



NEWSLETTER

No. 2 Date: 27/03/2018 Week 9 Term 1

Dear St Thomas Aquinas Families,

All schools in the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta (CEDP) are charged with the objective to improve learning outcomes for all students. As educators this means continually looking at ways to refine and improve practice. Encompassing all of this is the need for teachers to know and educate each child in their care holistically – spiritually, academically, socially, emotionally and aesthetically.

At a recent whole school assembly the Student Representative Council formally launched our **3 School Learning Goals for 2018**. These goals are outlined below with a brief description of actions to help achieve these objectives.

Religious Education and Formation Goal:
All students at STA will deepen their understanding of Bible stories.

Students will use the Three Senses of Scripture to help them to learn more about scripture.

Students will use the 3 senses of scriptural understanding:

1. The Literal Sense – Retelling the narrative: What? Who? Where, When?
2. The Spiritual Sense – What does this scripture teach us? Where is God? Father? Son? Holy Spirit? What connections can we make to Catholic teaching, practice and tradition?
3. The Application Sense – What can I do for others? How does scripture help me love God or Jesus more? How does prayer help me?

Literacy Goal:
All students at STA will improve the quality of their writing.

Students will focus on connecting their ideas so that their writing makes sense to a particular audience and use a variety of strategies to spell new words.

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 writing using exemplars and shared success criteria.

As a part of their daily writing students will look at the linguistics of words and understand the ways in which etymology (word origins), morphology (meaning components), phonology (sounds) and orthography (spelling conventions) provide pathways into learning how to spell words.

Numeracy Goal:
All students at STA will improve their Multiplication, Division and Mathematical problem-solving skills.

Students will be able to correctly identify a mathematics problem and be able to solve it using more than one strategy.

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

Our teachers will participate in 6 learning modules facilitated by a teacher educator from Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta. The teacher educator will also be working insitu with our Stage 2 teachers in their classrooms.

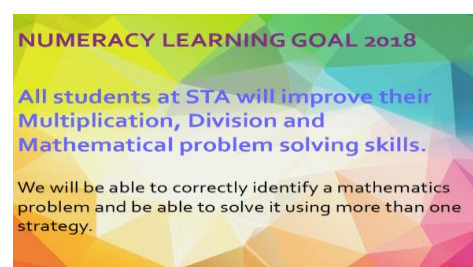
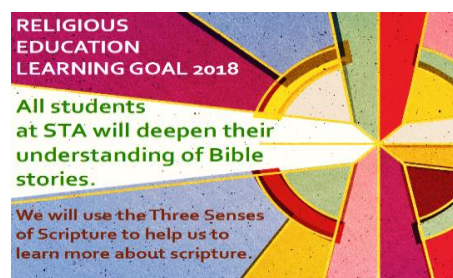
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FROM THE PRINCIPAL – Cont'd

These 3 School Goals are our focus areas for the year and are designed to respond to student needs and to guide the related professional learning that influences student learning.



Sharing our School Learning Goals with our community is an important part in the process of realising them and celebrating their achievement.

Until next time,

S. Rosato

Sergio Rosato

Principal

The National Day Against Bullying and Violence

The 8th National Day of Action was held on Friday 16 March. The day provided an opportunity to come together with schools from all over Australia to say that bullying and violence is not acceptable.

Jesus shows us through His teachings and earthly ministry how to respect others and act with compassion, kindness and forgiveness. During His life and ministry Jesus Himself experienced bullying but always responded with compassion, kindness and forgiveness with all He met.

Jesus wants us to grow in relationship with others. His new commandment of Love One Another is a call to live healthy relationships with others and with Him. Bullying behaviours affects relationships with others.

What is Bullying? (Definition shared with students.)

Bullying is when someone:

- keeps picking on you again and again and tries to make you feel bad
- says or does lots of mean things that upset you
- makes fun of you a lot
- tries to stop you from joining in or make others not like you or keeps hurting you such as hitting or punching you.
- Bullying feels awful. You feel like you can't stop it.
- Bullying can happen in person or online.
- It might be something people can see or it might be hidden.

