



## Every Student, Every Day at STA

Our School Attendance Goal for 2017 is 90%.

Our current School Attendance is 86%.

### Our 2017 School Learning Goals

- \* All students will deepen their understanding of Christian **scripture**.
- \* All students will improve the quality of their **writing**.
- \* All students will improve their **problem-solving** skills.

# NEWSLETTER

No. 6 Date: 01/06/2017 Week 6 Term 2

Dear St Thomas Aquinas Families,

This Sunday marks the great feast of Pentecost. This feast is celebrated around 50 days after Easter (pentecostos is the Greek word for fiftieth). It carries on the Jewish feast of Pentecost which occurred fifty days after Passover. The liturgical colour is strikingly red signalling the symbols of this feast.

In the Anglican tradition this day was called Whitsunday (White Sunday) named after the garments worn by candidates for confirmation. Interestingly, the island chain to our north known as the Whitsundays were named by Captain Cook after he sailed through these on the feast of Pentecost.

In this Sunday's Gospel St Luke provides us with an amazing narrative that signals that Pentecost was a real spiritual awakening in the lives of the first Christians. This awakening led above all to determination and action. The coming of the Holy Spirit was a game changer.

Pentecost reminds us how the disciples, inspired and filled with the Holy Spirit, were fired with enthusiasm and a sense of purpose to live out and bring the good news about Jesus to as many people as possible. St Luke's narrative tells the sensory drama of the event by describing a sound like the rush of violent wind together with the appearance of tongues of fire that rested on each of those present in the room. The tongues are symbolic of the call to speak out the good news. The sensory power of the images conveys the twin tangible realities of the Holy Spirit:

- The Spirit fills and animates the disciples and
- They are in turn empowered to spread the message of Christ to peoples of all cultures speaking many different languages.

The other element of Pentecost is the naming of the gifts of the Spirit in each individual. St Paul points out that every person in the community has unique gifts inspired by the Spirit and that there is not only benefit in their recognition but that these gifts ought to be exercised ultimately for the good of the entire group. He goes on to point out that while there are a variety of gifts there is only one Spirit of God that works in us and through us. These gifts in turn inspire each of us to improve and to offer our gifts in service of others in our community.

The feast of Pentecost signals the birthday of the universal Church on earth. The marking of this feast is not just a recollection of an historical event but one that remains alive and active in all those who carry love, joy, compassion, service and forgiveness in their hearts, minds and actions.

We will come together as a school community **this coming Monday at 12.35pm** to celebrate this feast – **all are most welcome to attend.**

Until next time,

*S Rosato*

Sergio Rosato  
Principal



## The coming of the Holy Spirit was a game changer.



### STA Walkathon – “Walking in Winmalee”

Our Walkathon is now a fortnight away. Today we held a short school assembly to encourage the great work that students and families are doing in support of this initiative. Our goal for this fundraiser is to bulk purchase Chromebook laptops as learning resources for student use in the classroom as well as literature for students. We will continue to hold weekly Walkathon assemblies in the lead up to the day. At these assemblies we are also holding incentive prize raffles as reward for effort in this area. We look forward to a great Walkathon enabling us to purchase great learning resources.

*love one another*

a: 168 Hawkesbury Rd Springwood 2777 | p: 02 4754 2554 | f: 02 4754 3562

www.stthomas.parra.catholic.edu.au | Parish Priest: Father Paul Slyney

## FUN'RAISING and FUNDRAISING

Dear Parents, Guardians and Carers,

Last Wednesday night a group of very motivated mums met to discuss Fundraising at STA for 2017. The first event was the Mothers' Day Stall and it was very successful. We raised \$2800 which will enable us to organise some other events next term. A very big thank you to the ladies who organised the gift wrapping and set up of the stall and to those who helped on the day. Also, at the meeting last Wednesday night we were able to set out a calendar of Fundraising events for the year. These will be in the form of a main fundraiser for the term and a smaller fun activity with the emphasis on family, friendship and fun and one event in support for an outside organisation. The events that we will have at STA for 2017 are: **Term 2** – Mothers' Day Stall, Walkathon - organised by the staff; **Term 3** – Fathers' Day Trivia Night; **Term 4** – Santa Photos, Bush Dance.

