

NEWSLETTER

No. 13 Date 17/12/2014 Week 11 Term 4

Dear St Thomas Aquinas Families,

As the 2014 school year draws to a close I would like to take this opportunity to extend my deepest gratitude for all who have contributed this year to making this school a real centre of learning and faith for our students. I wish to acknowledge in a special way the many families who leave our school community this year as the last of their children graduates from Primary School. I feel certain that your contribution to this place is cherished as a lasting gift to students now and into the future.

I thank the teachers and staff of the school for their dedication, professionalism and commitment to their vocation as co-educators of your children. I also thank Paul Ryan (Principal) and the staff from St Columba's College for their generous support of our school in a range of educational pursuits. The College is always generous in offering its support to our school and we are immensely appreciative of this generosity. In particular, I wish to thank Emma Nicolson (music teacher) for her unstinting commitment to working with our school ensembles once again this year. I also acknowledge and thank Phil Stewart (Assistant Principal) for his loyal support of STA over many years. We wish Phil well as he embarks on serving the community of Loyola College, Mt Druitt.

We are also grateful for the work of various personnel from the Catholic Education Parramatta. In particular I would like to acknowledge the support of our school counsellor, Jeanne Appleton, the various itinerant teachers, specialist teachers and facilities officers. I thank Christine Howe our Director of School Performance for her practical guidance and support of our school community over the course of the year.

Our school is also blessed by the ongoing support and guidance of our Pastor, Father Paul Slyney. We thank Father Paul for his generosity, inclusiveness and encouragement.

In a special way I wish to thank with gratitude Sister Monica Armstrong sgs for her dedication and love of our school community. Sr Monica is a blessing in our midst.

I would like to also acknowledge our Assistant Principal, Avril Llewellyn. Her energy and capacity enhances our ability to harness the best educational outcomes for our students through her dedicated work.

This year our school farewells two outstanding educators in Viv Llewellyn and Geraldine Lohan. Both have left indelible marks on the lives of students and this school through their work, passion and commitment to education. We have indeed been blessed with their vocations and we thank God for this treasure. Below are commendations in their honour.

We pray for understanding, compassion and love in our hearts, home and country this Christmas.

Wishing you a holy, safe and happy Christmas.

Until next time,



Sergio Rosato
Principal

Christmas Concert

On Monday night we held our annual Christmas Concert. The concert retells the story of the birth of Jesus through song, dance and action. Thank you for your preparation of your children for this concert. The children in nativity themed costumes set the scene for a night that embodied sacredness. Thank you to the staff who worked to ensure everything was in readiness, particularly to our Religious Education Coordinator, Joanne Toohey, Music Teacher, Viv Llewellyn and Pianist, Jess Cunniffe for her beautiful accompaniment. It was a holy night to come together with the backdrop of our beautiful bushland setting and offer our collective thanks for the blessings we share.

Annual Award Ceremony

Our Annual Award Ceremony was held on Tuesday. The ceremony seeks to recognise the effort and achievement that students have shown in various aspects of learning and school life throughout the past year. We congratulate each recipient and celebrate their accomplishments in learning.

Year 6 Graduation

Tonight will mark the end of the primary school journey for our Year 6 students and their families. In doing so they mark a rite of passage as they successfully complete seven years of primary school education. The graduating class of 2014 have been an engaging group of students. We pray that as each young person continues on their journey that they will be able to build upon the educational and spiritual foundation they have received at St Thomas Aquinas.

love one another



ST THOMAS AQUINAS NEWS

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Parish Priest:
Father Paul Slyney
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Commendations for Our Retiring Teachers

Viv Llewellyn

Music is the literature of the heart;
Music touches us emotionally, where words alone can't.
Music takes our inner longings and turns them into something beautiful.
Music is the language of the spirit.
Music is sacred prayer for our soul.

For more than 11 years Viv Llewellyn has been the custodian of imparting and teaching this beautiful art form at St Thomas Aquinas Springwood. He passionately believes that music education is vital to the holistic development of children and that it should stand with, and complement other areas of learning.

Viv's contribution to our school community in this regard has been extraordinary. He is a music teacher of incredible knowledge, stature and ability. His love of, and skill in teaching music and the creative arts has helped build a culture at our school that is exceptional. His ability to engage all children (no matter their age) in the wonder of music and performance is a lasting legacy that he has bestowed to us all.

Viv's vocation as a teacher spans almost 50 years and two countries – Great Britain and Australia. His experience in teaching has encompassed teaching Kindergarten to Year 10 in State, Catholic and Private schools. His vast experience as a multi-instrumentalist, performer and director of both stage and choir has fed into and enlivened his teaching. Our students and our school community has benefitted from his gifts for the past 11 years.

Viv is truly professional and genuinely cares about students and staff. His gentlemanly presence, his wisdom and sense of fun has been a positive and uplifting influence in our school.

The art critic John Ruskin wrote, "Great Nations write their autobiographies in three manuscripts: the book of their deeds, the book of their words, and the book of their art. Not one of these books can be understood unless we read the two others, but of the three the only trustworthy one is the last that is the Arts."

Thank you, Viv, for helping to write the book of arts at St Thomas Aquinas.



