

NEWSLETTER

No. 6 Date 23/05/13 Week 4 Term 2

Dear St Thomas Aquinas Families,

Annual Year 6 Camp to Vision Valley

Last week I had the great privilege and joy of joining our Year 6 students and their teachers on a 3-day camp at Vision Valley.

Year 6 Camp is an important rite of passage for our students in the final year of their primary school journey. It provides a wonderful shared experience - a time for growth, for moving out of comfort zones and for appreciating others with new eyes and ears. Camp is ultimately about strengthening relationships - with each other, with teachers and with Christ.

We can all take pride in knowing that the students who comprise this year's Year 6 group were outstanding whilst away and distinguished themselves as a cohesive, engaging, appreciative and positive group of young people. Their positive conduct and thoughtful participation in all aspects of camp is to be commended.

A measure of the success of the camp is the overwhelming positive feedback and thoughtful reflections from the students since we have returned to school. Many students have commented not simply on the activities and fun aspects of the experience but on their appreciation for others in their peer group and new awareness of students who they now know better.

Taking groups of students away on extended, overnight excursions is a significant undertaking and one with considerable responsibility.

Our sincere gratitude is extended to the dedicated teachers – Geraldine Lohan, Kate Mackenzie and James Costigan for their thorough preparation, supervision and coordination of the camp. Sincere thanks also to Brad Jones (parent of Jenna 6C) for his valuable assistance during the 3 days.

This year's Year 6 Camp was certainly memorable for all. Thank you to each Year 6 family for supporting this valuable experience for your child.

Camp is ultimately about strengthening relationships - with each other, with teachers and with Christ.



Year 6 Camp 2013



(Continued over)

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

FROM THE PRINCIPAL – cont'd

Camp Comments 2013:

I think camp was an excellent way to connect with others and test our abilities. All the rules were fair and the food was delicious. Something I and the rest of Year 6 will never forget. **Ricky Martinello 6/5M**

At camp I learnt these things about teamwork; to trust your teammates, help them and try not to let them down, try your hardest and have faith in your whole team, teamwork is a team effort not an individual effort, you' got to know their strengths. **Tommy Okladnikov 6/5M**

I think camp was a great experience for everyone because you made new friends, ate different foods and did activities that took us out of our comfort zones. Personally I loved camp and I will always remember it. **Teneka Kime 6/5M**

I think camp was a really good thing for me because I got a chance to stretch my confidence bubble further and also I made lots of new friends and built my old friendships too. I really liked camp. **Max Peters 6L**

I think camp was a fantastic experience. I learnt a variety of new skills and made new friends as well as stepping out of my comfort zone. **Isabel Dyer 6L**

Apart from the activities, the highlight of camp was about making new friends and talking to different people. It was also about teamwork and encouraging others to try things. **Lucy Cunningham 6L**

I enjoyed everything about camp, the activities, the food, the new friends I made and more. I learnt how to work as part of a team, trust others and make new friends. I found overcoming my fear of heights the most challenging, but overall it was the best camp ever. **Jack Hutchings 6C**

On camp I learnt more about people I didn't know. I made new friends and I am now more comfortable with heights. **Samara Whitton 6C**

I think that camp was great and I had lots of fun working together in a team and learning new skills like trust, bravery, patience and teamwork. **Blake Sibbald 6C**

Whole School Pentecost Liturgy

Last Friday we came together as a school community to celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit into the world and the birthday of the Church instituted on the day of Pentecost. The liturgy provided an opportunity to thank God for His gift of the Holy Spirit in our lives, the same Spirit that filled the disciples as they huddled frightened and uncertain in the upper room.

As the scripture readings for this event proclaim the coming of the Holy Spirit changed everything. It filled the disciples with spiritual gifts that transformed them from timid individuals to people who were prepared to get up and "GO" forward with love and courage to serve like Christ. This same Holy Spirit has been breathed into us and is strengthened sacramentally through our lives.

