

# NEWSLETTER

No. 6 Date 23/06/2015 Week 10 Term 2

Dear St Thomas Aquinas Families,

During last week teachers, parents and many of our students have been able to reflect on and review the learning progress of students over the last two terms and set goals for the next semester.



The Family Learning Conferences are an important way to celebrate the individual achievements that all students make on their learning journey. The focus of the FLCs is on identifying areas of strength and areas for further development and planning how this will be achieved.

This year we have encouraged students to actively participate in these meetings – it is, after all about them and their learning. The addition of student voice in the FLC process is incredibly powerful and beneficial. It helps students to better identify their needs and plan how their future learning will address those needs. With this perspective, parents and teachers are able to better help students to become responsible for their own learning both in school and in life.

During classroom learning walks I have observed students preparing for the FLCs in a number of different ways. In Year 4 for example each student presented a short speech to their peers outlining their individual progress this semester. (Please see attached INSERT for some samples of the student's speeches.) Preparing these talks served to prepare the children for the FLCs as well as being a point of self-assessment. Fellow students provided critical feedback to their peers during these sessions helping to further refine their ideas and goals.

We all want the very best for your children who are our students. I sincerely thank everyone for their preparation and participation in these meetings. I trust that parents & carers of all students have followed up the meetings with discussion at home.

Whatever we do we should never be complacent or rest on our laurels. We must always strive to achieve our best by applying energy and effort to all that we do. I leave you this week with 3 student reflections on their learning so far this year. They represent what is possible given the time and guidance to develop skills and autonomy. It should provide us all with hope in what is possible.

Until next time,

*S Rosato*

Sergio Rosato  
Principal

## Winmalee Cup – cancelled for 2015

It is with much disappointment we announce that the Winmalee Cup for 2015 has been cancelled due to the indefinite closure of Summerhayes Park whilst BMCC undertakes repairs to the light poles. A mutual decision was made between all schools involved in this friendly local competition that a future date this year would not be possible.

We wish to thank all the students of our six STA teams in Soccer, Newcombe Ball and Netball who have been practising during recess and lunch over the term and to each of the coaches for their commitment - Sarah Dignam and Karen Bousfield (Netball), Kate Mackenzie and David Conroy (Newcombe Ball), Chris Chenoweth and Robert Mullen (Soccer).

## Kindergarten Enrolment 2016

Interviews for prospective Kindergarten enrolments for 2016 will commence during the upcoming holidays and be conducted over 3 days. Due to overwhelming demand for places for Kindergarten, second round offers will be considered once first round places have been finalised.

The school is currently accepting enrolment applications for other grades for 2016 – places in Grades 1-6 are limited.

## Staff News

Megan Strutt will be away on Long Service Leave for Week 10 of Term 2 and Week 1 of Term 3. Amy Blom and Melinda Burness will be teaching 3S during her absence.

Elaine Collier will be away on Long Service Leave for Term 3. Joan Noney will be teaching 2C during her absence.

Gerry Walsh's (maintenance/grounds person) father Bede (aged 99) passed away this week. Our sincere condolences to the Walsh family at this time.

*Love one another*



ST THOMAS AQUINAS  
NEWS

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Springwood 2777

p: 02 4754 2554

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w: [www.staspringwood.catholic.edu.au](http://www.staspringwood.catholic.edu.au)

Parish Priest:  
Father Paul Slyney

p: 02 4754 1052

## Captivate Showcase 2015

The annual Captivate Showcase, held at the end of the first semester each year, presents the culmination of the work of various combined school ensembles in music, dance and drama involving students from both primary and secondary schools in the Diocese of Parramatta. Commencing on Friday 12 June and then followed by 3 other evening performances, many of our students had an opportunity to demonstrate their creativity, passion and learning through the creative arts through performance.

## Captivate Drama Showcase

On Friday 12 June our Year 3 students participated in showcasing a drama performance entitled "9.59am 2<sup>nd</sup> May". The performance at Nagle College, Blacktown was the culmination of their work this semester as part of our school drama-literacy project. This project has been facilitated by the Catholic Education Office and our resident actor, Lucinda Amour and assisted by the Year 3 team of Megan Strutt, Tanya Graham and Chris Chenoweth.

Earlier this year students in Year 3 were asked to record where they were on Saturday, 2 May 2015 at 9.59am and write down what they were doing at that time. The final 12 selected scenes produced from these recollections were incredibly well portrayed and provided an amazingly engaging story for the audience.

