

NEWSLETTER

No. 3 Date 01/04/2015 Week 10 Term 1

Dear St Thomas Aquinas Families,

As the first term of the 2015 school year draws to a close I wish to extend gratitude to all in our community who continue to work on a daily basis in ensuring that this school is a place of nurturing, learning and encounter.

Wishing each and every family a safe, restful and blessed Easter Season.

Until next time,

Rosato

Sergio Rosato
Principal

Holy Week Commemoration Liturgies

During this week our school community has re-enacted, relived and participated in the Passion of Christ. We commenced on Monday by reliving Christ's joyful entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday led by our **Kindergarten & Year 1 students**.

On Tuesday we marked Jesus' Last Supper with His Apostles presented by students in **Years 2 & 3**. The re-enactment of the Lord's Supper was followed by class-based liturgies and **parent liturgies** led by Sister Monica and Joanne Toohey. Later on Tuesday we had an opportunity to reflect on the Scriptural Stations of the Cross. This year the Stations were presented by our **Year 4** students. The re-enactment of the Stations to the entire school community was presented in the round, and through tableau, scripture, music and reflective questions.

On Wednesday our **Year 6** students helped us relive the powerful events leading up to Christ's suffering and Crucifixion and the scene at The Tomb when all hope seemed lost.

Finally, on Thursday our **Year 5** students will lead us through the celebration of the great feast of the Resurrection of Jesus – the Pascal events of Easter.

The heart of our Christian faith and story is the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. During this time we are invited to contemplate once again and with new eyes that Jesus was both a human person and also God's chosen Son.

The liturgies this week have enabled our children and the rest of our community to walk not in great strides but in small steps, passing through each moment mindful that we will reach the resurrection and that we will be forever transformed by the journey.

We are grateful to all who have dedicated themselves this week so diligently and prayerfully to enabling this important tradition to continue and evolve.

Our inspiration is Christ's simple invitation to all of us – **Come Follow Me**.

Parish Easter Celebrations 2015

The Easter Ceremonies times are as follows:

- **Holy Thursday:** Mass of the Lord's Supper **7.30pm**
- **Good Friday:** Stations of the Cross **10.00am**
- **The Passion of the Lord:** **3.00pm**
- **Holy Saturday – Easter Vigil:** **6.00pm**
- **Easter Sunday:** Morning Mass **9.45am** (No evening mass)

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**. A reminder that sports shoes should be mainly white with white (not coloured) laces. For further details regarding uniforms please refer to the Parent Handbook located on the school web site.



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ST THOMAS AQUINAS
NEWS

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Springwood 2777
p: 02 4754 2554
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w: www.staspringwood.catholic.edu.au

Parish Priest:
Father Paul Slyney
p: 02 4754 1052

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY (Pupil Free) – Monday 20 April 2015

1st day of Term 2

STUDENTS COMMENCE TERM 2 ON TUESDAY 21 APRIL.

Love one another

Enrolments for 2016 and Open Days

Enrolments for next year are now open for Grades K-6. Enrolment forms are available from the school office. Early signs are that we have strong interest for Kindergarten places for 2016. School Tours, family interviews and first round offers will occur during the early part of next term.

- OPEN DAYS 2015 AS FOLLOWS -		
MORNING TOURS - from 9.15am - 10.00am:	• Tuesday: 19 May • Wednesdays: 6 & 20 May	• Fridays: 1 & 29 May
AFTERNOON TOURS - from 2.15pm - 3.00pm:	• Tuesdays: 5 & 19 May	• Thursdays: 30 April & 28 May • Friday: 22 May

St Thomas Aquinas Skoolbag App

We currently have 235 people who have downloaded our new communication app. We will be using this to alert parents to school events and information. Please download the app onto your smartphone or iPad from the App Store (for iPhones and iPads) and through Google for Androids. Just type in 'St Thomas Aquinas'. Once installed click the "More" button on the bottom right of the app, then "Set Up". Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you.



