

NEWSLETTER

No. 7 Date 21/08/2015 Week 6 Term 3

Dear St Thomas Aquinas Families,

A vital way in which our school supports students and their families is through the vocation and work of Sister Monica Armstrong sgs. Recently Monica was recognised by being awarded the Diocesan Medal of Honour in recognition of her humble dedication in carrying out her ministry.

Sister Monica has been ministering within our school and Parish for 19 years of her 53 years of professed life. During this time she has lived in community at Windsor and now at Lawson.

Each morning Monica is present before school, catching up with students and parents as the school day commences. During the course of the year she systematically visits the homes of all new families to the school as well as re-visiting many other families through invitation. These simple but convivial home visits form a vital link between school, Parish, home and faith. Another of Sister Monica's important roles is to facilitate the Seasons for Growth Program in the school. This program is specifically for students who have experienced family separation or bereavement.

Sister Monica avails herself generously and is compassionate and gracious to all she encounters. The October 2013 bushfires in the Blue Mountains and journey to recovery has highlighted once again the privileged and special role that Sister Monica carries out in this community. Through her ministry, Sister Monica has been very involved in the recovery effort, supporting families who have lost their homes, receiving and distributing donated money and goods and being on hand to simply chat.

As one member of our community expressed recently:

Just like the Good Samaritan after whom the religious order is inspired, Sister Monica selflessly exemplifies the true essence of love, and indeed our school motto: Love One Another.

We find ourselves and our children motivated to follow her example of inclusive care and concern for each individual, in all the wider communities in which we live. It is through Sister Monica's living example of empathy, sharing and valuing the feelings and experiences of all in our St Thomas Aquinas School community, that we are poignantly reminded of the presence of God in our daily lives and we are forever grateful for His blessing.

We are immensely grateful for Monica's loving vocational dedication to all those in our school community – we give thanks to God for this gift. She is indeed a Sister of the Good Samaritan in name and action.

Congratulations Sister Monica – Good and faithful servant.

Until next time,

A Rosato

Sergio Rosato
Principal



DRESS-UP BOOK WEEK PARADE AND PICNIC

Friday 28 August at 12.45pm

To celebrate the 70th anniversary of Book Week we will be holding a special **Australian themed book character parade next Friday at 12.45pm** followed by a **BYO picnic** in the school grounds. Students are asked to come dressed as an Australian book character. Please BYO picnic lunch, chairs and rugs. Tea and coffee available. All welcome!



ST THOMAS AQUINAS NEWS

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Creative Arts – Wakakirri

After many weeks of dedicated practice our Wakakirri team is entering into the final week of preparation leading up to their performance next Tuesday, 25 August. This year our school item is based on the children's book by Bob Graham, *A Bus Called Heaven*.

As the story goes one morning a broken old bus appears, sad as a whale on the beach, right outside Stella's house. On the front of it, held up with tape, is a hand painted sign... "Heaven". For Stella, this decrepit old vehicle is special - this bus is "ours" - a place for everyone to be together: hold meetings, play games and share stories. But one day, the bus is towed away and Stella must fight to save not just the bus, but everything the community has worked so hard to create.

The aim of Wakakirri is story-telling through characterisation, drama, dance and music. Many rehearsals have taken place during school recess, lunch and in the holidays. In preparation for the night performance next Tuesday there will be a **dress rehearsal next Monday at Assembly (12.30pm)**.

We congratulate the students for their perseverance and talent and thank the teaching staff led by Michelle Nightingale and Karen Bousfield and assisted by Blanche Hortense, Berni Sierra, Beth Carrol and Virginia Fortunat for their outstanding work to prepare such an elaborate creative arts item.

love one another

Principal's Australian Pilgrimage

Recently I was privileged to be part of a pilgrimage with 23 other principals from the Diocese of Parramatta. These pilgrimages are part of our professional and spiritual development as principals. Ultimately pilgrimages are a sacred journey in faith where the destination is not always important.