## Combined School's Choir & Captivate Voices

On Tuesday 16, Thursday 18 and Friday 19 June many of our students were involved in the Captivate Music Showcase through the combined choir and Captivate Voices. Our students were able to join with almost 300 other choral singers in performance held at Nagle College Blacktown and on Friday at the Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre. Our student representatives distinguished themselves with their commitment, conduct and love of singing. We thank their families for making this possible and to Viv Llewellyn for his unstinting work with our student choirs.

## First Profession of Good Sams at St Thomas Aquinas

Two young Kiribati women, Tuata Terawete and Juniko Toaua, were professed as Sisters of the Good Samaritan of the Order of St Benedict during a moving and inspiring ceremony on 6 June.

The Rite of First Profession took place during Eucharist at our own St Thomas Aquinas Church and was presided over by Father Paul Slyney in the presence of many Good Samaritan Sisters, Good Samaritan Oblates, parishioners and members of other religious congregations. Following the Mass approximately 200 guests gathered in our school hall to share a light lunch and refreshments.





9 June 2015

Mr Sergio Rosato  
Principal  
St Thomas Aquinas Primary School  
PO Box 199  
SPRINGWOOD NSW 2777

Dear Serg and Staff

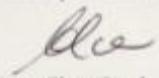
I wish to express my sincere thanks to you and to the staff, for all that was done to make the celebration of the First Profession of Srs Juniko's and Tuata's as Sisters of the Good Samaritan such a successful event.

At such a late notice, with the change of venue, you welcomed us to your school and provided for us an occasion that will live long in all our memories. As you are aware, the First Profession of a sister, is a most significant event in their lives as well as the life of our Congregation. St Thomas Aquinas Primary School now has a special place in our Congregational history.

Thank you for all the assistance you and your staff gave in the preparation of this event; thank you for all the assistance on the day and thank you for the use of the hall and all the practical personal help that was so generously shared with us. I know that hosting such a successful celebration does not eventuate without a team of dedicated and generous people and to all those who supported us through their assistance – we give thanks!

May you and all your staff be richly blessed.

Sincerely in Christ

  
Sister Clare Condon SGS  
Superior

Sisters of the Good Samaritan  
of the Order of St Benedict  
Good Samaritan  
Congregational Offices  
Postal address:  
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Five Dock NSW 2046  
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Both born and raised in the Republic of Kiribati, Juniko and Tuata have participated in the novitiate program for the last two years whilst living in the Lawson community of Good Samaritan Sisters. In the coming weeks, Juniko and Tuata will return to Kiribati where they will continue with a study program and engage in local ministry. The Congregation of the Sisters of Good Samaritan of the Order of St Benedict, known affectionately as the Good Sams, is Australia's first 'home-grown' congregation of Catholic religious women. Today, there are around 235 sisters (including our own Sister Monica Armstrong) living and working throughout Australia, in Japan, Kiribati, and the Philippines.

## Sports Carnival 2015 – Glenbrook Oval – Wednesday 15 July (Week 1, Term 3)

Parents/carers would have received the blue permission and information notes for this carnival yesterday. **Please note – this year's carnival will be held at Glenbrook Oval, Moore Street Glenbrook (near skate park) and not Tom Hunter Park as mentioned on the permission note.** The backup date will be Wednesday 22 July.

## Student Awards

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



### Week 9

Cooper Brown	Ezra Forsyth	Abigail Larkin	Oliver Scurr
Caraballo Enrique	Ruby Forsyth	Bridget Lloyd-Williams	Elizabeth Tabor
Liam Carr	Alex Freer	Sophie Milsom	Millie Ticehurst
Georgia Carter	Tyler Frost	Lachlan Morris	Tyson Verriere
Louis Caruana	Benjamin Giannakis	Aidan O'Brien	Matthew Ward
Reid Clarke	Xavier Gonzalez	Alexis Owen	Lachlan Waters
Lucas Collins	Mia Grodzicki	Michael Papasotiriou	Mieke Watson
Joel Crouch	Ruby Hammond	Martin Perez-Eaton	Madison Williams
Patrick Dawson	Charlotte Harris	Jacob Pospischil	Alfie Williamson
Lottie DeBono	Kate Henderson	Cooper Potter	Lachlan Williamson
Keith Eddy	Payten Henson	Henry Re	Ryan Woods
Audrey Ellem	Isabella Higginbotham	Jack Savage	Andrew Young
Sienna Evans	Zoe Langan	Annabelle Scurr	

