

EWSLETTER

Date: 10/06/2016 Week 7

Dear St Thomas Aquinas Families,

Our recent STA Mini Olympic day reflected beautifully the lyrics by John Denver that says, "Some days are diamonds". The occasion was certainly a beautiful, precious jewel of a day at our school. The event began with the officials' and athletes' oaths after which the games were pronounced open with the words "Let the Games begin!"

Every child from Kindergarten to Year 6 took part in a number of engaging circuit-type activities including high jump, marathon run, obstacle course, tug-of-war, long jump, skipping, bocce and dance. Our school fields were a sea of active, colourful, happy students.

Our chosen theme for the day was 'Fitness, Fairness & Fun'. Each class was allocated a different country to represent. The students wore the colours of the country and were a part of the Parade of

Nations with the national flag in the closing ceremony. In preparation for the event each class researched their chosen country as part of their weekly library lesson. At the end of the circuit of activities the students enjoyed the treat of an ice-block and sausage sandwich.

The beautifully choreographed Closing Ceremony consisted of an artistic presentation by all Year 6 using drama and music to represent the history of the Olympic Games; The Ancient Era, The Modern, the Contemporary Era as well as an inspirational song by the school choir. As part of the Ceremony, former STA student Jenna Jones, who will be participating in six swimming events in the 2016 Paralympics in Rio de Janiero, addressed the school. Jenna was warmly congratulated by the entire school for being selected for the Games in Rio.

All students, teachers and families agreed that the Mini Olympics was a great community event in which all could participate. The students were fair, gained fitness and had great fun.

We thank sincerely the large number of families who helped on each of the stations, those who helped with the barbeque and the large number that attended the Closing Ceremony – well worth the wait.

Our Mini Olympics was made possible by the creativity, planning and hard work of the organising group headed by Karleen Hutchings (Parent), Avril Llewellyn (AP), Robert Mullen (Sports Teacher), Virginia Fortunat (Closing Ceremony) and Leigha Wills (Choir). Ultimately, the students made the day truly great through their joyful and spirited participation.

We are immensely grateful to each family for supporting your child in gaining participation sponsorship. Currently our total stands at \$20,000. A fantastic combined effort. The funds raised will go towards the purchase of learning resources and outdoor furniture for the students to utilise at school in learning.

Until next time

ARosato Sergio Rosato, Principal









Fitness

Fairness &







Year 6 Camp to Vision Valley

Recently I had the great pleasure of joining our Year 6 students and their teachers on their 3-day camp at Vision Valley. The Annual Year 6 Camp is an important rite of passage for our senior students in the final year of the primary school. It provides a memorable retreat experience – a time to strengthen relationships with their peers, their teachers and in turn with God.

Our Year 6 cohort this year was an outstanding group – enthusiastic, appreciative and cooperative. A measure of the benefits of the camp experience has been articulated in many of the reflective pieces of writing that each student has completed since returning. Many pieces of correspondence I have personally received from students expressing appreciation of the experience and also of the new awareness they have of other students who they now know better.



The activities that serve as a point of collaboration on camp included archery, canoeing, flying fox, leap-of-faith, power fan, rock climbing, giants ladder, crate stack, campfire sing-a-long, trivia and wacky Olympics. Our community's gratitude to the dedicated team of teachers comprising Kate Mackenzie, Virginia Fortunat, James Costigan and Karen Bousfield for their organisation, supervision and care.

Thank you also to each family for supporting your child in participating in this worthwhile learning experience.















Student Comments about Camp

Camp at Vision Valley this year was one of the most awesome things that I have ever done! We were constantly being pushed out of our comfort zones by participating in amazing activities. I learnt how to work cooperatively with other people in my group and I developed trust in others students in my grade. My favourite activities were the flying fox, crate stack and canoeing. All the food was delicious and the cabins were very comfortable. I loved going to camp and learning new things. **ZOFIA HAMMOND**

At camp we participated in archery. We had a choice out of using either a long bow or a compound bow. The compound bow was much harder to use as it required a lot more strength to draw the arrow back. We were placed into groups of three and even had a competition. The secret to archery is to have a lot of power because if you don't have power, your arrow will not reach the target. I learnt a lot during archery which made it even more fun for me. In my opinion, I think archery was one the of best activities on camp because it included everyone and was really exciting. MALI HAYNES

Kindergarten 2017 Enrolment and Learning Tours

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 first round places for Kindergarten 2017 are currently being accepted. Enrolment places in Grades 1-6 are also being processed. Interviews for first round places will be conducted later in June. Enrolment packs are available by contacting the school office on 4754 2554 or by email enquiry to sthomas@parra.catholic.edu.au

Please return enrolment applications for Kindergarten 2017 as soon as possible.



