



Every Student, Every Day at STA

Our School Attendance Goal for 2017 is 90%.

Our current School Attendance is 85.8%.

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. 8 Date: 10/08/2017 Week 4 Term 3

Dear St Thomas Aquinas Families,

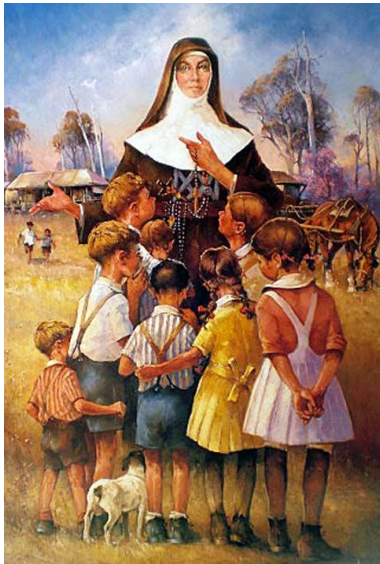
Like most, the first prayer I ever learnt as a child was The Lord's Prayer – or the Our Father. The Lord's Prayer is unique as the only known prayer uttered by Jesus Christ himself.

For those old enough to remember, the Australian nun Sister Janet Mead even had a top-10 hit with her "pop" version of the prayer in 1974. It is significant that the Lord's Prayer, or Our Father, is the common prayer of all Christians around the world, regardless of denomination or languages.

Jesus presents a prayer that is simple in structure and practical in its intent. After an opening address, there are five petitions, two regarding the Father, touching on his name and his kingdom (now and in the future) and three relating to the needs of those offering the prayer:

- the provision of food - spiritual and physical
- forgiveness - ourselves and others
- protection.

In The Lord's Prayer Jesus presents us with a great prayer of community. We say "Our Father" not "My Father". It is a prayer offered during the Mass prior to the sign of peace and the reception of the Eucharist. It is the prayer that many of us have turned to in times when prayer is difficult. The prayer that Christ gives us as an exemplar is one that opens us up to the action of God's Holy Spirit and directs us to act in love, forgiveness, friendship, compassion and service towards others.



The "Our Father" is a gift from Christ through the ages - the prayer of the Christian pilgrim, of all those who plod daily along life's journey. It is not only the first prayer we ever learnt but one that we can return to throughout our lives with humility and faith especially when praying is difficult.

In the week when we acknowledge and celebrate the example of our own Aussie Saint, St Mary of the Cross Mackillop, the Lord's Prayer remains a timeless expression of our deepest longing for love, charity and faith in the providence of God. Mary's example lived out through these acts as inspiration and hope for us in this time.

Grandparents Day 2017

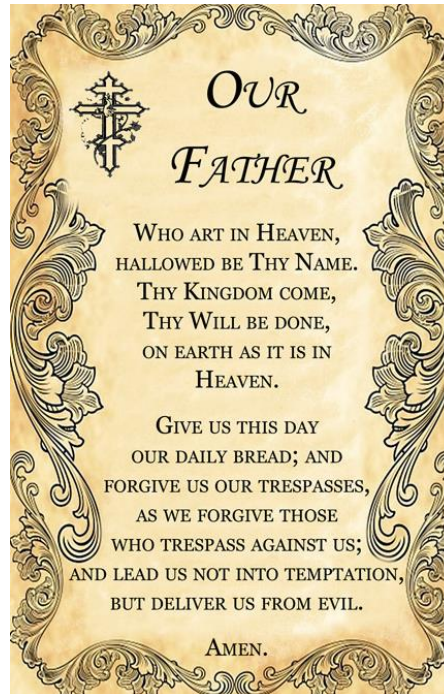
This Friday our School will host Grandparents Day. The day seeks to honour in a special way the vital role that grandparents and other significant role models play in the lives of our children within our community. It is a day when we pause and give thanks to all grandparents as well as a day where grandparents have an opportunity to show their love, pride and appreciation for their children's children.

The role that grandparents play may be different from family to family but they all share an important role in helping to influence their grandchildren's growth and formation. Grandparents are a precious and essential part of our community. They help grandchildren better understand who they are by helping to convey faith, values and family traditions. Also by passing on stories about their own and their parent's childhood they are imparting important lessons for living. Many grandparents are also significant carers in the lives of their grandchildren and a number of them assume the role of the primary carer. (Continued over.)

love one another

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



GRANDPARENTS DAY

Friday 11 August

12.00pm – Concert

12.50pm – Open Classrooms

1.35pm – BYO Picnic Lunch

Concludes at 2.20pm

All welcome!