### Week 10

Harley Baker	Max Friedland-Jaccoud	Isabelle Leet	Tobie Payens
Cameron Barr	Chloe Galluzzi	Maxwell Lovric	Molly Peake
Zachary Birch	Liam Galluzzi	Joseph Mahns	Cameron Purcell
Marlowe Carey	Harry Gilchrist	Eliza Manners	Ingrid Relling
Antoinette Caristo	Brendan Golby	Jovina Manning	Abigail Richards
Zachary Carr	Xavier Gonzalez	Kate McIlveen	Henry Rutkowski
Benjamin Cassidy	Eadi Hazell	Vincent McLaren	Christian Sophokleous
Lucas Claudino	Jaydon Hicks	Ashton McLeod	Ethan Szmytka
Chloe Corbett	Michael Ingram	Bryden McLeod	Baiden Tom
Joshua Curtis	Hayden Keogh	Diesel Moore	Declan Vane
Evan Davey	Dylan King	Lachlan Morris	Chantelle Wakeling
Lachlan Dempsey	Declan Klukow-Leavey	Caitlin Murphy	Cameron Waters
Luke Edwards	Matthew Kweidor	Thomas Neil	Benjamin Williamson
Mischa Evans	Connor Le Breton	Kiara Nugent	Clare Williamson



### Baby Congratulations

Congratulations to Michael and Allana Burke on the recent birth of Ivy, sister to Charlotte in 4N.



### School Banking

Thank you for banking through the Commonwealth Bank via our school on a Tuesday. Due to the volume of banking conducted through our school we have needed to make some necessary changes for you to please take note of:

1. Please limit money amounts to \$50 and under.
2. If deposits do not match the deposit slip then banking will be returned.
3. If deposit slips are not completed then banking will be returned.

Carrying excessive amounts of money in a child's schoolbag is not the school's responsibility. If your child wishes to bank a large amount of money such as a gift etc., please only bank the minimum through school banking and take the remainder to the bank, or bank the money in smaller instalments over several weeks.

**Competition:** During Term 3, each time you bank you will be automatically entered into a competition for a chance to win some amazing prizes (iPads, headphones, book certificates). You can double your chance of winning these great prizes by completing a Money Mission online at: [www.commbank.com.au/prizeportal](http://www.commbank.com.au/prizeportal)

*Happy banking!* **Deb Breytenbach, School Banking Coordinator**

### Threadworms

Due to reports of recent cases in our school we ask that parents please read the following information.

Threadworms are commonly found in preschool and school aged children. They often occur in more than one family member. Threadworms look like white threads, about 8mm long and occur in the lower intestine, but come out of the bottom at night to lay their eggs. This causes very annoying itching in the area especially at night. Threadworms can be spread easily when children carry the eggs on their fingers from scratching back to their mouth with their hands. They can also be spread indirectly, in food, dust, or other articles. Eggs can survive up to two weeks outside the body. Once the eggs are swallowed the whole process begins again.

Threadworm infection is not usually serious and easily cured with medication. Repeat infections are very common and precautions need to be taken to prevent this and the spread of threadworms to others. **Human beings cannot and do not catch threadworms from animals.**

If your child has threadworms, they may:

- Have an itchy bottom which may become red and inflamed from scratching.
- Be irritable and generally 'out of sorts'.
- Not sleep very well.

Your doctor or chemist will advise you on the best treatment. **It is very important that good hygiene practices are also put in place such as thorough washing of hands with soap after using the toilet and before eating.** Further information available at NSW Health website.

*Love one another*

## Hardcopy Newsletters

From Term 3 onwards we will be reducing the printing of our Newsletters and Updates as they are now readily available on the school website and can also be accessed via the Skoolbag app. Please download the free app onto your smartphone or iPad to receive the latest news about school events and information. A limited number only will be available from the school office.



## STA Craft Group

Thank you to all the hardworking parents and carers who make up our St Thomas Aquinas Craft Group. The craft group has been working during the term on items for sale in upcoming fundraisers at the school. More information will follow next term. The group has finished for Term 2 and will resume Week 2 of Term 3. They meet each Friday morning in Sr Monica's room at 9.05am.