Student Awards

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

Week 6

Larissa An U
Luke Arnold
Lauren Beaton
Lily Brosnan
Max Carroll
Liam Clink
William Crighton
Charlotte Croft
Ella Danks
Jacob Danks
Charlotte DeBono
Sienna Evans
Gus Forbutt
Liam Galluzzi

Week 7

Sadie Albury Ryan Andrews Ethan Banks Jeremy Barker Emma Brickwood Zac Carr Ysobel Chalice Mitchell Crouch Summer Daly Cem Damarguc Shaelee Davies Alex Freer Abbey Gomez Benjamin Gomez Luca Goudis Declan Garvan
Jessica Gomez
Caitlin Graham
Mathew Hall
Harry Hicks
Mariella Hill
Audrey Hodgins
Isaac Hutchinson
Kayden Jeffers
Hayden Keogh
Ronan Loughton
Maxwell Lovric
Mollie Malone
Ivan Mayorchak

Milla Grant
Georgia Hammond
Charlotte Harris
Benjamin Harrison
Alexis Hodge
Jeremy Hodges
Ronan Hurley
Ava Huxley
Michael Ingram
Paige Irwin
Willow Kent
Levi Kirkpatrick
Chloe Kitching
Ella Langan

Grace Miller
Olivia Morrissey
Lizzie Mulhall
Bailey Nugent
Kiara Nugent
Riley Pagitz
Nathan Press
Charlotte Priest
Beth Rawding
Ari-Kai Rawlings
Charlie Reid
Owen Riddell
River Rodemark
Grace Ryan

Bridie Le Breton
Annalise Lia
Alex Lopez
Kate McIlveen
Brydan McLeod
Brendan McMaster
Chyna Moore
Cameron Morris
Olivia Mountain
Caitlin Murphy
Liam Murphy
Milly Okladnikov
Amelia Peake
Skyler Pick

Riane Santos Ellie Savage Addison Schobbe Elizabeth Tabor Brooke Thomas Bella Ticehurst Bronte Tracey Madisyn Treble Isabella Trinajstic Sam Turner Grace Wardle Lachlan Waters Ryan Woods Aiden Woolley

Annabelle Priest
Hayden Rawding
William Rayner
Layla Sawyer
Mayah Shore
Max Stone
Ava Tallon
Will Ticehurst
Lucas Tom
Delilah Valle
Kate Walton
Darcy Weston
Lachlan Williamson
Angus Wills

News on Sister Monica Armstrong

As you are aware Sister Monica has recently undergone knee replacement surgery. I am pleased to inform you that the operation was a success and that Sister Monica is now recuperating with physiotherapy. Monica has now returned to the Good Samaritan House in Lawson to continue her convalescence. Please keep Sister Monica in your prayers as she continues with her recovery. Any cards or correspondence for Monica can be delivered to the school office. These will be passed on to her, as she is keen to keep in touch with families at STA.





First Communion

Last Saturday and Sunday a number of our children received the sacrament of First Communion through the Parish Sacramental Program. For these children and their families this day was imbued with great joy.

As Catholic Christians the Eucharist is the culmination of our relationship with Christ. His presence under the earthly forms of bread and wine serves to nourish us spiritually. As we eat and drink in the Eucharistic banquet we believe that Christ becomes part of us, and we come alive in Christ together we become the Body of Christ. St Augustine taught that if we truly love the Eucharist we will embody what we eat. We will become united with Christ: blessed, broken, poured out and shared in love.

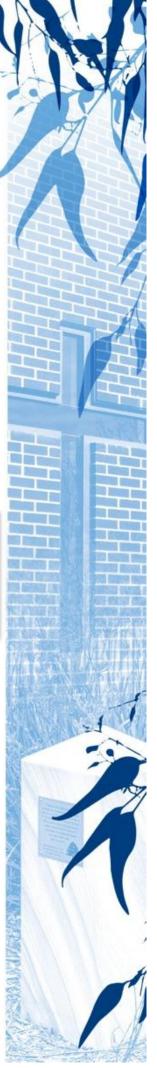
We pray for each of these children and their families. May this Eucharist strengthen them and nourish them in love with Christ.

