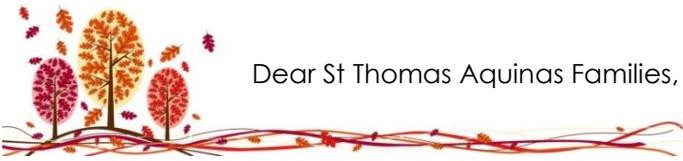


# NEWSLETTER

No. 5    Date 10/05/13    Week 2    Term 2



Dear St Thomas Aquinas Families,

## Autumn Fair

Last Saturday saw the culmination of our school community's collective hard work and good will expressed through the hosting of our School Autumn Fair.

Events such as this can only take place by all involved working as a team, being generous of heart and body and with a healthy amount of humour and joy thrown in for good measure!

We were blessed with beautiful weather on the day and this enabled many families to attend the Fair, to browse the various fantastic stalls and exhibits, catch up with friends or simply just relax and enjoy the amazing variety of entertainment. The Autumn Fair had something for all ages and was presented with great care and creativity.

Looking over the happy, smiling crowds on the day one could only feel a sense of pride and gratitude that we belong to such a wonderful, generous and hospitable community.

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to each person who contributed to the Autumn Fair. Events such as these are made possible through countless acts of generosity and hours of hard work.

To the large number of community organisations and businesses that supported the STA Autumn Fair we thank you sincerely and appreciate your kindness.

At this stage in calculations it looks likely that the Fair will raise approximately \$28K (to be finalised) for school resources targeted at technology & literacy/numeracy resources for students.

Once again I thank you and the entire Autumn Fair team representing so many families for your service in coordinating a most memorable and successful event.

But the fruit of the Holy Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.  
Galatians 22



ST THOMAS AQUINAS NEWS

a: 168 Hawkesbury Rd  
Springwood 2777  
p: 02 4754 2554  
f: 02 4754 3562  
w: [www.staspringwood.catholic.edu.au](http://www.staspringwood.catholic.edu.au)

Parish Priest:  
Father Paul Slyney  
p: 02 4754 1052



Love one another

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL – cont'd



### World's Greatest Shave for Leukaemia

On Tuesday we hosted a "Shave Event" in support of The Leukaemia Foundation. The Foundation is dedicated to the care and cure of patients and families living with leukaemia, lymphomas, myeloma and related blood disorders.

It was a great joy to have our sports teacher, Robert Mullen, his wife Kathy and sister Julie join us for this assembly. One of Robert's good friends, Sharon-Anne Marmara, her son, Andrew, and a former STA student, Riley Millar, as part of a team, bravely had their heads shaved to raise money and awareness of this most worthy cause.



Any family wishing to make a donation can do so by going to <http://www.worldsgreatestshave.com> and then click sponsor a shaver – type in Sharon-Anne Marmara (her team name is Rob's Rebels). Any support will be much appreciated.

Until next time,

*S Rosato*

Sergio Rosato  
Principal



## FROM THE REC (Religious Education Coordinator)

### Did you know...?

...that May is traditionally the month dedicated to Mary?

May is the month in which we acknowledge in a special way Mary, the mother of Jesus. Mary, of course, has a special place in the life of Catholics at all times, but May traditionally has been the month in which Catholics might offer extra prayers for Mary's intercession or make an effort to gather in groups to pray the Rosary together and so on. It makes sense to ask for the intercession of Mary, for which son could refuse the prayerful request of the mother he loves and adores?



### Historical Context – Pentecost

The word Pentecost comes from the Greek for fiftieth day. Pentecost Sunday ends the season of Easter and comes as a Sabbath day after seven weeks of seven days. In Jewish tradition the 50<sup>th</sup> day after the Passover was celebrated as a blessing of the harvest and rather than the unleavened bread of Passover it was celebrated by leavening the bread. It was for this reason that the disciples were gathered together when they experienced the Holy Spirit empowering them. In Christian tradition, Pentecost is celebrated as the arrival of the Spirit, promised by Jesus, that animated the disciples to spread the gospel of Jesus and gather believers to form what would eventually become the Church.

## Pentecost Liturgy – Friday 17 May

Parents and friends of our school community are warmly invited on **Friday 17 May at 2:10pm** to our school liturgical celebration of the feast of **Pentecost**. During this liturgy we celebrate the arrival of the spirit, promised by Jesus. We will be holding the liturgy **in our school hall**. All welcome!