What is not Bullying?

- Sometimes you might have a fight or argument with someone.
- If it happens once, it is not bullying even though it can be upsetting.
- It is also not bullying if you sometimes fight with a friend and you can sort it out.

Bullying is **not Okay**. It is **never Okay** to put someone down. **Let's work together at STA to build respectful, healthy relationships.**

STA Welcome Bush Dance 2018

Thank you to everyone who came to the Bush Dance. It was such a fun night! 54 families came to enjoy the music and have fun dancing and singing to the bush band. A big thank you to Mrs Leroy for taking some great photos on the night. A very big thank you to Kristie and Andrew Loughton for organising the snacks and drinks and the amazing decorations to get us

into the zone for the night. Thank you also to the great team that helped serve the snacks and drinks - Debbie White, Agnes Zalan, Kristie Loughton, Linda Fletcher and Meredith Kenn. Special thanks to the following businesses who donated items for the Bush Dance: **Sun Valley Produce** - \$50 worth of hay, **Winmalee Coles** - \$100 worth of drinks & popcorn, **Winmalee Fruit Shop** - \$24 worth of corn, **Kmart** - \$40 worth of lollies and **Katoomba Wollies** - \$50 worth of lollies. **Mary Clark, Assistant Principal**



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Student Awards

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



Week 6

James Babbage	James Croucher	Sienna Hughes	Charlotte Priest
Tobey Bail	Evelyn Dacey	Ava Huxley	Alana Prior
Harley Baker	Lachlan Dempsey	Hugo Koutsonikolis	Hayden Rawding
Edith Banks	Luke Doorey	Jessica Mace	Lachlan Roberts
Carys Beaton	Isla Field	Luke Malone	Grace Ryan
Chloe Blattman	Matilda Gauci	Brodie McCallum	Lucas Sawyer
Nathan Broadhead	Audrey Godsell	Genevieve Miruzzi	Janaya Teuma
Harrison Brown	Ruby Hammond	Elizabeth Mulhall	Claire Thomas
Luca Burchall	Amy Harvey	Keyuri Naidoo	Gabriel Valle
Caleb Byrnes	Sebastian Hickey	Milly Okladnikov	Isabel Van Meeuwen
Enrique Caraballo	Noah Hicks	Alexis Owen	James Watson
Lilly Chalice	Mariella Hill	Eydie Peake	Angus Wills
Thomas Chapple	Pepper Hughes		

Week 7

Sadie Albury	Charlotte DeBono	Mollie Malone	Lachlan Steadman
Larissa An U	Emilie Dempsey	Ella Mecham	Maddison Syme
Sienna Ascencio	Sophie Gough	Macklin Miall	Helena Sypka
Ethan Baddock	Michael Graham	Elkie Okladnikov	Antonio Todarello
Noah Barr	Georgia Hammond	Jacob Palmer	Gabriel Tuckey
Leo Borg	Emily Jones	Zoe Papasotiriou	Delilah Valle
Michael Broadhead	Erin Kenn	Bonnie Phuntsok	Tia White
Thomas Brosnan	Alexander Kerkham	Jake Ramires	Lachlan Williamson
Luke Clunes	Archie Lamont	Ari-Kai Rawlings	Jesse Wronski
Alannah Collins	Samuel Lister	Charlie Reid	Kitty Wyld
Grace Costigan	Amber Lovric	Jack Reynolds	Andrew Young
Mark D'Alessio	Maddison Machon	Natasha Springett	