The 13-day Australian-based journey was led by Father Walter Fogarty from Sacred Heart Parish, Westmead. Our odyssey followed in the footsteps of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop through Victoria and South Australia and then led us to travel to Alice Springs, Uluru, Kata Tjuta and included visiting some indigenous communities in Central Australia.

There were many personal highlights that I have shared already with the students and community including visiting St Mary's first school at Penola, her birth Parish (St Francis Church in Melbourne), The School of the Air in Alice Springs as well as visiting the St Teresa Mission Settlement, 90km

out of Alice Springs and the historical indigenous mission of Hermannsburg (birthplace of Albert Namijira).



Inspired by Father Walter's gentle leadership we experienced celebrating Mass in various locations including Uluru, Kata Tjuta, Penola, Alice Springs and Santa Teresa Mission. Another privilege on a personal level was to be invited to play music at a number of these Masses providing an unforgettable context for the music as prayer.



The time away with colleagues provided all of us an opportunity to learn by experience and to reflect on the spirituality of our country and the extraordinary Spirit-Inspired life and work of St Mary of the Cross. We were also able to meet many in our travels who carry on this mission today – in its cities, townships and in the isolated vastness of our continent.

During each Eucharist we offered a prayer acknowledging each of our individual communities that we had left behind. It also provided a time to reflect on and be nourished by the incredible clarity of St Mary's faith and wisdom distilled through her quotes for example:

- ◆ *When I could not see my way God kept my heart full of trust (1874)*
- ◆ *Remember we are but travellers here (1875)*
- ◆ *Be kind to the poor foreigners. Remember that I was a foreigner once, and as such was never laughed at, nor unkindly treated (1875)*
- ◆ *Have courage no matter what your crosses are (1890)*
- ◆ *We must teach more by example than by word (1867)*
- ◆ *We feel our crosses hard at times, but our courage should rise with them (1882)*
- ◆ *Enjoy yourself and be happy above all (1874)*
- ◆ *If we have love in our hearts, we shall have God with us (1890)*
- ◆ *Let us really love one another (1890)*

I thank the Diocese and the school community for the opportunity to take part in this faith-enriching experience. **Sergio Rosato**

NAPLAN 2015

NAPLAN results were given to students in Years 3 and 5 yesterday to bring home. The analysis of school results will be published shortly.

Vietnam Veterans Annual Parade and Memorial Service

Congratulations to our 22 student representatives from K-6 who attended the Vietnam Veterans and Associated Forces Annual Parade and Memorial Service on Sunday. On behalf of the veterans we thank you for giving of your time to honour their service.



School Photos and Temporary Change to Assembly – Week 8, Term 3

School Photos will take place on **Monday 31 August**, Week 8, Term 3. All students should have received their photo envelope which needs to be returned (with payment enclosed) to school as soon as possible unless parents are ordering online. Due to this event we will be holding our **Week 8 Assembly on Tuesday 1 September at 12.30pm** when **5H will present their Assembly item**. Please note that this change is only for Week 8 and normal Monday Assembly will resume the following week.



Student Awards

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



Week 4

Luke Arnold	Ellen Glasson	Declan Klukow-Leavey	Lachlan Roberts
Cameron Barr	Lachlan Golby	Kiahna Koustonikolis	Larraine Santos
Emma Brickwood	Jade Gordon	Ryan May	Lucas Sawyer
Cooper Brown	Mia Grodzicki	Kate McIlveen	Amelia Synnott
Lucy Brown	Jeremy Harris	Ashton McLeod	Baiden Tom
Deanna Caristo	Matthew Hill	David McMaster	Demir Vassallo
Zoe Cini	Kyle Hodges	Paige Noonan-Michels	Ellis Watson
Amelia Crouch	Audrey Hodgins	Amelia Peake	Mackenzie Williams
Joshua Croucher	Isaac Hutchinson	Ryan Perryman	Cameron Winfield
Aden Cullinane	Erin Hutchinson	Sasha Pyle	Matilda Worrall
Cameron Dempsey	Harrison Iles	Siobhan Rafter	Olivia Young
Harry Ghata	Elizabeth Kerkham	William Rayner	

