

UPDATE

No. 8 Date 12/09/14 Week 9 Term 3

Dear St Thomas Aquinas Families,

We cannot let the week pass without acknowledging and celebrating the Catholic Schools Creative Arts Expo which culminated with two great performances on Monday and Tuesday evening at the Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre.

The Creative Arts Expo involved students from each of the 5 "Mountains" primary schools presenting a story/dance item on a common theme (this year's theme was *Journey*), combined choir performance and a combined string and brass band performance.

Each of the 5 schools presented individual items that were of a very high standard. We can take collective pride in knowing that the STA item, based on Aaron Becker's picture book, was simply exceptional in every way. The story was beautifully conveyed, staged and layered.

Credit goes to all the students involved for their enthusiasm, commitment and talents. Ultimately the success of such presentations hinges on the skill, passion and dedication of staff. We are immensely grateful to Michelle Nightingale, Karen Bousfield, Berni Sierra & Blanche Hortense for their love and dedication of the creative arts and the children. We thank them for sharing of their gifts so generously.

Our gratitude also to Viv Llewellyn (STA music teacher) whose work with the combined school choir was typically professional and of an incredibly high standard. The choice of music was so engaging and the children sung with such love and joy it was infectious to witness.

Thank you to Emma Nicholson, music teacher from St Columba's College and band teacher at STA, for conducting the combined band. Our thanks also to Patrick Malone and Joel Carter (St Columba's students) for their musical contribution as instrumentalists assisting on the drums.

Finally, we thank Avril Llewellyn (Assistant Principal) for coordinating this event on behalf of our network of schools so masterfully and to James Costigan (6C) for his expert stage management. They both did such a seamless job and ensured the success of the overall event.

We should never lose sight of how blessed we are as a community for the gifts, talents and efforts that are offered by so many to make learning at STA Christ-centred and life-giving.

Until next time,

Sergio Rosato

Winter/Summer Uniform Changeover

As the weather at this time of year is so changeable students may now wear either summer or winter uniform for the remainder of the term. We ask that parents use their discretion in determining which uniform to wear according to the conditions on the day and that either full summer or full winter uniform is worn and not a mixture of the two. Official changeover to summer uniform is the first day of Term 4. Please refer to the Parent Information Handbook for details.

Lost Property

As the term draws to a close we ask parents to please check the lost property box if your child has lost any items at the school over recent weeks. Also, some smaller items such as jewellery and small toys have been handed in to the office during the term. Please remember to mark all of your child's items clearly with their name.



School Fees

Thank you to the many families who have paid all the fees for 2014 and to those who are on track to finalise the school fees via payment arrangements. The Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta School Fees Liaison Unit has issued the second letters this week to families who have not paid off the fees and have not organised an arrangement with the school. If a family is genuinely under financial stress they must contact the school and speak to either the Principal or myself to discuss their options. **Deborah Lawrence, School Finance Secretary**

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY - Tuesday 7 October (after public holiday)

This day will be Pupil Free.

Students commence for Term 4 on Wednesday 8 October.

love one another



ST THOMAS AQUINAS NEWS

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Springwood 2777

p: 02 4754 2554

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w: www.staspringwood.catholic.edu.au

Parish Priest:
Father Paul Slyney

p: 02 4754 1052

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.

PARISH NEWS

Bush Dance – Saturday 13 September

St Thomas Aquinas Parish, the St Vincent de Paul Society and Catholic Care would like to invite all members of the community to a **free BUSHFIRE RECOVERY and FAMILY BUSH DANCE** on Saturday 13 September from **6:30pm to 9.30pm** at the St Thomas Aquinas Primary School hall, 168 Hawkesbury Road, Springwood.

A **free BBQ will be operating from 5:30pm**, but **BYO nibblies and non-alcoholic drinks**. Tea and coffee provided. Music and dancing instructions supplied by Richmond Players Bush Band. A great family night assured. For further information please phone the St Thomas Aquinas Pastoral Centre on 4754 1052.

First Holy Communion

Parent Meeting (one only) **Monday 13 October at 7.00pm**. 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 3 Week 10	Monday 15 September	9.05am Cuppa & Chat 12.30pm Assembly – 3S presenting 3.40pm Leadership Meeting
	16	Kinder Pasta Day Principal's Morning Tea – selected students 3.40pm Staff Meeting
	17	8.30am Staff Briefing Tennis Clinics – Years 3 & 4
	18	8.30am Staff Prayer School Band Year 2 Excursion to Penrith Regional Art Gallery
	19	Term 3 Concludes
TERM 4 Week 1	Monday 6 October	LABOUR DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY
	7	STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY – Pupil Free
	Wednesday 8	Term 4 Commences for students 2.15pm Romeo & Juliet – Years 5 & 6
	9	School Band
	10	Stage 3 Touch Football

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Springwood-Winmalee Girl Guides Come & Try Day: Tuesday 16 September, 5.30pm-7.00pm, for girls aged 5-17 years at **233-243 Singles Ridge Road, Yellow Rock**. At the 'Come and Try' we will be cooking, doing craft and lots of other activities. To register for this free event please phone Dianne Strahan on 0414 406 239 or for more information visit the website www.girlguides-nswact.org.au

Scorchers Basketball Holiday Clinic: Monday 22 September - Wednesday 24 September, 9am to 3pm. \$70.00 includes 3 days of basketball fun and skills. Lunch is included each day and the canteen will be open. To book your child's place contact Springwood & Districts Basketball Association on **4739 8999** and leave a message; or Email: scorchers1@bigpond.com. If your child is not a registered member of Springwood & Districts Basketball Association we will require your Medicare card on the day.

NEWS FLASH! New Dance Studio in Springwood: All Star Dance and Entertainment is coming to Springwood and will be situated at the Citizens Boys and Girls Club. Calling all young and aspiring dancers aged 2 and over for jazz, ballet, hip-hop, cheerleading and JFH (jazz, funk, hip-hop) classes. The pre-schoolers will even have their own special class. At All Star all students have the opportunity to perform in local events, festivals, concerts as well as regional and state-wide competitions. All of our teaching faculty have a wealth of experience within the entertainment industry. Our aim is to create an environment that allows our students to achieve excellence in the art of dance. To become a part of the All Star team enrol for Term 4 now. For more information on registration and our timetable please contact Jessica Loughlin on 0403 748 567.

Sent Home Recently:

- Bunnings BBQ Helpers note (*gold*)
- Bunnings BBQ Helpers note (*blue*)
- Penrith Art Gallery Excursion Note for Year 2
- Year 2 Penrith Art Gallery Excursion Information note (*purple*)
- Kindergarten Pizza Day note (*orange*)
- **SCHOOL PHOTOS - today**

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