

UPDATE

No. 4 Date 08/05/15 Week 3 Term 2

Dear St Thomas Aquinas Families,

The autobiography and film titled *Mao's Last Dancer* is the incredible story of the Australian/Chinese dancer Li Cunxin. It's a story of a truly remarkable journey of the heart.

Li Cunxin was the sixth of seven peasant sons. His early life as a boy was one of incredible hardship and desperation as his family often faced starvation in Mao's China. The memory of his **mother** starving herself in order for her sons to have an extra mouthful of the meagre amount of food available was incredibly influential on Li's character. This life experience coupled with the love of his parents, particularly his mother, gave him the determination later to become an acclaimed ballet dancer in the United States and Australia.

At an early age Li's father told him an old Chinese fable - a story about a frog who was determined to escape from a deep, dark well. This story of the little frog's determination touched Li so much that it became a constant reminder to him of his own life and of how, if he was just as determined, he might be able to escape from his life of poverty.

At the age of just 11, through the selfless urging of his mother, he was offered a place at Beijing Dance Academy. Li's mother understood that he had the chance to do something special with his life and quietly encouraged him to pursue this opportunity to study ballet.

Away from his family and all he loved he found himself scared and lonely. He hated the strict training routines and harsh dormitory lifestyle. All he wanted to do was to go home to his mother, father and six brothers. He would cry himself to sleep each night holding the quilt his mother had made him. The quilt was an important symbolic connection to his mother's love or as he describes it, "a life-saving rope in the middle of an ocean of sadness".

As time went on Li realised that his mother was right. In time Li was able to fulfil his dual dreams of being a great dancer and of making sure his mother was well looked after. It was his mother who he often credits with giving him the hope, encouragement, wisdom and love to rise above the challenges and escape that deep, dark well and fulfil his dreams.

Wishing all mothers and grandmothers a beautiful day this Sunday. We also wish to sincerely thank all those generous parents who facilitated our Mothers Day Stall this week.

Until next time,

Sergio Rosato

Sergio Rosato

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!



Lily Boersma	Jessica D'Alessio	William Jones	Sarah-Jane Noonan-Michels
Leo Borg	Marius Edmonds	Willow Kent	Milly Okladnikov
Samantha Bourke	Jessica Ellis	Elizabeth Kerkham	River Rodemark
Keegan Breytenbach	Abbey Gomez	Declan Klukow-Leavey	Mark Rubelj
Kael Brown	Emily Hall	Matthew Kwieder	Julian Sypka
Mya Buchtman	Jeremy Harris	Odette Laurent	Will Ticehurst
Talyka Campbell	Amy Harvey	Aiden Machon	Christian Wallace
Zoe Cini	Xavier Haynes	Shyelo Malim-Martinez	Jack Waters
Liam Clayton	Mariella Hill	Bella McSpadden	Tom Withers
Shayla Coburn	Willow Hookings	Tess Morris	Matilda Worrall
Ashley Crighton	Blake Jones	Liam Murphy	Sarah Wydmuch
Alex Cullinane	Molly Jones	Keira Natter	

Enrolments for 2016 and Open Days

Enrolments for next year are now open for Grades K-6. We invite all prospective families to our Open Days which will be held throughout the coming weeks. Enrolment forms are available from the school office. **All applications are due to be returned by Friday 29 May, 2015.**

- OPEN DAYS 2015 AS FOLLOWS -			
MORNING TOURS - from 9.15am - 10.00am:	• Tuesday: 19 May	• Friday: 29 May	
	• Wednesday: 20 May		
AFTERNOON TOURS - from 2.15pm - 3.00pm:	• Tuesday: 19 May	• Thursday: 28 May	
		• Friday: 22 May	

Love one another



ST THOMAS AQUINAS
NEWS

a: 168 Hawkesbury Rd
Springwood 2777
p: 02 4754 2554
f: 02 4754 3562
w: www.staspringwood.catholic.edu.au

Parish Priest:
Father Paul Slyney
p: 02 4754 1052



Student Sporting Success

Congratulations to Ben Tracey (6M) on his recent selection for the NSW Cricket Academy. Ben is a member of the Penrith Representative Cricket team and was selected from his team to trial for the Academy a few weeks ago. Well done Ben!

