

NEWSLETTER

No. 9 Date 04/09/2014 Week 8 Term 3

Dear St Thomas Aquinas Families,

The bushfires that impacted on the Blue Mountains last October caused some damage to the School including a number of retaining walls and gardens beds. Last term the damaged retaining walls were replaced with the assistance of the Catholic Education Office. Following on from this work, the school community set out to restore and rejuvenate the garden beds in the lead up to the first anniversary of the bushfires.



The garden rejuvenation project has been initiated and funded by the parent community in consultation with the School. During this term all gardens were extensively pruned and tidied up. On Friday, 29 August, a special working-bee took place to mulch all the gardens. Equipped with gloves, mulch forks, rakes and wheelbarrows the hardworking army of approximately 50 parents was able to make short work of hundreds of cubic metres of mulch.



To celebrate the great team spirit on display, parents organised for the local Rotary Club to provide a free barbeque for all students and volunteers to enjoy on the day.

The school community is immensely grateful to all for their hard work and generosity. One of our parents, Darryn Miller from *Designer Garden Landscapes*, helped supply the mulch as well as a beautiful commemorative sandstone plinth. The plinth and a plaque composed by the parents now stands proudly in the garden at the front of the school in readiness for a special Thanksgiving and Tree planting ceremony on Friday 17 October.

On the day the plaque will be officially unveiled as well as the planting of a commemorative hedge. The hedge, also donated by parents, symbolises the solidarity of the school community during and after the bushfires and the hope of renewal. The parents have also been able to source and purchase plant specimens for planting in gardens that were fire affected. Following this ceremony there will be a special afternoon tea for students, families and invited guests.

We can all take solace in knowing that this community continues to demonstrate such wonderful generosity, goodness and camaraderie - for this we give thanks.

Until next time,

S Rosato
Sergio Rosato
Principal



Love one another



ST THOMAS AQUINAS
NEWS

a: 168 Hawkesbury Rd
Springwood 2777
p: 02 4754 2554
f: 02 4754 3562
w: www.staspringwood.catholic.edu.au

Parish Priest:
Father Paul Slyney
p: 02 4754 1052

Foodbank of NSW Acknowledgement

The Foodbank of NSW is a not-for-profit organisation that collects unwanted food and re-distributes it to people in need through welfare agencies. Foodbank is the largest food relief agency in NSW, providing 95% of all wholesale emergency food relief in the state. The Foodbank delivers 5.6 million meals a year to people across NSW and more than 31 million meals nationally.

We are immensely grateful to them for their ongoing pastoral work. Earlier this year the Foodbank was able to provide support to the school Autumn Fair. As gratitude for their generosity our school community was able to make a donation for their ongoing work.

Last week the school was presented with a beautiful plaque which is on display in our school foyer. The plaque reads as follows:

NSW Champion Award presented to St Thomas Aquinas Springwood in recognition of your ongoing generous support to the foodbank NSW in 2014.

The work that the foodbank carries out brings to fruition Christ's call to us all: *I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me a drink.* This call to serve pronounced by Christ inspires us to reach out and nourish others both in body and spirit.

Combined Catholic Schools Creative Arts Expo

Next Monday and Tuesday evenings a large number of our students will be joining students from various Catholic schools in the local area – Our Lady of the Way, Emu Plains, St Finbars, Glenbrook, Our Lady of the Nativity, Lawson and St Canice's, Katoomba for this event at the Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre.

The Creative Arts Expo involves each school performing a dance/drama item, a combined choral performance as well as a performance by a combined band and string group involving children from each school. Our student contingent, led by Viv Llewellyn, Michelle Nightingale, Karen Bousfield, Bernadette Sierra and Blanche Hortense, has worked hard and creatively to make sure that the children are well-prepared for these nights.

I would also like to acknowledge Avril Llewellyn who is the overall coordinator of the Expo and James Costigan who will be the stage manager on the nights of the performances. We wish all students two wonderful evenings and know that they will do their best.

The Creative Arts Expo provides a wonderful opportunity for our children to learn and grow and to be part of a larger team all working together to produce something that is creatively challenging and incredibly fulfilling and life-giving.

Principal's Morning Tea for Effort in Learning

The following students were acknowledged at a special morning tea last week for consistent effort in all areas of their learning. **Congratulations and well done** to you all!



Mollie Bauerhuit
Annalise Blattman
Leo Borg
Patrick Bourke
Alexandra Boxall
Skye Boyden
Keegan Breytenbach
Anneliese Carroll
Mia Cini
Tia Cross
Sienna Curley
Jack Fuge
Matilda Gauci
Thomas Gawthorne
Benjamin Giannakis
Thomas Grodzicki
Filip Grus
Lucy Hall
Kyle Hodges
Lachlan Holman-Lee
Amy Kilner
Ella Laurent
Melissa Lee

Thomas McGrath
Macklin Miall
Olivia Mountain
Freya Mylne
Zoe Mylne
Oliver Neal
Thomas Neil

Kiara Nugent
Anne Oliver
Christopher Oliver
Jackson Potter
Olivia Prior
Taleah Rust
Hayli Shiels

Isabella Stewart
Adam Sypka
Dayne Vassallo
Tiarnah Wanimbo
Cameron Way
Elanor Williams
Darian Zunic



Year 6 Voice of Youth Competition

Congratulations to Mollie Bauerhuit, Callum Dyer and Steffani Sroczyński who represented STA at the Voice of Youth Speech Competition last week at Katoomba. All students spoke incredibly well on their chosen topic. Well done to Callum Dyer who was Runner Up.

