



Our School Attendance Goal for 2017 is 90%.
Our current school attendance rate is 95%.

Every student, every day at STA.

NEWSLETTER

No. 2 Date: 09/03/2017 Week 7 Term 1

Dear St Thomas Aquinas Families,

Last Wednesday we began our Lenten journey for 2017 by receiving the Ashes with a most reverent, prayerful and beautiful liturgy with many families in attendance.

The ashes with which we are marked on Ash Wednesday symbolise our beginning and our ending and challenge us to translate our intentions and prayers into real deeds of sacrifice, faith and generosity during this 40-day season.

The Lenten period provides us a great opportunity to renew and deepen our relationship with God by stripping away some of the clutter in our spiritual lives. We can do this by emulating the example of Christ - by fasting, almsgiving and praying.

During the liturgy I spoke to the students about the notion of "Jubilee" that was mentioned in our opening song, *"This is the Time"*.

What does Jubilee mean?

The word *Jubilee* comes from the Jewish word meaning the curved horn of the ram. This was the instrument that was used to sound the beginning of the holy year of jubilee. The people of ancient times followed the law, which stated that the seventh day, the Sabbath, was set aside for rest, family and for God.

The Jubilee year followed this pattern of seven. The Jubilee year meant that every seven years farmers were expected to let their land rest from planting and to leave the fruits of the land for strangers and the poor to use. The idea was also to allow the soil to recover. It was a practical way to respect nature and to let the land recuperate and remain healthy. The people of this time believed that the land was from God and it was their responsibility to look after it for others, not just to use it.

Jubilee = Forgiveness

The other aspect of Jubilee was that after seven cycles of seven years - that is, during the 50th year, other things took place. During this year of Jubilee it was ordained that God forgave everyone's sins. In order to gain God's pardon you in turn had to forgive others for their mistakes and wrong doings. Also during this *Year of God's Favour* everyone who had debts or owed money to others was released from that debt and could start over again. Slaves were released and went back to their families. People would be given back land that may have been taken away from them in the past.

Jubilee Today

We use this idea of Jubilee during the season of Lent to remind us that Lent is a time when we are asked to stop, open our hearts to others, to forgive others, be kind and generous to others particularly those in need. In doing these things we journey back home to Jesus who loves us without fail and forgives us without question.

Jesus also tells us that giving, praying, fasting should not be self-seeking or boastful but rather motivated by self-sacrifice. Ultimately, it is through doing these practical things that we can turn our gaze back to God.

Until next time,

S Rosato

Sergio Rosato
Principal



Lent, a time:

- ❖ **to stop**
- ❖ **for new beginnings**
- ❖ **for building bridges**
- ❖ **to forgive each other**
- ❖ **to heal**
- ❖ **to share**
- ❖ **for joyful giving**
- ❖ **for celebration**
- ❖ **to journey home again**

NSW Australian of the Year Deng Adut Visit to STA

Our school hosted a visit from Deng Adut today. Deng, a former Sudanese Refugee, was named NSW Australian of the Year earlier this year. Deng is now a qualified lawyer graduating from Western Sydney University after arriving in Australia as a refugee in 1998.

Deng's story will feature in our Wakakirri Story Dance item later this year. In-school auditions are currently taking place to cast for this production. It is hoped that Deng's visit will provide our students in Grades 4-6 with further inspiration and knowledge to portray Deng's amazing story with accuracy and empathy.



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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

Student Representative Council Induction Ceremony

Last Thursday we gathered as a school community for the induction of our new student leaders. The induction of the Student Representative Council (SRC) is an important occasion as the privilege of servant leadership is passed to a new group of our students.

The process of choosing our new Student Representative Council has involved students in Years 5 and 6 with the guidance of their teachers and the Holy Spirit. In being selected to serve on the SRC these students have shown by their example, personal qualities and humility characteristics we believe typifies servant leadership.

Servant Leadership

For us Jesus Christ is the ultimate role model of the true servant leader. His leadership teaches us that leaders should not be self-centred or "in it" for themselves. Rather Jesus' example of leadership is about simply serving by lived example.