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

### 21 Days on the Mountain

In May, the Blue Mountains will host an exciting program of events to commemorate the historic Bicentenary of the Crossings. The Blue Mountains community is invited and encouraged to be a part of this significant occasion.



The period between May 2013-2015 marks the bicentenary of the first recorded European crossing of the Blue Mountains in 1813 and the subsequent impact of the road, and then European settlement, on the people and country of the Darug and Gundungarra peoples of the mountains and the Wiradjuri people of the West.

These events have shaped the Blue Mountains, Sydney, NSW and the Nation. The bicentenary of the Crossings is a once in a lifetime opportunity to be a part of this shared history and a wonderful way to celebrate the unique place we live in today. For information on Bicentenary events, activities and history, visit <http://bluemountaincrossings.com.au>

### PRC – Diocesan Parent Representative Council

The Council of Catholic School Parents and the Parramatta Parents Representative Council are hosting a conference on 25 & 26 May at the Novotel Hotel Parramatta. The conference is entitled iConnect...with learning, in partnership in faith. The school has 2 places available for parents who are able to attend this conference. Individual day only registrations are an option.

The school will cover the registration costs.

# ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

## 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!



Tobey Barr	Alison Edwards	Ronan Hurley	Brendan McMaster
Montana Barry	Mischa Evans	Hannah-May Jeffrey	Tess Morris
Ewan Beaton	Jade Fiala	Sophie Kerrison	Olivia Morrissey
Thomas Brosnan	Faith Gill	Erin Kilner	Chelsea Muller
Noah Brown	Rachael Hensen	Dylan King	Alyssa Pospischil
Charlotte Burke	Julia Hoare	Connor Le Breton	Nathan Press
Lucas Claudino	Jeremy Hodges	Melissa Lee	Siobhan Rafter
Patrick Costigan	Charli Hope	Brady Leehy	Aamber Rowe
Mitchell Cunningham	Connor Hume	Ella Maurer	Nicholas Towell
Grady De La Harpe	Eve Hurley	Thomas McGrath	Kane Walton
Nathan Della-Libera	Kayla Hurley	Evey McLaren	Madison William

## Diocesan Cross Country

Congratulations to the students who represented the school at the Diocesan Cross Country Competition last week. The entire team from St Thomas Aquinas were outstanding on the day. The following students achieved notable results on the day:

Mackenzie Barglik	Michael Christof	Drew Eade	Zoe Peters	Georgie Purcell
Riley Barglik	Olivia De La Harpe	Jenna Jones	Anna Porter	

Thank you to the many families who attended and to James Costigan and Anne Gippel for coordinating the team.

## 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, when all enrolment forms, along with the non-refundable Enrolment Fee of \$25, are due. Late enrolments will be considered based on availability of places.

As in recent years there will be guided tours of the school conducted by the Principal and Assistant Principal for families seeking enrolment. This year these tours will take place on the following days:

**Friday 10 May: 9.30am & 2.15pm**

**Friday 17 May: 9.30am**

**Tuesday 21 May: 2.15pm**

**Wednesday 22 May: 9.30am & 2.15pm**

**Thursday 23 May: 9.30am**

**Tuesday 28 May: 9.30am**

**Thursday 30 May: 9.30am & 2.15pm**

These school guided tours will commence from the school office.

## ANZAC Day Commemoration 2013

During the recent school holidays approximately seventy students from our school participated in the ANZAC Day March and wreath laying service in Springwood. As always our students were wonderful ambassadors for our community - smartly attired and respectful throughout the March and service. Attendance at the ANZAC commemoration service is about recognising the selfless sacrifice of fellow Australians in war and the privilege and blessings that this service has provided us as citizens of this country.

Thank you to the parents and carers for enabling their children to attend and be part of this service. Thank you also to the members of the Student Representative Council who led the school contingent and laid the wreath. It was lovely to receive a number of very positive comments from members of the public on the day complimenting our students on their conduct and demeanor.

## NAPLAN 2013 for Years 3 and 5

Please note that the dates of these national tests are Tuesday May 14, Wednesday May 15 & Thursday May 16. These nationally administered tests provide a snapshot in time of students' learning. They are useful in giving parents and teachers data indicating progress in aspects of literacy and numeracy. Whilst important, they need to be considered in conjunction with other forms of ongoing assessment and your child's holistic learning aptitudes and abilities.

## Book Club

Students have been given the first book club magazine for Term 2 (Issue 3). All orders need to be returned by **next Monday 13 May**. 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.