FROM THE PRINCIPAL – cont'd

Many schools like our own host a 'Grandparents Day' – a practice that is enjoyed and appreciated by both students and their grandparents. The author Mary Pipher, who has written extensively on the topic of grandparents said:

We crave a greater sense of connection in our families, and in our culture. But we put all our 3-year-olds in one place, all our 14-year-olds in another place, and all our 80-year-olds in yet another place. When we do this, we miss out. Each age group has its own wisdom, its own 'specialness' to share.

What Mary Pipher was alluding to I believe, is that relationships across generations make us feel connected. They make us feel connected, to each other, but to something bigger – to the cycle of life, to the past and to the future. In our modern world, we need this sense of connection. In fact, we crave it. It helps us understand where we've come from, who we are, where we're going, and why we're going there.

What young people need most are the essentials that grandparents provide in abundance - their knowledge, unconditional love, patience and calm wisdom. Grandparents Day is about giving collective thanks for the treasure that are our grandparents.

We look forward to welcoming many grandparents to our school this Friday for this special occasion.

Until next time,

S Rosato

Sergio Rosato
Principal

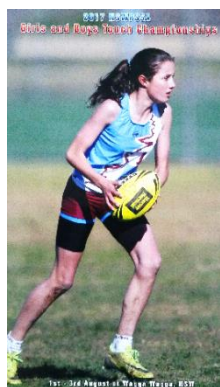


Jeans for Genes

Last Friday our students and staff enjoyed wearing jeans for the day in support of raising funds for the Children's Medical Research Institute. A total of \$890.00 was raised for this worthy cause. Thank you for your support.



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Student Sporting Success – Molly Jones

Congratulations to Molly Jones who recently gained selection into the Diocesan Cricket Team. The Parramatta Diocese Team, called *Mackillop*, will be competing against other dioceses across NSW in Maitland during October.

Last week Molly also competed in the NSW PSSA Girls Touch State Championships in Wagga. From all accounts, despite the freezing weather, fog and rain, Molly had a fantastic week. Molly gained much from the experience including making many new friends from other schools around the state.

We should be immensely proud of Molly's great achievement and sportsperson-ship. We are also proud that she was also representing St Thomas Aquinas Springwood at the tournament.



Mini Vinnies Knitting



This week at our assembly 20 blankets were given to the St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal. This was the culmination of a term's worth of dedicated effort by the STA Mini Vinnies students and a band of very dedicated parent- and grandparent-helpers. A luncheon was hosted by the Mini Vinnies students on Wednesday 1 Aug to say thank you to the helpers (photos below). Our sincere appreciation is extended to everyone who made this year's knitting efforts so enjoyable and successful.

Joanne Toohey, Mini Vinnies Coordinator



Voice of Youth

During the beginning of this term all Year 6 students have been working on their Voice of Youth speeches. Voice of Youth is a Diocesan-wide public speaking initiative for all students in Year 6. Students are asked to prepare and present a 3-4 minute speech on a topic of their choice. Three students from each class are then selected to present their speeches at the school final. From this 3 students are selected to compete in the Zone final involving students from STA Springwood, St Finbars Glenbrook, OLON Lawson and St Canice's Katoomba. The speech judged the best in the Zone is then presented at the Diocesan final held later in Term 3. **The following students competed at the school this week with their chosen topics:** Will Ticehurst - *Hello*, Mayah Shore - *Shoes*, Isabelle Leet - *M&M's Story*, Chyna Moore - *Nursery Rhymes*, Noah Samoluk - *Harry Houdini*, Francis Dyer - *Being a Manly Man*, Olive Borbely - *The World in 3000*, Vincent Applebee - *Spiders*, Patrick Bourke - *Sport and Adversity*, Olivia Morrissey - *Musical Theatre*, Lucas Collins - *Health*, Oliver Carr - *Modern Devices*. **The 3 finalists were** - Patrick Bourke, Oliver Carr and Mayah Shore. Congratulations to all our Year 6 students for their participation in this worthwhile aspect of learning. Writing and communicating ideas to peers and an audience offers a wonderful opportunity to share knowledge and to inspire others.