The Holy Spirit shows itself to us in our daily lives whenever we or others demonstrate It's fruits - Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness or Self-Control. These tangible expressions of the Holy Spirit are signs of Its presence. The Spirit's presence can often be hard to comprehend and recognise. The challenge is working out where it is leading us. For this we can rely on the Gifts of the Spirit – Wisdom, Knowledge, Courage, Understanding, Right Judgement, Reverence, Awe and Wonder to discern what is true, good and important in our lives.

Thank you for all those who attended this liturgy last week – it was wonderful seeing so many present. Thank you to the teachers and students for their thoughtful and creative preparation. Thank you also to our Religious Education Coordinator Coley White for his dedicated leadership in this area.

Until next time,

Sergio Rosato

Sergio Rosato
Principal

Walk to School Day – next Friday 31 May (NB: change of date)

Next Friday, 31 May, is Walk Safely to School Day. With this in mind, we encourage students to walk to school on Friday, either on their own, with a friend or parent/carer. If you live too far from school to walk, perhaps you could park a distance from the school and walk from there. More information will be sent home shortly.



The Holy Spirit's presence shows itself to us in our daily lives whenever we or others demonstrate - Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness or Self-Control.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Kindergarten 2014 Enrolments and Tours of Our School

As you are no doubt aware, this month we have been hosting tours of our school coinciding with the official enrolment period. These tours have provided families with an opportunity to witness the learning, the relationships and activities that typically occur in our school each day. We have had many families come through the school during the course of the month and many have fed back very positive comments based on their impressions from their visits.

A reminder that first round enrolment places for Kindergarten 2014 are now being accepted. First round offers will be communicated to families once interviews have concluded. **If you have not already returned your enrolment form, please do so as soon as possible as demand for places appears strong for 2014.**

The remaining tours will take place on: **Tuesday 28 May at 9.30am and Thursday 30 May at 9.30am & 2.15pm**

These school guided tours will commence from the school office.

ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

Student Awards

Congratulations to the following students, who received Merit Awards at last week's and this week's School Assemblies. Well done on your efforts everyone - keep up the good work!



Week 3

Lukas Banks	Texas Down	Declan Klukow-Leavey	Abigail Rogers
Eliza Barr	Loralei Gill	Amber Lovric	Maria Todarello
Noah Barr	Zachary Gonzalez	Ryan May	Bronte Tracey
Alice Bauerhuit	Mia Grodzicki	Vincent McLaren	Ryan Trent
Imogen Carvasiglia	Thomas Grodzicki	Macklin Miall	Demir Vassallo
Ysobel Chalice	Connor Harvey	Abby Oag	Ellie Watson
Michael Christof	Harry Hicks	Orion Pick	Harry Watson
Mitchell Crouch	Nyah Hutchings	Oliver Rizzuti	Mia Watson
James Croucher	Georgina Jelovic		

Week 4

Isabella Alves-Jones	William Forster	Lachlan Maurer	Thomas Rizzuti
Isaac Bailey	Liam Galluzzi	Lachlan McGrath	Taleah Rust
Jeremy Barker	Chloe Galluzzi	William McLaren	Noah Samoluk
Mollie Bauerhuit	Filip Grus	Ayva Meadows	Astrid Sarazen
Genevieve Blandin De Chalain	Jakub Grus	Dylan Mitchell	Oliver Savage
Isabella Bonnici	Leia Hermosa	Bridget Morales	Lucas Sawyer
Louis Caruana	Henry Hinchliff	Sarah-Jane Noonan-Michels	Adam Sypka
Mia Cini	Samuel Huggard	Annie Oliver	Nathan Treble
Kaedance Cocoris	Erin Hutchinson	Ryan Perryman	Gabriel Valle
Joshua Curtis	Katelyn Jones	Anna Porter	Ryley Walker
Jacob Danks	Matthew Kwiedor	Jacob Pospischil	Madison Williams
Bethany Evans	Daisy-May Laws	Trinity Power	Saffi Wilson
Mason Evans	Prudence Lia	William Richardson	Matilda Worrall
Tia Foley	Lachlan Lloyd		

Love One Another Award

Congratulations to Drew Eade who received a Love One Another Award at this week's Assembly for living out the school motto. Well done Drew.