PARISH NEWS

St Thomas Aquinas Parish, the St Vincent de Paul Society and Catholic Care would like to invite all members of the community to a **free BUSHFIRE RECOVERY and FAMILY BUSH DANCE** on **Saturday 13 September** from **6:30pm to 9.30pm** at the **St Thomas Aquinas Primary School hall**, 168 Hawkesbury Road, Springwood.

A **free BBQ** will be operating from **5:30pm**, but **BYO nibbles and non-alcoholic drinks**. Tea and coffee provided. Music and dancing instructions supplied by **Richmond Players Bush Band**. A great family night assured. For further information please phone the St Thomas Aquinas Pastoral Centre on 4754 1052.



Student Awards

Congratulations to the following students, who received Merit Awards at last week's and this week's School Assemblies. Well done on your efforts everyone – keep up the good work!



Week 7

Luke Arnold
Alexandra Boxall
Sarah Boxall
Keegan Breytenbach
Noah Brown
Mya Buchtman
Mackenzie Carey
Anabel Caristo
Antoinette Caristo
Liam Clayton
Grace Costigan
Cameron Dempsey

Mischa Evans
Sienna Evans
William Forster
Ellen Glasson
Emily Hall
Lucy Hall
Mathew Hall
Amy Harvey
Chiara Hill
Matthew Hurley
William Hurley
Corey Hutchings

Erin Hutchinson
Dominick Jamnicky
Alexander Kerkham
Emily Leehy
Isabella Ligteringen
Ainsley Mann
Taya Moore
Lachlan Morris
Issac Moss
Natasha Nightingale
Noonan-Michels Sarah-Jane
Wilkin Payens

Ari-Kai Rawlings
Lachlan Roberts
Mark Rubelj
Henry Rutkowski
Isabel Sia-Stone
Lachlan Steadman
Madysyn Treble
Benjamin Williamson
Ryan Woods
Tahlia Woolley

Week 8

Jackson Bagatella
Lily Brosnan
Draedyn Chevor
Samuel Crook
Cem Damarguc
Britney Dorman
Audrey Ellem
Summer Faulkner
Brendan Golby
Lillian Gosling
Sasha Grahovac
Ruby Hammond
Luke Harrison

Kyle Hodges
Ronan Hurley
Isaac Hutchinson
William Jones
Talyka Kime
Declan Klukow-Leavey
Shyelo Malim-Martinez
Blake Mazurek
Sophie Milsom
Billie Paposotiriou
Molly Peake
Tom Peake

Ellie Penserini
Alyssa Pospischil
Jessica Press
Benjamin Prior
Amali Rehutai
Abigail Richards
Oliver Rizzuti
Oliver Savage
Alyaan Sia-Stone
Steffani Sroczynski
Benjamin Synnott
Nicholas Towell

Nathan Treble
Isaac Wardle
Mia Watson
Cameron Way
Darcy Weston
Jesse Wiggins
Alayna Williamson
Chelsea Willingham
Rebecca Wilson
Sarah Wilson
Cameron Winfield
Luke Wright

Parent Protocols re Classroom or Playground Issues

If there is an issue in the classroom or in the playground, parents should initially contact their child's class teacher through the school office or in writing (not when students are in their class lines before school). If necessary, parents may contact the Assistant Principal or Principal.

It is not appropriate for any parent to approach or contact either other parents or children with the intention of resolving a school issue.

Invitation Netball Gala Day – Penrith

Thank you to all the teams who played on Tuesday, 26 August down at the Penrith Gala Day. All teams played with remarkable good humour considering the weather was not in our favour. Congratulations to all players for a great day. Unfortunately, we have been advised that there will **not be** another date this year.

School Selection for Sports

Children wishing to represent the school at representative level will be called at recess and lunchtime on a day-to-day basis for various sports. Rest assured your child will be well informed of this process. Therefore, parents do not need to contact the school. Any child missing out on a try-out due to sickness or holidays are more than welcome to try-out again the next time a practice is called.

Student Sporting Success (from Penrith Press article, 18 August 2014)

STA student Owen Harris (6L) represented Australia at the USA National Futsal Championships in Los Angeles earlier this year. Owen was selected during the 2013 Australian Futsal Association (AFA) National School Futsal Titles and was the youngest player chosen for the USA tour. Although Australia did not win the tournament, Owen said it was one of the best experiences he has had.

