderful shared experience - a time for growth, for moving out of comfort zones and for appreciating peers with new eyes.

Camp is ultimately about strengthening relationships - with each another, with teachers and with Christ.

We can all take pride in knowing that the students who comprise this year's Year 6 were outstanding whilst away and distinguished themselves as an, engaging, appreciative and positive group of young people. Their conduct and thoughtful participation in all aspects of camp is to be commended. It was also heartening to receive generous feedback from the staff of Vision Valley who commented unanimously on our children's courtesy, enthusiasm and spirit.

One measure of the benefit of the camp is exemplified in the thoughtful reflections by students since returning to school. Many students have commented not simply on the activities and fun aspects of the experience but on their appreciation for others and a new awareness of other students who they now know better.

The varied activities which included archery, canoeing, flying fox, leap of faith, rock climbing, abseiling, giants ladder, crate stack, camp fire, trivia and wacky olympics all served to enable the students to better collaborate with each other.

Taking groups of students away on extended, overnight excursions is a significant undertaking and one with considerable responsibility and demands. Our gratitude is extended to the teachers - Kate Mackenzie, Virginia Fortunat, James Costigan, Karen Bousfield for their thorough organization, supervision and dedication to their students.

Our thanks to Daniel Turner (parent of William 6F) for his valuable assistance during the 3 days.

Thank you to each family for enabling your child to participate in this unique and worthwhile learning experience.

Camp is ultimately about strengthening relationships - with each another, with teachers & with Christ.



ST THOMAS AQUINAS
NEWS

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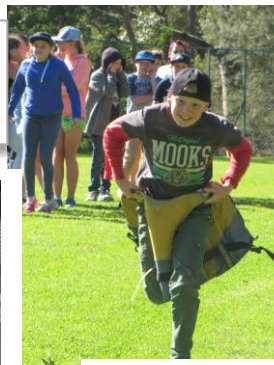
w: www.staspringwood.catholic.edu.au

Parish Priest:
Father Paul Slyney

p: 02 4754 1052



**Year 6 Camp
2015**



Until next time,

S Rosato

Sergio Rosato
Principal

Love one another

Year 6 Camp Comments

I have become a better person from camp because I now appreciate what people do for me and I also encourage people more. **Eamonn Luchetti, 6M**

Our teachers are: fun, funny, heart-giving, competitive and great at singing. **Alex Wydmuch, 6M**

Teamwork is important because without teamwork we would be nowhere. We need teamwork so that we can build, create and invent. **Goran Zunic, 6M**

Skills and traits that I have learned at camp are to never be afraid to do my best or to try new things. **Ben Tracey, 6M**



In **6F** we are learning about Personification. We wrote poems using items from camp as inspiration for our poems:

The fire danced around me.
The stars winked at me.
Roast, the duck, stole our food.
Elanor Williams



The fire chuckled like a clown.
The helmet pinched me like a cheeky brother.
The canoes races through the water like Usain Bolt.
Ellie Watson

My Heart was screaming as I jumped
off the power fan pole.
The canoe was fighting against the water.
Lilly Burke

The cabin protected the children like
a rib-cage protecting organs
Christopher Collis

(More comments will be included in our next Update/Newsletter)



Sister Monica in Port Pirie South Australia

In 1890 the Sisters of the Good Samaritan established a community in Port Pirie – 1000 miles by train from the mother house at St Scholastica's, Glebe Point in Sydney and the first foundation beyond the borders of New South Wales. The new convent was blessed and opened on 23 May 1890 and the sisters lived there until 1988 when they moved to The Terrace, which continues to be the centre of Good Samaritan presence in town.

Within a matter of days after their arrival, records tell us the sisters and lay colleagues "were teaching over one hundred children and enduring the intense heat." Alongside teaching, the Sisters of the Good Samaritan have always undertaken a pastoral role in the parish and surrounding district. Over the years more than 300 Good Samaritans have provided their ministry in the diocese of Port Pirie including our own Sister Monica who served that community for a decade.

Last week Sister Monica returned to South Australia to join Parishioners and former colleagues from Port Pirie as they celebrated 125 years of the Good Samaritans presence in that community.

We wish Monica well on her journey and for the reunion celebration that has been planned. Sister Monica will be back in the Mountains later this week.



Kindergarten 2016 Enrolments and Tours of Our School

This month we have been hosting tours of our school coinciding with the official enrolment period. These tours have provided families with an opportunity to witness the learning and teaching that typically occurs each day. We have had many families come through the school during the course of the month and many have fed back very positive comments based on their impressions from their visits.