Captivate Music Showcase Rehearsal

Recently our school choir joined with other schools in the Diocese in preparation for a special Musical Showcase, which will take place on Wednesday 22 June commencing at 7pm at Nagle College Blacktown South. STA has a proud and active involvement in many aspects of the Creative Arts. Our school has a well-established culture of singing, music and drama. We wish our school choir well as they prepare for this musical performance. We thank our music teacher and choir director, Leigha Wills, for her expert guidance of both our junior and senior school choirs.

Tickets for the performance can be purchased now by phoning Captivate on 9840 5649 or by emailing captivate@parra.catholic.edu.au





St Columba's Catholic College – Year 7 Enrolments 2017

A reminder that enrolment applications for St Columba's College Year 7, 2017 are now due. For all enquiries please call the Enrolment Secretary, Sandra O'Brien, on 4754 8907.

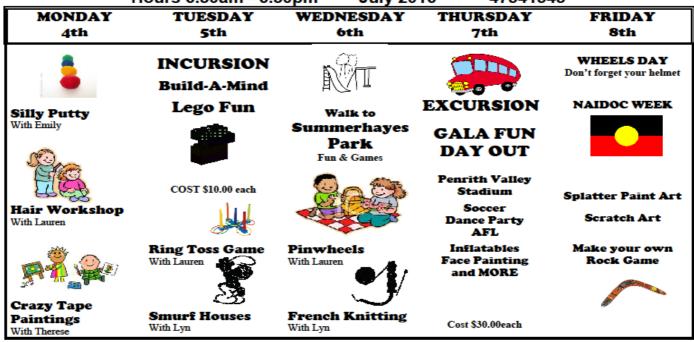
ACT JUSTLY

A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend is a Marriage Enrichment experience for married couples – 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. Take time out of your busy schedule, to invest in your most precious asset . . . your Marriage! Weekend date: 24-26 June at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW. Bookings online at www.wwme.org.au or Bill and Ardell Sharpe on (02) 4283 3435 or wsharpe@bigpond.net.au



PINNAROO VACATION CARE Winmalee Public School WINMALEE

Hours 6.30am - 6.30pm July 2016 47541543



What are your children doing these school holidays?
Come and join us for lots of fun. Childcare benefits available.
Phone for more information or call in and collect enrolment forms.





COME ALONG AND ENJOY THIS RIDE DAY

FOR KIDS AGED 8-14 OF ALL ABILITIES

Where: Western Sydney University,

Werrington North Campus

NEW Date: 25th June 2016 Time: 10am-2pm

Entry Fee: \$5- one parent & one rider

\$10- per family

Equipment: bring your own bike or helmet or use one of ours. Tagalong bikes





REGISTRATION BY June 13th, 2016

Call: Oateway 1300 3 to 749
E: admin@gatewayfamilyservices.org.au
Entry Fee can be paid by direct deposit or cash (to
office) or cheque on the day
MB: a parent/guardian must accompany riders
Parking available—site map provided on registra-

For More Information: Kerry or Stephen at Gateway

Meet the team at TAD Disability Services -TAD Freedom Wheels adapt bikes to enable children with additional needs to ride a bike.

Gateway Family Services
70 Old Bathurst Rd, East Blaxland
PO Box 3015 East Blaxland 2774
E:admin@gatewayfamilyservices.org
W: www.aatewayfamilyservices.org



School Holidays

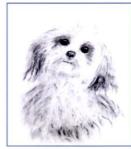
Two Drawing Workshops

DRAW YOUR OWN PET

This fun workshop will be held over two afternoons. Students will work from a photo of their cat or dog (or someone else's) and the portrait will be drawn in charcoal. They will learn techniques such as how to get the shape right, how to use tone to create 3D, how to draw fur and how to draw beautiful eyes!

