



NEWSLETTER

No. 9 Date: 30/11/2015 Week 9 Term 4

Dear St Thomas Aquinas Families,

It is always interesting to examine the origins of words to better understand how language has been shaped over time by lived experience. The word "Hospitality" for instance comes from the Latin word *hospes*, meaning curiously both "host" and "guest."

Seeing ourselves in an hospitable sense both as host and guest can bring a new perspective to our perception of the action of being hospitable. The Benedictine sister and social justice advocate Joan Chittister, says that "Hospitality is the way we turn a prejudiced world around, one heart at a time." Ultimately, hospitality needs to be lived in welcoming places.

Last week we concluded hosting our Kindergarten students and their families over 4 orientation visits. These visits are an important example of how we as a community welcome and build important relationships with the most recently arrived members of our school community. These "new" members have made a conscious decision to be part of this Catholic community.

The Kindergarten Orientation visits are always a great energiser at this time of the year, when things tend to be quite hectic. The visits fill our community with joy and new possibilities for the future.

At each of the 4 visits the Kindy children were personally met and welcomed by a current Year 5 student – their buddies next year. After shaking hands and introductions were completed each Kindy child was presented with a name tag and then led down to the Kindergarten classrooms by their buddy student. Watching this relationship develop over the four visits was heartwarming and a tangible sign of hospitality.

While our new students were engaged in various activities in the classrooms by our teaching team our new families were in the hall forging new friendships with each other and school staff including Sister Monica.

Also this year, during each visit various members of our teaching team shared some practical strategies for parents to use with their children in select areas of learning. The presentations included strategies on counting, oral language and music and the creative arts. From the positive feedback received these presentations were really valued by all those in attendance. We thank our numeracy specialist, Kathryn Cefai, Assistant Principal, Avril Llewellyn and music teacher, Leigha Wills for their expertise in presenting these brief sessions.

This Sunday we commence the Church's great season of Advent. During this season we recall that the angel told Joseph that the baby born of Mary would be Emmanuel, God-with-us. The season and all that takes place in preparation for Christmas is a reminder that Our God, Emmanuel – is, by choice, a guest in our homes and in our hearts.

Until next time,

S Rosato

Sergio Rosato
Principal

Students Not Returning for 2016

The school is currently interviewing families for enrolment for 2016. Places are limited in some grades. To enable the school to plan appropriately we would appreciate families of students in Grades K-5 who are not returning in 2016 to please notify the school **in writing as soon as possible**. Your timely attention to this matter would be much appreciated as the implications regarding staffing and resourcing by the Catholic Education Office stem from accurate enrolment numbers.

"Hospitality is the way we turn a prejudiced world around, one heart at a time."



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Annual Diocesan Tuition Fees – 2016

Annual Diocesan Tuition Fees can be paid upfront at the start of the year or as three equal payments in Terms 1, 2 and 3. The fee is only charged for the first three (3) children currently enrolled in the diocese (in other words there is no additional Diocesan Tuition Fee for the fourth child attending a systemic school in the diocese or other participating Catholic schools - **see 'Sibling Discounts' below**). To work out how much the fee is for each child, check the table below.

PER YEAR	1 st Child 100%	2 nd Child 75%	3 rd Child 50%
Primary Kindergarten	\$1,098	\$825	\$549
Years 1 – 6	\$1,419	\$1,065	\$711
Secondary Years 7 & 8	\$1,968	\$1,476	\$984
Years 9 & 10	\$2,184	\$1,638	\$1,092
Years 11 & 12	\$2,790	\$2,094	\$1,395

Year fees are to be charged in the first three terms using the following schedule:

PER TERM	1 st Child	2 nd Child	3 rd Child
Primary Kindergarten	\$366	\$275	\$183
Years 1 - 6	\$473	\$355	\$237
Secondary Years 7 & 8	\$656	\$492	\$328
Years 9 & 10	\$728	\$546	\$364
Years 11 & 12	\$930	\$698	\$465

Annual Diocesan Building Levy – 2016

All families with one or more children in a Parramatta Diocesan school or at St Dominic's College, Kingswood are required to pay the annual Diocese of Parramatta Diocesan Building Levy. This levy has replaced the various building levies that parents previously paid to school building funds (managed by either parishes or schools). **The levy for 2016 is \$735 per family, payable in three equal instalments of \$245 payable in terms one, two and three.**

Annual Diocesan Education Fee Temporary Residents – 2016

The Diocesan Education Fee Temporary Residents for 2016 is **\$1,815 per student, payable in three equal instalments of \$605 in terms one, two and three**. The fee applies to new students on the following Visa numbers: 173, 401, 411, 415, 416, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 426, 427, 428, 442, 457, 459, 476, 485, 497, 580, 600, 601, 651, 675, 676, 679, 685, 944, 956, 976 and 977 including where any of these are the preceding visas for families on bridging visas 010 to 090.