Week 8

Oliver Ashtyn-Smith	Ashton Cooper	Liam Hicks	Bailey Nugent
Edith Banks	Joshua Curtis	Alana Kenn	Abigail Power
Miles Barker	Emma Davies	Charlotte Kennedy	Sophie Rayner
Jemima Barnham	Claire Debien	Elizabeth Kerkham	William Rayner
Lara Buhs	Robert Doorey	Edward Kerrison	Casey Ryan
Emily Burke	Penelope Edmonds	Talyka Kime	Jamie Sharp
Jacob Burnett	Ben Giannakis	Kiahna Koutsonikolis	Noah Simmons
Bonnie Butler	Julian Gouw	Abigail Krishna	Julian Sypka
Ruby Butler	Phoebe-Rose Hampson	Jack Leahey	Caitlin Vears
Alyssa Cantwell	Lara Heyman	Melissa Lee	Adele Wade-Ferrell
Antoinette Caristo	Cameron Hickey	Benjamin Mathew	Mia Watson
Imogen Carvasiglia	Sebastian Hickey	Joshua Mitchell	Mia Withers
Ben Cassidy	Jessie Hicks	Jett Murtikos	Billy Wright

Welcome to the Nature Minions

The Nature Minions are a group of Year 5 and 6 students who would like to help students at STA look after the environment. Did you know that most recycling centres won't accept plastic bottle caps? For our first project we are making a bottle cap mural. We will be turning bottle tops that would normally end up in the rubbish into a huge artwork for STA. We are asking everyone to help us by bringing their plastic bottle caps from home into school. Each class will have a container in their room to store the bottle caps in – just remember to wash them first please!



The Nature Minions and Minnie Vinnies students will also be visiting the community garden to see how STA students can become involved with this project. We look forward to seeing hundreds of bottle caps come in over the next few weeks.



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 on Wednesday 2 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.

Joanne Toohey, Religious Education Coordinator

School Fees

Term One School fees are now due. To avoid the Catholic Education Office sending out any reminders can you please finalise your fees as soon as possible. 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. Thank you to those families who have paid. **Cheree Brown, School Finance Secretary**

Principal's Morning Tea for Effort in Learning

On Thursday 8 March 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!



Alina Ascencio
Violet Baker
Lily Boersma
Luca Burchall
Isabella Cantrell
Elliott Chapman
Xanthe Connell-Badics
Lincoln Croft
Emma Davies
Leonie Ellis
Jack Fuge
Leah Garvan
Lucy Hall
Georgia Hammond
Jessie Hicks
Isabel Hill
Alexis Hodge
Jack Hoppe
Ava Huxley
Kayden Jeffers
Taj Leathers
Joseph Mahns
Vanessa Maloney

Sienna Mathew
Genevieve Miruzzi
Samuel Moore
Gela Moss
Felicity Paul
Will Peake
Anneke Prineas

Jose Ramires
Tyson Ramires
Bailey Rawding
Mia Rodemark
Sahara Rodemark
Oliver Smyth
Justin Sykes

Helena Sypka
Preston Tom
Isabel Van Meeuwen
Romilly Wade-Ferrell
Mia Withers
Tom Withers
Angus Young



School Holy Week Ceremonies 2018

During this week our school community will re-enact, reflect and participate in the **Passion of Christ**. Our school does this in a very deliberate way with each grade being responsible for presenting an aspect of Christ's final week in His earthly ministry.

- On Monday at 12.35pm our Kindergarten and Year 1 students will lead us in re-enacting Christ's joyful entry into Jerusalem on **Palm Sunday**.
- On Tuesday at 10am our Year 2 and 3 students will mark Jesus' **Last Supper with His Apostles**. It was at this Last Supper with His friends that He gave us Himself in Communion and also pronounced a new commandment, our school motto, *Love One Another*. This re-enactment of the Lord's Supper will also be followed by a class-based re-enactment and liturgy.
- On Thursday at 12.35pm our Year 6 students will assist us in reflecting on the events leading up to Christ's suffering and **Crucifixion** and the scene at **The Tomb** when all hope seemed lost.
- Next Tuesday our Year 4 students will lead us in celebrating the great feast of the **Resurrection** of Jesus – the Pascal feast of Easter which the Church celebrates this Sunday.



