

NEWSLETTER

No. 4 Date 01/05/2015 Week 2 Term 2

Dear St Thomas Aquinas Families,

Last Sunday's Gospel from John was of the *Good Shepherd*. There are countless references to sheep and shepherds in scripture. From early childhood these images are so familiar to us that they can almost become stereotyped and mixed together in our minds.

As a child growing up in a cross-cultural context my image of shepherds was somewhat confusing and contradictory. In our home hung a framed picture of Jesus as a shepherd with a crook and surrounded by sheep typical of the images portrayed by artists over time.

At school I struggled with the image of Jesus as the shepherd when I imagined him in an Australian landscape through social studies lessons about sheep grazing and the opening up of the country to pastoral settlers. This image, like the idealised one before, didn't seem to ring true in the context of Jesus' times.

My other impression of shepherding was from the stories and comments passed on to me by my father. My dad would tell me about his life back in the old country and how each year around September (as Autumn began) the shepherds who tended their sheep in the foothills of the Apennines in the Abruzzi region would walk their sheep flocks south 250kms to the Puglia region where it was warmer and the grass grew plentiful in the winter. The name given to this long trek was *transumanza*. The shepherds would then take the same track back home in May when the weather warmed and pastures returned. Along the way the shepherds would find shelter for themselves and their sheep in special rock huts that they built. They would sleep across the entry to these huts to stay on guard against animals who preyed on their flock.

Whenever I looked like I was slacking off or my attitude wasn't deemed up-to-scratch he would remind me that if I kept going this way I'd end up living my life as mere shepherd - *un pecoraio*. In other words a deadbeat, uneducated, poor man. Even to a man like my father of peasant stock, the shepherds were considered lowly.

Shepherds were not highly regarded as particularly good people in Jesus' day either – they were considered dim, shady, outsider types and untrustworthy. So Jesus' choice of the *Good Shepherd* as an image was deliberate and designed to disturb.

Jesus' model of the good shepherd is clear and unequivocal. The shepherd WHO IS GOOD, is one:

- who does not abandon his sheep
- who is concerned for and cares for his sheep
- who lays down his life for his sheep.

The image of the good shepherd presented by Christ is not trite, but one that is grounded and still rings true in our contemporary lives - be it as we commemorate ANZAC Day and those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country, those working to support all who are affected by a natural disaster or a parent waiting lovingly beside their child in their time of need.

Until next time,

S Rosato

Sergio Rosato
Principal

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.



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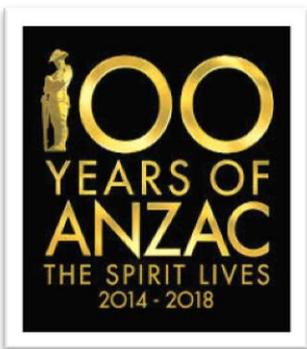
ST THOMAS AQUINAS NEWS

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Springwood 2777
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w: www.staspringwood.catholic.edu.au

Parish Priest:
Father Paul Slyney
p: 02 4754 1052

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

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Combined Schools Anzac Centenary Commemoration

Last Friday on the eve of ANZAC day our students and staff walked up College Drive to join the St Columba's community for a special ceremony to commemorate the Centenary of ANZAC Day marking 100 years since the Gallipoli landing in 1915. Many of our students wore poppies as a symbol of reverence and gratitude for all those who have served.

The service took place in front of the picturesque rose garden and flag area. Mr Joe Elkus from Springwood RSL and Mrs Louise Markus (Member for the Blue Mountains) spoke on the meaning of the ANZAC spirit from different perspectives. Mr Elkus focused on the eve of the Gallipoli landing and the emotions and thoughts of the soldiers. Mrs Markus read a letter from the Prime Minister addressed to both schools encouraging present generations to live up to ANZAC values.



The service included hymns, scripture, prayers, poetry, wreath-laying and recital of the Ode. The Last Post and Rouse was played by Charnian Cavanagh (Band Teacher) and students from STA, Patrick Costigan, Oliver Alves-Jones & Patrick Wakeling. The Piper for the ceremony was St Columba's and former STA student Lachlan Wiggins.

We thank all those students and staff from both schools involved in the ceremony. In particular we thank Mr Clayton Clunes (teacher at St Columba's) for coordinating the ceremony and the Principal, Mr Paul Ryan, for his hospitality.

Springwood ANZAC Day March and Wreath-laying Ceremony

Last Saturday approximately 200 of our students and a number of teachers and parents represented our school community at the local commemorative service in Springwood. Our school representation this year was by far the best ever. We were also proud to join with many students and staff from St Columba's on the day. As always our students were reverent and respectful for the march and the ceremony that followed. Many of the students wore medals honouring family members and rosemary as a symbol of remembrance.

During the ceremony we were reminded that ANZAC Day is not a day to glorify war, but rather to raise our minds and hearts in gratitude for the service of many who have given themselves selflessly for us.

