

NEWSLETTER

No. 3 Date 26/03/13 Week 9 Term 1

Dear St Thomas Aquinas Families,

Foundation Day Parade & Choir Performance

Last Saturday a large number of our students from Grades Kindergarten to Year 6 showed great school spirit by participating in the Springwood Foundation Day Parade. Once again we were able to enter a beautifully decorated float promoting both our school community and the upcoming Autumn Fair.



Our sincere thanks to Malcolm Moore for his generosity in providing his vehicle for the third year running and once again giving of his time so generously to drive the float during the parade.



Thank you also to a number of parents and teachers who assisted in a variety of ways on the day including helping the students to decorate the float so beautifully in the theme of our Autumn Fair. Special thanks to Rebecca Ellem and Rachel Pagitz for the beautiful motif and design work – our float looked absolutely fantastic!

Also during the day's festivities a core group from our senior school choir performed at Springwood Civic Centre marking the final time that this venue will be in use before redevelopment. It was an honour for our school to be chosen to sing at a venue that has hosted many significant performances for over 50 years since it was built. Thank you to our choir director, Viv Llewellyn for his dedication and generosity and to the children who were able to attend and who sung so magnificently.



It was wonderful to see our students representing our school with such enthusiasm, pride and joy. Our gratitude to all the families who made such an effort for their children to attend this special event – your effort is very much appreciated.



School Holy Week Liturgies

During the course of the week our children are presenting each element of the Passion of Christ. Yesterday our Kindergarten and Year 1 students led the school in the re-enactment of Christ's joyful entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. Today Year 2 & 3 presented Jesus' Last Supper with His Apostles. This was followed by a class-based liturgy about that event. Following on from this, the staff has created a room for student reflection and prayer based on the Garden of Gethsemane.

Tomorrow (Wednesday) our Year 5 students will present the events leading up to the Crucifixion and on Thursday our Year 6 students the Waiting at the Tomb. During the week each class, accompanied by their teachers, will also have an opportunity to reflect on the Scriptural Stations of the Cross.

The season of Lent and Passion Week is pivotal in our faith journey as Christians. During this time we are led to contemplate both the humanity and divinity of Christ. As a school we do this through journeying with him through his Passion and Resurrection using prayer, music, drama & art.

The liturgies and experiences of this week serve to nourish our faith as a community through eyes, hearts and minds. It has been a truly grace-filled experience to witness our students praying faithfully, reverently and tenderly.

Unless the grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies There can be no harvest underneath these skies.

Love one another



ST THOMAS AQUINAS
NEWS

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Father Paul Slyney
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FROM THE PRINCIPAL – cont'd

Thank you to all for your presence and to the entire staff for their dedication and care in preparation for this week. Our gratitude to our Religious Education Coordinator Coley White for his thoughtful leadership and hard work.

Our school Easter Liturgy led by Year 4, celebrating the great hope of this season – the Resurrection will take place next Tuesday 2 April at 12.35pm in our Hall. All are most welcome to attend and participate.

Finally I would like to wish all families a holy and blessed Easter. May the Risen Christ be in your homes and live in your hearts this Pascal season.

Until next time, Buona Pasqua!

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Sergio Rosato
Principal

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY – MONDAY 29 April (Week 1 Term 2)

Parents please note that the **first day of Term 3 will be Pupil Free** as the staff will be using the day for Curriculum Planning. Therefore, **students will commence Term 2 on Tuesday 30 April.**

FROM THE REC (Religious Education Coordinator)

Mini Vinnies News

Congratulations to Faith Gill, Rachael Hensen, Lizzie Makepeace and Danielle Leehy for representing our school at annual Mini Vinnies Gathering on 19 March. The theme of the gathering came from a quote by Fredric Ozanam the founder of The Society of St Vincent de Paul, "Yours must be a work of love, of kindness, you must give your time, your talents, yourselves".



The gathering brought children involved in Mini Vinnies from different schools together to share ideas, make new friends, learn about social justice and to share in what it means to be Mini Vinnies members.

Thank you for the presence of Dale Kelley, Magda Magman and Molly Hurley from our St Thomas Aquinas Parish St Vincent de Paul group who also attended the gathering in support of our continued work with the Saint Vincent de Paul Society.