Also during the week we will have an opportunity to:

- pray in the **Garden of Gethsemane** hosted in the school Music Room (for parents) on Tuesday at 2.55 - 3.15pm and
- reflect on the **Stations of the Cross** held outdoors and led by our Year 5 students (for parents) at 10.30am on Wednesday.



At the heart of our Christian tradition is the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. During this week we are led to contemplate that Jesus was both a human person and also God's chosen Son. The events we commemorate during Holy Week are central to our faith and our Christian story.

As a community we walk with Christ and with one another through the joyful entry into Jerusalem through to the rejection and agony of His suffering and death on the cross. We walk, passing through each event and moment, mindful that we will reach the promise of the resurrection at Easter and that this in turn will transform our lives.

PARENTS AND FAMILIES ARE WARMLY INVITED TO ATTEND THESE LITURGIES.



Book Club

Book Club (Issue 2) was recently given out to the students and **orders ARE NOW DUE!** Please check that order forms are filled out correctly including both the child's name and class. Credit card payments must be made online via the Loop.



Summer to Winter Uniform Changeover

A reminder to families that students are to wear Winter Uniform when school resumes for Term 2. Students wear Winter Uniform for both Terms 2 & 3. Sports shoes should be mainly white with white (not coloured) laces. Further details can be found in our Parent Handbook located on the school website.

School Photos – Term 2

2018 School Photo day for St Thomas Aquinas will be on **Friday 25 May**. School Photo envelopes will be given out to students during the first week of Term 2.

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Enrolments 2019

Enrolments for Kindergarten (and other grades) for 2019 are now open. The month of May is traditionally when the majority of enrolments are processed. Open Day Tours for prospective families will be held throughout the month of May.

Please refer to the tour schedule below for times and dates. Each session will involve a guided tour of the school by the Principal/Assistant Principal followed by refreshments. We ask families to visit the school office first.

Times and dates will also be advertised in the Blue Mountains Gazette during the school holidays, on our website and via local preschools. Please advise friends and family of these tours.

ST THOMAS AQUINAS PRIMARY SPRINGWOOD



WE CELEBRATE THE UNIQUENESS OF EACH CHILD
AND PREPARE THEM FOR TOMORROW'S WORLD.

Kindergarten is enrolling now for 2019

ATTEND AN OPEN DAY TO LEARN MORE AND SEE OUR LEARNING IN ACTION.

TUESDAY 1 MAY
9.15-10.00am

THURSDAY 3 MAY
9.15-10.00am 2.15-3.15pm

TUESDAY 8 MAY
9.15-10.00am

WEDNESDAY 9 MAY
9.15-10.00am 2.15-3.15pm

TUESDAY 15 MAY
9.15-10.00am

THURSDAY 17 MAY
9.15-10.00am 2.15-3.15pm

TUESDAY 22 MAY
9.15-10.00am

WEDNESDAY 23 MAY
9.15-10.00am 2.15-3.15pm

TUESDAY 29 MAY
9.15-10.00am

THURSDAY 31 MAY
9.15-10.00am 2.15-3.15pm



St Thomas Aquinas Primary 168 Hawkesbury Road Springwood
P: 4723 3800 www.staspringwood.catholic.edu.au

School Bus Travel

Dear Parents,

Over the past few weeks the Blue Mountains Bus Company have been talking to the children and the school about Opal Cards. They are concerned that they are not being used by the children. At present there are 96 children at STA who catch a bus that do not have an active Opal Card.

The Opal Card System came into affect in 2015 and has been a source of frustration for the parents, school and bus company since its inception. It was initiated by the Department of Transport in NSW and a letter and information brochure was sent via the school to all school age children who catch the bus to and or from school. The school has no input with the Opal Card system. It is NOT issued through the school as the old bus pass system was. It is the responsibility of the Parent, Guardian or Carer of the child to apply for an Opal Card for each child in the family.