Jesus taught that we are all called to lead from where we are and that true leadership is expressed in simple actions towards others. Through his teachings and example Jesus showed us in a variety of ways during his life on earth how to really LIVE servant leadership. In Jesus' eyes, a position of leadership is simply a place of service. Serving God by serving others. Looking away from one self to the needs of others, rolling up our sleeves and working with dedication for the good of others. Just like our Lord, these students are charged by their peers with the responsibility of serving through their words and actions - working each day in order to make our community a better place.

The ceremony on Thursday also gave us all an opportunity to acknowledge ALL our Year 5 and 6 students who lead our school through their example and service.

Our St Thomas Aquinas Student Representatives for 2017 are:

6C	Molly Jones	6F	Emanuel Borg	6H	Anastasia Sawyer
6C	Alice Bauerhuit	6F	Reid Clarke	6H	Harry Watson
6C	Patrick Moore	6F	Lara Wallace	6H	Chloe Corbett
6M	Mitchell Crouch	5C	Lucy Hall	K6A	Ferris Carey
6M	Charlotte Croft	5N	Emma Brickwood		
6M	Nyah Hutchings	5RP	Grace Costigan		

Catholic Schools Week 2017

Catholic schools enrol about 20 per cent of Australian school students. St Thomas Aquinas Springwood is one of 615 Catholic Primary and Secondary schools across NSW and the ACT, providing quality education in a faith-centred environment.

Catholic schools teach the same curriculum as government schools. Expectations of achievement and conduct are high. With a strong focus on the individual, a broad curriculum caters for a wide range of interests and abilities. Catholic schools offer highly qualified and professional teachers who cater to the diverse learning needs of our students.

At St Thomas Aquinas our Catholic Schools Week celebrations will involve the following:

- ❖ **Monday**
Cuppa & Chat with Sister Monica at 9.05am – all welcome
- ❖ **Tuesday**
Open Classrooms – 12.15pm
School Assembly – 12.45pm (featuring presentation of Premier's Reading Challenge Gold and Platinum Awards)
- ❖ **Wednesday**
Principal Tour of School – See Learning in Action: 9.30am-10.30am
Planetarium Visit – Year 4
- ❖ **Thursday**
Deng Adut Visit – Years 4-6
Principal Tour of School – See Learning in Action: 2.05pm-3.05pm
- ❖ **Friday**
Ceramics Incursion – Year 1
St Columba's Principal, Mr Paul Ryan, visiting to speak to Years 5 & 6 students
Guest speaker, Colin Sieders (Paralympian) – Year 6

St Columba's Catholic College Year 7 2018 Information Evening

An enrolment information evening for Year 7 2018 will be held on **Wednesday 22 March, 2017**. Bookings are not required. Please register at the College Library upon arrival. Tours will begin at 4.00pm and 6.00pm *sharp* to enable visitors to view all of the College facilities. Prospectus and enrolment application forms will be available on the night. Program as follows:

Session 1:	3.45pm	Register for tour	Session 2:	5.45pm	Register for tour
	4.00pm	Tour of the facilities		6.00pm	Tour of the facilities
	5.00-5.30pm	Address by the Principal		7.00-7.30pm	Address by the Principal

For enquiries contact Sandra O'Brien, Enrolments Secretary, on (02) 4754 8907.

St Columba's Catholic College, 168 Hawkesbury Road, Springwood 2777
Phone: (02) 4754 1022 Website: www.stcolumbasspringwood.catholic.edu.au

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God our Father, we ask you to bless our school leaders and fill their hearts with your Holy Spirit.

May their example be true, their courage strong, their love sincere, and their goodness evident to all.



Book Club

The second Issue of Scholastic Book Club for 2017 has been given out to the students. All orders **must be placed by Monday, 20 March**. Please check that order forms are filled out correctly including both the child's name and class. Credit card payments must be made online first and the receipt number needs to be recorded on the order form.



ST COLUMBA'S
CATHOLIC COLLEGE



ACT JUSTLY

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!



