

NEWSLETTER

No. 5 Date 12/05/2014 Week 3 Term 2

Dear St Thomas Aquinas Families,

An early morning shower, followed by a blast of frigid winter air did little to dampen the warmth and sense of community that abounded last Saturday for our Autumn Fair. We opened our school grounds to welcome the greater community with a generosity of spirit and hospitality that was evident to all. The Fair was officially opened by Sister Monica to exemplify the sense of gratitude we all feel for her dedicated work in support of the families of our school.

Events such as the Autumn Fair can only take place by many selfless individuals giving of their time, effort and talent to work for the greater good. Our sincere thanks goes to each of the coordinators, stall volunteers, teachers, support staff, sponsors, community organisations and businesses who supported the 2014 Autumn Fair so generously.



The atmosphere on the day was joyful and convivial and allowed our children to enjoy time with their friends and the many features of the Fair in the place where they come each day to learn. Looking over the happy, smiling crowds on the day one could only feel a sense of pride and gratitude that we belong to such a caring and resilient community.

We are pleased to announce that the Autumn Fair raised \$35,000 – a wonderful effort. These funds will be used directly to purchase literacy resources and technology to enhance student learning in our school.

At our school assembly the children raised their voices to sing our specially composed Autumn Fair song with such enthusiasm and gratitude – it was a perfect way to say thank you to all for the work on their behalf.

I leave you this week with lyrics of our Autumn Fair song that celebrates our combined effort.

Until next time,

Sergio Rosato

Sergio Rosato
Principal



The STA Autumn Fair

1. *Every year when Autumn comes around
They parade down the main street in town
You can feel something's happening in the air
As you wind up College Drive
You can see them puttin' up the rides
Getting ready, for the Autumn Fair.*

(Chorus)
Autumn Fair, Autumn Fair,
Everybody in town'll be there
So come on, hey we're going down there
Autumn Fair, Autumn Fair,
Everybody in town'll be there
Come on to the STA Autumn Fair.

2. *Every year when Autumn comes around
They stretch a banner 'cross the main street in town
You can feel something's happening in the air.
There's rides, raffles, food and fun. Mother Day craft,
fun for everyone. So come along to the Autumn Fair. (Chorus)*

3. *This year when Autumn came around
The Duke and Duchess come to town
You could feel pride and gratitude in the air.
As they visited the streets of Winmalee
The Aussie spirit was there for all to see
As it will be at the Autumn Fair. (Chorus)*



Love one another



ST THOMAS AQUINAS
NEWS

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Thanks to our Sponsors and Coordinators

Please see our Autumn Fair 2014 Newsletter INSERT for our list of sponsors and coordinators. Each stall and event feature depended ultimately on an army of volunteers too numerous to mention but whose generosity and time is greatly appreciated.



Polair and Blue Mountains Emergency Services Visit

On Thursday 1 May, all students and staff from St Thomas Aquinas joined with St Columba's College and representatives from Ellison PS, Winmalee PS and Winmalee High to host a visit by various emergency services including Police, Ambulance, Fire & Rescue, RFS & National Parks and Wildlife. As part of this visit more than 1800 students and staff gathered on the Grotto field at St Columba's to view a special landing of the Police PolAir 1 helicopter.

During the visit representatives of all Blue Mountains emergency services presented each school with a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of assistance provided to emergency services through the evacuation during the bushfire event on the 17 October 2013. After the presentation of the framed certificates students were able to get close to the vehicles, including PolAir 1, and ask questions of the emergency personnel.

We give thanks to all the emergency services for their visit in support of all schools in the area and for helping the students feel reassured. A special note of thanks to Snr Constable Michelle Jansco and also Police Inspector Sonya Tabor for coordinating this important visit as part of the recovery process.

St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal – Knitters needed

During the month of June our Mini Vinnies group will be participating in the annual St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal, which provides support for those in need. The activities that we will engage in will include knitting squares for blankets. If you are able to give some time to helping the students with their knitting from Week 5 (28/5) through to Week 9 (25/6) please contact Joanne Toohey via the school office (4754 2554) or send in a note. The Mini Vinnies group meets during the Wednesday lunch breaks (1.20 – 2.00pm). Thank you for your generous support of this school outreach activity. **Joanne Toohey, REC**



Kindergarten 2015 – Enrolment Period Now Open

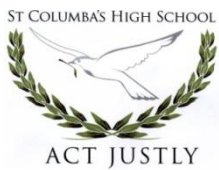
Enrolments for Kindergarten are now open – please advise family and friends of this fact. Enrolment packs are available from the school office. The official enrolment period for Kindergarten closes on Friday 30 May. Late enrolments will be considered based on availability of places.

As in recent years there will be guided tours of the school conducted by the Principal and Assistant Principal for families seeking enrolment. This year these tours will take place on the following days:

Morning Tours from 9.30am to 10.30am: Friday 16 May, Tuesday 27 May, Wednesday 28 May and Thursday 29 May

Afternoon Tours from 2.15pm to 3.00pm: Friday 16 May, Tuesday 27 May, Wednesday 28 May and Thursday 29 May

These school guided tours will commence from the school office.