Book Club

All orders for the latest Issue of Scholastic Book Club **must be placed by next Monday 11 May. Orders after the due date WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED so please make sure you send them in on time.** Please check that order forms are filled out correctly including both the child's name and class. Credit card payments must be made online first and the receipt number needs to be recorded on the order form.



St Thomas Aquinas Skoolbag App

We currently have 295 people who have downloaded our new communication app. Please download the free app onto your smartphone or iPad. We will be using this to alert parents to school events and information.



Hardcopy Newsletters

From Term 3 onwards we will be reducing the printing of our Newsletters and Updates as they are now readily available on the school website and can also be accessed via the Skoolbag app. A limited number only will be available from the school office.

St Columba's Catholic College – Year 7 2016 Enrolments

Enrolment applications are now due for parents/caregivers who would like to enrol their child into St Columba's Catholic College for Year 7 in 2016. Further information is available on the college website: www.stcolumbasspringwood or by calling the enrolment secretary, Mrs Sandra O'Brien, on 4754 1022.

DIARY DATES

2015 TERM 2 Week 4	Monday 11 May	Year 6 Camp 12.30pm Assembly – 5/4C presenting 3.40pm Leadership Meeting	 Scan with your smartphone or tablet for more information. www.staspringwood.catholic.edu.au
	12	Year 6 Camp NAPLAN 3.40pm Staff Meeting	
	13	Year 6 Camp NAPLAN 8.30am Staff Briefing 9.20am Parish Mass – Year 2 & K6A attending	
	14	8.30am Staff Prayer NAPLAN	
	15	NAPLAN (catch up) 11.35am St Columba's missioning	
Week 5	Monday 18 May	12.30pm Assembly – KB presenting 3.40pm Leadership Meeting	
	19	9.15am – 10.00am Open Day Tour 2.15pm – 3.00pm Open Day Tour 3.40pm Staff Meeting	
	20	8.30am Staff Briefing 9.15am – 10.00am Open Day Tour 9.20am Parish Mass – Year 1 attending	
	21	8.30am Staff Prayer Captivate Choir Rehearsal at Glenbrook	
	22	2.15pm – 3.00pm Open Day Tour	

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Drawing Classes – New Kids Class Starting Term 2: This course is designed to teach kids the drawing techniques used by artists, building their skill and their confidence! Subjects include Under the Sea, Castles, Animals, Portraiture, Landscape, Old Stone Buildings, Birds, Fantasy art & lots more. We use lots of different media including pastel, charcoal, pencil and watercolour pencil. All art materials are included. Small class size for individual attention (max 12). Friendly, fun, relaxed atmosphere! Vanessa has been teaching drawing in the mountains for over 13 years. See Vanessa's artwork and some of her students' work & course info at: www.vanessajoret.com.au Facebook: Vanessa Joret – Drawing Classes. Bookings Essential. For more info phone Vanessa on: 4758 8030.

Mary MacKillop Place Museum - Wednesdays live @ the Museum! (13 & 20 May): Australian Catholic University students present - 'Mary MacKillop and Fr Julian Tenison Woods in the 1800s: Colonial tales enacted; unearthing hidden stories behind the collection'. Join us in the Museum for an exciting series of drama performances. Australian Catholic University students will unearth hidden stories behind artefacts in the Museum collection. Performances are scheduled on the above dates and will run from 10am to 2pm at 7 Mount St, North Sydney. Enquiries & bookings: 02 8912 4883 or mackillop@sosi.org.au

Sent Home Recently:

- Greg Alexander Shield Rugby League Permission Note – selected students
- Head Lice Note to Year 2
- Diocesan Girls Soccer Gala Day Postponement Note (pink)
- Greg Alexander Shield Rugby League Postponement Note (orange)

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