

# NEWSLETTER

No. 9 Date 15/08/2014 Week 5 Term 3

Dear St Thomas Aquinas Families,

Last Thursday our School community had the great joy of hosting our annual Grandparents' Day celebration. What a fantastic day it was! Each year this event seems to grow in popularity and attendance.

What was evident on the day from the children was the deep respect and reverence that they have for their grandparents and the reciprocal pride and love that grandparents have for their children's children.



The day comprised of three main parts commencing with a beautiful and uplifting school liturgy led by the students and featuring our school choirs and ensembles. This was followed by an outdoor family picnic. We were blessed with a beautiful mild day that enabled all to relax and enjoy a meal together in a convivial way on the school grounds. After the picnic lunch there was some time for families to visit classrooms with students.

Grandparents' Day is a celebration that connects us at a very human level. It's a day where we pause and give thanks for all grandparents as well as a day where grandparents have an opportunity to show their affection for their grandchildren. The day is also about honouring grandparents who weren't present with us but whom we carry in our hearts and our memories.

The role that grandparents play in the lives of grandchildren may be different, but they all share an important part in helping to influence in a lasting way, their grandchildren's growth and formation. For grandparents, one of the greatest joys in this stage of life is being able to nurture a special relationship with a grandchild.

This relationship helps grandchildren better understand who they are by transmitting faith, family values, family traditions and by telling stories about their parent's childhood. As a child, I never tired of listening to my grandparents tell stories and lessons for living – I carry these lessons with me to this day.

Grandparents also play an invaluable role in imparting wisdom and common sense. They are equipped to do this because they have lived longer, have had greater experience, and have noticed the patterns of life. In this way grandparents can offer a greater perspective on life. The relationship is reciprocal - grandchildren love and admire their grandparents. They love their nans and pops simply for who they are.

Grandparents' Day is a day to collectively give thanks for the treasures that are our grandparents – for their gift of presence, love, wisdom and life.

Until next time,

*S Rosato*

Sergio Rosato  
Principal

happy  
grand  
parents day

*Quotes about grandparents  
read by the students during  
the liturgy.....*

***As long as there are  
grandparents there will be  
love in the world.***

***Problems disappear when  
grandparents appear.***

***Grandparents are the only  
grown-ups who have spare  
time.***

***The biscuit tin is never  
empty at Grandma's.***

***Grandparents are the  
footsteps to the past and  
the future.***

***When a child is born, so is  
a grandpa and grandma.***



*love one another*



ST THOMAS AQUINAS  
NEWS

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## Vietnam Veterans' and Associated Forces Memorial Day

A reminder that students are invited to participate in the march and wreath laying ceremony **this Sunday, 17 August** in Springwood. The march will commence at 11.30am from Springwood Fire Station, Macquarie Road, to the War Memorial in Buckland Park where a service will be held. Students who wish to participate are asked to meet Mr Rosato and Mrs Llewellyn at the Fire Station at **11.15am dressed in full winter school uniform, including school hat**. We encourage as many students as possible to represent St Thomas Aquinas School to commemorate this special day.

## Bush 2 Bledisloe Visits St Thomas Aquinas Springwood

The Australian Rugby Union's Bush 2 Bledisloe visit involved the Wallabies, together with the iconic Bledisloe Cup trophy, paying a visit to a number of schools in Bathurst and Dubbo over the last week. Last Friday the privileged school was St Thomas Aquinas Springwood, which hosted a special visit from members of the ARU, Wally the Wallaby and of course the esteemed trophy – The Bledisloe Cup.

The school assembly commenced to the strains of the inspirational music "World in Union" followed by the students singing a rousing rendition of "We are Australian" featuring a new verse written by the school for the occasion. Also in attendance were students from the St Columba's Rugby team and a large number of families who took the opportunity to get up close to a sporting legend. Thank you to the generosity of the ARU for making this opportunity possible.

