

UPDATE

No. 9 Date 10/10/14 Week 1 Term 4

Dear St Thomas Aquinas Families,

Welcome back to Term 4.

It was heart-warming to see our students reconnect with their peers and teachers this week as we embark on our final term of a year full of promise and enthusiasm.

You would by now be aware of the sad news of the building fire which has affected our sister school, St Columba's College. I know that as an extended Catholic community we join together to convey our sympathy and support to the staff, students and families of the school. It is life events such as these that draw into critical focus the resilience of communities and the importance of relationships and a strong faith base from which to draw. We continue to offer our prayers of love, comfort and hope to the community "up the driveway."

We are also conscious at this time of the anniversary next Friday of the 2013 bushfires. As this milestone approaches, many in our community will be thinking about aspects of the loss and grief caused by this significant and life changing event. Anniversaries such as this conjure for many feelings that are very personal. Often the lead up to the anniversary is more difficult than the day itself. Clinical Psychologist Robert Gordon (an expert in dealing with Australian fires) describes the first anniversary as an important cultural marker which helps communities make sense of what has occurred, but can be a difficult time for many.

He recommends that communities should encourage diverse responses to such anniversaries so that people feel that they can mark it in different ways. Some people may attend community memorials or rituals; others will choose to spend time with family and friends. For others it may be important to spend the day alone.

As a school we will be marking the day by hosting a Thanksgiving Ceremony commencing at 1.30pm. The Ceremony will include elements of prayer, music and symbolism. Following this service the children will have some time to play together and some treats to enjoy (doughnuts and ice blocks). At the conclusion of the day each child will receive a plant from their teacher to take home to their families. For the adults in attendance there will be an opportunity to gather together and share afternoon tea.

The idea of the Ceremony to mark this anniversary has been initiated by parents and families of our school. Their motivation from the outset was looking for a way for our school community to come together, to make connections, foster relationships and provide some time for fun.

We know that simple ritual ceremonies are a time-honoured way for individuals and communities to express and process feelings and come together with a sense of unity. Our Catholic tradition and practice is steeped in ritual. For our children there is a sense of comfort and familiarity in praying in this space to a God that they know and love. Simple ritual ceremonies also provide our kids with cues as to what we are supposed to feel and models of how to respond – this helps to build resilience.

We thank all our families for your continuing support of this event, which represents one element in our community's ongoing recovery journey.

Until next time,

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Sergio Rosato
Principal

Finding God in all things

(St Ignatius of
Loyola)

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ST THOMAS AQUINAS
NEWS

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Father Paul Slyne
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Students Not Returning for 2015

The school is currently interviewing families for enrolment for 2015. Places are limited in some grades. To enable the school to plan appropriately we would appreciate families of students in Grades K-5 who are not returning in 2015 to please notify the school **in writing as soon as possible**. Your timely attention to this matter would be much appreciated as the implications regarding staffing and resourcing by the Catholic Education Office stem from accurate enrolment numbers.

love one another



Baby Congratulations

Congratulations to Brett and Janelle Chevor on the birth of twins Nate and Penelope, brother and sister for Draedyn in KM; and also to Virginia and Jason Bonnici on the birth of son Dominic, brother for Isabella in 3CH.

Kindergarten 2015 Parent Information Evening – Week 4, Term 4

Parents of children enrolled in Kindergarten 2015 are invited to attend an information evening **on Tuesday 28 October 2014 from 7.30-8.45pm in the school hall.** We look forward to meeting with you on this occasion. Details regarding Orientation will also be given out at this time.

Kindergarten 2015 Orientation – Week 7 & 8, Term 4

Kindergarten Orientation will be held over two consecutive weeks from **9.30-10.30am on Tuesday and Wednesday, 18 & 19 November and Thursday and Friday, 27 & 28 November.** Parents may choose to bring their child on 1 or up to 4 of these sessions. Registration information for these sessions will be available at the Information Evening.

Family Portrait Fundraiser – Saturday 25 October 2014

This week information was sent home with all students regarding the Family Portrait Fundraising Day for St Thomas Aquinas School to be held on Saturday 25 October. For just \$25 you receive a beautifully framed 10" x 13" print in your choice of black and white or colour. You also have the option of an A3-sized pencil sketch. All money raised goes directly to the school. Additional photos will be available, at an extra cost, if you wish and can be viewed before purchase when you collect your family portrait. Bookings are made online at <http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au>. The school Event Code is **SLQ3S**. Follow the prompts to book your preferred time. All payments must be received at the school by Thursday 23 October. For further enquiries or if you would like a copy of the information sheet please phone the office on 4754 2554.

PARISH NEWS

First Holy Communion Meeting – Monday 13 October, 7pm Parent Meeting (one only). You must attend this meeting if you wish your child to proceed with the First Communion program. Enquiries please phone the Parish Pastoral Centre on 4754 1052.



Scan with your smartphone or tablet for more information.

www.staspringwood.catholic.edu.au

DIARY DATES

2014 TERM 4 Week 2	Monday 13 October	9.05am Cuppa & Chat 12.30pm Assembly – Mission 3.40pm Leadership Meeting
	14	3.40pm Staff Meeting
	15	8.30am Staff Briefing No Parish Mass 1.30pm Senior Ensemble to St Columba's Seasons Sessions – selected students
	16	8.30am Staff Prayer School Band
	17	1.30pm Thanksgiving Ceremony, Tree Planting & Afternoon Tea
Week 3	Monday 20 October	9.05am Cuppa & Chat 12.30pm Assembly – KM presenting 3.40pm Leadership Meeting
	21	Diocesan Basketball – selected students 2.05pm Australian Youth Choir visit 3.40pm Staff Meeting
	22	8.30am Staff Briefing 9.20am Parish Mass – Year 2 attending Seasons Sessions – selected students
	23	8.30am Staff Prayer School Band 2.05pm Seasons Session catch-up – selected students
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COMMUNITY NOTICES

Family Fun Day at Winmalee High School: On Saturday 18 October from 10.00am to 3.00pm this special event will be held to mark the one year anniversary of the 2013 bushfires for the Winmalee, Hawkesbury Heights, Yellow Rock and Springwood communities. Come along and join us for games, jumping castle, performances, music, face-painting, animal farm, food for sale and Devonshire tea. Bring your own chairs, rugs and cutlery for a big picnic. For more information go to Facebook: www.bit.do/familyfun *Twelve months on and still going strong!*

New Beginners Drawing Class for 8-14year Olds: Students learn the techniques needed to draw beautiful realistic drawings in a friendly, relaxed atmosphere. Teacher Vanessa Joret has been teaching drawing in the Mountains for over 11 years. Classes are small for individual attention. Subjects include animals, landscapes, castles, portraiture and lots more using media such as pastel, charcoal, pencil and watercolour pencil. Cost \$12 per hour (paid per term) and includes all materials. For more information and to book phone Vanessa on 4758 8030 or go to www.vanessaforet.com.au. Bookings essential.

Sent Home Recently:

- Out of Date Medication note (red) – selected students
- Diocesan Basketball Permission note - selected students
- Year 6 Yearbook Photo Day reminder note
- Family Portrait note (blue)
- Thanksgiving Day Invitation & Afternoon Tea note (pink)

Love one another