



Every Student, Every Day at STA

**Our School Attendance Goal for 2017 is 90%.
Our current school attendance rate is 96%.**

NEWSLETTER

No. 3 Date: 24/03/2017 Week 9 Term 1

Dear St Thomas Aquinas Families,

All schools in the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta (CEDP) have an objective to improve learning and teaching for all students. This entails utilising both qualitative and quantitative data to make informed judgements about the next steps in the individual progress of students as well as our school wide growth.

As educators this means continually looking at ways to refine and improve our practice. Encompassing all of this is the need for teachers to know and educate each student holistically – spiritually, academically, socially, emotionally and aesthetically.

During the early part of the school year all teachers have been engaged in gaining relevant and informative baseline assessment data on each student. At our whole school assembly on Monday we formally "launched" our 3 School Learning Goals for this year with our students and members of the community in attendance. Outlined below are our 3 School Learning Goals for 2017 including a brief description of actions to achieve these goals.

Religious Education Goal

All students will deepen their understanding of Christian Scripture.

In achieving this goal teachers will draw on a variety of strategies and resources to enhance student's scriptural understanding. This deeper understanding will incorporate students using the 3 senses of scriptural understanding – the Literal sense (What, who, where, when?); the Spiritual sense (What does this scripture teach us?) and Application sense (What can I do for others? How does this scripture help me love God or Jesus more?).



Literacy Goal

All students will improve their writing with a focus on text cohesion.

In achieving this goal students will engage in daily modelled, shared, guided and independent writing. In order to improve the quality of their writing teachers will provide quality feedback to students as well as students becoming better versed in self-assessing their work using writing exemplars and shared success criteria.

Numeracy Goal

All students will improve their problem-solving skills.

In achieving this goal students will be developing their skills in choosing effective strategies in order to reason, solve, prove and communicate mathematical problems. Our focus in this area is particularly in using multiplication and division strategies.

These goals are our focus areas for the year and are designed to respond to student learning needs and the related professional learning that influences this student learning. Sharing and helping students and parents understand the direction of our School Learning Goals is an important step on the road to realising them and celebrating their achievement.



Until next time,

S. Rosato

Sergio Rosato
Principal

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY (PUPIL FREE) – Monday 24 April, 2017

A Staff Development Day has been planned for Monday 24 April (first day of Term 2). The focus of the day will be curriculum and elements of assessment. **Therefore Term 2 for students will commence on Wednesday 26 April, 2017.**

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

National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence

The seventh National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence was held on Friday 17 March, 2017. This event provided a focus for schools throughout Australia to learn more about how to behave in order to maintain healthy relationships. It is also an opportunity to promote the message that bullying is not okay at any time.

St Thomas Aquinas once again registered to participate in this day. The Day of Action coincides with class lessons to reinforce the key messages of this program. Information featured in class lessons and in our school assemblies will be included in the next 2 newsletters.

For more information go to <https://bullyingnoway.gov.au>

Bullying is when someone:

1. Keeps picking on you AGAIN and AGAIN and tries to make you feel bad.
2. Says or does LOTS of mean things that upset you.
3. Makes fun of you A LOT.
4. Tries to STOP YOU from joining in or making others not like you.
5. KEEPS hurting you such as hitting or punching you.

A person can be bullied about:

How they look	Race or culture
Home or family	A disability
Schoolwork	Personality
Popularity	Hobbies, sports or interests
Achievements	

Bullying can happen:

In person or online. It might be something people can see or might be hidden.

What it isn't:

It is important to understand the DIFFERENCE between BULLYING and ARGUING or CONFLICT.

Sometimes you might have a fight or argument with someone.

It happens once, it is not bullying even though it can be upsetting.

It is also not bullying if you sometimes fight or argue with a friend and you can sort it out.

Bullying is not okay:

You have a right to feel safe.

If you don't feel safe, TALK about it with your parents or other family member, a teacher or trusted grown up who will listen to you.

- o It's NEVER okay to BE MEAN.
- o It's NEVER okay to HURT OTHERS.
- o It's NEVER okay to put someone down.

***Bullying is not
okay at any
time!***

***There's NO
EXCUSE for
bullying!***

Next week: Information on being good Bystanders.

There's NO EXCUSE for bullying.

Creative Arts Alive at STA

St Thomas Aquinas Springwood has a proud tradition of participation in all areas of the Creative Arts including Visual Arts, Music, Dance and Drama. This culture of music extends to the use of live music to enliven and deepen the liturgical, faith and community life of the school.