Families charged this fee in 2013 will continue to be charged on a per family basis to the eldest student whilst the family has continuous current students.

Enrolment Fees – 2016

These are non-refundable and include an upfront Application Fee and if successful, an Enrolment deposit:

Non-Refundable	Application Fee	Enrolment Deposit
Primary	\$0	\$100
Secondary	\$50	\$300

Principal's Morning Tea for Effort in Learning

On Tuesday 10 November the following 48 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!



Alice Bauerhuit
Henry Bender
Nathan Broadhead
Mya Buchtmann
Emily Burnett
Olivia Byrnes
Anabel Caristo
Benjamin Cassidy
Liam Clayton
Patrick Costigan
Tia Cross
Joel Crouch
Shaelee Davies
Britney Dorman
Macauley Down
Jessica Ellis
Tia Foley
Ezra Forsyth
Ruby Forsyth
Alexander Freer
Matilda Gauci
Lillian Gosling
Filip Grus
Isabel Hill

Kayla Hurley
Isaac Hutchinson
Bridie Knibbs
Connor Le Breton
Taj Leathers
Jovina Manning
Lincoln McLoughlin
Chelsea Micallef

Addison Miller
Patrick Moore
Lachlan Morris
Angelika Okladnikov
Charlotte Oliver
Christopher Oliver
Molly Peake
Will Peake

Henry Re
Vienna Reynolds
Lachlan Steadman
Nathan Treble
Isabella Valle
Grace Wardle
Ellie Watson
Sarah Wydmuch



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Student Awards

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



Week 6

Noah Barr	Mathew Hall	William Moore	Ben Tracey
Lauren Beaton	Daniel Hampson	Olivia Mountain	Isabella Trinajstic
Zachary Birch	Blake Jones	Paige Noonan-Michels	Klara Trinajstic
Annalise Blattman	Amy Kilner	Ellie Penserini	Benjamin Waters
Isabella Bonnici	Talyka Kime	James Rafter	Meike Watson
Cooper Brown	Joseph Kitching	Jack Reynolds	Darcy Weston
Olivia Byrnes	Taj Leathers	Oliver Rizzuti	Caitlin Westwell
Sophie Clink	Danielle Leehy	Mayah Shore	Mackenzie Williams
Rebecca Collis	Preston Mamo	Ariella Smith	Clare Williamson
Amelia Crouch	Kate McIlveen	Hugo Strickland	William Wright
Benjamin Dawson	Madison Micallef	Benjamin Synnott	Olivia Young
Audrey Gauci	Chyna Moore		

Week 7

Willow Barker	Nathan Della-Libera	Lachlan Konwerski	Dylan O'Flanagan
Tobey Barr	Frank Dyer	Matthew Kwiedor	Riley Pagitz
Kael Brown	Luke Edwards	Ella Laurent	Felicity Paul
Elysia Burchall	Jack Fuge	Bridget Lloyd-Williams	Wilkin Payens
Ferris Carey	Zachary Gonzalez	Ebony Manning	Skyler Pick
Mackenzie Carey	Georgia Hammond	David McMaster	Luke Redmond
Zachary Carvasiglia	Jeremy Harris	Macklin Miall	Amali Rehutai
Reid Clarke	Gwen Henderson	Grace Miller	Julian Sypka
Liam Clink	Ella Holdsworth	Sophie Milsom	Conna Taylor
Noah Costello	Ella Hoppe	Dylan Mitchell	Samuel Turner
Makayla Crouch	Benjamin Huggard	Tess Morris	Mia Watson
Mitchell Cunningham	Adam Hurley	Gela Moss	Jackson Williams
Jessica D'Alessio	Harrison Iles	Caitlin Murphy	Madison Williams
Mark D'Alessio	Michael Ingram	Nicholas Neil	Aiden Woolley