Ryan An U	Erin DeBono	Annalise Lia	Adrian Perez-Eaton
Annalise Blattman	Emilie Dempsey	William Lister	Lucy Poulter
Olive Borbely	Anna Edwards	Veronica Lloyd-Williams	Abigail Power
Lachlan Brown	Luke Edwards	Ryder Lopez	Alana Prior
Bonnie Butler	Ezra Forsyth	Luke Malone	Tyson Ramires
Ben Cassidy	Mitchell Garvan	Genevieve Miruzzi	Charlie Reid
Lucy Chapman	Lila Hagelburg	Kiara Nugent	Charles Shingles
Abigail Croucher	Ronan Hurley	Riley Pagitz	Justin Sykes
Finn Cullinane	Kayden Jeffers	Jacob Palmer	Benjamin Waters
Sienna Curley	Alana Kenn	Wilkin Payens	Harry Watson
Cem Damarguc	Harry Kitching	Will Peake	Aiden Woolley
Evan Davey	Matthew Kwiedor	Nicolas Peat	

Clothing Pool Update

Due to the great response to our recent Update item about our Clothing Pool we will now be able to open it on **Mondays and Fridays from 9.00am – 9.30am and on Tuesdays from 3.00pm – 3.30pm**. A sincere thank you to our volunteers, current and new, and also to all those who offered to be on the back-up list. We very much appreciate the generosity of your time and efforts for the benefit of our families. The Clothing Pool is a great facility for purchasing 2nd-hand items at very reduced prices. We also thank all those who donate their preloved uniforms for sale.

School Fees

Just a reminder, Term One School fees were due on Monday 6 March. 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 contact me to organise a payment arrangement or to discuss the options that are available. Thankyou to those families who have paid.

Cheree Brown, School Finance Secretary

School Banking Day is Tuesday

Please come join us for School Banking on a **Tuesday**. Remember to complete your deposit slip inside your Yellow Dollarmites Wallet. All deposits are rewarded with a token that when you reach 10 are able to redeem a reward.



Getting involved in School Banking is easy! All you need to get involved in the School Banking program is a Commonwealth Bank Youthsaver account. You can open an account for your child in one of two ways:

1. **Online** – Visit commbank.com.au/schoolbanking and click on the link to open a Youthsaver account.
2. **In branch** – Visit a Commonwealth Bank branch with identification for yourself and your child, like a driver's licence, birth certificate or Passport.

The Parent Information Kit that was sent home from the school and the office will have more information about the School Banking Program and how your child can participate.



Coffee & Chat

Parents are invited to our Cuppa & Chat Mornings held **each Monday from 9.05am** in the Bishop Manning Learning Centre (**hall**). Join with other families in a convivial setting as well being able to catch up with Sister Monica, Mrs Clark and Mr Rosato.

Meet the Teacher Meetings

These meetings took place last week and provided a valuable opportunity for families to meet with teachers in order to get to know each child as an individual learner. This year Years 5 and 6 trialled a new process for these meetings. Parents in these grades who wish to meet with their teacher individually can still do so by organising a mutually convenient time through the school office.

Paralympian Colin Sieders Visits STA

On Friday our Year 6 students will host a visit from Rio Paralympian and former V8 Supercar driver, Colin Sieders. Colin took up canoeing (Paracanoe) after he was no longer able to race V8 Supercars due to a second motor vehicle accident in 2011.

In 1997, as a teenager he was involved in a car accident on his way to soccer when the car he was travelling in lost control and crashed. Colin spent months in intensive care and underwent numerous operations. Unable to continue driving after his second accident in 2011, Colin took up kayaking and last year was named in the Australian Paralympic Paracanoe team.

Thank you to Colin for sharing his incredible story and for his generosity in speaking to our Year 6 students.

Colin is also a member of our community, his daughter Rosie is a student in Year 1 at STA.