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Year 7 2015 Enrolments – St Columba's High School

A reminder to all parents of Year 6 students that St Columba's College are currently processing enrolments for Year 7 2015. If you are considering enrolling but have not returned your enrolment form yet, please do so as soon as possible.

PARISH NEWS

Sacramental Program - Confirmation

The Sacrament of Confirmation Program for children in Year 6 this year will commence with these dates:

First Parent Meeting: 19 May 2014 at 7.00pm

Practice for Confirmation: 14 July at 3.45pm

Second Parent Meeting: 26 May 2014 at 7.00pm

Sacrament of Confirmation – over 2 nights: 15 & 16 July 2014 at 7.00pm

Information was sent home to students recently. For more information contact the Parish Pastoral Centre on 4754 1052.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY
Tuesday 10 June (day after Long Weekend)

This day will be pupil free.

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 2

Lucas Banks	Ashley Crighton	William Hinchliff	Olivia Prior
Ayla Bogg	Kate Crook	Julia Hoare	Angus Re
Leo Borg	Finn Cullinane	Jordan Kime	Oliver Rizzuti
Lilly Brosnan	Joshua Curtis	Lachlan Konwerski	Mayah Shore
Mya Buchtmann	Jacob Danks	Caitlin Leach	Gabriel Valle
Ruby Butler	Claire Dixon	Eamonn Luchetti	Mia Watson
Marlowe Carey	Daniel Elliott	Kate McIlveen	Jesse Wiggins
Antoinette Caristo	Harry Ghata	Kaseko Mgaza	Lachlan Williamson
Matthew Cassidy	Emilia Gosling	Joshua Mitchell	Matilda Worrall
Brooke Conway	Luca Goudis	Thomas Neil	Julia Young
Patrick Costigan	Summer Harrison	Trinity Power	Olivia Young

Week 3

Jeremy Barker	Jade Fiala	Aiden Machon	Micah Segedin
Tobey Barr	Lachlan Golby	Preston Mamo	Amelia Steadman
Lauren Beaton	Hannah Green	Estelle McLellan	Nathan Treble
Zachary Birch	Xavier Haynes	Madison Micallef	Declan Vane
Ferris Carey	Liam Hicks	Gela Moss	Genevieve Wakeling
Carvasiglia Imogen	Elise Hurley	Ethan Muller	Samuel Wakeling
William Crighton	Erin Hutchinson	Molly Peake	Darcy Weston
Mitchell Cunningham	Levi Kirkpatrick	Will Peake	Alfie Williamson
Joshua Curtis	Zoe Langan	Skyler Pick	Daniel Woods
Keith Eddy	Isabelle Leet	Sophie Rayner	Alex Wydmuch
Baxter Ellem	Veronica Lloyd-Williams	William Rogers	Sarah Wydmuch
Leonie Ellis	Zoe Long	Kristian Rosenblum-Webster	

Love One Another Awards

Congratulations to Charlotte Harris (4N) who received a Love One Another Award at last week's Assembly for living out the school motto. Well done Charlotte.

Diocesan Cross Country

Congratulations to every student who represented the school at the Diocesan Cross Country Competition last week at Eastern Creek. Our students were great ambassadors for the school, supporting each other admirably and exhibiting great sportsmanship. Our combined STA team were able to achieve one of the best overall results in many years.

Notable Achievements Included:

- **Riley Barglik** - 8/9 Year Boys – **5th place**
- **Cameron Winfield** - 8/9 Year Boys – **6th place**
- **Molly Peake** - 8/9 Year Girls - **1st place**
- **Abbey Gomez** - 8/9 Year Girls - **5th place**
- **Michael Christof** - 12/13 Years Boys - **2nd place**
- **Isaac Wardle** - 12/13 Year Boys - **5th place**
- **Tom Gawthorne** - 12/13 Year Boys - **8th place**
- **Hayli Shiels** - 12/13 Year Girls – **8th place**

The students had some comments to share about the day: *"On the 6th May I went for a trip to Diocesan. All of us said that we were nervous before our race. Everyone was proud of themselves for getting into the Diocesan..."; "Everyone did well and did not give up during the race!"; "It was a good day."; "We thanked Mrs Gippel and Mr Conroy for taking us." "Everyone did well, it was a hot day." "Everyone had an awesome day and had heaps of fun. Congratulations to everyone who had a go and made it to the next level." "All students tried their heart out. We would like to thank Mrs Gippel for taking us on the day and also the parent helpers."*

Thank you to the many families who attended and supported the students and to David Conroy and Ann Gippel for coordinating the team.

Greg Alexander Shield

St Thomas Aquinas entered six teams in the Greg Alexander Shield Rugby League competition on 1 May at Warrimoo. All students played with great spirit and were well supported throughout the day. Thank you to Ms MacKenzie, Daniel Wiggins and Paul Williamson for coaching our teams. Congratulations to STA A team and STA DARK on winning their divisions and progressing to the District Finals on 24 June. **Mr Chenoweth**

Mothers' Day Stall

Thank you to the generous mothers who "backed up" after the Autumn Fair to provide beautiful, handmade gifts for the students to purchase for Mothers' Day. The handmade gifts were created at STA by generous parents using mostly donated items. We hope that last Sunday was a day special day for families to honour all our mothers, grandmothers and mother figures who enrich our lives.