Week 5

Ethan Banks	Ezra Forsyth	Sean Konwerski	Taleah Rust
Patrick Bourke	Audrey Gauci	Thomas Larkin	Grace Ryan
Isabella Bridge	Samuel Graham	Seth Loughton	Anastasia Sawyer
Elysia Burchall	Daniel Hampson	Eamonn Luchetti	Oliver Scurr
Enrique Caraballa	Connor Harvey	Macklin Miall	Bronte Tracey
Georgina Carter	Payten Holmes	Rose Miall	Harry Watson
Zachary Carvasiglia	Willow Hookings	Samuel Moore	Chelsea Willingham
Rebecca Collis	Ella Hoppe	Tess Morris	Hayden Willingham
Charlotte Croft	Sebastian Jamnicky	Angelika Okladnikov	Daniel Woods
Macauley Down	Levi Kirkpatrick	Charlotte Owen	Goran Zunic
Summer Faulkner	Chloe Kitching	Abigail Richards	

Week 6

Jackson Bagatella	Shayla Coburn	James Hinchliff	Thomas Rizzuti
Montana Barry	Chloe Corbett	Benjamin Hinley	Mia Rodemark
Ayla Bogg	Ashley Crighton	Ronan Hurley	Noah Samoluk
Isabella Bonnici	Sam Crook	Talyka Kime	Ariella Smith
Skye Boyden	Alex Cullinane	Melissa Lee	Adam Springett
Lily Brosnan	Mitchell Cunningham	William Lister	Oscar Stone
Emily Burnett	Jessica D'Alessio	Zoe Long	Maria Todarello
Ferris Carey	Lillian Gosling	Jovina Manning	Oliver Toth
Mackenzie Carey	Emily Hall	Blake Mazurek	Kristof Trinajstic
Anabel Caristo	Charlotte Harris	Abbey Murphy	Hellena Vermuelen
Chiara Carlino	Eadi Hazell	Jett Murtikos	Tyler Walker
Louis Caruana	Kate Henderson	William Richardson	Alayna Williamson
Imogen Carvasiglia			

31st Annual Penrith Eisteddfod – Senior Choir

Each year the Eisteddfod provides a wonderful opportunity for students to compete in diverse creative arts opportunities. It provides participants an avenue to develop talents and to perform on stage with other groups. This year our senior choir, under the directorship of Viv Llewellyn and Leigha Wills, performed 2 choral pieces in the Welsh song category. The 2 pieces performed were entitled, *Counting the Goats* and *Si Hei Lwli Mabi*. We can feel immense pride in the beauty, clarity and technical perfection of the Senior Choir performance on the day.



Mathematics Parent Sessions

On Thursday of Weeks 3 and 5 we conducted numeracy parent meetings specifically for parents with students in Years K-2, but also attended by some parents with children in higher grades. The sessions, facilitated by our numeracy specialist teacher, Kathryn Cefai concentrated on demonstrating and practising simple, parent-friendly activities that can be carried out at home with children to help develop their mathematical skills and understandings.

Session 1 and 2 covered the areas of Counting and Place Value with the next two sessions focusing on activities involving Counting, Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication and Division. Parents are most welcome to attend the next sessions on **Thursday 27 August and Thursday 3 September commencing at 2.45pm** in the Numeracy space near Year 1. All parents including those who were not able to attend the first two sessions are very welcome to attend. Please sign-in at the Office.

Our aim in providing these learning sessions is to provide parents with simple but effective strategies that you can use with your children at home to further their numeracy development.