## PARISH NEWS

### Sacrament of Confirmation 2015

Confirmation will take place on Wednesday, 16 September 2015, commencing at 7.00pm. Children in Year 6 or older, who have not yet received Confirmation and **have received Reconciliation and First Communion**, are invited to be part of the Confirmation Program in our parish this year. The first **compulsory Parent Meeting** will be held on **Monday 27 July at 7.00pm in the Church**. Parents please note: if you wish your child to participate in the Confirmation Program in 2015 it is compulsory that you attend the Parent Meetings. For further information and enquiries please phone the Parish Pastoral Centre on 4754 1052.

## DIARY DATES

<b>2015</b> <b>TERM 2</b> <b>Week 10</b>	<b>Wednesday 24 May</b>	Principal's Morning Tea – selected students
	<b>25</b>	8.30am Staff Prayer Stage 2 Boys Soccer – selected students
	<b>26</b>	<b>Term 2 Concludes</b>
<b>TERM 3</b> <b>Week 1</b>	<b>Monday 13 July</b>	<b>Term 3 Commences</b> 12.30pm Assembly – Jnr & Snr Choirs and Band Performing 3.40pm Leadership Meeting
	<b>14</b>	3.40pm Staff Meeting
	<b>15</b>	<b>Sports Carnival at Glenbrook Oval</b>
	<b>16</b>	8.30am Staff Prayer
	<b>17</b>	Year 2 Excursion to <i>Snugglepot &amp; Cuddlepie</i> performance at Riverside Theatre

## COMMUNITY NEWS

**Springwood & Districts Basketball Ignite Holiday Clinic: Monday 29 June – Tuesday 30 June 2015, 9am to 3pm. For ages 8 – 12 years.** \$50.00 includes 2 days of basketball fun and skills. 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](mailto:scorchers1@bigpond.com). If your child is not a registered member of Springwood & Districts Basketball Assoc. we will require your Medicare card on the day.

**Blue Mountains School Holiday Drama Workshops:** Blue Mountains Drama is offering two exciting school holiday workshops in Springwood and Wentworth Falls for students aged 6 – 11years. **Dream Play:** Devising Theatre. 6-11 years. 10.00am - 3.00pm Tuesday 30 June to Thursday 2 July at Kindlehill School Performance Space, Wentworth Falls. \$145 for 3 days (sibling discount available). Let's create a play set in a dream-world using improvisation and imagination. **Character Smash:** Devising Theatre. 6-11years. 10.00am – 3.00pm Tuesday 7 July to Thursday 9 July at Springwood Public School Hall. \$145 for 3 days (sibling discount available). Bring your own favourite piece of costume and create a comic character from scratch. Bookings via [holidays@bluemountainsdrama.com.au](mailto:holidays@bluemountainsdrama.com.au) or phone Eliza on 0414 930 455.

**Art Club at Winmalee – Digi-Arts Course for Children:** A new Digi-Arts on iPads course for children 7-10 years of age will be run during Term 3. Students will learn to use Stop Motion animation, Digital Photography editing, Film Making and Art Apps. Sharron is an experienced Art Teacher with over 20 years in education. The iPad course commences Monday 27 July, 415-5.30pm. For further enquiries please contact Sharron on 0414 983 335, [sharronfear@yahoo.com.au](mailto:sharronfear@yahoo.com.au) or [www.artclubatwinmalee.weebly.com](http://www.artclubatwinmalee.weebly.com)

**Watoto Childrens Choir Concert at Glenbrook:** Friday 10 July, 6.00pm at St Finbar's Church Hall, 46 Levy Street, Glenbrook. FREE ENTRY. Donations welcome. Enquiries please phone: 4739 6295.

### Sent Home Recently:

- Newsletter INSERT with this issue.
- Amended Sports Carnival Excursion Permission note – TODAY (pink)
- Wakakirri note re Outstanding Payment – selected students
- Diocesan Stage 2 Girls Soccer Permission note – selected students
- Captivate Transport Changes note – selected students (salmon)
- Snugglepot & Cuddlepie Excursion note to Year 2
- Original Sports Carnival Permission note (blue)
- Winmalee Cup Postponement note (green)
- Staff Leave Announcement for 2C (lilac)
- FLC Online Booking note (orange)
- Head Lice note to Year 2