Fundraising 2015

In consultation with our Autumn Fair committee we have developed a schedule for fundraising and community building for 2015 as follows:

- **Mother's Day Stall** – 7 & 8 May
- **School Walkathon** – early Term 3
- **STA Sports Carnival BBQ** – late Term 2
- **Grandparents Day & Raffle on the day** – Thursday 17 September
- **Father's Day Stall & Raffle** – Wednesday 2 September
- **Christmas Stall** – Term 4

All funds raised go directly to purchase resources to enhance student learning such as technology & reading resources.

Cake Competition

Thank you to all those who participated in and contributed to our recent Creative Kids Cake Decorating Competition. A total of \$765.00 was raised for the school. The winners are as follows:

- Years 5 & 6:** 1st – No. 122 – Sarah Boxall (5B) 2nd – No. 127 – Chiara Hill (5/4C) 3rd – No. 138 – Luca Penserini (5/4C)
Years 3 & 4: 1st – No. 105 – Texas Down (4S) 2nd – No. 107 – Ebony Kent (4C) 3rd – No. 86 – Odette Laurent (3S)
Years 1 & 2: 1st – No. 143 – Shaelee Davies (2D) 2nd – No. 49 – Ben Giannakis 3rd – No. 63 – Brendan McMaster (2D)
Kindergarten: 1st – No. 26 – Ella Hoppe (KB) 2nd – No. 24 – Noah Costello (KL) 3rd – No. 5 – Lily Boersma (KB)

Congratulations and well done to all these very creative children!

Aspect Western Sydney Art Show

On Wednesday evening Aspect Western Sydney held its third annual Art Show at the Joan Sutherland Centre for Performing Arts. The art exhibit, coordinated by K6A teacher Marie Gough, showcases student art from each of the satellite classes across Western Sydney. The evening enabled families, teachers and guests to view and celebrate some outstanding pieces of student art. Congratulations to the students from class K6A for your beautiful artwork. The student artwork will remain on display at the Joan for two weeks. Anyone wishing to view the creative pieces on display is most welcome to do so.

Prayers of Praise for Year 4 – continued from Week 8

The following Prayers of Praise were created in co-operative groups in 4N. We have been exploring the different types of prayers in Year 4 as we learn to work together in groups. The prayers were based on Praise as we explored the first recorded miracle of Jesus at The Wedding of Cana and the gratitude and wonder of those who experienced it. They worked really hard not to turn it into a Prayer of Thanks but one of wonder and awe at God and His power. It was a great moment in Year 4 when they shared these in a small prayer session. **Michelle Nightingale (4N teacher).**

*Dear Holy, Holy Lord,
You are mighty for creating the stars,
animals, us, the world and the universe.
We praise You forever – You are the
wonder of the world.
We praise You forever. AMEN*

*Dear Heavenly Father,
You are so powerful, Holy is Your Name,
Your love will never die.
Of God, You created mountains and all of
the land.
We will always learn to love You forever. AMEN*

*Dear Heavenly Father,
You are so powerful to make the day shine
every day and make new nights.
You made the whole world that we now live on.
These are just some of the reasons that You
God are so great. AMEN*

*Oh Mighty Lord,
You are stronger than the strongest seas,
You are as mighty as the tallest mountains.
Blessed are You forever and ever.
We praise You God. AMEN*

*Holy Lord,
You are so wonderful,
You created Earth,
Blessed are You forever.
You created all life,
Holy is Your name. AMEN*

*Holy, Holy Lord,
You are so wonderful, mighty and powerful.
We are blessed for all the things that You
created. AMEN*

Student Awards

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



Sadie Albury	Lottie DeBono	Melissa Lee	Taleah Rust
Lucas Banks	Noah Edwards	Preston Mamo	Grace Ryan
Zachary Batcock	Jade Fiala	Holly McIlveen	Samantha Schroeder
Alice Bauerhuit	Isla Field	Evey McLaren	Patrick Seymour
Henry Bender	Matilda Gauci	Addison Miller	Justin Sykes
Ayla Bogg	Ellen Glasson	Sophie Milsom	Isabella Trinajstic
Enrique Caraballo	Sasha Grahovac	Genevieve Miruzzi	Samuel Turner
Lucas Collins	Joshua Harrison	Samuel Moore	Aiden Wade-Ferrell
Patrick Costigan	Finn Hartley	Olivia Mountain	Tristan Wade-Ferrell
Charlotte Croft	Eadi Hazell	Charlotte Owen	Harry Watson
Tia Cross	Henry Hinchliff	Amelia Peake	Alayna Williamson
Amelia Crouch	Joseph Kitching	Ellie Penserini	Alfie Williamson
Cem Damarguc	Jack Kuypers	Abigail Richards	Ryan Woods
Erin DeBono	Caitlin Leach	Lachlan Roberts	

