

# NEWSLETTER

No. 2    Date 12/03/2015    Week 7    Term 1

Dear St Thomas Aquinas Families,

Last week we celebrated the induction of the Student Representative Council for 2015. This is an important occasion for our school as the responsibility of leadership is passed to a new group of students.

The student representatives are chosen by their peers for this role for their personal qualities – their honesty, their strength of character, their sense of service and for their humility. We thank all students of Year 5 and 6 for their thoughtfulness and discernment in choosing our new school leaders.

As a Catholic community we look to the person of Jesus Christ as our ultimate role model of the loving servant leader. Jesus was an extraordinary teacher – he taught by using astonishing language and stories that related to the lives of those he taught. Ultimately Jesus taught through what he did – through his actions and in relationship with others.

Our Pope, Pope Francis like Jesus has shown through his actions that he is a true follower of Christ and His model of servant leadership. Often leadership can cause some to lose their sense of compassion and humility. The trappings of power and position change them. True leadership is focused on the other rather than the self.

Since becoming the Pope, Pope Francis has revealed to the world that his leadership is grounded in goodness, kindness and common sense. During the ceremony of induction I shared a short video clip where we saw Pope Francis act this out.

Last year the Pope was visiting a town in the south of Italy. While travelling along a roadway the Pope saw a banner that read – “Please Pope Francis stop here to see an angel who has been waiting for you and bless her”. When the Pope saw the sign, he asked for his driver to stop, and immediately went over to the girl called Roberta who was lying on a stretcher. He blessed her, kissed her and greeted her family and the children around her.

Roberta is severely disabled and cannot travel far from her home, because she needs a special machine to breathe. This beautiful gesture wasn't filmed by the world's TV cameras but on a shaky mobile phone held by one of Roberta's family.

The action by Pope Francis of stopping and demonstrating compassion and humility is worth more than words. He shows us that we should never be too busy or feel too important to look out for those around us that need support, to feel included and to be loved.

Through the example of Pope Francis we pray that we can build a school each day where we all – students, staff and families do their best to live out our school motto – **Love One Another – to think, act and love like Christ.**

May our new school SRC lead like Jesus did - with humility, honesty, wisdom, faith, love and courage.

Watch Clip of Pope Francis: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oVCrfNaQLWQ>

Until next time,

*Sergio Rosato*

Sergio Rosato  
Principal

**SRC 2015**



<i>Tia Foley</i>	<i>Benjamin Tracey</i>	<i>Isabella Valle</i>	<i>Kate Henderson</i>
<i>Alex Cullinane</i>	<i>Matthew Hurley</i>	<i>Kyle Hodges</i>	<i>Rose Miall</i>
<i>Estelle McLellan</i>	<i>Tom Peake</i>	<i>Matthew Ward</i>	<i>Charlotte Harris</i>

*Love one another*



ST THOMAS AQUINAS  
NEWS

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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

## New STA Skoolbag Communication App

We currently have 169 parents/carers who have downloaded our new STA app. We envisage using the app more frequently to communicate with families directly about school events, publish newsletters, provide reminders, share parent information, and push alerts to confirm events such as excursions, sports carnivals etc.

The STA app can be downloaded for FREE from the App Store (for iPhones and iPads) and through Google for Androids. Just type in 'St Thomas Aquinas'. Once installed click the "More" button on the bottom right of the app, then "Set Up". Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you.

**Catholic  
Schools  
Week**



## Catholic Schools Week 2015

Catholic Schools Week (CSW) 2015 takes place from 8 to 14 March and involves the communities of all 615 Catholic primary and secondary schools across NSW and the ACT. First and foremost, Catholic Schools Week is about celebration. The main aim of CSW is to raise awareness and celebrate the strength and distinctiveness of Catholic schools. Catholic Schools

Week is about strengthening relationships between all those that have a stake in our schools – students, staff, families, priests, parishioners, and members of the wider community.

Our school will be marking CSW through our School Assembly, Foundation Day Parade participation and by having a professional photographer from the Catholic Education Office who attended the school last Tuesday to record the many and varied school activities for our new school prospectus and website.