A reminder that first round enrolment places for Kindergarten 2016 are now being accepted. Interviews will be conducted late in June. First round offers will be communicated to families once interviews have concluded.

The remaining Open Day Tours are as follows: Thursday 28 May - 2.15pm to 3.00pm and Friday 29 May - 9.15am to 10.00am.

If you have not already returned your enrolment form, please do so as soon as possible as demand for places appears strong for 2016.

Student Awards

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



Week 5

Eliza Barr	Macaulay Down	Giulietta Kistan	Chelsea Muller
Alice Bauerhuit	Penelope Edmonds	Bridie Le Breton	Abby Oag
Cisco Borbely	Katelyn Ellis	Jack Leahey	Ethan Sophokleous
Kian Brown	Gus Forbutt	Brianna Leehy	Oscar Stone
Ferris Carey	Benjamin Gomez	Emily Leehy	William Turner
Deanna Caristo	Hannah Green	Oliver Ligteringen	Genevieve Wakeling
Zachary Carvasiglia	Thomas Grodzicki	Maxwell Lovric	Hayden Willingham
Draedyn Chevor	Lucy Hall	Eamonn Luchetti	Saffi Wilson
Mia Cini	Daniel Hampson	Aemon Marshall	Sarah Wilson
Ruanii Claudino	Harry Hicks	Ivan Mayorchak	Ryan Woods
Brianna Collins	Liam Hicks	Sophia Minale	Olivia Young
Cem Damarguc	Evie Hodgins	Patrick Moore	Darian Zunic

Love One Another Award

Congratulations to Harry Watson (4C) who received a Love One Another Award at our weekly School Assembly for living out the school motto. Well done Harry!



Pentecost

Yesterday we came together as a community to celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit into the world and the beginning of the Church on the day of Pentecost. The liturgy provided an opportunity to thank God for His gift of the Holy Spirit in our lives, the same Spirit that filled the disciples as they huddled frightened and uncertain in the upper room more than 2000 years ago.

It was wonderful seeing so many present. Thank you to the teachers and students for their thoughtful and creative preparation for the celebration.

As the scripture readings for this event proclaim the coming of the Holy Spirit changed everything. It filled the original followers of Jesus with spiritual gifts that transformed them from timid individuals to people who were prepared to get up and go forward with love and courage to serve. This same Holy Spirit has been breathed into us at birth and is strengthened sacramentally through our lives.

The Spirit's presence can often be hard to comprehend and recognise. The challenge is working out where it is leading us. For this we can rely on the Gifts of the Spirit – Wisdom, Knowledge, Courage, Understanding, Right Judgement, Reverence, Awe and Wonder to discern what is true, good and important in our lives.

The first gift of the Holy Spirit is wisdom. This wisdom is the grace of being able to think like Christ, act like Him and love like Him. Often we see things as we want to see them. Wisdom is what the Holy Spirit does within us.

St Ignatius had a simple and practical 7 point guide for working out how we can tell if and where the Holy Spirit is present.

Often we see things as we want to see them. Wisdom is what the Holy Spirit does within us.

WISDOM

1. Don't make a **decision** when you're down. Let the crisis pass and take time to weigh all the options.
2. The Holy Spirit enables us to let go of our unhealed past and not live in the unknown future. The Holy Spirit draws us to deal with the **here and now**, as it is, not as we may like it to be.
3. The Holy Spirit frees us up to bring out into the open anything we keep buried in the dark. There is nothing that has ever happened to us that is beyond the **Spirit's healing**.
4. The Holy Spirit breaks down isolation and draws us into **community** with other people.
5. Be careful of things that **appear too perfect**, they sometimes have a sting in the tail and can be destructive.
6. Be guarded about all things that are **urgent**. The Holy Spirit brings a sense of perspective to problems.
7. The Holy Spirit is always present where **compassion** and forgiveness are demonstrated.

New Automated Attendance Register Procedures

As recently informed via our school app we now have a new automated way of registering students who arrive late or leave school early.

- ❖ **Late Arrivals:** all parent/carers & students arriving at school after the bell are required to go to the office for the partial absence to be recorded on our electronic rolls. Green notes will no longer be used.
- ❖ **Early Leavers:** parents/carers are required to report to the office in this instance.

love one another

Student Safety on School Site

As we approach the mid-point of this term it is worth reinforcing and clarifying afternoon dismissal procedures as they are intended to ensure the safety of students in a high volume traffic area.