## Baby Congratulations

Congratulations to Daniel and Sarah McSpadden on the birth of new son Lennix, brother for Jake (4B) and Bella (2W).



Scan with your smartphone or tablet for more information.  
[www.staspringwood.catholic.edu.au](http://www.staspringwood.catholic.edu.au)

## Mother's Day

This Sunday is Mother's Day – a day where families honour and give thanks for mothers, grandmothers and mother figures in their lives. In the New Testament and Christian history woman and mothers are prominent. Mary is the embodiment of the loving, faithful and devoted mother. Women are often the agents for goodness and grace that Christ taught about and modeled in his earthly life – Elizabeth, Mary Magdalene, the Samaritan woman, Saint Monica just to name a few examples.

I hope that this weekend affords all families time to think about and show love towards mums wherever they may be.

At this time we also would like to give thanks for our own Good Samaritan woman, Sister Monica Armstrong sgs for her wonderful vocational service to our school community and the precious ministry to families that she lives out daily – thank you Monica.



## DIARY DATES

<b>2013</b>  <b>TERM 2</b>  <b>Week 3</b>	<b>Monday 13</b>	Year 6 Camp 12.30pm Assembly
	<b>14</b>	Year 6 Camp NAPLAN Tests – Year 3 & 5 3.40pm Staff Meeting
	<b>15</b>	Year 6 Camp 8.30am Staff Briefing NAPLAN Tests – Year 3 & 5 9.30am Parish Mass – Year 1 attending
	<b>16</b>	8.30am Staff Prayer NAPLAN Tests – Year 3 & 5
	<b>17</b>	NAPLAN Tests (catch –up) – Year 3 & 5 9.30am Kindergarten 2014 Open Day Tours of school <b>2.10pm Pentecost Liturgy</b>
<b>Week 4</b>	<b>Monday 20</b>	12.30pm Assembly – 4N 3.40pm Leadership Meeting
	<b>21</b>	Drama Years 5 & 6 Tennis Clinics – Stage 2 2.15pm Kindergarten 2014 Open Day Tours of school 3.40pm Staff Meeting
	<b>22</b>	8.30am Staff Briefing 9.30am Parish Mass – Year 5 attending 9.30am Kindergarten 2014 Open Day Tours of school 2.15pm Kindergarten 2014 Open Day Tours of school
	<b>23</b>	8.30am Staff Prayer 9.30am Kindergarten 2014 Open Day Tours of school
	<b>24</b>	Walk to School Day 12.45pm 'Holey Dollar' Assembly (Crossing of the Blue Mountains)

**DATES TO REMEMBER:**      **NAPLAN Testing for Years 3 & 5 from 14 – 17 May**  
    **Pupil Free Day – Tuesday 11 June (day after Long Weekend)**  
    **School Photos - Wednesday 7 August**  
    **Grandparents Day - Friday 13 September**

## COMMUNITY NEWS

**Kids with Courage:** This exciting 7-week program to build resilience in primary age children who are struggling with issues at school, home or with peer relationships, will be held **at Springwood Uniting Church, 4 Lewin Street, Springwood** on **Tuesdays from 4.30pm to 6.00pm commencing 15 May to 26 June**. Kids with Courage includes drama, puppetry, hands-on activities and small group work. It builds on the strengths of the child and develops emotional intelligence in the face of life's struggles. Children have an opportunity to explore feelings, set goals and interact with peers and find positive ways of making changes. The program is sponsored by Springwood Uniting Church. **Parent Information Night** will be held on **Monday 13 May at 7.00pm**. To register phone 4751 3951 or 0415 533 491, Fax: 4751 7394 or visit the website: [www.springwood.unitingchurch.org.au](http://www.springwood.unitingchurch.org.au)

**Staying Sane With Toddlers - be encouraged in your parenting role:** This parenting course is run by Gateway Family Services, an activity of Blaxland Uniting Church/Uniting Care, will be held on **Friday mornings 31 May until 21 June 2013 from 10.00am to 12.00pm** at **Tanderra OOSH, 14 Raymond Road, Springwood**. Childcare is available (provided by Mountains Mobile Minds). **Cost:** gold coin donation and includes session, morning tea, handouts and childcare. To register phone Gateway Family Services on 4739 5963.

### Sent Home Recently:

- Head Lice Note to Year 1 and Year 2
- Kindergarten Literacy and Numeracy Groups note *(lime green)*

*love one another*