### (Special STA Verse of We Are Australian)

*I'm a champion of the running game under the southern skies*

*I'm the master of the ruck and maul and the flashing try.*

*I'm a Wallaby wearing green and gold I'm a Waratah running free.*

*I am the game they play in heaven – I am Rugby.*



Jeans for Genes

## Jeans for Genes Day- Friday 1 August

On 1 August our school students and staff enjoyed wearing jeans to school for the day and donated much needed funds for the Children's Medical Research Institute. A total of \$827.00 was raised for this worthy cause. Thank you for your support.

## Creative Arts Expo

The Senior School Choir and the students in the CAPA item from Years 4, 5 and 6, will be performing at the Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre (JSPAC) in Penrith on Monday 8 September and Tuesday 9 September. Information regarding tickets for these performances, as well as permission notes, will be published early next week. We look forward to joining with other Catholic schools in the Mountains to present music, drama and dance with the theme of 'Journey'.

The Senior Choir will be rehearsing with the other school choirs in our hall next Wednesday, 20 August.

## Book Week 2014 – Connect to Reading, Reading to Connect

Next week we will be celebrating Book Week with two performances in the hall of 'Crossing Bridges' – a collection of dramatic retelling of stories about journeys across bridges eg. *The Billy Goats Gruff* etc.

**Therefore, there will not be a School Assembly next Monday.**

## ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

### Student Awards

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



Ewan Beaton	Sienna Evans	Eamonn Luchetti	Erin Robinson
Lily Brosnan	Audrey Gauci	Ryan May	Anastasia Sawyer
Charlotte Burke	Emilia Gosling	Thomas McGrath	Elizabeth Tabor
Emily Burnett	Georgia Hammond	Evey McLaren	Michaela Teuma
Marlowe Carey	Eadi Hazell	Vincent McLaren	Riley Thompson
Christopher Collis	Loralei Heape-Wright	Brendan McMaster	Millie Ticehurst
Tia Cross	Bradley Hickey	Nicholas Neil	Samuel Turner
Macauley Down	Henry Hinchliff	Thomas Neil	Reece Vane
Marius Edmonds	Eve Hurley	Billie Papasotiriou	Kane Walton
Peter Ellis	Caitlin Leach	Will Peake	Daniel Woods
Gabriel Esquivel	Scarlett Lia	Jacob Pospischil	Matilda Worrall
Bethany Evans	Seth Loughton	Siobhan Rafter	

### Newsletter Omission

Our apologies to Blake Mazurek (5H) whose name was omitted from our last Update's weekly awards list. Congratulations Blake on your great effort!

### 2014 STA Sports Carnival Results

Congratulations to the following age champions from our School Sports Carnival held in Week 1 of this term.

<b>Jnr Boys Champion:</b> Patrick Bourke	<b>11 yr Boys Champion:</b> Lachlan Morris	<b>Snr Boys Champion:</b> Isaac Wardle
<b>Runner Up:</b> Xavier Gonzalez	<b>Runner Up:</b> Eamonn Luchetti	<b>Runner Up:</b> Mitchell Owen
<b>Jnr Girls Champion:</b> Olivia De La Harpe	<b>11 yr Girls Champion:</b> Georgie Purcell	<b>Snr Girls Champion:</b> Bethany Evans
<b>Runner Up:</b> Ella Laurent	<b>Runner Up:</b> Aliyah Brown	<b>Runner Up:</b> Georgia Weston

These students were part of a large contingent of STA students who competed at the Nepean Zone Athletics Carnival on 8 August.

