



NEWSLETTER

No. 8 Date: 18/11/2016 Week 6 Term 4

Dear St Thomas Aquinas Families,

In an address to Italian educators assembled in St Peter's Square Pope Francis expressed the following thoughts about education:

*"It's in school, where one learns truth, goodness and beauty". "It is where children learn the three languages that a mature person needs to know: the language of the **mind**, the language of the **heart**, and the language of the **hands**".*

Pope Francis then went on to say:

"This is why there are so many subjects (at school) — because development is the result of different elements that act together and stimulate intelligence, knowledge, the emotions, the body, and so on."

The Pontiff's words lead us to some essential truths about children and learning:

- That the first educators of children are their parents and their families
- School plays an important part in collaborating with parents and families in helping children to learn.

The Pope also underscored that all learning needs to be holistic and varied - involving mind, heart and body. Holistic learning seeks to develop children, academically, emotionally, socially and spiritually and.

In this newsletter we are able to recount some of the main events that have occurred recently at STA. Through these we can see examples of the varied learning opportunities that students have had to develop themselves as whole and unique children of God.

Mercy Cross Visit to STA

This year Pope Francis has called for a more merciful and inclusive Church in which we are all called to give consolation, forgiveness and understanding to those in need. In response to this Year of Mercy, the relics of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop and St Teresa of Kolkata accompanied by a Mercy Cross have been on a pilgrimage through the Diocese of Parramatta.

On Tuesday 1 November it was our turn as a school, to host the Cross and relics. The liturgy commenced with a procession from the Parish Church leading to the COLA and involved all students and staff. Through prayer, scripture, song, movement and veneration we were able to contemplate and gain a greater appreciation of Mercy that we all carry in our hearts.

We thank Joanne Toohey (REC) for her organisation of this memorable event and also the Year 6 students led by Virginia Fortunat for their striking and reflective interpretation during the liturgy.

Until next time,

S Rosato

Sergio Rosato
Principal

Remembrance Day

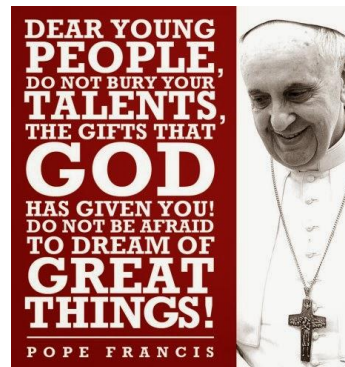
Remembrance Day in Australia is dedicated to Australians who died as a result of war, particularly from World War I onwards. Last Friday our school held a minute of silence as a sign of remembrance of all who gave their lives for our nation.

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Lest We Forget

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



Book Fair 2016

Last week we hosted our Annual Book Fair. The Book Fair provides a great opportunity for families to purchase high quality literature. The school is then able to use 20% of the proceeds to purchase books for our school library. We thank Karen Bousfield and Kerri Eisenhuth for their work in making this Book Fair possible and thank you to all families for your wonderful support in making it such a success.



Crazy Sock Day

Crazy Sock Day was held earlier this term to raise funds for the Catholic Mission project, 'Sock it to Poverty', to improve education for children in Cambodia. The students raised \$1050. Thank you for your generosity in donating to this worthwhile cause.



Italian Forum

On Wednesday 2 November, we held our annual Pizza Day for the children in Kindergarten. This day is scheduled as part of our Italian program. Visiting guest pizza chef Cristiano spoke and sang to the children about making and eating pizza, and showed them how to make their own which they did, with the help of six of our wonderful Kindy parents. The children were then able to eat the pizzas that they made. They thoroughly enjoyed Cristiano's presentation, and the pizzas!!



A huge thank you to the parents that helped on Wednesday and made the day such a success: Miriam Ticehurst, Felicity Koulouris, Toni-Maree Costigan, Rita Higuchi, Angelique Ashtyn-Smith and Christina Garvan. **Jenni Wurf, Teacher of Italian**



School Banking for 2016

Please note that the Commonwealth Bank has advised that if you would like to redeem your tokens for a reward you only have until Tuesday 29 November, 2016 to do so. This will also be the last day of banking for 2016. Thank you. **Deb Breytenbach, School Banking Coordinator**

Diocesan Gymnastics

Recently students from our school participated in the Annual Diocesan Gymnastics Competition at Rooty Hill RSL. This year the competition was divided into two conferences. We are very proud to announce that the St Thomas Aquinas team earned first place in the Gold Conference. This achievement was made possible by the contribution of every member of the gymnastics team. We sincerely thank Karen Bousfield (convenor), Robert Mullen, Karleen Hutchings and Nicole Pospischil for their work in supporting school gymnastics.