Thank you to the families who generously supported their children participating in this march and ceremony on a public holiday. Thank you also to the many teachers who marched with the students including Mrs Llewellyn, Mr Costigan, Mrs Dodd, Mrs Fortunat, Mrs Wurf, Mrs Edwards, Mrs Nightingale, Mrs Mitchell and Mrs Graham.



Lone Pine Tree

Near the school bell tower within a tree enclosure is a 6 year old Aleppo pine. This pine was struck from seed material collected from the original Lone Pine planted on the grounds of the Australian War Memorial in 1934.

After the capture of the Lone Pine Ridge in Gallipoli on 6 August 1915, an Australian soldier found a cone on one of the branches used by the Turks as overhead cover for their trenches and sent it back home to his mother. From seed shed by it she raised the tree, which she presented to the War Memorial in honour of her own and others' sons who fell at Lone Pine.

We thank Luke Redman's (1D) grandmother who generously donated another Lone Pine to our school community in commemoration of the ANZAC centenary. This potted tree was featured as a symbol at the combined schools commemoration service on 24 April.

The tree has now been planted near the front of St Thomas Aquinas Church adjacent to the Parish Garden for the Fallen.



School Learning Goals 2015

At our first school assembly this term we launched our school learning goals for this year. These goals are expectations that we are setting for ourselves as a learning community as markers for improvement.

At the assembly and subsequently through class discussion we have been able to explain these goals further and encourage our students to take them on as their personal learning goals.

The goals are in 3 areas – Religious Learning, Numeracy Learning & Literacy Learning. The goals have been distilled into student-friendly language. The goals will be a point of contact for teachers and students when discussing how learning is progressing and what future learning needs to take place.

RELIGIOUS LEARNING GOAL

We will all improve our knowledge about the Church

LITERACY LEARNING GOAL

We will all improve in our reading.

NUMERACY LEARNING GOAL

We will all improve in our understanding of counting and place value.

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 1

Lauren Beaton Kayla Hurley Rebecca Wilson Cameron Winfield

Week 2

Isaac Bailey	Gus Forbutt	Harrison Iles	Mark Rubelj
Isabella Bonnici	Alex Freer	Harry Kitching	Lorraine Santos
Emma Brickwood	Harry Ghata	Estelle McLellan	Addison Schobbe
Lillian Burke	Lillian Gosling	Madison Micallef	Micah Segedin
Ruby Butler	Blake Gough	Grace Miller	Liam Sibbald
Mackenzie Carey	Georgia Hammond	William Moore	Max Stone
Ysobel Chalice	Chiara Hill	Milly Okladnikov	Benjamin Synnott
Sienna Curley	Isabel Hill	Will Peake	Samuel Wakeling
Shaelee Davies	Benjamin Huggard	Luke Pospischil	Mia Watson
Frank Dyer	Elise Hurley	Benjamin Prior	Elanor Williams
Noah Edwards	Eve Hurley	Christian Ramos-McNeil	Chelsea Willingham
Leonie Ellis	Ronan Hurley	Vienna Reynolds	Daniel Woods

Mothers' Day Stall - 7 & 8 May

On Thursday 7 May and Friday 8 May we will be holding a Mother's Day Stall where children are able to buy something in appreciation of all mums, grandmas, aunts or special mother figures in their life. Children will be able to purchase bookmarks, tea-towels, cosmetic kits, beanies and scarves etc. Prices start at \$1.00 with a maximum of \$10. All funds raised go directly to purchase resources to enhance student learning such as technology & reading resources.

Book Club

All orders for the first Book Club Issue of Term 2 **must be placed by Monday 11 May. Orders after the due date WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED so please make sure you get them in on time.** 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.



Term 2 School Fees

Thank you to all the families who have paid their Term 1 fees. The Term 2 Fee Statements have been issued via the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta. Fees for this term are due by **Monday, 25 May 2015.** Please organise payment by the due date, alternatively, if you are suffering financial difficulty please contact Deborah Lawrence to discuss your options.

For those families on a formal financial arrangement these statements are sent only for your information.

My School Lunch Box – CLOSED UNTIL 11 MAY

Parents are reminded that My School Lunch Box will not be processing any orders until **Monday 11 May. PLEASE BE AWARE THAT THE WEBSITE DOES NOT INDICATE THE CLOSURE AND STILL APPEARS TO TAKE YOUR ORDER!**



Baby Congratulations

Congratulations to Krystle and Joshua Coburn on the birth of daughter Emmeline Pearl, sister for Shayla (2C) and also to Vanessa and Damien Brown on the birth of son Oliver John, brother for Cooper (1D).



Italian Forum

Last term our Year 4 students participated in the annual STA Bocce Tournament, displaying an incredible amount of skill and enthusiasm. The Bocce Tournament is part of the cultural component of the children's learning of Italian.