Week 8

Ryan An U	Mia Grodzicki	Alison Lovric	Vienna Reynolds
Leo Borg	Thomas Grodzicki	Mollie Malone	River Rodemark
Nathan Broadhead	Lucy Hall	Lachlan McAlpine	Grace Ryan
Lucy Brown	Ruby Hammond	Lachlan McGrath	Jack Savage
Charlotte Burke	Finn Hartley	Holly McIlveen	Ethan Sophokleous
Alex Cullinane	Xavier Hartley	Brendan McMaster	Nicholas Towell
Neive DeBono	Amy Harvey	Ethan Muller	Patrick Wakeling
Cameron Dempsey	Xavier Haynes	Kiera Natter	Alfie Williamson
Texas Down	Erin Hutchinson	Alexis Owen	Lachlan Williamson
Frank Dyer	Alexander Kerkham	Amelia Peake	Ryan Woods
Zachary Filla	Jack Kuypers	Tom Peake	Luke Wright
Eleanor Fortunat	Taj Leathers	Skyler Pick	Lola Wyld
Chloe Galluzzi	Brady Leehy	Joshua Pyle	Sophie Young
Liam Galluzzi	Scarlett Lia		



Italian Forum

On Monday, 23 November our Kindergarten children participated in our annual Kindergarten Pizza Day, which is organised as part of the cultural component of the children's Italian program. Dom from Mamma Mia Pizza and Pasta Restaurant in Springwood visited the school and spoke to the children about how to make pizza, and demonstrated how to roll and toss the dough. Some of the children were even able to toss the dough themselves! He also made pizzas in his restaurant and brought them in for the children to eat. Many thanks to Dom for giving up his time and making this a very enjoyable food experience for the children. Mamma Mia Pizza and Pasta Restaurant is at 1/107 Macquarie Road, Springwood. Phone: 4751 6900. **Jenni Wurf, Teacher of Italian**



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Year 6 Excursion to St Mary MacKillop Place & The Museum of Contemporary Art

Last Thursday I had the great privilege of accompanying our Year 6 students and their teachers to St Mary MacKillop Place, North Sydney. The excursion included a guided tour of the museum and the Memorial Chapel, which contains the tomb of St Mary of the Cross. The excursion served to provide a pilgrimage experience for our senior students as they approach the end of their primary school journey.



The students demonstrated a great sense of reverence and interest through their visit. This was commented on by each of the tour guides on the day. It was also great for the students to meet and say hello to our own Father Shane who was there to witness the annual Bishop's Conference. Before returning to school the students also walked across the Harbour Bridge and visited The Museum of Contemporary Art.

New School Opal Card - Reminder

From 2016 paper bus passes will be replaced by the new School Opal card. Parents of students progressing from Year 2 into Year 3 are reminded that they must apply for the School Opal card before the end of the term (preferably by the end of Week 10). If you have filled out a blue paper application form, please destroy it and complete your application online as the **previous forms are no longer valid**. To apply go to www.transportnsw.info/school-students; in the **concessions area of the website** you can complete the application; print, sign and submit form to the school for endorsement. The application may take several weeks and the applicant's email address is required. The School Opal cards will be issued to eligible students early in Term 1 2016. Visit the above website for further information.



Scan with your smartphone or tablet for more information.

www.stiaspringwood.catholic.edu.au

DIARY DATES

2015 TERM 4 Week 9	Tuesday 1 December	2016 Class Placement requests due Kinder Restaurant Day School Chess Competition 3.40pm Staff Meeting
	2	8.30am Staff Briefing 9.20am Parish Mass – Kindergarten attending School Chess Competition 2D & 2C Excursion to Penrith Regional Art Gallery 11.35am Reconciliation in the Church – 6M
	3	8.30am Staff Prayer 9.15-10.15 St Columba's Students visit Year 1 2WD Excursion to Penrith Regional Art Gallery 3.30-5.30pm Cool Kids Program
	4	11.35am Reconciliation in the Church – 4C
	Monday 7 December	12.30pm Assembly – 6F presenting 3.40pm Leadership Meeting
Week 10	8	12.00pm End of Year Thanksgiving Mass in the Church 3.40pm Staff Meeting
	9	8.30am Staff Briefing
	10	Manners Park Tree Decorating – selected students 7.00pm Christmas Concert
	11	School Band 12.30pm Catch-up Assembly & Premier's Reading Challenge

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Family/Group Retreat: Bring all the kids plus your family and friends to our "Home of Light" Self-catered group accommodation facility. Sleeping 33 persons in 11 rooms, mostly bunk style accommodation (6 rooms with 2 bunks in each room) but also includes 4 private twin share rooms. A kitchen, large dining room and lounge area make this a complete bush getaway, tucked into the valley at Mount Schoenstatt with Kangaroos visiting daily. Special applies to weekday bookings (Mon-Thurs only) stay during January: Minimum of 4 night stay at \$200 per night.

Sent Home Recently:

- Penrith Regional Art Gallery Excursion Permission Notes to 2C, 2D & 2WD
- Head Lice Notes to Years 1, 2 & 5
- Year 6 Darling Harbour Picnic Day Excursion Permission Note

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