



NEWSLETTER

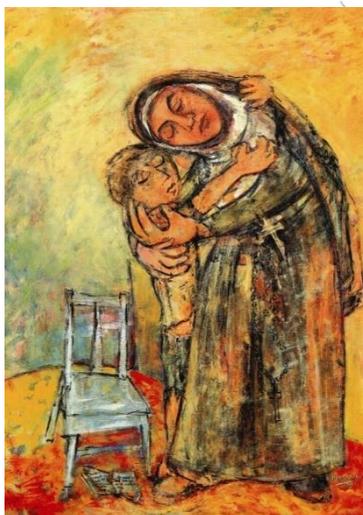
No. 5 Date: 09/08/2019 Week 3 Term 3

Dear St Thomas Aquinas Families,

The 8th August marks the feast day of Australia's first recognised saint – **St Mary MacKillop**. A daughter of Australia, born under the Southern **Cross** whose mission was to respond to the Gospel message to love and care for the poor.

Mary MacKillop was born in 1842 in Fitzroy Melbourne and died 110 years ago at North Sydney on 8th August 1909. Born of immigrant parents from Scotland her early life had a lasting effect on her faith and worldview.

Mary was the first of eight children born to Alexander Mackillop and Flora MacDonald. Mary's father found himself often without work and prone to impulsivity. This meant that he was often away from the family, leaving them close to destitution. Mary's life was also chequered with personal loss and challenges. These experiences imbued her with a strong faith and empathy for the plight of those in need.



Inspired by a meeting with Father Julian Tenison-Woods, at the age of just 25, Mary MacKillop took vows and the religious name, "Mary of the Cross". With Father Julian's encouragement she founded the Sisters of St Joseph, also known as the "Brown Joeys". Upon taking her religious vows, Mary MacKillop began her first school in Penola South Australia dedicated to children from impoverished families. Within five years Mary had established over 30 schools, in South Australia and over 100 women had joined the Sisters of Saint Joseph. The Josephite Charism was simple - **to walk with those most in need of God's justice and hospitality.**

Mary and the early Josephites were **wallaby track women** like the indigenous people before them. The denseness of the landscape often made travel on foot incredibly difficult. Tiny tracks were discovered through the bush – tracks that had been worn by wallabies. The Sisters of St Joseph often used these tracks to reach those they needed to serve, often the most neglected people in the outback. Remaining true to the Gospel message they

The Sisters of St Joseph vowed to:

- Live simply
- Travel lightly
- Make room for all
- And live by the motto - 'Never see a need without doing something about it'.

committed to bring the Good News to those who were poor, to embrace the outsider, and to welcome the stranger as friend.

Even today, many Australians can say that they too have felt the impact of the mission started by St Mary of the Cross, having been either educated or cared for, by the Sisters of St Joseph. This legacy includes the starting of St Thomas Aquinas Primary School in 1921. The Sisters of St Joseph served this school community until 1975.

(Continued over page.)



School House,
Penola, South Australia

love one another

FROM THE PRINCIPAL – cont'd

St Mary's wisdom, compassion and faith can be appreciated through her many quotes that she shared with her sisters and the communities she served:

- ◆ Remember we are but travelers here
- ◆ **Be kind to the poor foreigners. Remember that I was a foreigner once, and as such was never laughed at, nor unkindly treated**
- ◆ Have courage no matter what your crosses are
- ◆ **We must teach more by example than by word**
- ◆ Let us really love one another
- ◆ **Never see a need without doing something about it.**

St Mary of the Cross is a **true-blue** Aussie hero. A daughter of this Great South Land, who along with her Joey Sisters walked far and wide along the wallaby tracks living out the **Gospel** message to **really love one another**.