### 2014 Nepean Zone Athletics

Congratulations to the 50-strong squad who participated in the Nepean Zone Athletics Carnival last Friday. Good sportsmanship and enthusiasm was clearly on display and many will be competing in the Parramatta Diocesan Athletics Carnival to be held next week. Special mention due for Olivia De La Harpe – **Junior Girls Age Champion** and Georgie Purcell – **11yr Girl Champion and 200m Record Holder for 2014**. *Well done girls!*

The students who will compete next week are as follows:



Patrick Bourke	Molly Jones	Zoe Peters
Aliyah Brown	Ella Laurent	Georgie Purcell
Charlotte Brown	Caitlin Leach	Erin Robinson
Olivia De La Harpe	Eliza Manners	Micah Segedin
Bethany Evans	Evey McLaren	Cooper Selinger
Tom Gawthorne	Mitchell Owen	Isaac Wardle
Corey Hutchings	Molly Peake	Callum Wulff

We wish you all success at Diocesan! **Ann Gippe and Robert Mullen, Sports Teachers**



### Drama/Literacy

The drama and literacy for Kindergarten, Years 1 and 2 will continue this term based on the book 'The Heart and the Bottle'. Mr Costigan, Miss Mackenzie and Miss Hortense will be leading these sessions. Drama/Literacy for Years 3 and 5 is led by Lucinda Amour on Tuesdays using the same text.

### School Fees Term 3

The final term statements have been sent out and payment is due by Tuesday 19 August. Thank you all those families who have paid their school fees and for those on flexible payment plans who have completed or nearly completed payment of the 2014 accounts. Please note, families who have a formal arrangement with the school to pay-off fees in instalments until the end of the year will receive a statement, but this is for information on the current fees owed.

Any families who are in financial difficulty are encouraged to contact Deborah Lawrence, School Finance Secretary, at the school to discuss options. Please note full payment of the fees by the due date will be expected unless contact has been made by the family to Deborah Lawrence or to Mr Rosato. If fees are overdue reminders will be sent out 29 August 2014 and Ms Lawrence will be contacting families with overdue fees who are not on a formal arrangement.

### Grandparents' Day Raffle

Thank you to all those who so generously supported our Grandparents' Day Raffle. A total of \$900.00 was raised and will be used towards school Technology costs.

**Raffle Results:** **1<sup>st</sup> Prize** – Barbara Taylor (Grandmother of Tom Gawthorne), **2<sup>nd</sup> Prize** – William Lister (1N), **3<sup>rd</sup> Prize** – Rebecca Collis (4N), **4<sup>th</sup> Prize** – Tom Gawthorne (6M), **5<sup>th</sup> Prize** – Sue Durham



## Clothing Pool News

We need your help!! Can you spare half an hour on either Monday or Friday mornings from 9.00am to 9.30am to help with the Clothing Pool? Our current parent helper is unable to continue for these times. If you are able to assist, please contact the school office on 4754 2554 as soon as possible. Your support would be much appreciated.

**Items available for sale:** currently we have 2 full shelves of jumpers @ \$3.00 each, 2 full shelves of tracksuit pants @ \$3.00 each and also 14 pairs of shoes (various sizes) @ \$5.00 a pair.

## Hearfelt Thanks

There are no words that can express our gratitude for the incredible generosity, thoughtfulness, consideration, caring and support we have received from all of you. Ehren, Kiera and I are certainly blessed to be part of this remarkable community. We truly appreciate the effort, understanding and resolve from so many, in so many ways to ease our pain. A huge thank you to everyone! Always, **Ehren, Kiera and Elaine Natter**.