Stand Together Against Bullying – National Day of Action

Recently we culminated the first part of our whole school emphasis on anti-bullying strategies by joining with more than 1950 schools and more than 890,000 students across Australia in the 5th National Day against Bullying and Violence. The day provided a focus for our entire school to reinforce the everyday message that bullying and violence at school and in society are not okay at any time.

Throughout the term each grade has used the Stand Together lessons in class as a focus for learning & discussion. These lessons have also been reinforced through presentations at school assemblies. The core focus areas have been – What is bullying? What it isn't. What is a bystander? How to be an active bystander. What is friendship? How resilience and inner strength can be built.

On the National Day of Action each of our 22 classes was asked to present a short message to their peers about their learning in this area. The messages presented by the students were of an outstanding quality. They included public service announcements, short films, drama, chants, composed songs, photos & captions, posters and story literature. The presentations will be used as resource material in coming terms this year to help maintain our focus on this initiative. Each child also received a wrist-band and an anti-bullying strategy pocket card produced by the Bullying No Way organisation.

More information and resources for students, parents and teachers can be found at <http://www.bullyingnoway.gov.au>



Project Compassion 2015

This term students have been generously donating to Project Compassion during the season of Lent. Project Compassion 2015 focuses on Food for Life. It throws a spotlight on global food issues and how Caritas Australia is empowering the world's poorest people to establish sustainable food sources for life. The total raised by the school was \$934.30. Thank you to all those families who supported this worthwhile cause.



School Attendance and Approved Leave

Consistent attendance at school is vital in maintaining continuity in a child's education. Regular and punctual attendance helps your child develop skills and maintain relationships that are integral towards holistic learning.

If your child has to be absent from school due to sickness or pressing family circumstances, you are required to inform the school and state a reason for your child's absence. Families should send a note to the school on the child's return to school from leave. This note is then recorded in the class roll by the teacher. The class roll is a legal register of student attendance for the year.

If your child is unwell for a number of days (2 days or more) please notify the school by phone to inform of this situation. **It is still necessary to send a note in this instance on the child's return to school.** All absences, explained and unexplained will appear on the student's school semester reports.

Government legislation permits Principals to grant leave for short periods. For leave consisting of a period of less than 10 days parents/carers are required to write to the Principal requesting approval. For leave consisting of a period of 10-100 days an application form, found on the school website or available at the school Office, must be completed by the parent/carer and submitted to the Principal before leave commences.

ANZAC Day Centenary 2015 Commemorations

A reminder that our students will be participating in the Springwood ANZAC Day March and Wreath Laying Ceremony on Saturday 25 April 2015. Students attending are asked to meet Mr Rosato and Mrs Llewellyn at the Springwood Fire Station at **10.00am** on the day. The march will then proceed to the Memorial in Buckland Park, where a service will follow.

Students are asked to wear full **winter** uniform, including school hats. If applicable, they may march with service medals in honour of family members. We look forward to as many students as possible participating in the March.

STA and St Columba's Combined Service

This year, to mark this important milestone our students will be joining with students from St Columba's College for a special combined service to be held at the College on **Friday 24 April at 12.00noon.**

Students from STA will walk up to St Columba's with their teachers and school staff for this combined service on this day. Due to the venue this is a student only event.

Love one another

My School Lunch Box

As advertised in the Week 7 newsletter, parents and caregivers are reminded that the service will be **closed from the period of 31 March, and resuming again in Term 2 on 11 May**. In this time the business will be relocated and renovated, ready to again service you and your children.