Assumption School Bathurst Band Visit

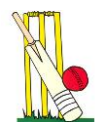
Last week our school hosted a visit from the Assumption School Bathurst Senior Band. The Assumption School has a long-held tradition of touring with their band and visiting schools "in the big smoke". This year they chose STA and Good Shepherd School, Plumpton as part of this experience.

The children from Bathurst arrived at STA at approximately 11am and were greeted by our students together with staff from the CEDP *Captivate* program. After some morning tea the students, comprising both bands, took part in a guided workshop. The workshop enabled all the band members to prepare for a combined band performance as a culmination to the day. In speaking with the students it was evident that they all found the experience both motivating and musically challenging.

We would like to thank the Principal and staff of the Assumption School Bathurst and the *Captivate* Team, Franciose D'Unienville, David Russell and Jade Tinker. Finally, thank you to all the students of our STA senior band for your continuing dedication to music.

Kindergarten Parent Information Evening

Last Thursday we hosted our Kindergarten Information Evening for families of children enrolled at STA in 2017. It is always a delight to meet new families joining our community and also to welcome back current families. **A reminder that the Kindergarten 2017 transition visits will occur on Thursday 24, Friday 25, Tuesday 29 and Wednesday 30 November, 2016.**



State Cricket Invitational Tournament

Recently our Girls' Cricket team qualified for the NSW All Schools Tournament. We are proud to announce that our team was placed 4th in NSW in this competition. We congratulate the students for their strong performance in this prestigious competition and thank David Conroy for his coordination of the team.

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Student Awards

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



Week 5

Ryan Andrews
Oscar Baltins
Ethan Banks
Jordan Banks
Cameron Barr
Lauren Beaton
Isabelle Blacklock
Lily Boersma
Isabella Bonnici
Emanuel Borg
Leo Borg
Kian Brown
Deanna Caristo

Jaiden Colburn
Alannah Collins
Brianna Collins
Grace Costigan
Samuel Crook
Ella Danks
Penelope Edmonds
Katelyn Ellis
Ruby Fuhrmann
Luca Goudis
Mathew Hall
Liam Hicks
Dylan King

Bridget Lloyd-Williams
Alex Lopez
Seth Loughton
Jovina Manning
Luke Mathew
Robert O'Brien
Jacob Palmer
Michael Papasotiriou
Will Peake
Kaelan Penney
Nathan Press
Alana Prior

James Rafter
William Rayner
Anastasia Sawyer
Lucas Sawyer
Charles Shingles
Isabelle Skofic
Hugo Strickland
Justin Sykes
Hellena Vermeulen
James Watson
Daniel Woods
Aiden Woolley

Week 6

Riley Barglik
Keegan Breytenbach
Patrick Bourke
Deanna Caristo
Anneliese Carroll
Reid Clarke
Ashton Davies
Erin DeBono
Baxter Ellem
Noah Francia
Alex Freer
Mitchell Garvan
Jade Gordon
Mia Grodzicki

Harry Hicks
Isabel Hill
Ella Holdsworth
Sienna Hughes
Isaac Hutchinson
Alexander Kerkham
Edward Kerrison
Levi Kirkpatrick
Chloe Kitching
Lachlan Konwerski
Archie Lamont
Connor Leahey
Isabelle Leet

Annalise Lia
Preston Mamo
Alana Mathew
Macklin Miall
Genevieve Miruzzi
Olivia Mountain
Gabriella Owen
Tobie Payens
Molly Peake
Skyler Pick
Olivia Prior
Ellie Savage
Bridie Shingles

Archer Sproule
Ruby Steward
Amelia Synnott
Adam Sypka
Helena Sypka
Julian Sypka
Adele Wade-Ferrell
Aiden Wade-Ferrell
Ryley Walker
Lachlan Waters
Ryan Woods
William Wright
Andrew Young

Principal's Morning Tea for Effort in Learning



On Thursday 3 November, 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!