All students Kindergarten to Year 6 are supervised by teachers to the 3 main dispersal areas each afternoon. These 3 dispersal areas are:

1. Student Bus Lines

Students sit in bus lines under the school shelter. Each bus number is announced via PA and children are supervised onto each bus by 1 of 3 bus duty teachers.

2. Students Walking or Riding Bicycles

These students are dismissed by their class teacher and proceed via the designated path behind STARS/Year 2 rooms and follow this route adjacent to the church onto Hawkesbury Road footpath. For safety reasons students are not to use any other route to get to Hawkesbury Rd e.g. down Columba's Drive.

3. Students Collected by Parents/Carers

- Students are accompanied by their teachers to the parent pick up area and need to be collected by parents/carers personally.
- All students should be directly accompanied to the church car park or any other area on the site by a parent/carer. It is safe practice for younger children to be holding an adult's hand whilst walking to cars.
- The practice of having children wait for parents on kerbs adjacent to the car park is potentially dangerous – regardless of age.
- Students should not be playing on any of the areas near the pick-up staff car park, the garden with the plinth or church car park even under parent supervision.

Thank you for your support of this important safety matter.

Animals on the school site

Please be aware that animals should not be brought on to the school site in order to ensure the safety of all. The only exception is if a pet is brought in for educational purposes. Prior arrangements for the animal visit needs to be made with the principal.

Captivate Tickets

For tickets to the Captivate Drama on Friday 12 June (Year 3) and Captivate Choir on Tuesday 16 June and Thursday 18 June (Senior Choir) please go to www.trybooking.com/HNSX

DIARY DATES

2015 TERM 2 Week 6	Monday 25 May	12.30pm Pentecost Liturgy 3.40pm Leadership Meeting
	26	3.40pm Staff Meeting
	27	Stage 3 Boys Soccer – selected students Stage 3 Girls AFL – selected students
	28	8.30am Staff Prayer 2.15pm Open Day Tour for Prospective Families
	29	9.15am Open Day Tour for Prospective Families Kindergarten 2016 Enrolment Applications Due
	Monday 1 June	12.30pm Assembly – 6C presenting 3.40pm Leadership Meeting
Week 7	2	3.40pm Staff Meeting
	3	8.30am Staff Briefing Parish Mass – Year 5 attending
	4	8.30am Staff Prayer
	5	
	Long Weekend	Sunday 7 June First Eucharist



Scan with your smartphone or tablet for more information.
www.stspringwood.catholic.edu.au

COMMUNITY NEWS

HIGH TEA – a fundraising initiative for the Adam Crouch Foundation: Join Charlotte Smith, ambassador for the Adam Crouch Foundation, owner of The Darnell Collection and author of *Dreaming of Chanel* and *Dreaming of Dior* as she showcases her magnificent collection of poolside glamour. Watch the spectacular catwalk parade, whilst dining on a delicious high tea of sandwiches, warm savouries, macaroons, warm scones, tea and coffee. **Venue:** The Grand Dining Room, The Carrington Hotel, 15-47 Katoomba Street, Katoomba. **Date:** Sunday 14 June 2015. **Time:** 1.30pm. **Tickets:** \$70.00 per person. Lucky door prizes and raffle drawn on the day. Champagne on arrival. Tables of 8 or 10 available. For tickets please contact Kelly Jones on 0412 510 148.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter: Keep the chill out of your relationship this winter with a weekend together. A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend is a Marriage Enrichment experience – set in peaceful, picturesque surroundings, away from the distractions of everyday life. During the weekend, couples have a unique opportunity to reconnect, rekindle and refresh their relationship. Give the greatest gift, that of your time alone - invest in your most precious asset . . . your Marriage! **2015 Weekend Dates:** 19-21 June, 11-13 September, 13-15 November. **Venue for Weekends:** Mount Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW. To apply contact: Ardell & Bill Sharpe. **For enquiries and bookings:** Telephone (02) 4283 3435 or email wsharpe@bigpond.net.au or visit www.wvme.org.au www.facebook.com/WVMEasternUnit

Sent Home Recently:

- Captivate Drama Showcase Permission Note – selected students
- Inter-school Chess Permission Note – selected students
- Wakakirri Ticket Order Form – selected students (pink)
- Pentecost Liturgy Invitation (gold)
- Chicken Pox Alert (orange)

Love one another