## Autumn Fair & Fundraising

After consultation and consideration it has been decided that our STA Autumn Fair will take place every other year. This means that our next school Autumn Fair will occur in early 2016. Planning for the Fair will commence later this year. This will be widely published and we encourage all to become involved.



In consultation with our Autumn Fair committee we have developed a schedule for fundraising and community building for 2015 as follows:

- **Cake Decorating Competition (Easter Theme)** - Thursday 26 March (entries accepted) – note to come
- **Cake Competition Exhibition** in the hall Friday 27 March
- **Mother's Day Stall** – 7 & 8 May
- **School Walkathon** – late Term 2 or early Term 3
- **STA Sports Carnival BBQ** – late Term 2
- **Grandparents Day & Raffle on the day** – Thursday 17 September
- **Father's Day Stall & Raffle** – Wednesday 2 September
- **Christmas Stall** – Term 4

All funds raised go directly to purchase resources to enhance student learning such as technology & reading resources.

## Staff Announcements

### ▪ Melissa Slafford

I wish to inform our community that Melissa Slafford (3M) has been appointed as a Learning Support Teacher at Holy Family Primary School, Emerton. Melissa will be taking up this appointment next week. We congratulate Melissa on her new position and thank her for 13 years of dedicated service to our school teaching a number of grades during that time. Melissa is a committed educator who advocates for students in order that they achieve their best. We wish her God's blessings as she embarks in this new role.

### ▪ Tanya Graham

We welcome Tanya Graham who has been appointed as class teacher of 3M for the remainder of 2015 (commencing Term 2). Tanya currently is a teacher at St Francis of Assisi Primary School, Glendenning and has taught in a number of schools in our Diocese. We congratulate Tanya Graham on her appointment and welcome her to our school community.

### ▪ Emma Nicolson

We also say farewell this week to Emma Nicolson. Emma is resigning from teaching music at St Columba's and also teaching the brass instrumental band program at St Thomas'. We thank her for her dedication and passion in helping to establish and nurture this program with our students through the Diocesan 'Captivate' program. Emma will be returning to her home state of Victoria. We are currently investigating staffing options regarding the instrumental band program for Term 2, but for the rest of this term Mr Viv Llewellyn will take the band.

## Quality Catholic Schooling Survey

All Catholic schools in our Diocese will again be participating in the Quality Catholic Schooling (QCS) survey in 2015. QCS will provide feedback from students, staff and parents about our school's culture, relationships and learning community and will assist us to focus our efforts for improvement.

In the next fortnight all staff, all students in Grades Years 5 and 6, and 60 randomly-selected parents identified by the Catholic Education Office will be asked to complete a survey. Staff and students will complete the survey online at school. Parents will be sent home a paper survey, but will also be able to complete the survey online if preferred. The survey will take about 20-30 minutes to complete.

If you are selected to complete the survey, we would encourage your participation as this will help our school to identify our strengths and areas for further development.

## Kindergarten 2016 – Enrolment Period Now Open

Enrolments for Kindergarten are now open – please advise family and friends of this fact. The first round enrolment period for Kindergarten closes on Friday 29 May. Enrolments after this time will be considered based on availability of places.

## 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!



Jordan Banks	Mischa Evans	Amber Lovric	Adrian Perez-Eaton
Leo Borg	Sienna Evans	Mollie Malone	Trinity Power
Samantha Bourke	James Glasson	Finn McCaffery	Sasha Pyle
Sarah Boxall	Caitlin Graham	Kate McIlveen	Ari-Kai Rawlings
Addi Bradshaw	Mathew Hall	Jake McSpadden	Mia Rodemark
Lily Brosnan	James Hinchliff	Chelsea Micallef	William Rogers
Lucy Brown	Benjamin Hinley	Chyna Moore	Daniel Salisbury
Elysia Burchall	William Hurley	Lachlan Morris	Charles Shingles
Ferris Carey	Ethan Jordan	Jett Murtikos	Alyaan Sia-Stone
Luke Clunes	Hayley Kime	Thomas Neil	Riley Thompson
Christopher Collis	Jordan Kime	Kiara Nugent	Lachlan Waters
Grace Costigan	Declan Klukow-Leavey	Robert O'Brien	Alex Wydmuch
Luke Crouch	Caitlin Leach	Angelika Okladnikov	Lola Wyld
Nathan Della-Libera	Isabelle Leet	Nicolas Peat	Sophie Young
Lachlan Dempsey			