Geraldine Lohan

How do you adequately encapsulate more than 40 years of dedicated service to a vocation as a teacher? How do you represent the thousands of intentional exchanges that have occurred in that time, or the personalised attention and devotion to each and every student in her care over those 40 years?

There is a saying that is often applied to teaching and that seeks to convey what is at the heart of this sacred calling – Students may not remember what you said (as a teacher), but they will remember how you made them feel.

In Geraldine's case I firmly believe that the students whom she has taught will carry with them lessons of both the head and the heart that she has inspired. I'm sure they would all agree that her distinguished service has had a profound and lasting effect on the lives of hundreds of students and their families.

Geraldine is reflective and attentive about the responsibility and calling we all share to nourish the needs of children – spirit, mind and body. Geraldine's devotion to the children in her class has always been predicated on fostering respectful relationships with each child and always imbued with a sense of pastoral care that promotes growth and independence in each of them.

Geraldine's attitude as a leader of this school community has always been from a perspective of: How can I contribute? She has always freely and generously offered her many talents, her wisdom and her organisational brilliance without hesitation to the cause in countless ways over the years. All this is always done with a sense of precision, decorum and commitment that never waivers.

Whilst her substantial contributions to learning in all its forms, sports and co curricula activities are valued, it is her contribution to our school community as a person that her presence is cherished. In every aspect of her life Geraldine is a person of integrity, grace and humility. Her wisdom and counsel amongst us will be profoundly missed. Geraldine is a faith-filled woman who genuinely and passionately lives out the call of the Christ each day. In many ways she has carried the story of this school community in her being - its past and present, but always with an eye on harvesting the future.

We celebrate and give thanks for Geraldine's lifetime dedication to the vocation teaching and to this Catholic community and pray that the next chapter is one where she is able to enjoy the fruits of her work.

Geraldine, we honour you for the thousands of intentional exchanges that have occurred in that time, and we commend you for your personalised attention and devotion to each and every student, family and staff member you have worked with over these many years.

'Well-done, good and faithful servant!'





Annual Award Ceremony

Congratulations to the following students, who received Awards at our recent 2014 School Awards Ceremony:

Class	Love One Another Award 2014	Outstanding Effort Award 2014	Academic Excellence Award 2014
K-6A	Oliver Neale	Finn Cullinane	Declan Klukow-Leavey
KB	Sienna Curley	Kayden Jeffers	Amelia Crouch
KL	Ruby Hammond	Skye Boyden	Alexander Kerkham
KM	Joel Crouch	Hannah Green	Lillian Gosling
1N	Luke Harrison	Mia Watson	Olivia Mountain
1R	Jack Fuge	Audrey Hodgins	Ellie Penserini
1T	Samantha Schroeder	Peter Koulouris	Chelsea Willingham
2D	Lachlan Waters	Nicholas Neil	Isabella Stewart
2M	Brianna Leehy	Marlowe Carey	Grace Costigan
3/2C	Anastasia Sawyer	Lorraine Santos	Yr 2 James Lin-Green
3CH	Texas Down	Patrick Bourke	Yr 3 Amelia Synnott
3M	Patrick Moore	Mayah Shore	Ebony Kent
3S	William Richardson	Rebecca Wilson	Nyah Hutchings
4C	Rose Miall	Bridget Lloyd-Williams	Chelsea Muller
4N	Jessica Ellis	Oliver Rizzuti	Joshua Harrison
5/4S	Elanor Williams	Every McLaren	Thomas Rizzuti
5C	Matthew Hurley	Tom Peake	Yr 4 Freya Mylne
5H	Benjamin Williamson	James Glasson	Yr 5 Tia Foley
6C	Julia Young	Ainsley Mann	Isabella Valle
6L	Bronagh Pell	Ayva Meadows	Xavier Gonzalez
6M	Bethany Evans	Hayley Jordan	Kathleen Crook
			Zoe Peters
			Grace Sato

Sportsperson of the Year 2014 (and a perpetual award): Zoe Peters

Creative Arts Award 2014: Steffani Sroczyński

Outstanding Effort and Achievement in Italian: Grace Sato

Principal's Award for School Spirit: Joshua Williamson

Principal's Award for Academic Excellence: Thomas Butler

Kathleen Belfanti Award for Consistent Effort (and a perpetual award): Zoe Mylne

Molly Hurley Award for Citizenship: Thomas Gawthorne

Ursula O'Carrigan Social Justice Award (and a perpetual): Mollie Bauerhuit

St Thomas Aquinas Community Award: Cameron Way

Principal's Award for Living Out the School Motto: Corey Hutchings

Citizenship Award: Lachlan Lloyd

Handball Champion for 2014 (and a perpetual award): William Hinchliff

Chess Champions:

Year 3 Zoe Long

Year 5 Matthew Ward

Year 4 Oliver Rizzuti

Year 6 Mitchell Owen

School Chess Champion (and a perpetual): Grace Sato

Student Representative Council:

Mollie Bauerhuit

Corey Hutchings

Zoe Peters

Mya Buchtmann

Thomas Gawthorne

Grace Sato

Gabriel Esquivel

Jack Murphy

Steffani Sroczyński

Tyler Frost

Mitchell Owen

Cameron Way

Recent Student Achievements

Congratulations to Addison Miller (1N) who came first in the Mini Cheerleading division at the National Cheerleading Championships held on the Gold Coast on Saturday 29 November. Her team are now National Champions! Congratulations, also, to Grace Miller (4C) who finished in 3rd place in the Youth Cheerleading Championships. Both girls represented the 'You Can Dance' Performing Arts Studio. Well done girls!