God Bless. **Mr Coley White**



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Holy Week Ceremonies at St Thomas Aquinas Church

Holy Thursday	Mass of the Lord's Supper	7.00pm
Good Friday	Stations of the Cross	10.30am
	The Passion of the Lord	3.00pm
Holy Saturday	The Easter Vigil	6.00pm
Easter Sunday	Mass	9.45am
	(No evening Mass)	



Aspect Western Sydney School Art Exhibition Invitation to our Opening night

Promoting World Autism Awareness Day

Dear St. Thomas Aquinas families and friends,

Aspect Western Sydney School in partnership with Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre will be hosting an Art Exhibition displaying the art work of students enrolled across the Aspect school sites.

When: Tuesday 2nd April 2013

Time: 6:30pm for a 7:00pm start

Where: Borland Foyer, Joan Sutherland Centre, Penrith
597 High Street, Penrith

Cost: \$10 per adult, children free

Parking: Available adjacent to the venue

Bar: Drinks available at the bar

Dress: Smart Casual (if possible wear blue supporting Autism month)

People's Choice Art Award: This is your opportunity to vote for your favourite artwork.

Votes: \$1.00 per vote

Raffle: Variety of prizes. Tickets on sale on the night

RSVP: 27th March, 2013 by way of email at westsyd@autismspectrum.org.au or by phone (02) 8786 3000 **or in person to Lorraine or Marie in K6A classroom.**

We hope you can join us and celebrate the art that our students do.

ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

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!



Ryan An U	Clēlia Davies	Joshua Harrison	Wilkin Payens
Riley Barglik	Patrick Dawson	Finn Hartley	Georgie Purcell
Henry Bender	Claire Dixon	Isabella Higginbottom	William Rogers
Zachary Birch	Francis Dyer	Benjamin Hinley	Hayley Scanlon
Caleb Blick	Daniel Elliott	Hayley Kime	Micah Segedin
Ayla Bogg	Jessica Ellis	Matthew Kwiedor	Blake Sibbald
Isabella Bonnici	Katelyn Ellis	Oliver Ligteringen	Kai Simpson
Thea Breytenbach	Sienna Evans	Alison Lovric	Steffani Sroczynski
Olivia Byrnes	Eve Fowler	Aiden Machon	Joshua Taylor
Liam Carr	James Galluzzi	Joshua Mitchell	Michaela Teuma
Reid Clarke	Abbey Gomez	Chyna Moore	Lilli Thompson
Kyden Cocoris	Emilia Gosling	Kiera Natter	Riley Thompson
Rebecca Collis	Samuel Graham	Natasha Nightingale	Lachlan Waters
Luke Crouch	Filip Grus	Matthew Nutland	Harry Watson



School Band

Almost every child has now received their instrument and book. Students are reminded to bring their instruments and books every Tuesday. Please note that any hiring fees need to be paid before Easter.

Student Excursion Medical Forms

These forms were sent home to all families earlier this week for parents to check, update and return to school. Thank you to all those who have already returned their forms. We ask that all forms be returned to school as soon as possible. Thank you. **Office Staff**



Italian Forum

Every Italian lesson begins with a prayer which we say in Italian. In Kindergarten, the children commence their lessons with The Sign of the Cross.

Il Segno della Croce (The Sign of the Cross)

Nel nome del padre e del figlio e dello Spirito Santo. Amen

Jenni Wurf, Italian Teacher

Kindergarten 2014 – Enrolment Period Now Open

Enrolments for Kindergarten are now open – please advise family and friends of this fact. Enrolment packs are available from the school office. The official enrolment period for Kindergarten closes on Friday 31 May. Late enrolments will be considered based on availability of places.

St Thomas Aquinas Autumn Fair

Preparation for the Autumn Fair is progressing with great purpose and effort. Thank you for your support so far - making items for sale or through your donations of gifts or items for sale. Please note the weekly Autumn Fair Bulletins regarding ways in which you can become involved and support our collective effort in making the Autumn Fair a successful combined effort.



2013 NAPLAN

The 2013 NAPLAN testing for students in Years 3 and 5 will be held from 14 – 17 May 2013.

NAPLAN is made up of tests in the four domains of Reading, Writing, Language Conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and Numeracy. NAPLAN assesses skills in literacy and numeracy that are developed over time, through the school curriculum. NAPLAN is not a pass or fail type test, but rather shows how individual students are progressing in numeracy and literacy skills against national standards.

All students are encouraged to participate in the tests. Students with disability may qualify for special provisions that reflect the support normally provided to them in the classroom. An individual student NAPLAN report will be issued by the school later this year. Parents and teachers can use this information to monitor how their child is progressing and to identify any areas of need. More information is available at www.naplan.edu.au

Lost Property

As we approach the end of the term we ask all parents to please check the lost property box for any items your child may have lost at the school over the past few weeks. Smaller items of jewellery and toys may also have been handed into the office during the term.