## Springwood Cricketers Join Australian Cricket Team at the SCG

Congratulations to Audrey Hodgins (2C), Evie Hodgins (KL), Montana Barry (2C), Olivia Byrnes (2C) and Olivia Mountain (2D) for representing Springwood in a MIOin2CRICKET on-field demonstration at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Thursday 8 January 2015. They joined fellow MIOin2CRICKET participants from around New South Wales in practising their skills during the lunch break of the fourth Commonwealth Bank Test between Australia and India. *Well done girls!*

## Student Medical (Sick) Leave & Non-Medical Leave Procedures

### Sick Leave

Families are required to provide the school a letter within 7 days for any student absence relating to illness.

### Non-Medical Leave

Families are required by law to provide a letter of application relating to non-medical leave.

- 1-9 Days Leave  
For all non-medical leave involving students being absent for 1-9 days families are required to provide a letter indicating the reason for this leave.
- 10-100 Days Leave  
For all student leave from 10 up to 100 days families are required to provide a letter of application indicating the reason for this leave.

This letter is to be attached to the leave form which is available for download from our School website and through our Skoolbag App.

All non-medical leave letters must be addressed to the Principal.

## Springwood Foundation Day Parade – 14 March 2015

This coming Saturday Springwood celebrates its Foundation Day. It is a day that seeks to celebrate the uniqueness of our local community.

One of the features of Foundation Day is the Parade that proceeds down Macquarie Road and involves the various and varied groups that make up our community including schools. St Thomas Aquinas has a proud tradition of being part in this parade. We encourage as many children as possible to come along on Saturday and walk proud behind our school banner.

Students should wear their summer uniform and remember to bring their hats. **Please assemble with Mr Rosato and Mrs Llewellyn in front of the Springwood Baptist Church at 12.30pm.** Students will gather after the parade in front of the War Memorial (opposite the Ori). Families can collect their students from school staff from this spot.



## Cancer Council SunSmart School

Our school has been granted accreditation as a SunSmart School. Although this is great news there's no room for complacency. For best protection the Cancer Council recommends a combination of sun protection measures:

1. Slip on sun-protective clothing that covers as much skin as possible.
2. Slap on broad spectrum, water resistant SPF30+ (or higher) sunscreen (before coming to school).
3. Slap on a hat
4. Seek shade
5. Slide on some sunglasses

All students at STA are aware that they are required to wear hats when participating in outdoor play or Sport. Students without hats for the day are required to play when outdoors under the COLA (Covered, Outdoor, Learning Area). The COLA is also often used for Physical Education Lessons to help reduce sun exposure and heat.

## Clothing Pool News

In response to our recent Newsletter item a very generous parent helper has offered to run the Clothing Pool on **Mondays from 9.00-9.30am**. The current **Tuesdays from 3.00-3.30pm** and **Fridays from 9.00-9.30am** will continue as well. Thank you to all our parent volunteers!

*Love one another*

## NAPLAN 2015

The 2015 NAPLAN testing for students in **Years 3 and 5** will be held from **12 – 14 May 2015**. NAPLAN is made up of tests in the four domains of Reading, Writing, Language Conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and Numeracy. NAPLAN assesses skills in literacy and numeracy that are developed over time, through the school curriculum. Students sit the NAPLAN test in Years 3, 5, 7 & 9.

NAPLAN is not a pass or fail type test, but rather shows how individual students are progressing in numeracy and literacy skills against national standards. Parents and teachers can use this information to monitor how their child is progressing and to identify any areas of need. More information is available at [www.naplan.edu.au](http://www.naplan.edu.au)

## My School Lunch Box - To the Parents and Caregivers,

We, at My School Lunch Box, would like to inform you that the service will be closing from the period of 31 March, and resuming again in Term 2 on 11 May. In this time the business will be relocated and renovated, ready to again service you and your children.



We are very thankful for your understanding and sorry for any inconvenience this may cause. If you have any enquiries about our temporary closure please feel free to contact me on my email as shown below. Thank you all for your continual support and we look forward to servicing you again when we return. **Kind Regards, Rae. My School Lunch Box, [Info@myschoollunchbox.com.au](mailto:Info@myschoollunchbox.com.au)**

## DIARY DATES

<b>2015</b>  <b>TERM 1</b>  <b>Week 8</b>	<b>Monday 16 March</b>	12.30pm Assembly 3.40pm Leadership Meeting
	<b>17</b>	St Patrick's Day 3.40pm Staff Meeting
	<b>18</b>	8.30am Staff Briefing 9.20am Parish Mass – Year 1 & K6A attending <b>School Cross Country</b>
	<b>19</b>	St Joseph's Day 8.30am Staff Prayer Year 5 Excursion to Rouse Hill Farm
	<b>20</b>	National Anti-Bullying Day 12.15pm Assembly
<b>Week 9</b>	<b>Monday 23 March</b>	12.30pm Assembly 3.40pm Leadership Meeting
	<b>24</b>	3.40pm Staff Meeting
	<b>25</b>	8.30am Staff Briefing 9.20am Parish Mass – Kindergarten & Year 6 attending
	<b>26</b>	8.30am Staff Prayer
	<b>27</b>	

## COMMUNITY NEWS

**Blue Mountains All Abilities Football (Soccer) Come & Try Day:** Come and join the Blue Kangaroos for an exciting season of football! We are an all abilities football team for children and adults who live in the Blue Mountains. Each week we get together and play football in a non-stressful environment where players learn skills, make friends, have fun and are part of a team. This year we hope to field a junior and senior team. We are holding our **Come & Try/Rego Day** on **21 March** at **Gloria Park mini-pitch at 11.00am** or **Our Lady of the Nativity School** if it is wet. Season kicks off the following week – 28 March at the mini-pitch at 11.00am. Returning players can register online at [www.myfootballclub.com.au](http://www.myfootballclub.com.au) or find further formation on [www.hazelbrookhawks.com.au](http://www.hazelbrookhawks.com.au). For more information or any questions please ring Lisa on 0413 548 562 or Bronwyn on 0422 493 895. All abilities and skill levels welcome and enthusiastically celebrated!

**Jackeroo Ranch Horse Riding Camps:** Located at Bingletree Station in the beautiful Turon Valley (in the Bathurst area) Jackeroo Ranch (established 54 years) is running their popular autumn horse riding camps. **1st Week:** Saturday 4 April – Sunday 11 April; **2nd Week:** Saturday 11 April – Sunday 19 April. **Shorter stays** are possible if camps are not fully booked. These camps are for 'horse mad' children aged 6 to 16 years. Five to six hours per day are devoted to horse activities including a one hour lesson and three hours trail riding – with tuition still being given. As well, campers are taught grooming, saddling, haltering, catching a horse, safety aspects and many other facets of horsemanship. Catered for beginners to advanced riders. We specialise in teaching nervous riders and developing their confidence. Other activities include gold panning, cattle feeding/checking, cattle mustering, camp fires and native wildlife spotting. (The property abounds with kangaroos, wallabies, wombats, wonderful bird life as well as being a working cattle farm and Quarter Horse Stud. There are Poll Hereford calves and Quarter Horse foals now being born.) This is not just a camp, but a wonderful farm experience your child will treasure for ever! Bookings essential. Enquiries please phone Mrs Pattie Hudson on 6337 7173 (nights are best).

## Sent Home Recently:

- Staff Leave Announcement note to 6C (gold)
- Paul Kelly Cup AFL Excursion note – selected students
- Letter to 3M parents re new teacher
- Springwood Foundation Day note (green)
- Change of Sport/Library Days note for Kindergarten (sky blue)
- Change of Sport/Library Days note for Year 1 (orange)
- Quality Catholic Schooling Survey – selected families
- Year 6 Commemorative Shirt note

- Year 6 Camp Information note (lemon)
- School Cross Country note (sky blue)
- Red Cross Pillowcase Project note (pink)



**\*\* INSERT WITH THIS ISSUE – National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence flyer**

*love one another*