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Project Compassion 2017 – Love Your Neighbour

<http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion>

The theme for Project Compassion 2017 is "Love Your Neighbour". This year Project Compassion demonstrates how love for our neighbours can transform lives. For more than 50 years, Caritas Australia has been privileged to work together with our neighbours – our most vulnerable sisters and brothers in First Australian communities and in many other countries. Working with our partner agencies in those communities, we have developed the strength to combat poverty, promote justice and uphold the dignity of every person.

Throughout Project Compassion 2017, inspiring stories from the Philippines, Timor-Leste, Australia, Vietnam and Fiji will be shared, highlighting the importance of working hand-in-hand with communities around the world. Each class was given a Project Compassion Box at our school Ash Wednesday liturgy. Children are encouraged to sacrifice some of their own treats during lent in order to help someone in need.



Dental Clinic Initiative

St Thomas Aquinas Primary School and St Columba's Catholic College will participate in the Aussie Mobile Dental Clinic Program later this term. The program will involve a fully staffed and equipped dental van coming to our school. Each family has received a letter outlining information about this program together with consent forms to be completed. This program is made available to families who qualify for a federal government dental subsidy through the tax system. Therefore, not every child will be eligible to participate in this initiative. Please return all notes to the school office for collection by the Dental Clinic staff who will then be in direct contact with families to confirm their eligibility.

All enquiries regarding this program should be referred directly to the website address that is listed on the original note (see below). Notes are NOW due. Please return these to the school office ASAP.

Website: www.aussiemobiledental.com.au

DIARY DATES

2017 TERM 1 Week 7 Catholic Schools Week	Thursday 9 March	8.30am Staff Prayer 11.35am Deng Adut Visit for Years 4-6 2.00 – 3.00pm School Tour
	10	Year 1 Ceramics Incursion Part 1 Paul Ryan from St Columba's Visit to Years 5 & 6 Colin Sieders Visit to Year 6
Week 8	Monday 13 March	9.05am Coffee and Chat - in the Hall School Band 12.35pm Assembly – 2C presenting 3.40pm Leadership Meeting
	14	3.40pm Staff Meeting
	15	8.30am Staff Briefing School Band 9.20am Parish Mass – Year 2 attending
	16	8.30am Staff Prayer
	17	National Day of Action Against Bullying & Violence



Scan with your
smartphone or tablet for
more information.

www.staspringwood.catholic.edu.au

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Uniting Kids Care – 2017 Vacancies: Uniting Kids Care is a not for profit preschool/long day care centre for 2-6 year olds. **Open 7am to 6pm, Monday to Friday.** Exceeding national quality standards rating; preschool educational program based on the Australian curriculum; Transition to School program; individual portfolios; no payment for public holidays; nutritional freshly prepared meals. **Cost: 2017 Daily Fee \$87.** Child care benefit and rebate available. **Contact us:** Director – Amy, Admin – Cathy. Located at **4 Lewin Street, Springwood.**

Phone: 4751 9314 or **email:** admin@ukcspringwood.unitingchurch.org.au or visit the **website** at www.ukcspringwood.unitingchurch.org.au

Springwood-Winmalee District Girl Guides: We have **vacancies in all age groups** at the moment. Please contact the District Manager, **Dianne Strahan**, to find out meeting times and to arrange **2 free visits**. E: sw.districtmanager@gmail.com M: 0414 406 239 (call or message)

Sent Home Recently:

- Parent Term 1 Calendar (pink)
- Ash Wednesday Liturgy Invitation (purple)
- Dental Screening Note (blue & white)
- Premier's Reading Challenge Note for K – 2 (jade green)
- Premier's Reading Challenge Note for Yrs 3-6 (pink)
- Change of Sport Day Note to Kinder, Year 1 & 2 (gold)
- Wakakiri Audition Information Note – selected students (cream)
- Change to Schedule Note for Year 1 (lime green)
- Meet the Teacher Notes
- Change to 1W Meet the Teacher Note (lilac)
- Slapped Cheek Disease Note (cream)
- 4B Change of Sport Day Note (yellow)
- Head Lice Notes to Year 1 & 4
- Year 6 Commemorative Shirt Note

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