The creative arts at STA are seen as vital in providing learning opportunities for students that transcend and develop critical thinking skills. The Creative Arts integrates the 3 languages of learning - the language of the mind, the language of the heart and the language of the hands in harmony and together.

Over the next 2 newsletters we would like to outline the opportunities provided at STA on the Creative Arts for students.

School Music & Choir

The school has a specialist Music teacher who teaches the music strand through weekly music lessons to each class. Furthermore, students have the opportunity to be involved in choral singing either through the Junior Choir (Years 2 & 3), Senior Choir (Years 5 & 6) or the Combined Choir. Currently there are over 100 students in these choral ensembles. The choir also consistently participated in the various combined *Captivate* Choir performances. A number of students from STA have been selected to sing in the *Captive* Voices ensemble.

Band Program

Through *Captivate* the school currently has 90 students involved in the school band program. The program provides weekly tuition to students in playing brass instruments and ensemble playing. In 2016 the Band hosted a visit and band workshop from the touring Assumption Primary School Bathurst Band which culminated in a combined performance.

Instrument Lessons from Local Music School

A number of students receive tuition in keyboard and guitar playing on a weekly basis provided by a local music school (Springwood School of Music). These lessons are hosted on school premises.

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Student Awards

Congratulations to the following students, who received Merit Awards at our last 3 School Assemblies. Well done on your efforts everyone – keep up the good work!



Week 7

Luke Arnold
Henry Bender
Patrick Bourke
Skye Boyden
Emma Brickwood
Thomas Brosnan
Madeleine Devitt
Leo Donoghue
Annabelle Duck
Noah Francia
Benjamin Giannakis
Ellen Glasson

Zachary Gonzalez
Lillian Gosling
Samuel Graham
Charlotte Harrison
Luke Harrison
Reihana Hawea
Henry Hinchliff
Ella Hoppe
William Hurley
Ava Huxley
Zoe Langan
Bridie Le Breton

Brianna Leehy
Isabelle Leet
Lexie Mackay
Joseph Mahns
Summer Mamo
Alana Mathew
Brydan McLeod
Sean Miller
Kiara Nugent
Robert O'Brien
Alexis Owen
Amelia Peake

Eydie Peake
Lachlan Roberts
Darcy Ryan
Anastasia Sawyer
Layla Sawyer
Lia Trounce
Declan Vane
Aiden Wade-Ferrell
Lachlan Waters
Tom Withers
Angus Young

Week 8

Harry Adorini
Harrison Brown
Kael Brown
Lucy Brown
Jacob Burnett
Sophia Cantwell
Oliver Carr
Zachary Chapman
Joshua Croucher
Lachlan Dempsey
Mischa Evans
Arabella Fuge
Brendan Golby

Lachlan Golby
Myles Golby
Samuel Graham
Milla Grant
Sebastian Hickey
Jeremy Hodges
Harrison Iles
Alexander Kerkham
Elizabeth Kerkham
Peter Koulouris
Patricia Lia
Maddison Machon

Mollie Malone
Bella McSpadden
Poppy Milroy
Sophie Milsom
Lizzie Mulhall
Natalia Muradian
Caitlin Murphy
Matthew O'Brien
Michael Papasotiriou
Luca Penserini
Olivia Prior
Bailey Rawding

Ari-Kai Rawlings
Owen Riddell
Ruby Roberts
Sahara Rodemark
Jessica Sharp
Rosie Sieders
Adam Springett
Amelia Steadman
Lachlan Steadman
Brooke Thomas
Sienna Valentini
William Valentini

Week 9

Harley Baker
Lily Boersma
Asha Bogg
Nathan Broadhead
Kian Brown
Dylan Cantwell
Deanna Caristo
Lucas Claudino
Jaiden Colburn
Lucas Collins
Alfie Cook
Shaelee Davies
Lachlan Dempsey

Dylan Gillman
Blake Gough
Isabel Hill
Peter Hogan
Joseph Kitching
Hugo Koustonikolis
Abigail Krishna
Taj Leathers
Brady Leehy
Amber Lovric
Maxwell Lovric
Sienna Mathew
Kate McIlveen

Mikayla Merceica
Chelsea Micallef
Jett Murtikos
Sarah-Jane Noonan-Michels
Olivia O'Brien
Angelika Okladnikov
Luca Penserini
Hayden Rawding
Cherinda Rawlings
Henry Re
Casey Ryan
Jack Savage
Addison Schobbe

Samantha Schroeder
Evie Scurr
Bridie Shingles
Natasha Springett
Helena Sypka
Ava Tallon
Riley Thompson
Bronte Tracey
James Watson
Tia White
Luca Wildman
Heidi Willingham
Daniel Woods



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.