The winners were: 1st – Wilkin Payens, 2nd – Alison Edwards, 3rd – Chelsea Muller

Congratulations to everyone who participated and many thanks to our Year 6 umpires: Ben Williamson, Oliver Alves-Jones, Elanor Williams and Sophia Minale. **Jenni Wurf, Italian Teacher**

Mini Vinnies Knitting – Helpers Required

As Winter approaches we would like to start knitting some squares for blankets. If you are able to come along and help the Mini Vinnies students gain the requisite skills this would be much appreciated. 'Knitting time' will be Wednesday's 1.30pm to 2.00pm commencing 20 May. Volunteers need to have a current Working with Children clearance (online module available at: <http://ceo-web.parra.catholic.edu.au/asp/volunteerscpmodule/index.asp>). Please contact Joanne Toohey via a note or phone message to the school office if you are interested in coming along. Thank you. **Joanne Toohey**



Wakakirri News

Rehearsals have begun in earnest for Wakakirri in August 2015. Details of the date and time will be sent home once we have been notified. If your child was successful in obtaining a spot in our performance, please ensure that all monies owed (\$40 per student) is by paid by **Friday, 21 May 2015.**

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After School Gymnastics – Vacancies

Currently vacancies exist on **Thursdays for children in grades K-2: 3.30 – 4.30pm** and **grades 3-6: 4.40 – 5.40pm**. If you would like to register please see Mr Mullen, write a letter or call his mobile on 0487 659 737. Please do not contact the school office.

Walking the Camino Presentation

'Walking the Camino' is an 80-minute audio-visual presentation by Peter Kearney about a 700km walk through northern Spain along an ancient pilgrimage path. It includes photos of beautiful landscapes and medieval villages, music, live commentary and useful information by Peter who walked the Camino in 2012. Q&A session at conclusion. Suggested donation of \$10 (\$8 concession) per person at door. Limited seating. Registration essential via email to Peter: camino@peterkearneysongs.com.au

- 1. WAITARA, Friday May 8th, 7.30pm;** The Library, Our Lady of the Rosary School, 23 Yardley Ave, Waitara;
- 2. NORTH SYDNEY, Saturday May 30th,** 11.00am, Tenison Room, Mary MacKillop Place, 80 William Street, North Sydney;
- 3. WINSTON HILLS, Sunday May 31st,** 11.00am, Fr. David Scott Parish Centre, St Paul the Apostle Parish, 40 Buckleys Road, Winston Hills.

"Easily the best account of the Camino I have seen. Peter's commentary and selection of music accompany a brilliant array of photos. (John Dawson)
"A beautifully put together 80 minutes". (Virginia Adlide)



DIARY DATES

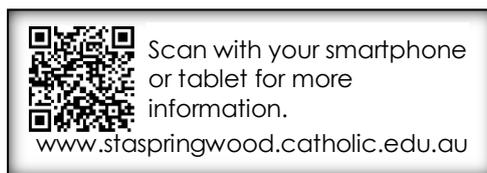
2015 TERM 2 Week 3	Monday 4 May	12.30pm Assembly – 4N presenting Launch of National Safety Week 3.40pm Leadership Meeting
	5	Diocesan Cross Country 2.15pm Open Day Tour 3.40pm Staff Meeting
	6	8.30am Staff Briefing 9.15am Open Day Tour 9.20am Parish Mass – Year 4 attending Year 3 excursion to Riverside Parramatta – Bugalugs Bum Thief
	7	8.30am Staff Prayer Mother's Day Stall Stage 3 Rugby League Stage 3 Soccer
	8	Writers Festival at Parramatta – Year 6 attending Mother's Day Stall
Week 4	Monday 11 May	Year 6 Camp 12.30pm Assembly – 5/4C presenting 3.40pm Leadership Meeting
	12	Year 6 Camp NAPLAN 3.40pm Staff Meeting
	13	Year 6 Camp NAPLAN 8.30am Staff Briefing 9.20am Parish Mass – Year 2 & K6A attending
	14	8.30am Staff Prayer NAPLAN
	15	NAPLAN (catch up) 11.35am St Columba's missioning

COMMUNITY NEWS

Springwood Children's Centre: Springwood Children's Centre offers remedial help for school aged children in literacy and numeracy with one-on-one lessons and undertaken by qualified teachers. For further information please contact Barbara on 4751 4642 or email: scrr@iinet.net.au.

Sent Home Recently:

- Paul Kelly Cup AFL Excursion note – selected students
- Riverside Theatre Excursion note to Year 6
- Industrial Action Notification (*orange*)
- Year 6 Camp note
- Diocesan Cross Country Excursion note – selected students
- Greg Alexander Shield Excursion note – selected students (*cream*)
- Girls Soccer Gala Day Excursion note –selected students
- Head lice note to Kindergarten
- ANZAC Day March note (*blue*)
- Cancellation of Industrial Action note (*lilac*)
- Chess Excursion note – selected students
- Nepal Earthquake Appeal note (*lemon*)
- Bugalugs Bum Thief Excursion note to Year 3



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