Other events that will be part of the fun will be Mufti Days – **Gold Coin Donation Events** for a Charity or organisation with various themes. These may include: **Crazy Hair Day**, **Favourite Sports Team Day** and **Silly Sock Day**. We also hope to have some events where the emphasis is on Family, Fun and Friendship. These events will be: **Movie Nights** (there will be one at the end of this term - more info next week), **Grandparents Day**, **Book Week Parade** and **Sports Carnival**.

These events will need to be organised. Some will have minimal organisation and other events will need lots of organisation. Teams will be formed from the Fun'raising Group to help with the smooth running of these events.

### Clean Up

Next Monday from 1.30pm there will be a gathering to clean out the storeroom so we can store items for up and coming events. All volunteers will need to sign in at the office and then proceed to the old canteen just past the Library on the left. Hope to see you there. **Mary Clark, Assistant Principal**

### School Performance Tours - Too Cool For Bullies

Yesterday at St Thomas Aquinas, we had a very skilled and animated performer called Stef, from School Performance Tours. The Show was called "Too Cool for Bullies" and through drama, Stef was able to explain to the children what you can do if you feel that you are being bullied. Resilience and persistence were emphasised during the show along with the phrases: **If you are being bullied - it's not your fault but there are things you need to do. Be strong not violent. It's not just what you say but the way that you say it.** While the topic is serious, *Too Cool for Bullies* was full of laughs, bright colourful puppets, props and sets. Stef had a number of truly mind baffling illusions to captivate all students' attention and reinforce a powerful message.

### Principal's Morning Tea for Effort in Learning

On Wednesday 17 May the following students, nominated by their teachers, attended the Principal's Morning Tea for their consistent effort in all areas of their learning. **Congratulations and well done** to you all!



Oscar Baltins	Loralei Heape-Wright	Bridie Le Breton	Elizabeth Mulhall	Mark Rubelj
Chloe Blattman	Evie Hodgins	Taj Leathers	Lachlan Newport	Darcy Ryan
Isabella Bonnici	Harrison Iles	Melissa Lee	Grace O'Brien	Noah Samoluk
Kian Brown	Molly Jones	Seth Loughton	Jacob Palmer	Bridie Shingles
Anabel Caristo	Alexander Kerkham	Aiden Machon	Amelia Peake	Aidan Wade-Ferrell
Oliver Carr	Sophie Kerrison	Lachlan McAlpine	Olivia Prior	Saffi Wilson
Lilly Chalice	Joe Kitching	Mikayla Mercieca	Cherinda Rawlings	Andrew Young
Zachary Chapman				
Ashton Davies				
Patrick Dawson				
Claire Deben				
Cooper Donohue				
Noah Edwards				
Evie Hale				
Thomas Harris				
Benjamin Harrison				
Charlotte Harrison				
Kate Harrison				
Luke Harrison				
Finton Hazell				



### School Fees

School Fees for Term Two are now due. To avoid the Catholic Education Office sending out any reminders can you please finalise your fees as soon as possible. If you are having difficulties paying the school fees please do not hesitate to contact me to organise a payment arrangement or to discuss the options that are available to you.

**Cheree Brown, School Finance Secretary**

### School Banking

Commonwealth Bank have introduced a new CommBank Youth app. The new app is a fun way to learn saving skills and enhance students' school banking experience. With the app the children can:

- \* Check the balance of their Youthsaver account
- \* Set up saving goals and monitor their progress
- \* View School Banking deposits in their transaction history
- \* Create a list of chores they can do for pocket money
- \* Track the number of Dollarmite tokens they collect

The CommBank Youth app is now available to download from the App Store on any iOS device (version 8.0+). For more information visit [commbank.com.au/schoolbanking](http://commbank.com.au/schoolbanking).



## Student Awards

**Congratulations** to the following students, who received Merit Awards at the School Assemblies listed below. Well done on your efforts everyone – keep up the good work!