Love one another

Voice of Youth – Mountains Cluster Finals

Congratulations to Eamonn Luchetti, Isabella Valle and Patrick Wakeling who last week represented STA at the local finals of this Diocesan-wide speech context. Each of our 3 students presented excellent speeches and are commended for their efforts. Congratulations Eamonn (first place) & Isabella (runner up) on their achievement.

Principal's Morning Tea for Effort in Learning

On Thursday 43 students nominated by their teachers attended the Principal's Morning Tea for their consistent effort with their learning. During the morning tea celebration each student was asked to nominate and speak briefly about, a goal that they achieved or an area of learning that they have focused on during this term.



Listed below are some of the nominated areas that serve to reinforce and model high expectations towards learning in our students.

- | | | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| * Place value in numeracy | * collaboration | * Italian (vocabulary) | * narrative writing | * conversations |
| * multiplication tables | * persistence | * time management | * division | * writing |
| * comprehension | * structure of writing | * reading | * music | * spelling |
| * handwriting | * angles | * art | | |

Congratulations to each of these students for their effort.

Larissa An U
Annalise Blattman
Asher Bogg
Patrick Bourke
Lillian Burke
Ferris Carey
Antoinette Caristo
Chiara Carlino
Mia Cini
William Crighton
Jessica D'Alessio
Erin DeBono
Lachlan Dempsey
Penelope Edmonds
Luke Edwards
Gus Forbutt
Max Friedland-Jaccoud
Caitlin Graham
Zofia Hammond
Kate Henderson
Ebony Kent
Elizabeth Kerkham

Declan Klukow-Leavey
Prudence Lia
Isabelle Lockley
Alison Lovric
Amber Lovric
Aiden Machon
Lachlan McAlpine
Jake McSpadden

Rose Miall
Sophia Minale
Bailey Nugent
Nicolas Peat
Jacob Pospischil
Jack Reynolds
Mia Rodemark
Mark Rubelj

Noah Samoluk
Anastasia Sawyer
Preston Tom
Elanor Williams
Benjamin Williamson
Tom Withers
Lola Wyld
Olivia Young



2015 St Thomas Aquinas School Walkathon – Friday 11 September

Today, at a special assembly we are launching the 2015 St Thomas Aquinas School Walkathon – our major fundraiser for this year – to be held in Week 9 of this term, Friday 11 September. All students will be coming home with a **green information sheet and Sponsorship Card today**. Funds raised will be used to purchase additional iPads for student usage and to replace some outdated laptop computers. Our goal - \$25,000! Fantastic prizes to be won by students and classes raising the highest amount. We look forward to your continued generous support.

DIARY DATES

2015 TERM 3 Week 7	Monday 24 August	12.30pm Assembly – Wakakirri Dress Rehearsal Performance 3.40pm Leadership Meeting
	25	Wakakirri Rehearsal and Performance – Riverside Theatre Parramatta – selected students Penrith Cup Netball – selected students
	26	8.30am Staff Briefing 9.20am Parish Mass – Year 2 & K6A attending
	27	8.30am Staff Prayer 2.45-3.15pm Parent Maths Session 3
	28	12.45pm Book Week Parade and Magic Pudding Picnic
Week 8	Monday 31 August	SCHOOL PHOTOS – NO ASSEMBLY 3.40pm Leadership Meeting
	1 September	12.30pm Assembly – 5H presenting NB. Change of day this week only 3.40pm Staff Meeting
	2	9.20am Parish Mass – Year 1 attending Tennis Clinics for Years 3 & 4
	3	8.30am Staff Prayer Fathers' Day Stall
	4	Stage 2 Touch Football – selected students Tea towel Orders Due Back



Scan with your smartphone or tablet for more information.

www.stspringwood.catholic.edu.au

Sent Home Recently: • School Photo Envelope (1 per student)

• Book Week Parade note (jade green) • Walkathon Info Sheet & Sponsor Card (green)

Love one another