



Every Student, Every Day at STA

Our School Attendance Goal for 2017 is 90%.

Our current School Attendance is 82%.

Our 2017 School Learning Goals

- * All students will deepen their understanding of Christian **scripture**.
- * All students will improve the quality of their **writing**.
- * All students will improve their **problem-solving** skills.

NEWSLETTER

No. 10 Date: 22/09/2017 Week 10 Term 3

Dear St Thomas Aquinas Families,

Today brings to a conclusion another varied and stimulating school term for our students at St Thomas Aquinas. The last fortnight of Term has provided many highlights to conclude what has been a very successful and engaging period of learning, growth and fun at STA.

Wakakirri State Awards Night

The school's story/dance item entitled **Songs for a War Boy** based on the remarkable life of Deng Adut was awarded first place at the Wakakirri Awards Evening held at the Homebush Sports Centre. Our 90-strong Waka troupe, their director Michelle Nightingale and supported by Virginia Fortunat, Nicole Pospichil, Cassandra Wotherspoon, Blanche Hortense, Christle Le Breton and many other staff members are to be congratulated on this outstanding achievement. *Songs for a War Boy* has also been nominated for the National Story Of The Year Award to be announced later in October.



Captivate Arts Factor Performance

On Thursday 14 September our school hosted students from a number of schools in our Diocese including Mother Theresa's Westmead, Our Lady of the Rosary St Mary's, Holy Family Granville, St Oliver's Harris Park and St Michael's Blacktown in a drama workshop. Three drama-literacy educators from the Diocese facilitated this day including our Drama Teacher, Lucinda Armour. Students from each of the schools were involved in rehearsing and then performing a major literacy-based item.

Our Year 4 students, under the direction of Lucinda Armour and supported by their teachers, performed a highly developed piece based on a dramatised short history of the world. We commend the work from each school presented on the day and thank their teachers and Captivate for their work.

Local Federal Member of Parliament Visit

On Thursday the Federal Member for Macquarie, Ms Susan Templeman, visited our school. Ms Templeman hosted a Q & A session with our Year 5 students as part of their study of Government and Civics. Ms Templeman was also able to brief the students on the function and features of Parliament House in Canberra in preparation for their visit to the nation's capital in Term 4.

Following her time with Year 5 Susan Templeman joined the entire school for an Assembly, which included the presentation of awards for learning, attendance, sporting and Wakakirri participation. We are most grateful to Susan Templeman for her time in visiting and supporting our school.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY – Pupil Free

Monday 9 October (1st day of Term 4)

The focus for this professional development day will be on Religious Education and Literacy (Writing).

Students will commence Term 4 on Tuesday 10 October.

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a: 168 Hawkesbury Rd Springwood 2777 | p: 02 4723 3800 | f: 02 4723 3899

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

FROM THE PRINCIPAL – cont'd

Blue Mountains Musical Society (BMMS) Visit STA

Also at assembly on Thursday we hosted a visit of 3 talented cast members from the BMMS. The cast members featured musical excerpts from The Society's upcoming production of The Little Mermaid. We are immensely grateful to BMMS for their visit. We are also proud that a number of our students are current members of the BMMS and furthering their love of the creative arts.



Message from BMMS

I am just writing to thank you again for hosting the BMMS performers yesterday. The cast members spoke very highly of your students and were impressed with the behaviour of the students and how accommodating and helpful the staff were. Thank you again for having us to perform for your school. Amy Stoakes (BMMS)

Sporting Participation – Gymnastics, Touch Football, Athletics and Tennis

The final fortnight of school has provided many highlights for students in the areas of Physical Education and both inter and intra school Sport.

Class Physical Education

Our class-based Physical Education program has featured students participating and improving their skills in the area of gymnastics. We thank Ann Gippel for her ongoing dedication in providing well-structured and engaging lessons for our students that seek to promote personal growth and sportsmanship.

Inter Diocesan Athletics and Touch Football

Our interschool sporting involvement for students have included large contingents of students participating in the Inter Diocesan Athletics Carnival as well as teams from grades 3-6 participating in two Diocesan-wide Touch Football Gala Days. We thank parents for your support as well as Ann Gippel, Chris Chenoweth and Kate Mackenzie for their preparation of these teams.

Tennis Clinics

This term our Year 3 & 4 students have benefited from participating in supplementary Tennis Clinics provided by a local tennis professional. These skills-based lessons have been courtesy of Andrew McLeod from **Springwood Tennis Club**. We are most grateful to Andrew and the Club for once again providing our students with this great opportunity.



Principal's Morning Tea for Effort in Learning

On Wednesday Mary Clark (AP) and I hosted a morning tea with 53 students. Held twice a term, these morning teas are a way of honouring and celebrating the effort of students with their learning. As part of the gathering students are invited to share a personal learning goal or learning achievement. We congratulate each of these children for their dedication and hard work with their learning this term.