### Week 3, Term 2

Myles Albury  
Cindy Ambrozic  
David Anderson  
Paul Anderson  
Jackson Bagatella  
Harley Baker  
Noah Barr  
Madeline Blacklock  
Lillian Borg  
Jonathan Bradshaw  
Esme Brennan  
Lily Brosnan  
Emilia Buhs

Emily Burnett  
Ferris Carey  
Shayla Coburn  
Coopah Davies  
Billy Dean  
Emilie Dempsey  
Summer Faulkner  
Isla Field  
Max Friedland-Jaccoud  
Emilia Gosling  
Thomas Harris  
Finton Hazell

Prudence Lia  
Alex Lopez  
Eliza Manners  
Lachlan McAlpine  
Tom McGrath  
Ella Mecham  
Chelsea Muller  
Sunnee Murtikos  
Keyuri Naidoo  
Nicholas Neil  
Aidan O'Brien  
Bethany Paul  
Payton Hensen

Trinity Power  
Mae Price  
Annabelle Priest  
Charlie Reid  
Grace Ryan  
Eli Schroeder  
Patrick Seymour  
Julian Syпка  
Jacob Tan  
Will Ticehurst  
Sophia Veira  
Tyler Walker

### Week 4, Term 2

Annika Adorini  
Abbigail Ballard  
Zachary Batcock  
Lucas Brown  
Jacob Burnett  
Enrique Caraballo  
Ferris Carey  
Ysobel Chalice  
Liam Costigan  
Lincoln Croft  
Olivia Cummings  
Xavier Curley

Sienna Curley  
Audrey Davis  
Harriet Davis  
Neive DeBono  
Sienna Evans  
William Ghata  
Jake Gordon  
Eadi Hazell  
Liam Hicks  
Payten Holmes  
Willow Hookings  
Erin Hutchinson

Alexander Kerkham  
Edward Kerrison  
Archie Lamont  
Odette Laurent  
Sienna Mathew  
Kate McIlveen  
Patrick Moore  
Taya Moore  
Gela Moss  
Elyse Peat  
Dmitry Pochukaev  
Vienna Reynolds

Hamish Richards  
Mackenzie Seymour  
Jessica Sharp  
Hugo Strickland  
Lilli Thompson  
Isabel Van Meeuwen  
Tristan Wade-Ferrell  
Lara Wallace  
Jack Waters  
Madison Williams  
Megie Williamson  
Amy Withers

### Week 5, Term 2

Ryder Astle  
Miles Barker  
Imogen Carvasiglia  
Alannah Collins  
Ashley Crighton  
Makayla Crouch  
Abigail Croucher  
Jacob Danks  
Claire Debieen  
Charlotte DeBono

Britney Dorman  
Leonie Ellis  
Callum Gibbons  
Jade Gordon  
Benjamin Hinley  
Pepper Hughes  
Michael Ingram  
Emily Jones  
Alexander Kerkham  
Hayley Kime

Levi Kirkpatrick  
Abigail Krishna  
Patrick Moore  
William Moore  
Olivia Morrissey  
Abbey Murphy  
Bailey Nugent  
Jacob Palmer  
Zoe Papasotiriou  
Luke Pospischil

Owen Riddell  
Casey Ryan  
Isabella Smith  
Amelia Synnott  
Benjamin Synnott  
Antonio Todarello  
Nicholas Towell  
Delilah Valle  
William Wright

## Diocesan Cross Country - omission

The Diocesan Cross Country Competition was held at Eastern Creek on Tuesday 2 May. In our last Newsletter we published the names of students who gained a place in their respective races. We would also like to congratulate Jessica Gomez who finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in her event. We apologise for this omission.

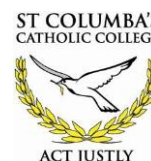


## Kindergarten 2018 Enrolment

Over the last month we have been hosting regular tours of our school coinciding with the official enrolment period. These tours have provided many families with the opportunity to view the learning and teaching environment that typically occurs each day. We have had many families come through the school during the course of the month. Please inform family and friends that **Kindergarten 2018 applications are now due**. Interviews for first round places will be conducted later in June. Enrolment places in Grades 1-6 are also being processed. Enrolment packs are available by contacting the school office on 4754 2554 or by email enquiry to [stthomas@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:stthomas@parra.catholic.edu.au). Late enrolments will be considered if vacancies exist. *No student will be refused enrolment because of a family's genuine inability to pay fees.*

## Year 7 2018 Enrolments for St Columba's Catholic College

A reminder that enrolment applications for Year 7, 2018 at St Columba's Catholic College are now due. For further information contact the Enrolment Secretary, Mrs Sandra O'Brien, on 4754 8900.



## Wakakirri

Dear Families,

This year our school is performing in the Wakakirri Creative Arts Competition in August. We are appealing for some specific items to assist us in recreating our story based on the life of Deng Adut and we are hoping that our community can help. Please contact Mrs Deb Breytenbach or Mrs Michelle Nightingale if you are able to assist us with the following items: **camouflage netting, cow costumes** (we need 3 – 4), **assistance in painting scenery** and also **simple sewing**. Thank you.