School Fees

First reminders for Term 1 have been sent out to any families with outstanding fees. Thank you to all those who have already paid these to date. If you are having difficulties meeting the school fees please contact Deborah Lawrence, Finance Secretary, on 4754 2554 as soon as possible. Thank you.

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General Strategies for Homework

Listed below are some more strategies to use when supporting your child in their mathematics homework (following-on from our previous item in Week 6).

- ❖ **Write it Big** – A whiteboard may be a useful way of working out problems. It is easy to see, easy to rub out, and another way of introducing a different sensory experience to the child.
- ❖ **In Tune** – Background music has been found to be beneficial for some learners. Classical (Baroque) music has been researched quite extensively and may be of assistance.
- ❖ **Check it Off** – Using a checklist to tick off tasks that have been done give your child a sense of achievement as well as helping them to keep their place.

More Strategies will be included in upcoming Newsletters. The following website may also be a helpful alternative for parents who wish their child to practise basic mathematics online: <http://schooldiscovery.com> – visit sections such as "Parents", "Brain Boosters" and "Webmath" for a range of activities.

How to Encourage Kids

Michael Grose from Parenting Ideas believes that encouragement is a skill that can be learned. For it to be effective it needs to be applied consistently. Encouragement and positive expectations go hand-in-hand. Encouraging parents expect kids to succeed, not necessarily straight away, and not necessarily with ease. Encouraging parents recognise that kids will be anxious at times but they have faith in their ability to cope. They also value kids as they are, not for who they are going to be. Michael Grose believes that there are four ways to encourage kids:

1. Practice empathy and show faith in them
2. Recognise effort and improvement
3. Focus on strengths
4. Accept mistakes and errors



Scan with your smartphone or tablet for more information.

www.staspringwood.catholic.edu.au

DIARY DATES

2013 TERM 1 Week 9 HOLY WEEK	Wednesday 27	11.40am Garden of Gethsemane for parents 12.00pm Stations of the Cross 2.15pm Crucifixion Liturgy (in Assembly Area)
	28	12.00pm Waiting at the Tomb (in Assembly Area)
	29	Good Friday – Public Holiday
Week 10	Monday 1 April	Easter Monday – Public Holiday
	2	12.35pm Resurrection Liturgy (in Hall) 3.40pm Staff Meeting
	3	9.30am Parish Mass – Year 1 attending 7.00pm Autumn Fair meeting in Hall
	4	8.30am Staff Prayer
	5	SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY
Week 11	8	12.30pm Assembly – 5B presenting 3.40pm Leadership Meeting
	9	9.05am Cuppa and Chat Stage 3 Girls Soccer Competition
	10	9.30am Parish Mass – Kindergarten attending Principal's Morning Tea
	11	8.30am Staff Prayer
	12	Stage 3 Touch Football Autumn Fair Mufti Day Term 1 Concludes

COMMUNITY NEWS

Music of J S Bach and Good Friday Readings: On **Friday 29 March** enjoy a presentation by The Blue Mountains Chorale, Robert Ampt – Conductor and Organist, Amy Johansen – Choir Accompanist and Readers from St Finbar's Parish at **7.30pm** at **St Finbar's Church, 46 Levy Street, Glenbrook**. There will be a retiring collection. Enquiries phone 4758 6067.

Little Red Riding Hood at Norman Lindsay Gallery: These school holidays, The Acting Factory presents Little Red Riding Hood in the gardens of the **Norman Lindsay Gallery, 14 Norman Lindsay Crescent, Faulconbridge**. *Little Red and her brother Blue meet a stranger in the woods with big ears and eyes and....if you think you know the rest you're in for a surprise. Once again the Acting Factory brings you a slightly warped version of a classic children's story.* **Performances** are on **Thursday 25 April at 1.00pm, Friday 26, Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 April at 10.30am and 1.00pm**. Bookings essential. Phone 4751 1067 (between 10.00am and 4.00pm).

Sent Home Recently:

- Medical Permission Reminder note – selected students in Years 1-6 (red)
- Medical Permission Reminder note – selected students in Kinder (yellow)
- Year 2 Head Lice note
- Autumn Fair News No. 5 (brown)
- School Cross Country note – Years 2-6 (pink)

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