Issabella Ballard
Ethan Banks
Isabella Bonnici
Lillian Borg
Emma Brickwood
Lucy Brown
Noah Brown
Thomas Chapple
Luke Clunes
Jaiden Colburn
Mitchell Crouch
Sienna Curley
Jacob Danks

Britney Dorman
Marius Edmonds
Ellen Glasson
Milla Grant
Charlotte Harris
Kate Henderson
Dominick Jamnicky
Alexander Kerkham
Jordan Kime
Chloe Kitching
Sean Konwerski
Abigail Larkin
William Lister

Jessica Mace
Luke Mathew
Ivan Mayorchak
Vincent McLaren
Brydan McLeod
Rose Miall
Addison Miller
Sean Miller
Issac Moss
Eydie Peake
Olivia Prior
Bailey Rawding
Hamish Richards

Thomas Rizzuti
Ruby Roberts
Mark Rubelj
Lorraine Santos
Mayah Shore
Tyson Verriere
Alfie Williamson
Chelsea Willingham
Heidi Willingham
Angus Wills
Ryan Woods
Sarah Wydmuch
Alyssia Zagarella



Chess Competition @ STA

This will be taking place in our school hall on Tuesday 22 and Wednesday 23 November. It will involve approximately 300 students from our school. Thank you to Blanche Hortense and her team for coordinating this fantastic and worthwhile learning event.



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Seasons for Growth

Seasons for Growth is a program for children who have experienced significant change or loss. *Seasons for Growth* is based on the belief that change, loss and grief are a normal part of life. The core intentions of this program are the development of resilience and emotional literacy to promote social and emotional wellbeing. The program is educational in nature and does not provide therapy.

Our school has 3 staff members led by Sister Monica Armstrong sgs who are trained to facilitate small group lessons in *Seasons for Growth*. The groups will shortly be concluding their program with a small celebration to mark this milestone. Thank you to Sister Monica for her work in this area and to the *Good Grief Organisation* for their ongoing support.

School Opal Card – Online Applications for 2017 Now Open

Our school has partnered with Transport for NSW to use the new online process for you to submit school travel applications. **Therefore, we will now be able to process your applications online, making it unnecessary for parents to submit a paper form to the school for endorsement.**



A **new application** is required for **students starting school** or for those **who have not had a travel pass before**; for students progressing **from Year 2 to 3** or **Year 6 to 7**; for students **changing schools**, and for students **whose personal details have changed**, such as address etc. NB. Students who do not qualify for free travel may be eligible for a Term Bus Pass instead. **If you already have a current School Opal card that does not need updating DO NOT THROW IT OUT** as you'll be able to use it for the 2017 school year. For details or to apply go to www.transportnsw.info/school-students

Parramatta Diocesan Team Sports Trials

Nominations are now open at www.primarysportparra.catholic.edu.au in the following categories:

AFL, Football (Soccer), Hockey, Netball, Rugby League, Rugby Union and Touch

This is for any child in Year 5 or 6 in 2017 who demonstrates exceptional talent and representative experience in their sport. **Registration must be completed online by 3 February, 2017.**

DIARY DATES

2016 TERM 4	Monday 21 November	School Band 12.30pm Assembly – 1C 3.40pm Leadership Meeting
	22	STA Chess Competition 3.40pm Staff Meeting
	23	8.30am Staff Briefing 9.20am Parish Mass – Kindergarten attending STA Chess Competition
	24	8.30am Staff Prayer 9.30-10.30am Kindergarten 2017 Orientation
	25	9.30-10.30am Kindergarten 2017 Orientation 12.30pm Advent Liturgy in the Hall
Week 7	Monday 28 November	School Band 12.30pm Assembly – 5H presenting 2.30pm Seasons Celebration 3.40pm Leadership Meeting
	29	9.30-10.30am Kindergarten 2017 Orientation 3.40pm Staff Meeting
	30	8.30am Staff Briefing 9.20am Parish Mass – Year 6 attending 9.30-10.30am Kindergarten 2017 Orientation
	1 December	8.30am Staff Prayer Kinder Restaurant Manners Park Christmas Decorations – selected students St Columba's CC Drama Group Performance
	2	



Scan with your smartphone or tablet for more information.

www.staspringwood.catholic.edu.au

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Blue Mountains Australia Day Awards: The Blue Mountains Australia Day Awards recognise those citizens who have a consistent record of excellence, who have made outstanding achievements in their field and have contributed in a significant way to the Blue Mountains community. Nominations are now being sought for Blue Mountains residents of excellence from all backgrounds and fields of endeavour including community service, humanitarian, business, science and technology, arts and entertainment, sport, education and environment. Categories include: Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year and Sportsperson of the Year. **Nominations Close Friday 25 November, 2016.** Nominate online at <http://bluemountainshaveyoursay.com.au/ausday>

Sent Home Recently:

- Head Lice Note to Year 6
- Head Lice Note to Year 3
- Kindergarten Restaurant Note (gold)
- Advent & Christmas Note (green)
- Year 2 Penrith Regional Art Gallery Excursion Note

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