Until next time,

ARosato

Sergio Rosato
Principal

STA Sports Carnival 2019

Recently students and teachers travelled to Glenbrook Oval for our Annual Sports Carnival. The weather on the day was perfect and this provided a really comfortable atmosphere for many in our community to attend the day in support of the students. Our Sports Carnival, on **Thursday 25 July**, was truly a wonderful reflection of our community working with one another with a common purpose.

The established culture of STA sports carnivals has traditionally featured student participation and encouragement of each other. It takes trust and courage to start and finish a race regardless of whether you are placed 1st or 61st and our students and community recognise this and celebrate it.

To all who worked with dedication, generosity and commitment to plan and run the day we say, **"THANK YOU"**. Particular **GRATITUDE** goes to:

- Our Sports Teacher **Ann Gippel** for her commitment, love of sport and expertise in planning and coordinating the day with the help of other staff including James Costigan and Karen Bousfield
- **Lee-Anne Brown** and the **Administration Staff** for their work in various areas particularly the catering
- **Local Chef David Verriere** and his wife Kimberley for planning, coordinating and cooking the hot food on the day and providing such hospitality.
- Also to the **generous volunteers** who assisted David with the BBQ.
- The entire **staff** for their encouragement and modelling of team spirit in the children. Also for planning the supplementary activities so that the children were engaged in fun and fitness throughout the day.
- Our Assistant Principal **Genevieve Smith** for her wonderful, positive commentary and announcements on the day. Also for introducing the student joke segment to the carnival which added to the sense of fun and community in a really lovely way.
- To the many **families** who were able to attend in support of the students and particularly those parents who assisted in various official jobs such as scoring, marshalling and time-keeping.

Congratulations to over 40 of our students who proceeded on to compete in the Zone Athletics Carnival on Friday 9 August.

T20 Big Bash Cricket

On Monday 5 August over 90 students from Stages 2 & 3 attended a Cricket Gala Day at Glenbrook organised by the Sydney Thunder Development Team. The Girls and Boys who attended the day were able to participate in a number of cricket games with many local Blue Mountains School teams. As well as the cricket games, the students also were engaged in various skill practice sessions provided by the Thunder Development Team. Thank you to Ann Gippel and David Conroy for training these teams and also to James Costigan who stepped in to assist on the day. All our teams competed incredibly well with our Stage 3 Girls' and Boys' teams progressing through to their respective finals. Congratulations to our Stage 3 Girls' team for progressing through to the next level by winning their final.



All Schools State Rugby League Championships

On Wednesday 7 August St Thomas Aquinas participated in the All Schools Rugby League Championships, held at Whalan Fields. Our STA team played 4 Pool games: STA defeated Wingham Public School (Taree) 10-8, defeated Kurnell Public School (Cronulla) 18-4, defeated Frank Partridge VC Public School 22-0, lost to Dudley Public School (Newcastle) 18-12.

St Thomas Aquinas finished 2nd in their Pool and progressed to the semi-finals. The semi-final was played against Nuwarra Public School. The STA team played incredibly well losing by just one try, 20-16. **St Thomas Aquinas finished 4th in the State for the ALL SCHOOLS competition.**

The team played outstanding football every game, representing ST Thomas Aquinas and the district with great pride. Thank you to Mr Chenoweth and Ms McKenzie for training the team and the many families who have supported the team on their journey.

Book Club

The first Book Club for Term 3 (Issue 5) has been given out to the students. Orders are due no later than Monday 12 August. Please check that order forms are filled out correctly including both the child's name and class. Credit card payments must be made online first and the receipt number needs to be recorded on the order form.