"The sweetest sounds to mortals given are heard in mother, home and Heaven." **William Goldsmith Brown**

Book Club

Issue 3 (first book club for Term 2) has been handed out to the students. **All orders are now due and need to be returned as soon as possible.** 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.



Love one another

No Parking Zones at School

It has become apparent that a few parents are parking in the drop-off zone in the church car-park driveway while waiting for their children in the afternoon. As the "NO PARKING" sign states, parking is not permitted in this area. This drop-off zone is to be used as a 'kiss and drop' area **in the morning only** and therefore is a **no parking zone at all times**. Thank you for your support with this matter. Please note that parents should pick their children up in the school pick-up area adjacent to the bus bay rather than have their children wait for them in other unsupervised areas.

Uniform – School Sports Shoes

Thank you to those families who have provided their children with the correct sports shoes, however, there have been a number of children wearing incorrect sports shoes to school. As per our Uniform Policy, sports shoes are to be **predominantly white** so fluoro or multi coloured shoes are not permitted. We ask parents to insist that their children wear the correct uniform, including sports uniform, at all times. If this is not possible please address a note to the class teacher which will be passed on to the Assistant Principal. If the incorrect uniform, without a note from the parents, is worn a letter from the school will be sent home.

DIARY DATES

2014 TERM 2 Week 3	Monday 12 May	Year 6 Camp 12.30pm Assembly
	13	Year 6 Camp NAPLAN Testing 3.40pm Staff Meeting
	14	Year 6 Camp NAPLAN Testing 9.20am Parish Mass – Year 1 attending
	15	8.30am Staff Prayer NAPLAN Testing
	16	NAPLAN Testing (catch-up) Drama Sessions (K-2) 9.30-10.30am Open Day Tours 2.15-3.00pm Open Day Tours
Week 4	Monday 19 May	12.30pm Assembly – 1R presenting 3.40pm Leadership Meeting
	20	Stage 3 Boys Soccer – selected students 3.40pm Staff Meeting
	21	8.30am Staff Briefing 9.20am Parish Mass – Year 3 attending Creative Arts Expo Combined Choir rehearsal in hall
	22	8.30am Staff Prayer AFL Clinics (K-6)
	23	Drama Sessions (K-2) Year 4 Theatre Excursion

COMMUNITY NEWS

Adam Crouch Foundation High Tea: On **Sunday 15 June** the Adam Crouch Foundation will be holding this fundraising initiative at **The Carrington Hotel, 15-47 Katoomba Street, Katoomba at 1.30pm (for prompt 2.00pm start)**. Join Charlotte Smith, ambassador for the Adam Crouch Foundation, owner of The Darnell Collection and author of "Dreaming of Chanel" and "Dreaming of Dior" as she showcases her magnificent 100 year collection of swimsuits. Enjoy champagne on arrival; watch the spectacular catwalk parade, followed by a delicious high tea of sandwiches, warm savouries, sweet savouries, macaroons, warm scone, tea and coffee. **Tickets: \$60.00 per person.** Lucky door prizes and raffle drawn on the day. Why not organise a table and enjoy this special event. Tables of 8 or 10 available. For tickets please contact Louise De La Harpe on 0438 493 960 and delivery of tickets can be arranged. For more information go to www.adamcrouchfoundation.org.au

Penrith City Children's Choir – Welcome to Rustin' Creek: Directed by Lucy McAlary, *Welcome to Rustin' Creek* is the Penrith City Choir's next project for 2014. This project is a terrific opportunity for children to develop their singing and music skills over three Sunday afternoon workshops leading to a public performance. The choir is open to all children aged 7-13 years who love to sing. There are no auditions and fees are kept to a minimum. For further information contact the Administrator, Liz Strasser on 0418 202 849 or go to pccc@penrithcitychoir.com.au

123 Magic – Parent Group Program: Learn how to understand and manage your child's difficult behaviours. Suitable for parents of 2-12 year olds. **Wednesdays 21/5 – 4/6/14 from 10.00am to 12.00noon at North Katoomba Public School, Mistral Street, North Katoomba.** Child Care is available. Cost: Gold coin donation. Call Gateway Family Services on 1300 316 746 to register and for more information or go to www.gatewayfamilyservices.org.au or www.facebook.com/GatewayFS

Sent Home Recently:

- Year 6 Commemorative Shirt note
- Boys Soccer Gala Day Excursion Permission note – selected students
- Mothers' Day Stall note (*pale pink*)
- Staff Development Day note (*green*)
- Term 2 Parent Calendar – today (*hot pink*)
- Newsletter INSERT Week 3 Term 2 – WITH TODAY'S NEWSLETTER



Scan with your smartphone or tablet for more information.

www.staspringwood.catholic.edu.au