As I am lead to understand from the bus company, the children from Kinder to Year 2 travel free on the bus. Children from Years 3-6 must pay their way and this is done with a credit card at the time the parents apply for the Opal Card. The school pass, which is a blue card, is set for the whole year and you pay for it when you apply for the card. The green cards that some children have, are set up with a credit card or cash and these cards must be topped up when the amount of money that is on the card, is used up. If you set up a card for your child in Year 2 last year the card is not valid for a Year 3 student. You will need to reapply for another card so the children can travel on the bus.

So, why do we need an Opal Card for your child's travel to and from school? It monitors the number of children who travel on a bus and whether the bus is overcrowded which then allows the Department of Transport to modify the number of buses on a particular route. Each time the child taps on and off, the bus company is paid a small amount. It is based on the distance they travel.

Below is the Code of Conduct for children travelling on the bus. All students must behave in a sensible manner at all times. If a student's behaviour is reported by the bus driver the bus company will send the school a Communication Report describing the behaviour. The school then notifies the parents about the behaviour and parents can contact the bus company if they wish. All children are given a warning, but if the behaviour continues then the Blue Mountains Bus Company will instruct the school to take the Opal Card and the children will not be able to ride on the bus for the period set down by the bus company. The school will communicate all information to parents when required.

To access the Opal Card site just type "Opal Card for School" into Google and all options will appear. Click onto the 2nd site.

Mary Clark, Assistant Principal

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR SCHOOL STUDENTS ON BUSES

Disobeying these rules may lead to the withdrawal of bus travel passes and/or prosecution.

It is every student's responsibility to behave in a manner that ensures the safety and comfort of passengers and drivers. This includes:

Holding School Travel Passes: If issued with a School Opal card, students must always tap on when boarding the bus and tap off when leaving the bus.

- show it to the driver on boarding and when requested by driver or transport officer failure to do so can incur a \$200 fare evasion fine.
- Use the School travel pass only for its intended purpose.
- Keep your School pass for your own use - you should not lend your School pass to other students or borrow one from them.

Behaving appropriately:

- Respect the needs and comfort of other passengers, such as no use of offensive or racist language, fighting, spitting, placing feet on seats, throwing things in or from the bus, eating or drinking - except water - unless the bus operator gives written permission.
- Give up seats to all adults and disabled passengers.
- Adhere to the law that bans smoking on buses.
- Obey reasonable directions from the driver, such as where to sit or to remain in the bus.
- Keep arms, legs and heads inside the bus.
- Refrain from attracting the attention of the driver except in the case of emergency.

Respecting property:

- Protect bus property.
- Ensure that buses are not vandalised.
- Report any vandalism, such as graffiti and window etching.

If issued with a School Opal card, students must always tap on when boarding the bus and tap off when leaving the bus.

Disobeying these rules may lead to the withdrawal of School Passes and/or prosecution.

In the case of students travelling under the School Student Transport Scheme, this code of conduct is also included in the terms and conditions of the application form. You are reminded that when signing the application form the parent/guardian explicitly declares that they support the code and that it has been explained to their child.

CONSEQUENCES OF INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOUR

Unacceptable behaviour: such as using offensive or racist language, disobeying reasonable directions from the driver, smoking, spitting, damaging property, eating on the bus, distracting the driver with persistent noise and failing to show the travel pass may lead to:

- Loss of subsidised school travel privileges for up to two school weeks for a second offence, and up to 10 school weeks for subsequent offences.
- Permanent suspension of school travel privileges or banning from travelling on buses may apply for repeated offences.

(Continued over.)

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(School Bus Travel – cont'd)

Dangerous behaviour: such as seriously bullying or harassing other passengers, fighting, letting any part of your body protrude from the bus, throwing objects inside or outside the bus, using matches and lighters, carrying dangerous items and group misbehaviour may lead to:

- Loss of subsidised school travel privileges for up to four school weeks for a first offence and up to 10 school weeks for subsequent offences - or if group misbehaviour is involved, permanent loss of school travel privileges.
- Permanent suspension of school travel privileges or banning from travelling on buses may apply for repeated offences.