Sacrament of Confirmation

On Tuesday evening 45 of our students from Year 6 received the Sacrament of Confirmation. The Mass was concelebrated by Rev Peter Williams (Vicar General), Fr Paul Slyney (PP) and Fr Flor Apalias (Assistant Priest). We congratulate and continue to hold in our prayers these children on receiving the life-giving gift of the Holy Spirit. We also congratulate their sponsors and families on this joyous and significant occasion.

Kindergarten Mass – We Belong

This week our Kindergarten students, their teachers and many parents attended the Parish Mass on Wednesday. As part of their Religious Education program entitled, *We Belong* our Kindy students have been learning about what it means to belong to a Parish Community. During the Mass the students led the singing of special hymns and also presented Father Paul Slyney (PP) with a canvas artwork they have created to represent this theme. The canvas is now on display in the Parish Church for the entire community to view. We thank Father Paul for his gracious and encouraging support of our Kindergarten students and their development in Religious Education.

JollyBop Incursion

Our Kindergarten and Year 1 students recently participated in a wonderful incursion at the school presented by Jollybop. This highly interactive and exciting performance provided all students with an opportunity for science-based drama, movement and dance.

Year 6 Cake Stall for Childhood Leukaemia

This week our Year 6 students hosted a special cake stall to raise funds in support of Childhood Leukaemia. This initiative was led by one of our Year 6 students Aiden Machon and supported wholeheartedly by the entire year group. The cake stall raised \$251.35. The proceeds will be donated to aid leukaemia research as well as play therapy to help children living with leukaemia.



Muffi Day in Support of the Cadman Family

Finally today, we hosted a muffi day in honour of the late Julian Cadman. As a sign of hope and solidarity we offer our gold coin donations to the Diocesan Appeal for the Cadman family, in the wake of their son's tragic death in Barcelona. Thank you for your support and prayers in this regard.

As we reflect on the school term we are mindful that all our endeavours, educationally, socially, spiritually happen within a community that is guided always by the Gospel and Christ's lived example encapsulated in our school motto, *Love One Another*.

Until next term,

S Rosato

Sergio Rosato
Principal

Love one another

Student Awards

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



Isabella Ambrozic	Erin DeBono	Matthew Kwiedor	Keyuri Naidoo
Jordan Banks	Cooper Donoghue	Taj Leathers	Harrison Newport
Leo Borg	Leo Donoghue	Melissa Lee	Robert O'Brien
Patrick Bourke	Anna Edwards	Brady Leehy	Florencia Perez-Eaton
Nathan Broadhead	Katelyn Ellis	Annalise Lia	Jacob Pospischil
Harrison Brown	Noah Francia	Scarlett Lia	Lucy Poulter
Emily Burke	Max Friedland-Jaccoud	Ronan Loughton	Siobhan Rafter
Jacob Burnett	Brendan Golby	Jessica Mace	Hayden Rawding
Alannah Collins	Myles Golby	Summer Mamo	Arabella Stewart-Rowley
Chloe Corbett	Emilia Gosling	Imogen Mathew	Hugo Strickland
Makayla Crouch	Lara Heyman	Lincoln McLoughlin	Madison Williams
Sienna Curley	Nyah Hutchings	Sophie Milsom	Hayden Willingham
Cem Damarguc	Giulietta Kistan	Natalia Muradian	Aiden Woolley



Principal's Morning Tea for Effort in Learning

On Wednesday 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!

Jackson Bagatella	Molly Jones	Analise Mafi	Anastasia Sawyer
Abigail Ballard	William Jones	Summer Mamo	Natasha Springett
Isabella Bonnici	Elizabeth Kerkham	Brendan McMaster	Archer Sproule
Emanuel Borg	Giulietta Kistan	Chyna Moore	Amelia Synnott
Patrick Bourke	Nicholas Koulouris	Olivia Mountain	Spencer Thomas
Samantha Bourke	Peter Koulouris	Natalia Muradian	Will Ticehurst
Emma Brickwood	Abigail Krishna	Niamh O'Connell	Antonio Todarello
Lara Buhs	Archie Lamont	Florencia Perez-Eaton	Bronte Tracey
Emily Burke	Patricia Lia	Maria Pochukaeva	Isabel Van Meeuwen
Sophia Cantwell	Scarlett Lia	Siobhan Rafter	Tyson Verriere
Chiara Carlino	Zoe Long	Ari-Kai Rawlings	Mieke Watson
Oliver Carr	Maddison Machon	River Rodemark	Daniel Woods



Prayer for the Good Samaritan Sisters

Sr Monica Armstrong sgs has been ministering to STA families in her role as Home-Liaison for more than 20 years, conducting home visits, supporting our students, parents and our staff, making her presence known in her gentle and practical way. We are truly grateful to the Holy Spirit for the gift of her loving service to our school community. The Good Samaritan Sisters to which Sr Monica belongs, invite you to pray for them as they have their 26th Chapter Gathering from 23 September – 3 October 2017 to decide on their vision and elect a new leadership team for the next six years.

Prayer:

Creating God, you never cease to listen to our prayer. May the Good Samaritan Sisters accept responsibility for deep listening, generous sharing and prayerful discerning of Your chosen mission for their congregation.

May the Sisters attend to Gospel values, as they realistically respond to a changing world.