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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 1

Ryan Andrews	Ella Danks	Aiden Lloyd Cartwright	Mia Rodemark
Jordan Banks	Benjamin Dawson	Alex Lopez	Benji Synnott
Chloe Blattman	Indyana Duffy	Luke Malone	Lia Trounce
Asher Bogg	Maddie Dyer	Brydan McLeod	Zachary Van Meeuwen
Harrison Brown	Kate Giannakis	Samuel Moore	Sienna Verriere
Riley Carpenter	Arwen Gordon	Caitlin Murphy	Layla Watson
Tyler Chapple	Keira Holdsworth	William O'Neill	Mia Withers
Alannah Collins	Elise Hurley	Sophie Rayner	Tom Withers
Ashton Cooper	Ethan Konwerski	Luke Redmond	Billy Wright
Owen Croft	Nicholas Koulouris	Jessie Reynolds	Lola Wyld
Cooper Daniel	Maisie Lamont	Elly Richards	

Week 3

Oliver Ashtyn-Smith	Matilda Debien	Seth Loughton	Nicolas Peat
Jemima Barnham	Erin DeBono	Vanessa Maloney	Adrian Perez-Eaton
Carys Beaton	Isla Field	Liam McGrath	Abigail Power
Violet-Rose Bentley	Levi Friedland-Jaccoud	Poppy Milroy	Charlotte Priest
Cisco Borbely	Arabella Fuge	Elizabeth Mulhall	Jamie Sharp
Esme Brennan	Summah Galea	Jett Murtikos	Oscar Smith
Lucas Brown	Leah Garvan	Aidan O'Brien	Spencer Thomas
Emily Burnett	Jade Gordon	Angelika Okladnikov	Zachary Van Meeuwen
Enrique Caraballo	Annabel Hall	Milly Okladnikov	Chelsea Willingham
Mackenzie Carey	Pepper Hughes	William O'Neill	Liam Willis
Charlotte Creamer	Abigail Krishna	Mikey Papatotiriou	Angus Young

Calmsley Hill Farm Kindy Excursion

On Thursday our Kindergarten students travelled to Calmsley Hill Farm, Abbotsbury, for their immersion day on a real farm. The children were very excited as they boarded the coach in the morning and once at the farm were incredibly inquisitive asking many thoughtful questions. The experience offered the children so many wonderful learning experiences including riding a farm tractor, milking cows, being able to engage with many farm animals and to participate in a number of interactive demonstrations.

Excursions such as these enable such rich learning and make long lasting memories for children. Thank you to our Kindergarten Team, Elizabeth Bamford, Deb Mitchell, Joanne Godsell, Karleen Hutchings and Sister Monica for making this day possible. Thank you also to the parents who were able to attend in support of the students.



2019 Young Scientist Paper Plane State Championships Challenge

Last week all classes had the opportunity to take part in the Paper Plane Challenge to see if they could achieve the qualifying distance and/or time for the State-run championships. 7 students actually threw on or above the qualifying distance and therefore are able to compete at the State Championships at Sydney University if their parents are able to get them there. The children that qualified were: Myles Golby, Miles Barker, Lincoln Croft, Ben Dawson, Adam Springett, William Lister and James Hincliff. They received a prize, a certificate and details of the competition if they wish to pursue it further. **Genevieve Smith, Assistant Principal**



Mini Vinnies Knitting for Blankets

The Mini Vinnies group in the school has been knitting wool squares during many of their lunch times this year. These squares have been then stitched together by a dedicated group of grandmothers and have been made into rugs and blankets. Last Friday our school held a special Mass to celebrate the Feast of St Mary of the Cross Mackillop. During this celebration the completed blankets were presented to representatives of St Vincent de Paul Society, Margaret and Cliff Smith.



A number of parents and grandparents, together with Virginia Fortunat, have taught the students how to knit and have assisted with any dropped stitches! Thank you to the families and friends who have helped and donated the wool and needles as well as to the Mini Vinnie students. We know that these rugs will be appreciated by those who really need them this winter.

Deepest Sympathies and Prayers

Please keep Berni Loughlin and her family in your prayers. Berni's husband Jack passed away suddenly last week whilst overseas. As a school community we extend our prayers, love and deepest sympathies to Berni and her family at this difficult time. Berni was a longstanding teacher at STA and more recently has been one of our valued casual teachers.

