

# UPDATE

No. 1 Date 05/02/15 Week 2 Term 1

Welcome to the 2015 school year!

## Welcome New Students K-6

On Monday our new **Kindergarten** students commenced their first day at 'Big School'. Over the coming days and weeks they will have many new and wonderful experiences both inside their own classrooms and in the playground. They already seem to have taken to their new environment and all the various activities with confidence and enthusiasm. It's been delightful to watch these new students as they embrace school life with a marvellous sense of eagerness and joy.

We also welcome the 22 new students in Years 1-6 and wish them well as they become part of our school family.

## Staff News

We extend a warm welcome to the following staff who are new to our community:

- \* **Virginia Fortunat (6F)** who joins us from St Nicholas of Myra Primary, Penrith
- \* **Blanche Hortense (5H)** who is now appointed as a permanent teacher
- \* **Belinda Carroll (5B)** who joins us from Bethany Catholic Primary, Glenmore Park
- \* **Kylie Williamson (2WD)** who takes on a class teacher position with **Sarah Dignam (2WD)** – returning from maternity leave
- \* **Alana Bell (K6A)** appointed as a teacher in the Aspect class.

## Swimming Carnival 2015



To be held **this Friday, 6 February at Glenbrook Pool for Grades 3-6**. Due to safety reasons, all students must travel to the pool by bus with their class. All students **must return permission notes as soon as possible to attend** and to wear sun safety cover – hat, sunscreen, appropriate clothing. We look forward to fine weather and a great day for students. Families are most welcome to attend the carnival. **Please note: There will be no hot food available at the pool canteen.**

## Meet the Teacher

All parents will have an opportunity to meet the teacher on Monday 16 or Tuesday 17 February. Booking for these meetings will be done online. There will be a note sent home next week.

## School Improvements and Resourcing

During the holidays a series of school improvements were carried out or came to completion. These included the following:

- Installation of new high-grade woollen carpet in Kindergarten rooms
- Carpets in some areas professionally cleaned
- Windows and glass throughout the school professionally cleaned
- Demountable classroom installed for Italian and Music class lessons
- New furniture acquired for demountable classroom
- Hazardous trees removed from school grounds
- Repair work done to Kindergarten wall.

## Our Gratitude for Dedication

We would like to sincerely thank our school maintenance team for their dedication and sheer hard work during the hottest time of the year to make the school shine. Thank you particularly to Helen Hinley, Shelley Slender and Gerry Walsh.

Also, we wish to acknowledge the office staff for the incredible work that they do all year round, but particularly during the holidays and the start of the school year to enable the organisation of the school to proceed so smoothly. Our gratitude to Lee-Anne Brown, Kathryn Wachter, Deborah Lawrence and Deborah Breytenbach.

## Opening School Mass 2015 – Wednesday 11 February at 12noon

All families are invited to join the STA staff, students and pastor, Fr Paul Slyney, for our Opening School Mass next **Wednesday, 11 February at 12.00noon**, in St Thomas Aquinas Church.

Refreshments will be served afterwards in the school hall for parents and other visitors. We hope that you will be able to be part of this important celebration for the commencement of our 2015 school year. Please note, all students should wear school uniform (not sport) next Wednesday.

*Love one another*



ST THOMAS AQUINAS  
NEWS

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Parish Priest:  
Father Paul Slyney  
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## Lorin Nicholson - See Sharp presentation - Monday 9 February at 11.30am

Next Monday 9 February the school is fortunate to be hosting a presentation for by Lorin Nicholson. The show **for Years 4 - 6** will reinforce themes of resilience and positive attitudes towards self and others. An invitation is extended to all interested parents and family members to attend without charge. The show, beginning at 11.30am in the school hall, lasts approximately an hour.

## Numeracy & Literacy Interviews

We thank all those who booked online for their children to undertake these interviews with their teachers last week. Students yet to undertake these will do so during school time over the next 2 weeks. These interviews enable teachers to gain valuable information about each child's conceptual understanding in these areas. This data is then used to inform specific future teaching.

## 2015 School Fees

The Term One Statements are due to be posted Monday 9 February. Most families should receive a statement within a few days of posting. The first term fees are due 6 March 2015.

Many families will receive paperwork with their statements offering a flexible payment plan. This paperwork can be sent to the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta (CEDP) with their preferences. If any family wishes to enter into a different payment arrangement other than that suggested by the CEDP they will need to contact me to negotiate a formal arrangement, otherwise I will expect the full amount of Term One fees to be paid by the due date. **Deborah Lawrence, School Finance Secretary**

## Springwood School of Music

Small group tuition for students in guitar and keyboard have now commenced for 2015. Lessons are conducted at the school throughout the year during school terms. All enrolment enquiries for these lessons can be made by contacting the Springwood School of Music on 4751 3845 after 2pm.

## Lost Property

Our lost property box is now located near the Hall toilets. Please remember to clearly mark all of your child's belongings with their name.



## PARISH NEWS

Welcome to the school year from St Thomas Aquinas Parish. A special welcome to any families new to the school community. Building a sense of a caring community is a basic aspect that sets our school apart from others in the area. Schools in the Catholic tradition make this a priority. One way for your children and yourself to share this sense, would be to connect with the local Parish scene.

- **Mass times** are **Saturday night at 6:00pm** and **Sundays at 9:45am and 5:00pm**.
- For those interested, there is a **Play Group** that **meets on Thursday mornings at the Parish**. Call Roslyn on **0422 973 685**.
- If you cannot always get to the church, you can remain connected through the **FAMILY GROUP MOVEMENT** which links little groups of families together.

You can **talk to Sr Monica** or **call Dennis and Elizabeth Farrar on 4751 7096**. Have a great year!!

## DIARY DATES

<b>2015</b> <b>TERM 1</b> <b>Week 3</b>	<b>Monday 9 February</b>	11.30am <i>See Sharp</i> presentation for Years 4-6 in Hall <b>NO ASSEMBLY</b> 3.40pm Leadership Meeting
	<b>10</b>	3.40pm Staff Meeting
	<b>11</b>	<b>12.00pm Opening School Mass in Parish Church</b>
	<b>12</b>	8.30am Staff Prayer
<b>Week 4</b>	<b>13</b>	
	<b>Monday 16 February</b>	12.30pm Assembly – Swimming Awards <b>3.30pm-8.00pm Meet the Teacher Meetings</b>
	<b>17</b>	<b>3.30pm-6.30pm Meet the Teacher Meetings</b>
	<b>18</b>	<b>12.30pm Ash Wednesday Liturgy</b> in Hall
	<b>19</b>	8.30am Staff Prayer
	<b>20</b>	

## COMMUNITY NOTICES

**Free Movie Nights in February:** **Catholic Care** and **St Thomas Aquinas Parish** will be hosting 2 FREE family movie nights in February at **St Thomas Aquinas School Hall**, 168 Hawkesbury Road, Springwood. **Friday 20 February: 6.00pm** – Family animated movie (G); **8.00pm** – Older kids and teens movie (PG). **Friday 27 February: 6.00pm** - Family animated movie (G); **8.00pm** – Older kids and teens movie (PG). Due to licensing restrictions titles are withheld. To find out the movies being shown, contact Celia on 0499 077 511. Free popcorn and face painting also available. Bring along comfy rugs, pillows and picnic. *For all the community to enjoy!*

## Sent Home Recently:

- Student Medical Details Permission Form (*white & red*)
- Swimming Carnival Permission note for Years 3-6 (*yellow, white & blue*)
- Diocesan Team Sports Trials note to Years 5 & 6



Scan with your smartphone or tablet for more information.

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