## DIARY DATES

<b>2014</b> <b>TERM 3</b> <b>Week 6</b> <b>BOOK WEEK</b>	<b>Monday 18 August</b>	9.05am Cuppa & Chat 12.30pm & 2.20pm Book Week Performances – <b>NO ASSEMBLY</b> 3.40pm Leadership Meeting
	<b>19</b>	Netball Gala Day – selected students 3.40pm Staff Meeting
	<b>20</b>	Parish Mass – Year 1 attending 10.00am-1.00pm Creative Arts Combined Choir - in Hall
	<b>21</b>	8.30am Staff Prayer School Band 11.00am-1.00pm Senior Ensemble to Our Lady of the Way School, Emu Plains
	<b>22</b>	Diocesan Athletics Carnival – selected students Year 3 Excursion to JSPAC (The Girl Who Forgot to Sing Badly) Drama/ Literacy KM, Year 1 & 2
<b>Week 7</b>	<b>Monday 25 August</b>	9.05am Cuppa & Chat 12.30pm Assembly – 5/4S presenting 3.40pm Leadership Meeting
	<b>26</b>	Voice of Youth (Year 6) at Katoomba 3.40pm Staff Meeting
	<b>27</b>	8.30am Staff Briefing Parish Mass – Year 4 attending Drama/Literacy – KB & KL
	<b>28</b>	8.30am Staff Prayer Principal's Morning Tea School Band
	<b>29</b>	Mulching & BBQ (info to come) Drama/Literacy - Year 1

## COMMUNITY NEWS

**Strong Willed & Sensitive Child – Lower Mountains Parenting Program:** Hosted by **Gateway Family Services** and facilitated by Barry Palm. Learn about understanding and responding as parents and carers. **When:** Thursdays 28/8, 4/9 and 11/9/14 from 9.30am to 11.30am. **Where:** Winmalee Public School, Leslie Street, Winmalee. Childcare is available. **Cost:** gold coin donation. **To register** phone Gateway Family Services on 4739 5963 or 1300 316 746. Gateway Family Services Parent Group Program is funded by DSS & NSW FACS. Gateway works collaboratively with community partners to bring parent groups to communities from St Marys to Blackheath. For more information go to [www.gatewayfamilyservices.org.au](http://www.gatewayfamilyservices.org.au) or [www.facebook.com/GatewayFS](http://www.facebook.com/GatewayFS)

**Weigh in on Waste – Draft Waste Strategy on Public Exhibition:** Over the past two years, Blue Mountains City Council has carried out extensive research, community consultation and analysis to develop the Draft Waste Strategy. The full Draft Waste Strategy and a number of reference documents that support it, including a summary document, **can be viewed until 8 September 2014** at: [www.bluemountainshaveyoursay.com.au](http://www.bluemountainshaveyoursay.com.au) or Council's Katoomba office or Council's branch libraries (except Springwood). Following consideration of the Draft Waste Strategy you are invited and encouraged to provide your feedback through either, online submission at [www.bluemountainshaveyoursay.com.au](http://www.bluemountainshaveyoursay.com.au) or email to [council@bmcc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@bmcc.nsw.gov.au) or post to BMCC, Locked Bag 1005, Katoomba 2780.

**Springwood Cricket Club 2014-2015 Registration - Celebrating 120 Years of Cricket:** The 2014-2015 cricket season is just around the corner and Springwood Cricket Club is looking for more 7 to 11 year old boys and girls to play. Simply go to the Club website at [www.springwoodcc.com.au](http://www.springwoodcc.com.au) and open the Documents/Administration menu where you'll find the junior registration forms. For more information please call Matt Rogers on 0412 289 645 during business hours.

**Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend:** A *Marriage Enrichment* experience for married couples – set in peaceful, picturesque surroundings, away from the distractions of everyday life. During the weekend, couples have a unique opportunity to reconnect, rekindle and refresh their relationship. Take time out of your busy schedule, to invest in your most precious asset . . . your Marriage! **Weekend dates: 12 – 14 September (7 – 9 November) at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW. Bookings: Ardell & Bill Sharpe tel. 02 4283 3435 or [wsharpe@bigpond.net.au](mailto:wsharpe@bigpond.net.au) [www.wvme.org.au](http://www.wvme.org.au) [www.facebook.com/WWMEasternUnit](http://www.facebook.com/WWMEasternUnit)**

## Sent Home Recently:

- Vietnam Veteran's Day note (green)
- The Girl Who Forgot to Sing Badly Excursion note for Year 3 & 3/2C



Scan with your smartphone or tablet for more information.

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

*love one another*