Love one another

Student Awards

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



Week 2

Annika Adorini	Ysobel Chalice	Harry Gilchrist	Bailey Rawding
Harrison Adorini	Zachary Chapman	Ziggy Green	Cherinda Rawlings
Oliver Ashtyn-Smith	Reid Clarke	Mathew Hall	Jessie Reynolds
Isaac Bailey	Ashley Crighton	Kayla Hurley	Lachlan Roberts
Issabella Ballard	Owen Croft	Harvey Jones	Sahara Rodemark
Violet-Rose Bentley	Abigail Croucher	William Jones	Mayah Shore
Leo Borg	Finn Cullinane	Brydan McLeod	Oliver Smyth
Emma Brickwood	Audrey Davis	Matilda Nassif	Julian Sypka
Kael Brown	Benjamin Dawson	Harrison Newport	Zachary Van Meeuwen
Lara Buhs	Emilia Dempsey	Anneke Prineas	Tristan Wade-Ferrell
Mackenzie Carey	Baxter Ellem	Olivia Prior	Reilly Waters
Edward Carr	Arabella Fuge	Christian Ramos-McNeil	Heidi Willingham
Oliver Carr	Kate Giannakis		

Week 3

Violet Baker	Billy Dean	Dominick Jamnicky	Eydie Peake
Carys Beaton	Noah Edwards	Giulietta Kistan	Will Peake
Asher Bogg	Declan Garvan	Ethan Konwerski	Skyler Pick
Samantha Bourke	Cooper Golby	Abigail Krishna	Luke Pospischil
Kian Brown	Lachlan Golby	Matthew Kwiedor	Charlotte Priest
Imogen Carvasiglia	Benjamin Gomez	Emily Leehey	Abigail Richards
Chloe Corbett	Thomas Harris	Samuel Moore	Bridie Shingles
Finn Cullinane	Benjamin Harrison	Taya Moore	Tristan Wade-Ferrell
Ayva Dacey	Lara Heyman	Grace O'Brien	Megie Williamson
Jacob Danks	Payten Holmes		

Week 4

Harley Baker	Ezra Forsyth	Maddison Machon	Annabelle Priest
Riley Barglik	Harry Ghata	Analise Mafi	Beth Rawding
Alice Bauerhuut	Abbey Gomez	Mollie Malone	Ari-Kai Rawlings
Lily Brosnan	Lucy Hall	Summer Mamo	Elly Richards
Noah Brown	Emma Harrison	Ryan May	Ruby Roberts
Elysia Burchall	Henry Hinchliff	Mikayla Mercieca	Mark Rubelj
Ruby Butler	Audrey Hodgins	Genevieve Miruzzi	Lucas Sawyer
Mackenzie Carey	Evie Hodgins	Patrick Moore	Annabelle Scurr
Mark D'Alessio	Mikaela Horner	Tess Morris	Jamie Sharp
Erin DeBono	William Hurley	Ava Murphy	Ava Tallon
Cameron Dempsey	Hayden Keogh	Thomas Neil	Riley Thompson
Madeleine Devitt	Zoe Langan	Felicity Paul	Hamish Wills
Annabelle Duck	Odette Laurent	Amelia Peake	Abigale Wilson
Audrey Ellem	Alex Lopez	Luke Pospischil	Mia Withers
Leonie Ellis	Aiden Machon	Abigail Power	

School Banking

Congratulations to our School Banking students who have earned 10 silver Dollarmites tokens. They are now eligible to redeem these tokens for an exclusive School Banking reward item! Eligible students can redeem for a reward by bringing their completed rewards card to school, along with their 10 tokens, on Tuesday with their banking deposits. **Cheree Brown, School Finance Secretary**

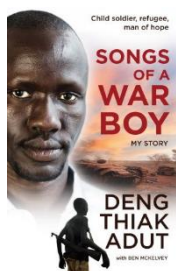


School Fees

School Fee Invoices for Term Three have now been issued and are due by 21st August 2017. 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 to you. **Cheree Brown, School Finance Secretary**

Enrolment K-6 2018

Please advise friends and family that enrolment places for Years K - 6 for 2018 are now being accepted. Please contact the School Enrolment Officer, Kathryn Wachter or see our school website for more details. Enrolment places in some grades are limited.