Assessment Interview – 2015 MAI Testing

Sent home this week is a letter to all families of students in Years 1-6 at St Thomas Aquinas for 2015 regarding the Assessment Interviews which will take place in January 2015. The letter includes instructions on how to make an appointment for this interview online. Parents can book for interviews from this Wednesday 17 December 2014 until Tuesday 27 January 2015. Please use the following link: www.schoolinterviews.com.au – **Event Code RZAJV**

<http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au>

Event Code: RZAJV



Premiers Reading Challenge 2014

Congratulations to the following students who participated in the 2014 NSW Premier's Reading Challenge:



Kindergarten

Emily Burnett
Enrique Caraballo
Antoinette Caristo
Deanna Caristo
Ella Danks
Cameron Dempsey
Macaulay Down
Noah Edwards
Lillian Gosling
Alexander Kerkham
Jack Leahy
Seth Loughton
Kate McIlveen
Oliver Neale
Thomas Neil
Grace Ryan

Year 5

Louis Caruana
Patrick Costigan
Grace Fowler
James Glasson
Blake Jones
Izabelle Lockley
Patrick Wakeling
Matthew Ward
Ellie Watson
Goran Zunic

Year 1

Montana Barry
Olivia Byrnes
Mackenzie Carey
Addison Down
Harry Ghata
Luke Harrison
James Hinchliff
Audrey Hodgins
Willow Hookings
William Jones
Jordan Kime
Melissa Lee
Ashton McLeod
Joshua Mitchell
Olivia Mountain
Christopher Oliver
Tobie Payens
Klara Trinajstic
Aiden Wade-Ferrell
Mia Watson
Clare Williamson
Chelsea Willingham
Hayden Willingham

Year 2

Marlowe Carey
Grace Costigan
Jacob Danks
Lachlan Dempsey
Luke Edwards
Chloe Galluzzi
Emilia Gosling
Lucy Hall
Georgia Hammond
Benjamin Hinley
Elizabeth Kerkham
Odette Laurent
Chelsea Micallef
Genevieve Miruzzi
Nicholas Neil
Annie Oliver
Lorraine Santos
Isabella Stewart
Sarah Wilson
Darian Zunic

Year 3

Luke Arnold
Riley Barglik
Lily Brosnan
Anabel Caristo
Texas Down
Harry Gilchrist
Ellen Glasson
Molly Jones
Hayley Kime
Dylan King
Madison Micallef
Riley Pagitz
William Richardson
Mayah Shore
Isabella Trinajstic
Harry Watson
Rebecca Wilson
Cameron Winfield

Year 4

Keegan Breytenbach
Olivia De La Harpe
Luca Goudis
Zofia Hammond
Joshua Harrison
Ella Laurent
Holly McIlveen
Rose Miall
Thomas Rizzuti
Taleah Rust
Demir Vassallo
Alyssia Zagarella

Year 6

Mollie Bauerhuit
Thea Breytenbach
Aliyah Brown
Brooke Conway
Kate Crook
Samuel Edwards
William Hinchliff
Corey Hutchings
Ainsley Mann
Emily McMaster
Ayva Meadows
Jordan Pagitz
Grace Sato
Tiarnnah Wanimbo
Callum Wulff
Julia Young



DIARY DATES

2015	Monday 26 January	AUSTRALIA DAY – PUBLIC HOLIDAY	
	27	Term 1 Commences for STAFF ONLY	
	TERM 1	28	STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY Grades K-2 Assessment Interviews Grades 3-6 Assessment Interviews
		29	YEARS 3-6 STUDENTS COMMENCE Grades K-2 Assessment Interviews
		30	Grades K-2 Assessment Interviews
Week 2	Monday 2 February	KINDER-YEAR 2 STUDENTS COMMENCE	
	3		
	4		
	5		
	6	School Swimming Carnival for Years 3-6 at Glenbrook Pool	

- **Normal classes for Term 1 for Kindergarten, Grade 1 & Grade 2 will commence on Monday 2 February, 2015.**
- **Normal classes for Term 1 for Grades 3, 4, 5 & 6 will commence on Thursday 29 January, 2015.**

COMMUNITY NEWS

School Holiday Drama Workshops: **Monday 19 – Thursday 22 January 2015 from 9.30am – 2.30pm** at **Springwood Court, 133 Macquarie Road, Springwood.** Includes Puppets, Scenarios and Drama Games, Fairy tales and Make Believe and Storytelling. Email Cathie at kidscanactstudio@gmail.com. After school, evening and Saturday classes near you in 2015. Go to www.kidscanact.com.au for more information.

Wishing you all a peace filled Christmas and New Year!

Love one another