**Michelle Nightingale**

*love one another*

## St Columba's Catholic College Missioning



On Wednesday Year 10 students from St Columba's Catholic College visited our school to teach a Religious Education lesson. As part of their Religious Education program the high school students are required to prepare and share a specific lesson with a small group of primary students from our school.

This tradition of *missioning* has taken place for many years between the two schools and continues to provide a wonderful opportunity for students to learn from each other. It was lovely to move amongst the students of various ages spread out right across our school and hear them discussing aspects of faith. Thank you to the Year 10 students for their preparation and care. Thank you also to their Principal Paul Ryan, Mr Mark Sattler (REC) and the Year 10 teaching staff for facilitating this most worthwhile experience.



## New School Signage

Visitors to our school will notice the inclusion of a series of beautiful new signage at our school. In keeping with our environment the signage is visually based on native Australian animals. The new signage serves to remind children of safety expectations before school eg. 8am-8.35am students are required to sit under the school shelter. At 8.35am-9.05am students are permitted to walk and talk whilst under the shelter. The signs use print and visuals in the form of a shaded clock to reinforce these expectations.

There are also a number of signs along walkways to remind students that these areas are WALK ONLY areas. There are also new directional signs to the school office/library, school crest and motto on our hall lectern and the school motto, Love One Another, across the bulkhead above the stage in the hall. We thank Lotza Signs for their creativity and care with these new sign designs.

## DIARY DATES

<b>2017</b>  <b>TERM 2</b>  <b>Week 7</b>	<b>Monday 5 June</b>	9.05am Cuppa & Chat – in the Hall School Band <b>12.35pm Pentecost Liturgy</b> 3.40pm School Leadership Meeting
	<b>6</b>	School Band 3.40pm Staff Meeting
	<b>7</b>	8.30am Staff Briefing School Band 9.20am Parish Mass – Year 6 attending
	<b>8</b>	8.30am Staff Prayer Stage 3 Boys Soccer – selected students
	<b>9</b>	
<b>Week 8</b>	<b>Monday 12 June</b>	<b>QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY</b>
	<b>13</b>	School Band 3.40pm Staff Meeting
	<b>14</b>	8.30am Staff Briefing School Band 9.20am Parish Mass – Year 1 attending
	<b>15</b>	8.30am Staff Prayer
	<b>16</b>	<b>SCHOOL WALKATHON</b>

## COMMUNITY NOTICES

**Seminar - Dealing with the Legal System:** Each year Solo Parent Services offer a Seminar for anyone interested in gaining a greater understanding on how the Legal system works. Questions addressed on the night include: How to choose the best lawyer for your situation, how best to deal with Lawyers so as to minimize your legal fees, how to protect your rights regarding family assets and Estates/Wills. This seminar will be held on **Tuesday 13 June. Venue: 38 Prince St, Blacktown (cnr First Ave).** Presenter: Mr Richard Brading, (Solicitor). **Time: 6.45pm for a 7pm Start to 9pm.** Registration Essential: **Contact Rita - Ph: 8822 2222 or email: [soloparentservices@ccss.org.au](mailto:soloparentservices@ccss.org.au)**

**Blue Mountains Baseball and Softball Club – Summer Softball Registrations:** The club will be holding summer softball registrations on **1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays in July** at **Lomatia Park, Springwood** from **10.00am – 1.00pm** for Junior to Adult, Girls and Boys, Male/Female teams. Training is held at Lomatia Park, Springwood. All games are played on Saturdays at Surveyors Creek Softball Fields in Glenmore Park. **NEW Junior players** – please bring birth certificate (original and a copy). Check the website: [www.bluemountains.softball.org.au](http://www.bluemountains.softball.org.au)

## Sent Home Recently:

- Wakakiri Ticket Order Note (salmon)
- Walkathon Sponsor Card & Permission Note
- Year 2 Longneck Lagoon Excursion Permission Note
- Stage 3 Boys Diocesan Gala Day Permission Note – selected students
- Bus 6 Note to Parents – selected students
- Hand, Foot & Mouth Disease Alert (red)
- 4B Reschedule of Assembly Note (pink)
- Head Lice Note to Year 5
- Note to 4B re Mrs Bamford

*love one another*