2017 School Holy Week Liturgies

As a school we will be celebrating the Easter ceremonies during the last week of the term. The ceremonies will be held according to the following schedule:



Day	Time	Liturgy	Grade Responsible
Monday 3 April	10.05am	Palm Sunday Liturgy in Hall	Kinder & Year 1
	12.30pm	Last Supper Liturgy in Hall	Years 2 & 3
Wednesday 5 April	10.15am	Garden of Gethsemane & Stations of the Cross	Year 5
	12.30pm	Crucifixion and the Tomb on Area 3	Year 6
Thursday 6 April	12.30pm	Resurrection Liturgy in Hall	Year 4

A note will be sent home with further details shortly.



Scan with your
smartphone or tablet for
more information.
www.staspringwood.catholic.edu.au

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Term 2 Mini Vinnies Knitting – helpers required

Next term the Mini Vinnies student social justice group will be participating in knitting blanket squares for the St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal. The knitting sessions will be held on Wednesdays during lunch break (1.35pm – 2.20pm) commencing 3 May.

If you are able to give some time to help students with their knitting please contact Joanne Toohey via a note or the school office. You will need to have current Working With Children approval. The **Building Safe Communities Protective Behaviours Module** can be found at the following website:

<http://ceo-web.parra.catholic.edu.au/asp/volunteerscpmodule/module1/index.htm>

The Season of Lent and Project Compassion 2017

We are now more than halfway through the Church's Season of Lent – a period where we strengthen our relationship with God through prayer, fasting and giving. One way in which we are doing this as a school community is through learning about Caritas Australia, and fundraising for their Project Compassion Appeal. Our school target is \$1000 and to date we have collected nearly \$600. With two weeks of Lent remaining we will continue to focus our fundraising efforts on Project Compassion and respond to the gospel call to 'Love Our Neighbour'.

Joanne Toohey, Religious Education Coordinator



Quality Catholic Schools Survey (QCS)

All Catholic schools in the Diocese of Parramatta will be once again participating in this survey. The QCS survey provides information from students, staff and parents about our school's cultural behaviour, relationships and learning community, and assists us in our focus on continuous improvement. In the next fortnight all school staff, approximately 360 students from Years 3 - 6, and 60 randomly-selected parents identified by the Catholic Education Office will be asked to complete a survey. The information gained will help our school in identifying our strengths and areas for further development.

DIARY DATES

2017 TERM 1	Monday 27 March	9.05am Coffee and Chat - in the Hall School Band 12.35pm Assembly – 3G presenting 3.40pm Leadership Meeting
	28	School Band 3.40pm Staff Meeting
	29	8.30am Staff Briefing School Band 9.20am Parish Mass – Kinder & Year 6 attending 11.05am Principal's Morning Tea – selected students
	30	8.30am Staff Prayer
	31	SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY for Years 2-6 Year 1 Ceramics Incursion Part 2
	Monday 3 April	10.05am Palm Sunday Liturgy in Hall 12.30pm Last Supper Liturgy in Hall 3.40pm Leadership Meeting
Week 11	4	Rescheduled Paul Kelly Cup AFL Gala Day – selected students 3.40pm Staff Meeting
	5	8.30am Staff Briefing 10.15am Garden of Gethsemane Parent Session 12.30pm Crucifixion & the Tomb on Area 3
	6	12.30pm Resurrection Liturgy in Hall
	7	Stage 3 Touch Football Gala Day – selected students
		Term 1 Concludes

COMMUNITY NOTICES

2017 Cool Kids – Free Group Program for Children with Anxiety Issues: Cool Kids is an evidence-based treatment program for children with anxiety issues. **Both children and their parents** participate in a **free 8 week program** that will help children overcome and manage their anxiety at home and school, and give parents practical strategies to support their children. A group will be running during **Term 2 in Springwood**. All families **must attend a pre-group assessment** to determine suitability. For a referral speak to your GP about a Cool Kids referral or phone the Community Health Central Referral Service on **1800 222 608**. **Referrals close Thursday 20 April**. Group sessions commence Thursday 4 May, 4.00-5.30pm.

Sent Home Recently:

- Wakakiri Information Note and Consent Form – selected students *(green)*
- Royce Simmons & Greg Alexander Rugby Postponement Note – selected students
- Staff Development Day Notification *(salmon)*
- Quality Catholic Schooling Surveys – selected families
- Rescheduled Paul Kelly Cup AFL Gala Day Permission Note – selected students
- School Cross Country Note for Years 2 – 6 *(gold)*
- Kindergarten Design & Make Note *(pink)*

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