Owen has also been nominated for the Penrith Press Junior Sports Star award, sponsored by Rebel. Congratulations and well done, Owen.



Staff News

The following staff will be away on leave:

Mrs Mitchell (KM) – replaced by Kylie Williamson - until next Thursday 11 September,

Mrs Robson (1R) – replaced by Michelle Hinchliff - for the last two weeks of term,

Mrs Bamford (KB) – replaced by Carolyn Edwards - for the last week of term,

Mrs Llewellyn (AP) – replaced by Joanne Toohey (REC) – from 10 September until 17 October,

Mrs Toohey (1T) – replaced by Joan Noney – from 10 September until 17 October,

Mr Llewellyn (Music) – replaced by Miss Burness – from 16 September until 17 October,

Mrs Gippel (Assistant Sports Teacher) – from Week 10, Term 3 until Week 3, Term 4.

Love one another



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

How to Encourage Kids

Michael Grose from Parenting Ideas believes that encouragement is a skill that can be learned. For it to be effective it needs to be applied consistently. Encouragement and positive expectations go hand-in-hand. Encouraging parents expect kids to succeed, not necessarily straight away, and not necessarily with ease. Encouraging parents recognise that kids will be anxious at times, but they have faith in their ability to cope. They also value kids as they are, not for who they are going to be. Michael Grose believes that there are four ways to encourage kids:

1. Practice empathy and show faith in them
2. Recognise effort and improvement
3. Focus on strengths
4. Accept mistakes and errors.



Scan with your smartphone or tablet for more information.

www.staspringwood.catholic.edu.au

DIARY DATES

2014 TERM 3 Week 9	Monday 8 September	Creative Arts Expo Students at Joan Sutherland Centre – ALL DAY 7.00pm First Reconciliation 7.00pm Creative Arts Expo Performance
	9	Royce Simmons Shield – Selected Students from Years 3 & 4 7.00pm Creative Arts Expo Performance
	10	8.30am Staff Briefing Parish Mass – Year 6 & K attending Incursion performance – Kinder & Year 1 Seasons for Growth Tennis Clinics – Years 3 & 4
	11	8.30am Staff Prayer
	12	Drama/Literacy – Kinder, Year 1, Year 2
Week 10	Monday 15	9.05am Cuppa & Chat 12.30pm Assembly – 3S presenting 3.40pm Leadership Meeting
	16	Principal's Morning Tea Kinder Pasta Day 3.40pm Staff Meeting
	17	8.30am Staff Briefing Seasons for Growth Tennis Clinics – Years 3 & 4
	18	8.30am Staff Prayer School Band
	19	Term 3 Concludes

IMPORTANT DATES FOR TERM 4:

Monday, 6 October - Public Holiday

Tuesday, 7 October - STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY - Pupil Free Day

COMMUNITY NEWS

Jackeroo Ranch Horse Riding Camps: Located at Bingletree Station in the beautiful Turon Valley (in the Bathurst area) Jackeroo Ranch (established 50 years) is running their popular spring horse riding camps. **1st Week: Saturday 20th – 27th September and 2nd Week: Saturday 27th September to Sunday 5th October.** Shorter stays are possible if camps are not fully booked. These camps are for 'horse mad' children aged 6 to 16 years. Five to six hours per day are devoted to horse activities including a one hour lesson and three hours trail riding – with tuition still being given. As well, campers are taught grooming, saddling, haltering, catching a horse, safety aspects and many other facets of horsemanship. Previous experience is not necessary as beginners to advanced riders are catered for. We specialise in teaching nervous riders and developing their confidence. Other activities include gold panning, cattle feeding/checking, cattle mustering, camp fires and native wildlife spotting. (The property abounds with kangaroos, wallabies, wombats, wonderful bird life as well as being a working cattle farm and Quarter Horse Stud. There are Poll Hereford calves and Quarter Horse foals now being born.) This is not just a camp, but a wonderful farm experience your child will treasure for ever! Bookings essential. Enquiries please phone Mrs Pattie Hudson on 6337 7173 (nights are best) or via website: www.jackerooranch.com.au

Springwood World of Tennis: School Holiday Tennis Coaching Clinics from Mon 22nd to Friday 26th September (9am – 3pm). Juniors 5 years to 16 years, beginners to advanced. Students are graded into groups depending on age and ability. Coaching held wet or fine and racquets are available for hire. \$150 per person. Enrolments may be made at Pro Shop, Spring Street, Springwood.

Sent Home Recently:

- Impetigo Note for Year 4 (blue)
- Royce Simmons Shield Postponed - selected students (yellow)
- Creative Arts Expo Rehearsal Excursion Note
- Creative Arts Expo Performance Ticket Purchase Form (salmon)
- Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease Note for Year 3 (white and red)
- Touch Football Postponement note – selected students
- Royce Simmons Shield New Excursion Note (rescheduled date)
- Band and Choir Show Day note (mauve)
- Extra Creative Arts Performance Tickets note (pink)

love one another