Highly dangerous behaviour: such as interfering with safety equipment, pushing students out of the doors or windows, assaulting the driver or other passengers and destruction of bus property may lead to:

- **Permanent loss** of subsidised school travel privileges, and possible court action or police prosecution
- Banned from travelling on buses.

The police will be called to deal with highly dangerous behaviour.

These penalties reflect the seriousness of the misbehaviour. They ensure that all students who misbehave on buses are dealt with in a fair and consistent manner, no matter which bus operator or school is involved.

If students are refused travel, parents/guardians/carers must make alternative travel arrangements and meet any costs of that transport. They will not be eligible for the Transport for NSW Private Vehicle Conveyance Scheme under these circumstances.

A group of school students behaving unacceptably may risk higher penalties if their conduct puts the safety of other passengers or the driver at risk.

The operator will inform Transport for NSW of its decision. Transport for NSW may inform an operator of a student's record of misbehaviour. Please refer to the Guidelines for Managing School Students' Behaviour on Buses for dealing with incidents of inappropriate behaviour.

If a student misbehaves on a bus, the bus operator concerned will contact the parents and the school.

- Depending on the gravity of the offence, students may be required to give up their school bus travel pass or may be refused travel on the bus for a period of time determined by the bus operator.
- Heavier penalties may apply to students involved in group misbehaviour.
- School principals have the right to take additional disciplinary action against a student under the school's discipline code or student welfare policy for any breach of the code of conduct.

The bus operator must provide written notification to the parents, guardians or carers before a student's school bus travel pass can be withdrawn.

What to Do If You Disagree

If parents, guardians or carers don't agree with a decision, they should contact the bus operator. If they are still not satisfied, they can contact the nearest Transport for NSW office on the following number: **Parramatta: 131500**

For a full copy of the Code of Conduct please go the Department of Transport NSW website.

PARISH NEWS

Change to Mass Times

St Thomas Aquinas Parish has recently made a change to Sunday Mass times. The 5.00pm Sunday Mass has been discontinued. Instead there is a **new Sunday morning Mass at 7.30am.**

Weekend Parish Mass times are as follows:

- * **Saturday** – Vigil: 6.00pm
- * **Sunday:** 7.30am and 9.45am
- * **NO 5.00pm MASS**

First Communion Date for 2018 - Correction

Parents of children enrolled in the Parish Sacramental Program were recently given information from the Parish Office regarding this year's First Communion with the wrong date. **First Communion will be held on Sunday 3 June at 11.00am, NOT 2 June as stated in the original note.** A note from the Parish was sent home with all Year 3 STA students on Wednesday with this correction.

Parish Holy Week and Easter Ceremonies Schedule

2nd Rite of Reconciliation: Tuesday 27 March at 7.00pm

Mass of the Lord's Supper: Thursday 27 March at 7.00pm

Easter Vigil in the Holy Night – Saturday: Saturday 31 March at 6.00pm

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection: Sunday 1 April at 7.30am and 9.45am



Lost Property

As we approach the end of Term 1 we ask parents to please check the lost property box if your child has lost any items at the school recently. The Lost Property Box is located at the bottom of the carpet ramp outside KD classroom. Unfortunately, items often have no names on them so cannot be returned to their owners, so please remember to mark all of your child's items clearly with their name. Please note, very small lost items handed in are usually kept at the Office until collected.



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DIARY DATES

2018 TERM 1 Week 9 HOLY WEEK	Tuesday 27 March	10.05am Last Supper Liturgy - Hall 2.50pm Garden of Gethsamene – Music Room 3.40pm Staff Meeting
	28	8.30am Staff Briefing 10.35am Stations of the Cross – Meet at Office School Band
	29	8.30am Staff Prayer 12.35pm Crucifixion and Waiting at the Tomb – Area 3 School Band
	30	GOOD FRIDAY – PUBLIC HOLIDAY
Week 10	Monday 2 April	EASTER MONDAY – PUBLIC HOLIDAY
	3	12.35pm Resurrection Liturgy - Hall 3.40pm Staff Meeting
	4	9.20am Parish Mass – Kinder and Year 6 attending
	5	
	6	SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY – Years 2-6
Week 11	Monday 9 April	School Band 12.30pm Assembly – 5N presenting 3.40pm Leadership Meeting
	10	3.40pm Staff Meeting
	11	8.30am Staff Briefing 11.05am Principal's Morning Tea – selected students
	12	8.30am Staff Prayer
	13	Term 1 Concludes
School Holidays		
TERM 2 Week 1	Monday 30 April	Term 2 Commences