Minimum age 10 yrs

Tues 6 & Wed 7 July (12.30-5pm) \$130 (includes art materials & afternoon tea)



Student's work



DRAW LIKE AN ARTIST

This is a two day workshop where students will create two vibrant pictures using soft and oil pastels. Students will learn the techniques artists use, giving them the skills to draw realism, including how to use line, tone and colour. Minimum age 8 yrs

Thurs 8 & Fri 9 July (10am-4pm) \$168 (incl art materials & m/a tea, BYO lunch)

These will be fun, friendly workshops!

Kids can come on their own or with an adult

Great activity to do with your son or daughter!

Workshops will be held at Faulconbridge Public School Groups will be small, for individual attention, so <u>bookings are essential</u>

For more info phone: 4758 8030

See Vanessa's artwork and some of her students' artwork at:

www.vanessajoret.com.au

St Thomas Aquinas Parish In-service Meetings for Liturgical Ministries

- Tuesday 21 June, 7.00pm readers and commentators/ universal prayers ministers
- Tuesday 28 June, 7.00pm Extraordinary ministers & Communion to the sick

We have been fortunate to have Sr Mary Louise Walsh from the Office for Worship to update our knowledge and demonstrate these ministries. There will be an opportunity for practice. This is an excellent opportunity to refresh our knowledge in these ministries and to discuss how these ministries are performed at St Thomas Aquinas Parish. Each session will last approximately 1.5 hours. **NEW people** are most welcome to join us for these sessions. **Youth in Yr10-Yr12** are most welcome. **Contact person: Cheryl Kirby – phone: 4754 1594**

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear St Thomas Aquinas Families,

Today brings to a conclusion a wonderful life of service in education for our Assistant Principal, Avril Llewellyn as she retires to a new life outside of school.

Avril's career in teaching has spanned 48 years, three continents – The United Kingdom, The Middle East and Australia and two education sectors – public and Catholic. Her service to Catholic Education has included placements at Nicholas of Myra, Penrith, Mary Mackillop, South Penrith, Trinity Primary School, Kemps Creek and Our Lady of the Way, Emu Plains and finally St Thomas Aquinas, Springwood.

At St Thomas' she has held the positions of teacher-librarian, classroom teacher, stage coordinator and since 2002, Assistant Principal. Her service to this community has been outstanding and life affirming.

Her contribution to the educational landscape of our school has been enormous and has enabled our children to benefit immeasurably in many areas including literature, Religious Education, social justice, music, drama, the creative arts, community engagement and so much more. As a Catholic community she has graced us with her unstinting loyalty, friendship, wisdom, grace, logic, passion, energy, intellect, creativity, inspiration, joy, humour and love.

On behalf of everyone at STA - families, past and present and staff we thank her for all she has given us and continue to give us through her legacy. We pray that retirement brings her and Viv (her husband) many graces and happy days ahead

The Italian writer Dante finishes his Divine Comedy by attributing all to LOVE. L'amor che move il sole e l'altre stelle. Love that moves the sun and the other stars.

Thank you Avril for your labour of love – God speed.

Sergio Rosato



Thanksgiving Mass for Avril Llewellyn

On Wednesday Avril was farewelled by our school community at a special Thanksgiving Mass to acknowledge her valued service to the life of St Thomas Aquinas School for the last 19 years – 14 of these years as our Assistant Principal. Avril's contribution to education as a teacher extends for almost 49 years, 42 years teaching and leading exclusively in the Catholic Education sector.

The Mass was a wonderful celebration of Avril's years at STA. We wish to thank Fr Paul Slyney, Joanne Toohey, our musicians, special visitors, parishioners, parents, our staff and students for being part of this special event. We especially thank all our parent volunteers who assisted with the catering and set up of the hall for the refreshments after Mass.

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Dear Families of St Thomas Aquinas,

Over the last 19 years at this beautiful school I have been privileged to get to know you and your children and I wish to thank you all for your openness, friendliness, understanding and confidence. You have chosen to send your children to this Catholic learning community and I know that you have put your trust in the leadership of Serge and myself and of all the staff.

As I arrive at this point of my life, retirement from teaching, which is a rite of passage as well as a beginning and an end, a leaving and arriving, I have reflected on my working life but most particularly my time at St Thomas Aquinas. Over the years the school has physically changed and grown, educational approaches and methods have adapted to the needs of students in the light of research and further understanding of learning, but our core business has remained constant.

All students, staff and families need to be able to experience positive and nurturing relationships so that all can learn and strive to be the best they can. The motto of the school Love One Another, the new commandment that Christ gave us, says it all.