May the presence of Your Spirit in the diversity of cultures in their midst, make them bold for the sake of Your kingdom.

May their partnerships be animated with the same Spirit in which Benedict received people.

May the eyes of the vulnerable and the wounds of our planet, stir the Sisters to action.

Compassionate and merciful God, may the Sisters be worthy of the trust placed in them.

Amen



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Uniform Change Over

Parents are reminded that students are to wear **Summer Uniform** when school resumes for **Term 4**. CEDP Sports Jumpers and Hoodies may only be worn with sports uniform. For further details please refer to the Parent Handbook located on the school website.

DIARY DATES

2017 TERM 4 Week 1	Monday 9 October	STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY – Pupil Free
	Tuesday 10 October	Students Commence Term 4 School Band 3.40pm Staff Meeting
	11	8.30am Staff Briefing School Band 9.20am Parish Mass
	12	8.30am Staff Prayer
	13	Year 6 Pilgrimage Excursion to Mary MacKillop House
Week 2	Monday 16 October	9.05am Cuppa & Chat – in the Hall School Band 12.35pm Assembly – 1W presenting 3.40pm School Leadership Meeting
	17	3.40pm Staff Meeting
	18	8.30am Staff Briefing 9.20am Parish Mass
	19	8.30am Staff Prayer
	20	

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Two Lands of Song - A Double Treat Choral Concert: St Finbar's Organ & Concert Committee and The Sydney Welsh Choir present **Sydney Welsh Choir and The Wanganui Male Choir**. A combined concert presenting an afternoon of the best choral music – sacred, classical, popular as well as songs from Wales, New Zealand and Australia. **Sunday 8 October at 2.30pm in St Finbar's Catholic Church, Levy Street, Glenbrook.** **Cost:** \$20 entry with Program. Children U-12 \$12. **Enquiries:** (02) 4739 0384

Destination Discovery – YMCA Holiday Vacation Care: September/October 2017 Holiday Program: **Monday 25 September** – Day Camp: Marvel vs DC (\$51); **Tuesday 26 September** – Excursion: Camp Yarramundi (\$76); **Wednesday 27 September** – Day Camp: Cooking Day (\$56); **Thursday 28 September** – Incursion: Disco Party (\$65); **Friday 29 September** – Day Camp: Roald Dahl Day (\$51); **Monday 2 October** – **CLOSED** (PUBLIC HOLIDAY); **Tuesday 3 October** – Day Camp: PJ, Pizza & Cubby Day (\$51); **Wednesday 4 October** – Incursion: Reptile Incursion (\$70); **Thursday 5 October** – Excursion: Park/Stuff a Backpack (\$20); **Friday 6 October** – Day Camp: Spooky Day (\$51). For details and to book phone **0428 791 175**. YMCA Springwood OSHC, De Chair Avenue, Springwood. **Email:** oshc.springwood@ymcansw.org.au

Zany Yare Presents Hey Diddle Diddle - A circus Spectacular telling the unknown story of Hey Diddle Diddle; a tale of fated meetings and accidental brilliance. **Winmalee High School, 7 and 8 October.** Tickets and info available through info@zanyyare.com.au - www.zanyyare.com.au

1st Springwood Scouts Centenary Celebration: Come join us on **21 October** to celebrate 100 Years of Scouting at 1st Springwood Scouts. Come along and see what we do in Scouts as well as learn about the history of 1st Springwood Scouts. We will be celebrating with music, fun Scouting activities, face painting and the drawing of our Anniversary Raffle where you could win \$1000. We look forward to seeing you there at **1st Springwood Hall, 7b Sir Henry's Parade, Faulconbridge** from **11am till late**. For further information please contact **Candace Burke** on **0431 171 069**.

What's On at Penrith Observatory: You Are Here, Part I: The Solar System, 7 October, presented by Dr Nicholas Tothill. Considering it's our backyard, the Solar System shouldn't be too surprising. But from Mercury out to Pluto and beyond, the Solar System is a strange place, full of surprises and puzzles. We'll take a quick tour from the Sun to the edge of the Solar System. Since we don't really know where the Solar System ends, we might even overshoot a little! Includes presentation, short 3D movie and viewing of the night sky through a range of telescopes (weather permitting). **Cost:** \$18.00 Adult, \$12.00 Child/Concession, \$50.00 Family (2 adults + 2 children), Children under 3 years of age free. **BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL.** **Time:** 8pm – 10pm. **Venue:** Penrith Observatory (Building AO), Western Sydney University, Werrington North campus, Great Western Highway, Werrington. Contact phone or website for public enquiries and bookings: https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/observatorypenrith/penrith_observatory/whats_on

Sent Home Recently:

- 2017-2018 Bushfire Season Note (orange)
- Spirit of Wakakiri Muffi Day Note
- Cupcakes for Cancer Note to Year 6 (gold)
- Year 6 Pilgrimage Excursion Note
- 4B Term 4 Arrangements (salmon)



Scan with your smartphone or tablet for more information.

www.staspringwood.catholic.edu.au

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS!