

FROM THE REC (Religious Education Coordinator)

Mini Vinnies Knitting

Many thanks to the enthusiastic band of students, as well as the dedicated knitters and helpers, parents from the STA community, who are working hard at present to create beautiful knitted blankets for the St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal. We envisage presenting the blankets to the Society at the beginning of Term 3. **Joanne Toohey**



St Vincent de Paul Society 'Buddies Day Program' – Tuesday 8 July (School Holidays)

The Society's Buddies Days is a respite program for kids who have suffered from hardship. These days are recreational events to give kids a break from their troubles. The program has trained youth volunteers who act as Buddies or mentors to the children to make sure they have fun and stay safe. We have a large supervision ratio, with every two children having at least one leader to guide them. The Buddies Day for fire-affected children will be held at **Trees Adventures, Grose River Park, 200 Springwood Road, Yarramundi.**

The **program is FREE for families** and is **offered to kids between 5 to 12 years old from 10am to 2pm.** We ask the parents to drop and pick up the children at the venue. Morning tea and lunch will be provided. This is an excellent program which could provide joy and relief to vulnerable kids.

For further information please contact Altheah Sheldon, Youth and Young Adults Coordinator, St Vincent de Paul Parramatta Central Council on P: 8861 9741 or M: 0439 487 91 or E: altheah.sheldon@vinnies.org.au **RSVP by 30 June.**

ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

Principal's Morning Tea for Effort and Passion with Learning



On Thursday, we will host the final Principal's Morning Tea for Term 2 for students who have demonstrated commitment and effort to their learning. This event is intended as a simple way to celebrate and acknowledge students who strive diligently to work with their minds, heart and hands. During the gathering we encourage students to share their personal learning achievements and to talk briefly on how they have gone about working to improve in some area of their studies. It is always a privilege to listen to these reflections and always impressive to hear children speaking with clarity and passion.

This conversation with the students reminds us of Albert Einstein who once said that he did not believe that he was that smart, but he did believe that he was passionately curious. This curiosity is at the heart of all good learning. Our collective job is to model, encourage and foster this spirit of curiosity. Curiosity sparks imagination and creative thinking...and look what he achieved!

Captivate Performance Showcase

Last week a number of our students performed with other students from across our Diocese as part of the Catholic Education's Captivate Showcase. The showcase enables students to perform either as part of the Combined School's Choir, Captivate Voices' Choir or Combined School's Concert Band. The two evening performances were outstanding and provided a wonderful opportunity for students to demonstrate their musical development and to entertain an audience with a sense of pride and joy. I wish to thank and congratulate David Russell (Captivate), Emma Nicolson (Band teacher from St Columba's) and Viv Llewellyn (STA music & choir teacher) for their talent and commitment to this initiative. Thank you also to Deb Breytenbach and Marie Gough for their assistance and supervision of the students during the entire rehearsal day. A special note of thanks to all families for encouraging your children and for attending the performances.

After-School Drama - Enrolments Open for Term 3

Let's Play! Drama is a wonderful way for all children to develop their communication skills, physical connection and confidence. Join Georgia Adamson from Blue Mountains Drama for weekly classes that are strongly based in improvisation and storytelling. Classes are held in the school hall as follows: **Year 2/3** – Monday 3:45pm-4:45pm; **Year 4/5** – Wednesday 3:45pm-4:45pm

Supervision is provided from bell time to give children the chance to have an afternoon snack before class. Classes are **\$12/week** and payment is by the term. A sibling discount is available for families with more than one child attending.

Contact Georgia direct at hello@bluemountainsdrama.com.au or on 0419 287 478. www.bluemountainsdrama.com.au



Year 3 Pasta Day

As part of our Italian program, we have planned a Pasta Day for this Friday, 27 June, for the children in Year 3.

Cristiano Ferrari, a visiting Italian pasta chef, will demonstrate how to make several different types of pasta and then the children will get to sample some themselves. Could you please advise your child's classroom teacher of any concerns you may have regarding allergies to the foods the children will be able to taste which are - spaghetti with a pasta sauce made of tomato puree, olive oil and onion, and topped with parmesan cheese. As we will be offering only a small bowl of pasta, the children will need to bring their normal food for the day. Buon Appetito!

Jenni Wurf, Italian Teacher

Mathematical Intervention Specialist

Congratulations to Kathryn Cefai who last week graduated from the Extending Mathematical Understanding (EMU) Intervention Specialist Teacher courses. The EMU mathematics intervention specialist teacher course was developed by Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta's academic partner, Dr Ann Gervasoni, from Australian Catholic University's Ballarat campus. The course assists teachers to identify students who need extra support in areas of number learning such as counting, place value, addition and subtraction and multiplication and division.



Student Awards

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



Eliza Barr	Benjamin Giannakis	James Lin-Green	Oliver Scurr
Zac Carr	Harry Gilchrist	Lachlan McGrath	Jack Thomas
Louis Caruana	Jack Graham	Holly McIlveen	Dayne Vassallo
Cameron Cassidy	Lucy Hall	Ashton McLeod	Chantelle Wakeling
Reid Clarke	Georgia Hammond	Samuel Moore	Patrick Wakeling
Lucas Collins	Zofia Hammond	Liam Murphy	Matthew Ward
Grace Costigan	Nyah Hutchings	Natasha Nightingale	Cameron Way
Ella Danks	Molly Jones	Orion Pick	Saffi Wilson
Sienna Evans	Alexander Kerkham	Jacob Pospischil	Sarah Wilson
Tia Foley	Declan Klukow-Leavey	Darcy Rafter	Darian Zunic
William Forster	Danielle Leehy	Sahara Rodemark	

Love One Another Award

Congratulations to Sienna Curley (KB) who received a Love One Another Award at our weekly School Assembly earlier this term for living out the school motto. Well done Sienna!

Winmalee Cup – STA Victorious for the 14th Consecutive Year (by one point!)

On Friday a number of students from our school participated in this local community sports event. The Winmalee Cup involves many schools from the lower Blue Mountains competing in the sports of Soccer, Netball and Newcombe Ball. The students who represented STA in these teams have been practising in preparation for this event for many weeks during recess and lunch.

Congratulations to the students for their effort and sportsmanship on the day. The event provides a great opportunity for local school children to play together in a spirit of enjoyment and friendship. Thank you to the many parents who supported the teams on the day and to the teachers, Kate Mackenzie, Rob Mullen, Melissa Stafford, Geraldine Lohan, Chris Chenoweth, Ann Gippel and Karen Bousfield for their dedication in selecting and coaching the teams.

New STA Representative Sports Shirts and Socks

The school has purchased 80 new school sports shirts for use by students when they represent the school in various sporting teams. The beautiful new shirts in our school colours have an embroidered crest and are individually numbered. The new shirts and matching socks will replace the current kit and will be used and returned after each event. The cost of the new sports shirts and socks was approximately \$3,000.

STA K-6 Sports Carnival

A reminder that our School Sports Carnival takes place on **Friday 18 July (Week 1 Term 3) at Tom Hunter Park**. All students are required to travel to the field by bus with their classes. In order for the carnival to proceed successfully we require assistance on the day, either as marshals, recorders, judges or for catering. Students need to come dressed in their regular sports uniform wearing T-Shirts coloured predominately in their team colour. **More information will be sent home this week.**

Term 2 School Fees

The due date for payment of fees for Term 2 statements was 4 June. Thank you to all the families who have now paid their fees or who have organised a formal payment arrangement to pay the school fees off in a timely manner.

The first and second reminder letters have been issued via the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta. If you have paid your fees or contacted Deborah Lawrence, the School Finance Secretary, to discuss payment options you can ignore the reminder. If you are able to organise payment please do so as soon as possible. Alternatively, if you are suffering financial difficulty please contact Deborah Lawrence to discuss your options.

The next statements will be sent out Tuesday 22 July and the final instalment of fees are due by 19 August. It is therefore important to ensure the second term fee instalment has been paid. Please be aware that part payment of fees without a formal arrangement in place will not stop any further correspondence.

School Reports – Semester 1

Later this week your child's Semester One Report will be sent home. The Semester Reports are based on student achievement for their grade level and for that particular Semester. The Student Report is one of the modes of providing feed-back about your child's learning progress. Each child is unique and on their own learning journey and it is important for parents to view their child's learning as individual. Teachers use a variety of strategies and assessment modes to continually monitor and report on student progress over the course of each semester.

Achievement Scale

The format of the Grade 1-6 reports use an E to A standards scale to report achievement and has two important components. These can be thought of in terms of **what is learnt** and **how well it is learnt and applied**. Another way to think of this scale is in following way: **E – Awakening, D-Applying, C- Accelerating, B- Advanced, A- Adept**

Effort, Personal-Social Development & Behaviour

The other important scales on the Report relates to student effort, personal-social development and behaviour. The interpersonal and intrapersonal attributes of determination, perseverance, resilience, self-control and collaboration are important to successful learning. It is therefore important that the achievement and effort descriptors are read together as they both work together in describing how students are progressing. (Please see INSERT with this newsletter.)

Family Learning Conferences

Early next term The Family Learning Conferences will provide a time for parents, teachers and students to celebrate the progress of each child and to identify a few specific areas for further development during Semester 2.

Love one another



Baby Congratulations

Congratulations to Sally Battese and Colin Rodemark on the birth of daughter Theia, sister for Sahara (3/2C) and Mia (1R).



Scan with your smartphone or tablet for more information.

www.stspringwood.catholic.edu.au

PARISH NEWS

Sacramental Program – First Reconciliation

Children in Year 3 or older are invited to be part of the First Reconciliation Program in our parish this year. The program will run for a period of 4 weeks. The **Sacrament of First Reconciliation** will take place on **Monday 8 September**, commencing at **7.00pm**. If you wish to participate please come to the **first compulsory Parent Meeting on 21 July at 7.00pm** at **St Thomas Aquinas Church**. For further information please contact the parish office on 4754 1052 or email sta@internode.on.net

St Thomas Aquinas Playgroup

Join us on **Thursdays during the school term** from **9.15am to 11.15am** in the **parish office**. All welcome with children aged 0-6 years. A gold coin donation helps towards costs. For further information please call Natalie on 0403 267 146.

DIARY DATES

2014 TERM 2 Week 9	Monday 23 June	9.05am Cuppa & Chat 12.30pm Assembly – 4N presenting 2.30pm Captivate Voices students to JSPAC (to Best of Captivate) 3.40pm Leadership Meeting
	24	Greg Alexander Finals – selected students Stage 2 Boys Soccer - selected students 3.40pm Staff Meeting
	25	8.30am Staff Briefing Stage 2 Girls Soccer
	26	8.30am Staff Prayer 11.05am Principal's Morning Tea – selected students Reports to Parents AFL (after school)
	27	Pasta Day for Year 3 10.00am Drama Performance in hall Term 2 Concludes
TERM 3 Week 1	Monday 14 July	STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY – Pupil Free
	15	Term 3 Commences for Students 3.40pm Staff Meeting 7.00pm Confirmation
	16	8.30am Staff Briefing 1.20pm Senior Band Ensemble to St Columba's
	17	8.30am Staff Prayer School Band sessions
	18	SPORT CARNIVAL – Tom Hunter Park

COMMUNITY NEWS

Jackeroo Ranch Horse Riding Camps: Located at Bingletree Station in the beautiful Turon Valley (in the Bathurst area) Jackeroo Ranch (established 50 years) is running their popular winter horse riding camps. **1st Week: Saturday 28 June – Saturday 5 July; 2nd Week: Saturday 5 July – Sunday 13 July.** 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. Previous experience is not necessary as beginners to advanced riders are catered for. 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).

Blue Mountains Baseball & Softball Club - Summer Softball Registrations: 2nd and 3rd Sundays in July - **13th and 20th, 2pm - 4pm Lomatia Park, Springwood**, Junior- Adult, Girls/Boys, Male/Female. Training is at Lomatia Park, Springwood. All games are played on Saturdays at Surveyors Creek Softball fields, Glenmore Park. NEW Junior players, please bring Birth Certificate (original & a copy). For further details ring Barbara Povic on 0417 269 089 or check our website: bluemountains.softball.org.au

School Holidays at the Royal Hotel: Monday 30 June to Sunday 13 July from 12.00pm – 2.30pm. Activities include face painting and jumping castle. A kid's meal FREE with every full-priced adult meal. \$10 lunch special available Mon-Fri. **The Royal Hotel, 220 Macquarie Road, Springwood. Phone: 4751 1021.**

Sent Home Recently:

- Autumn Fair Helpers' Afternoon Tea Invitation (gold)
- Year 2 Design and Underwater Creature note
- Stage 2 Girls Diocesan Soccer Gala Day Permission note – selected students
- Biggest Morning Tea note (lemon)
- Captivate Concert (16 June) Arrangements note – selected students
- Week 8 Assembly Reschedule note (green)
- Stage 2 Boys Diocesan Soccer Gala Day Permission note – selected students
- Winmalee Cup Permission note – selected students

Love one another