Thank you to everyone for being a part of my life - I will miss the children's smiling faces and greetings, the sound of singing and of playing, the families dropping off and picking up their children, the unforgettable events over the years, the amazina school leadership team, the wonderful teachers and outstanding support staff and most of all Serge Rosato – my colleague in leadership over the last 14 years, partner in education, my friend and confidante and outstanding human being and man of faith.

Thank you everyone and may God continue to bless St Thomas Aguinas Primary School.

Avril Llewellyn

Principal's Morning Tea for Effort in Learning

On Thursday 19 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!



Ryan An U Alice Bauerhuit Thomas Brosnan Emilia Buhs Elvsia Burchall **Emily Burnett** Enrique Caraballo Anneliese Carroll Ruanii Claudino Isla Coburn Lucas Collins Ava Tallon Rebecca Collis Finn Cullinane Summer Daly

Ashton Danks Rowan Davies Emilie Dempsey Lachlan Dempsey Alex Freer Georgia Hammond Benjamin Harrison Finton Hazell Alexis Hodae

Isaac Hutchinson Alana Kenn Hayden Keogh

Hayley Kime Melissa Lee Annalise Lia Oliver Ligteringen Holly McIlveen David McMaster Patrick Moore Gela Moss Aiden O'Brien Will Peake

Sasha Pyle William Rayner William Richardson Sahara Rodemark Eli Schroeder Samantha Schroeder Adam Springett Archer Sproule Justin Sykes Adam Sypka

Declan Vane Daniel Woods Tahlia Woolley



New Electronic Sian-On System

Starting in Term 3 there will be a new Electronic Sign-On System for Parents and Visitors. When using the system for the first time it may take you up to 10-15 minutes to register your details and a photo of you will be taken by the machine. Information and photo will be printed onto a sticker for you to wear while on premises. All parents and visitors will still need to sign-out when leaving. The system will be operational in the last week of this term if you wish to register when you have a little extra time. Please remember to allow extra time for this process when visiting the school.



New Assistant Principal Appointment for St Thomas Aquinas

As you are already aware the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta has recently appointed Mrs Mary Clark as the new Assistant Principal for St Thomas Aquinas commencing at the beginning of Term 3 2016. Mary is an experienced educator who is currently the Assistant Principal at St Monica's Primary School, Richmond. Prior to this appointment she has held various teaching and leadership positions at a number of schools within our Diocese.

Mary visited our school last Monday and attended our school assembly. We look forward to her commencement at STA at the beginning of next term.

New Child Protection Procedures for Volunteers & Contractors

As a school we are committed to developing protective practices to ensure that children and young people in our care are safe. The Working with Children Check is required to be completed. The Australian Government has policies and procedures relating to child protection. The NSW Department of Education and Training, as an agency responsible for the care and welfare of students in schools, has a charter to protect the young people in its care from all forms of abuse. If you are one of our valued school volunteers, please follow the instructions on the fact sheet below by clicking the link for volunteers.

BUILDING CHILD SAFE COMMUNITIES – NEW FORMS FOR ALL VOLUNTEERS AND CONTRACTORS

Building Child Safe Communities' is a new initiative developed by Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta that enhances our commitment to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all students in our care. It is now a requirement that all volunteers and contractors complete an online undertaking form that confirms expectations in relation to behaviour whilst volunteering or contracting at schools, Catholic Out of Schools Hours Care and Catholic Early Learning Centres. This undertaking form also seeks to determine the suitability of volunteers and contractors by requiring them to declare that they do not have a criminal history involving children.

• Volunteers – please click on 'Building Child Safe Communities – Undertaking for Volunteers' or access the form via the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta public webpage http://www.parra.catholic.edu.au, then click on 'Child Protection Training Forms' (halfway down page on the right hand side).



Then click on 'Volunteer Form' (halfway down page).

You will receive a confirmation email once the form has been submitted. Your details are maintained confidentially in a central database and a copy of your confirmation is emailed to the location where you are volunteering.

Contractors – please click on 'Building Child Safe Communities – Undertaking for Contractors or access the form via the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta public webpage http://www.parra.catholic.edu.au, then click on 'Child Protection Training Forms' (halfway down page on the right hand side).