Wakakirri 2017

After many weeks of dedicated practice our Wakakirri troupe is entering in the final stages of preparation leading up to their performance next Friday evening at the Riverside Theatre. This year our school item is based on the life of Deng Thiak Adut, lawyer, refugee advocate, former child soldier in South Sudan and NSW Australian of the Year. The aim of Wakakirri is story-telling through characterisation, drama, dance and music. Many rehearsals have taken place during school breaks and in the holidays. We congratulate the students for their commitment to this project which seeks not only to entertain but also to educate, inspire and provoke. We also congratulate the many teachers involved, led by Michelle Nightingale, for their outstanding work.

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Teacher Supervision of Students – Before and After School

As outlined in the Parent Handbook, teacher supervision commences at 8.35am. Children arriving before this time are not supervised. Students arriving before 8.35am are required to gather under the school shelter and remain under the shelter until teacher supervision commences. Students have been instructed that the shelter area is a passive activity area during this time i.e. sitting, talking etc. Running activities or ball games are not permitted under the shelter before school. As also stated, afternoon teacher supervision concludes when the final bus leaves the school premises – approximately 3.50pm. Students who are not collected by parents/carers after this time will be directed to the school office until collected.

Office Electronic Sign-in and Student Sign-in Book

Parents are reminded to **allow some extra time** to sign-in when visiting the school or collecting children early etc. as you will be required to sign-in on the **office iPad** before entering the premises and this process may take a few minutes, especially when signing-in for the first time. When leaving the school you will need to sign-out via the same iPad. Students **must be signed-in/out via the green book** at the office by a parent/carer for late arrival or early collection. No signature in book equates to an 'Unexplained' on student's attendance record. Thank you for your understanding.

Changeover to New School Phone Number – 02 4723 3800

The school phone number is currently in the process of changing to a new digital number. Over the next few months callers may still use the old number which will automatically be diverted to the new number. Eventually, callers will receive a recorded message that the number has changed and they will need to dial the new number manually instead. This process will take approximately 18 months. When receiving a call from the school you will notice the new number (as above) now appears.

Vietnam Veterans' Day – Sunday 13 August

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Day Parade and Service commemorates the Battle of Long Tan, the most significant engagement by Australian Forces during the Vietnam War on 18 August 1966. Each year on the closest Sunday, Vietnam Veterans gather at the War Memorial in Springwood for a commemorative service and wreath laying ceremony. This year the event will start with the march and service in Macquarie Road, Springwood from **11.30am next Sunday, 13 August**.



As in previous years students from our school will be marching and laying a wreath in remembrance. **Students wishing to participate need to meet school staff in front of the St George Bank/St Vincent de Paul Shop on Macquarie Road by 11.00am.** Students will need to wear their full winter school uniform for this occasion and may wear medals in honour of family members who have served.

DIARY DATES

2017 TERM 3 Week 5	Monday 14 August	9.05am Cuppa & Chat – in the Hall School Band 12.35pm Assembly – 3BN presenting 3.40pm School Leadership Meeting
	15	Feast of the Assumption of Mary School Band 3.40pm Staff Meeting
	16	8.30am Staff Briefing School Band 9.20am Parish Mass – Year 3 attending
	17	8.30am Staff Prayer Zone Voice of Youth – selected students
	18	Year 6 Bridges Excursion
Week 6	Monday 21 August	9.05am Cuppa & Chat – in the Hall School Band 12.35pm Assembly 3.40pm School Leadership Meeting
	22	3.40pm Staff Meeting
	23	8.30am Staff Briefing
	24	8.30am Staff Prayer
	25	Wakakirri Performance at Riverside Theatre – selected students

Sent Home Recently:

- Parish Confirmation Note to Year 6
- Year 6 Bridges Excursion Note
- Jeans for Genes Note (*sky blue*)
- Grandparents Day Note (*lemon*)
- Term 3 Activities Note (*salmon*)
- Request for Drivers for Year 6 Excursion
- Vietnam Veteran's Day Note (*lilac*)
- Influenza B Alert to Year 3 (*red & white*)
- Kinder Calmsley Hill Farm Excursion Note
- Boys & Girls Diocesan Soccer Permission Notes – selected students
- Boys Diocesan Soccer Gala Day Note (*pale blue*) – selected students
- Year 6 Social Justice Cake Stall Note (*green*)
- Year 3 Blue Mountains Cultural Centre Excursion Note
- Wakakirri Makeup & Costumes Note (*pink*) – selected students
- Invitation Netball Gala Day Permission Note – selected students
- Wakakirri Performance Permission Note – selected students
- Woolworths Earn and Learn Program Note (*cream*)

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