Term 3 School Fees

School Fee Invoices for Term 3 have now been issued and are **due by 28 August 2019**. This is the final instalment for the year. If you are having difficulties paying school fees, please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss options that are available. **Cheree Brown, School Finance Secretary**

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Day – Sunday 11 August

St Thomas Aquinas students have a proud tradition of attending ANZAC Day and Vietnam Veterans commemorative services. In doing so, we seek to encourage our students to learn about and give thanks for the sacrifice of those who have served our nation. This **Sunday, 11 August**, all students are invited to the Blue Mountains Vietnam Veterans' and Associated Forces Memorial Day Service in Springwood. The march and ceremony commemorate the sacrifice of all those who served in the Vietnam War as well all post World War II conflicts and peacekeeping operations.



The march this Sunday will **commence at 11.30am from the Springwood Post Office**, along Macquarie Road and proceed to the War Memorial in Buckland Park, where a service will be held and a wreath laid. **Students who wish to take part** in the march and wreath-laying service are asked to **meet Mr Rosato and school staff in front of the "Hippy Shop"** on Macquarie Road between **11.00am & 11.15am, dressed in full winter school uniform, including school hat**. Once the service is completed students participating in this event will remain with STA staff until they are collected by their parents/carers.

(NB: Vietnam Veterans Day is held in Springwood each year on the closest Sunday to the anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan.)

DIARY DATES

2019 TERM 3 Week 4	Monday 12 August	3.40pm Leadership Meeting
	13	3.40pm Staff Meeting
	14	8.30am Staff Briefing 9.30am Parish Mass – Year 3 attending
	15	8.30am Staff Prayer
	16	12.30pm Assembly – 1S presenting
Week 5 Book Week	Monday 19 August	<i>Dream Come True – Fractured Fairy Tale</i> Incursion for Book Week 3.40pm Leadership Meeting
	20	3.40pm Staff Meeting
	21	8.30am Staff Briefing 9.30am Parish Mass – Year 4 attending 11.05am Principal's Morning Tea – selected students
	22	8.30am Staff Prayer
	23	Diocesan Athletics – selected students Book Corner 12.30pm Assembly – KB presenting
Week 6	Monday 26 August	10.00am-2.00pm Voice of Youth and Mountains Live Event 2.00pm Fathers' Day Stall Set-up 3.40pm Leadership Meeting
	27	Fathers' Day Stall 3.40pm Staff Meeting
	28	8.30am Staff Briefing Netball Gala Day – selected students 9.30am Parish Mass – Year 1 attending
	29	8.30am Staff Prayer
	30	Wakakirri – Riverside Theatre, Parramatta – selected students

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Gateway Family Services Parenting Program – From Floundering to Flourishing: This workshop is designed to help adults identify how to maximise kid's successes giving you tools to enhance and improve kid's resilience. On **Wednesday 14 August** from **10.00am to 12.00pm** at **Tanderra OOSH, 14 Raymond Road, Springwood** (behind Neighbourhood Centre). For more information **phone 1300 316 746** (free call) or go to www.gatewayfamilyservices.org.au or www.facebook.com/GatewayFS

Sent Home Recently:

- Sports Carnival Information Note (*gold*)
- All Schools Rugby League Permission Note – selected students
- Diocesan Soccer Gala Day Permission Note – selected students
- Nepean Zone Athletics Permission Note – selected students
- Stage 2 & 3 Milo T20 Cricket Permission Note – selected students
- Year 6 Bridges Excursion Parent Helper Note
- Wakakirri 2nd Instalment Note (*lemon*)
- Influenza A Note (*sky blue*)
- Chicken Pox Alert (*pink*)
- Year 6 PDHPE Note
- St Mary MacKillop Mass Invitation (*mauve*)
- Vietnam Veteran's Day Note (*green*)
- Year 3 Mass Note (*pale blue*)
- Fathers' Day Stall Note (*salmon*)

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