We are very thankful for your understanding and sorry for any inconvenience this may cause. If you have any enquiries about our temporary closure please feel free to contact me on my email as shown below. Thank you all for your continual support and we look forward to servicing you again when we return. **Kind Regards, Rae. My School Lunch Box, Info@myschoollunchbox.com.au**

DIARY DATES

2015 TERM 2 Week 1	Monday 20 April	STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY – Pupil-free
	21	Students Commence Term 2 12.30pm Assembly 3.40pm Staff Meeting
	22	8.30am Staff Briefing
	23	8.30am Staff Prayer
	24	12.00noon ANZAC Ceremony at St Columba's College
	Saturday 25 April	ANZAC DAY – March and Wreath Laying Ceremony in Springwood
Week 2	Monday 27 April	12.30pm Assembly – 2C presenting 3.40pm Leadership Meeting
	28	3.40pm Staff Meeting
	29	8.30am Staff Briefing 9.20am Parish Mass – Year 3 attending
	30	8.30am Staff Prayer 2.15-3.00 pm Open Day Tours for Kindergarten 2016
	1 May	9.15-10.00am Open Day Tours for Kindergarten 2016
Week 3 Yellow Ribbon Safety Week	Monday 4 May	12.30pm Assembly – 4N presenting 3.40pm Leadership Meeting
	5	Diocesan Cross Country – selected students 2.15-3.00 pm Open Day Tours for Kindergarten 2016 3.40pm Staff Meeting
	6	8.30am Staff Briefing 9.15-10.00am Open Day Tours for Kindergarten 2016 9.20am Parish Mass – Year 4 attending Year 3 Excursion to Riverside Theatre Parramatta – <i>Bugalugs Bum Thief</i>
	7	8.30am Staff Prayer Stage 3 Rugby League Stage 3 Girls Soccer Mothers' Day Stall
	8	Writers' Festival at Parramatta – Year 6 Mothers' Day Stall

COMMUNITY NEWS

Easter Sunday Funday at Everglades: Everglades Historic House and Gardens, **37 Everglades Avenue, Leura**, will be hosting a special Easter Funday **on Sunday 5 April from 10.00am to 4.00pm**. Come along and enjoy magical face painting, live entertainment for the kids, old-fashioned games for the kids including Monster Easter Egg Hunts, Easter hat parade (BYO or make on the day), yummy food and coffee. Entry fee: \$10 for kids, \$5 for adults (\$25 for family of four). Transport information and program available at www.everglades.org.au. Further information - phone 4784 1938.

Scorchers Holiday Clinic: Monday 13 April 2015 – Wednesday 15 April 2015, 9am to 3pm. For ages: 8 – 12 years. \$70.00 includes 3 days of basketball fun and skills. Morning Tea is provided each day & lunch is included on the final day. The canteen will be open. Register your interest and book your child's place by contacting Springwood & Districts Basketball Association on 4739 8999 and leaving a message; or emailing: scorchers1@bigpond.com. If your child is not a registered member of Springwood & Districts Basketball Association we will require your Medicare card on the day.

Kath's Miracle: Kath's miraculous recovery from terminal lung cancer led to the canonisation of Mary MacKillop and the declaration of Mary MacKillop as Australia's first saint. Kath and her husband Barry are on a continuous pilgrimage around Australia as Kath shares her story. Even with this extraordinary event in her life Kath is a very ordinary woman and we now have been given this rare opportunity to meet her and listen to what has happened and how it has changed her life. **Monday, 4 May at 11.30am or Friday, 8 May at 7.00pm at Our Lady of Nativity School Hall, Lawson.** Everyone is welcome. Cost is free, however, if you are able, a small donation will be greatly appreciated. Please indicate your expression of interest as soon as possible by phoning Lorraine on 0403 523 353 or emailing lorrainemary64@gmail.com. Complimentary refreshments will be available after the talks. We welcome Kath and Barry to the Mountains and hope you can join us.

Sent Home Recently:

- Premier's Reading Challenge note for Kindergarten (*pale blue*)
- Premier's Reading Challenge note for Years 1 & 2 (*pink*)
- Premier's Reading Challenge note for Years 3-6 (*yellow*)
- STA School Holy Week Schedule (*purple*)



Scan with your smartphone or tablet for more information.

www.stspringwood.catholic.edu.au

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