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Springwood United Football Club - Female Players Needed: Female players needed in the following age groups for all girls teams: **U10G's - 4 – 5 players needed, U12G's - 4 players needed, U14G's – 4 players needed.** ****Active Kids Voucher can be redeemed when registering online.**** If you are interested, please contact Annette Harrop on 0409 663 573 or registrar@springwoodunited.com.au

Suicide Prevention Walk - Springwood to Buffenshaw Park: On 31 March Lisa Cartledge will start a 700km walk from Beechworth to the Sydney Harbour Bridge (B2B), "The Elephant Walk", to encourage open conversations about suicide and mental health. Lisa has lost two family members to suicide and has become very aware of the stigma surrounding survivors – *the elephant in the room*. Hosting public walking events along the way and gathering at local pubs in the evenings, Lisa and her team aim to reduce the stigma surrounding survivors of suicide, raise mental health awareness, and raise funds for research. The Blue Mountains leg of this event will be held on **Thursday 19 April** walking from **Springwood to Buffenshaw Park** and B2B walkers would love the local community to be involved. To register to join one of our Elephant Walk events, follow the walk or find out more, visit our website www.b2b.org.au. Stand up. Open up. Start talking about suicide!

FREE Day Spa for the Soul: On **Thursday 3 May from 9.30am to 2.00pm** Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta will be sponsoring this special day for parents across Parramatta Catholic Schools. **Venue:** The Franciscan Shrine of The Holy Innocents, 8 Greyfriar Place, Kellyville. Take time out for yourself. Laugh, pray, reflect. Bring a friend! Morning tea and lunch included. Book now as spaces are limited! **Enquire and register by 12 April with Tania Melki via email:** tmelki@parra.catholic.edu.au or **phone 0429 375 226.**

Springwood East Timor Support Group Trivia Night: Join us for an entertaining evening of quizzical moments, laughter, fun and games with a warm community feel. **Saturday 19 May, 7.00pm for 7.30pm start, at St Thomas Aquinas School Hall, 168 Hawkesbury Road, Springwood. Tickets cost \$20 each. Tables of 8 to 10.** BYO nibbles and drinks. Sausage sizzle available. Funds raised go to aid educational and medical initiatives in Timor Leste. **Tickets available from Pam Gorman on 4754 1160.**

Kids With Courage – Resilience Program: Kids With Courage is a program to build resilience in primary age children who are struggling with issues at school, home or with peer relationships. The 7-week program includes drama, puppetry, hands-on activities and small group work. It builds on the strengths of the child and develops emotional intelligence in the face of life's struggles. Children have an opportunity to explore feelings, set goals and interact with peers and find positive ways of making changes. It will be held **at Springwood Uniting Church on Tuesdays from 4.00 – 6.00pm commencing 15 May until 26 May 2018. A parent information night will be held on Tuesday 8 May at 7.00pm.** To book a place for your child **phone 4751 3951** or **for further information, Mary-Ellen on 0415 533 491.**

Sent Home Recently:

- Principal's Morning Tea Invitation – selected students
- Fundraising Meeting Invitation (*blue*)
- Head lice Note to Year 2
- Year 6 Camp Permission Note
- AFL Gala Day Permission Note - selected students
- School Holy Week Schedule (*purple*)
- Note from Parish to Year 3 re First Communion Date
- Premier's Reading Challenge Note (*K-2 Pink, Yrs 3-6 Lilac*)
- Kindergarten Design and Make Task Note (*orange*)

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