Then click on 'Contractor Form' (bottom of page).

You will receive a confirmation email once the form has been submitted. Your details are maintained confidentially in a central database and a copy of your confirmation is emailed to the location where you are contracting.

A new form is required:

- For each location that you are a volunteer or contractor
- If any of the details you have provided on the form change

Paralympic Selection for Colin Sieders – STA Parent

Congratulations to Colin Sieders, father of Rosie Sieders in KB, who has been selected for the 2016 Rio Paralympics for canoeing. Colin has been in a wheelchair since 2011 as a result of injuries sustained in two separate car accidents over a space of several years and has been paddling since then. Colin recently competed in Germany where he made Paralympic selection. We wish Colin all the best in his sporting endeavours at Rio later this year.



Mini Olympics Prizes

The following students were awarded prizes at this week's assembly for raising the most funds at our recent Mini Olympics:

Highest overall: Montana Barry 3L 2nd Place (equal): Payten Henson 1D

Brooke Thomas KM

3rd Place: Nathan Broadhead 1N

Highest in each grade:

Kinder: Annabelle Webster KM Year 4: Mathew Hall 4SB Year 5: Year 1: Justin Sykes 1N Chloe Corbett 5H Year 2: Ruby Hammond 2W Year 6: Sam Turner 6M

Year 3: Alexis Hodge 3L

Highest Class: 1D – awarded a pizza lunch with Mr Rosato and Mrs Llewellyn.

Important Reminders Re Parking and School Access

- Vehicles should only be parked in approved places. Parents are reminded that the No Standing/No Parking signs are positioned for significant safety reasons.
- The KISS & DROP area is only used for quick drop-off on school mornings. This is not a parking
- As signage clearly indicates the large double gate at the entrance of the school bus bay is not a pedestrian access point at any time - THIS IS A SERIOUS SAFETY ISSUE due to HIGH VOLUME OF TRAFFIC in this area!
- Parents and visitors are reminded of the strict expectations to sign-in at the office before entering the school. ALL visitors are expected to be wearing a VISITORS badge regardless of the length of time they intend being on site.

2016 Sports Carnival (Term 3) - Change of Date

Parents please note the new date for our STA Sports Carnival will be on Thursday 28 July (Week 2, Term 3), with a back-up date of Thursday 4 August.

DIARY DATES

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2016	Monday 13 June	Queen's Birthday Public Holiday
2016	14	3.40pm Staff Meeting
TERM 2	15	8.30-11.00am School Band 8.30am Staff Briefing 9.20am Parish Mass – Kinder attending
Week 8	16	8.30am Staff Prayer 12.30pm School Assembly - 4CH presenting (changed from 6 June)
	17	Year 2 Captivate Drama Performance at Nagle College, Blacktown
Week 9	Monday 20 June	12.30pm School Assembly – 6M presenting 3.40pm Leadership Meeting
	21	Captivate Voices & Selected Band Rehearsal & Performance at Nagle College, Blacktown 3.40pm Staff Meeting
	22	8.30-11.00am School Band 8.30am Staff Briefing 9.20am Parish Mass – Year 2 attending Captivate Choir, Voices Performance at Nagle College, Blacktown
	23	8.30am Staff Prayer Captivate Selected Band Students Performance at Nagle College, Blacktown
	24	Year 4 Excursion to Riverside Theatre for 'Saltbush' Performance

Sent Home Recently:

- Diocesan Boys Soccer Permission Note selected students
- Diocesan Girls Soccer Permission Note selected students
- 123 Magic & Emotion Coaching Parent Course Note
- Senior Choir Captivate Choral Showcase Excursion Note
- Family Learning Conference Note for 1C & 3S (salmon)
- Captivate Music Showcase Ticket Information senior choir (pink)
- Mini Olympics Pizza Lunch Note to 1D (pale blue)
- Head Lice Notes to Years 1, 3 & 4
- Year 2 Captivate Drama Showcase Excursion Note & Ticket Information (white & lime green)
- Paul Kelly Cup AFL Regional Finals Permission Note selected students



Scan with your smartphone or tablet for more information.

faspringwood.catholic.edu.au

Mini Olympics



- Year 3 "The Little Prince" Excursion Note
- Year 3 History Unit Activity Note (salmon)
- Thanksgiving Mass Helpers Note (pink)