Afternoon Dismissal and Student Safety

As we approach the mid-point of this term it is worth reinforcing and clarifying afternoon dismissal procedures. We would ask that all parents/carers familiarise themselves with these procedures as they are intended to ensure the safety of students in a high volume traffic area.

All students Kindergarten to Year 6 are supervised by teachers to the 3 main dispersal areas each afternoon. These 3 dispersal areas are:

1. Student Bus Lines

Students sit in bus lines under the school shelter. Each bus number is announced via PA and children are supervised onto each bus by 1 of 3 bus duty teachers.

2. Students Walking or Riding Bicycles

These students are dismissed by their class teacher and proceed via the designated path behind STARS/Year 2 rooms and follow this route adjacent to the church onto Hawkesbury Road footpath. For safety reasons students are not to use any other route to get to Hawkesbury Rd e.g. down Columba's Drive.

3. Students Collected by Parents/Carers

These students are accompanied by their teachers to the parent gathering area and need to be collected by parents/carers personally.

Note: It is important that parents and carers stand back from the concrete path and remain on the gravel areas so that classes can be brought unencumbered to this dispersal point.

NO students should be walking unaccompanied to the church car park or any other area on the parish site. The practice of having children wait for parents on kerbs adjacent to the car park is potentially dangerous. We request that parents refrain from the practice of picking up their children in this fashion.

The "Kiss and Drop" bay (marked No Parking) in the church car park is for morning drop-off use only.

All children should be collected in person and accompanied and supervised closely by parents/carers to motor vehicles. Whilst this may be slightly inconvenient, it is far better than jeopardising the safety of children.

Students should not be playing on any of the areas near the pick-up staff car park or church car park even under parent supervision.

Thank you for your understanding and support with this matter.

AFL After School Clinics

Please note that these clinics are only being held on school grounds and the school is not part of the organisation of these events. Any queries or change of arrangements must be made through the AFL contact: Michael O'Grady on 0431 955 721, NOT the school office.

Holey Dollar Bicentennial of the Crossing of the Blue Mountains

Tomorrow, **Friday 24 May**, to commemorate this historical event, each student will be receiving a complimentary Holey Dollar this Friday. The Bicentennial Coin will be presented at special school assembly by members of business groups and descendants of the explorers. The cost of the coin has been kindly sponsored by local businesses and organisations.



Cash Purchases/Payments at School

Parents please note, it may no longer be possible to obtain change at the office when purchasing hats and clothing pool items or if requiring change for excursions etc. Could you please give the correct money at time of purchase wherever possible or use our EFTPOS facilities.

If change is required, the money will be handed to the Finance Secretary and change will be sent home after receipting is done. This is necessary due to Audit requirements in the handling of cash at the school.

Money for excursions, sporting activities etc need to be sent with the child to give to their teacher, not given in at the office. The teacher needs to mark-off returned notes prior to the money being sent to the office.

Springwood Residential Project Update

On Monday 3 June, members of the Chancery property services unit will outline plans for the Springwood Residential Project at a meeting in the Bishop Manning Learning Centre at St Thomas Aquinas Primary, 168 Hawkesbury Rd, Springwood. Much work has been undertaken on this project since Bishop Anthony's visit last year. All members of the Blue Mountains Catholic community are invited to the meeting, which will commence at 6pm. Information about the Springwood project is available on the Catholic Diocese of Parramatta's website: www.parra.catholic.org.au

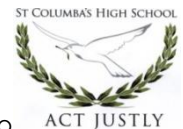
Parish Sacramental News

Please note that the Sacrament of Confirmation will take place on Thursday 13 June at 7pm in the Parish Church.

The sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Communion will take place on:

- First Reconciliation - September 11th at 7pm - First Parent Meeting July 31st at 7pm
- First Communion November 24th - Parent Meeting 9th October at 7pm

For further information please contact the Pastoral Centre on 4754 1052.



Urgent St Columba's High School Enrolment Reminder

St Columba's High School **Year 7 2014** applications are now due. If you are wishing to enrol your child into Year 7 for 2014 please return your application form ASAP. Demand for places is very strong - the placement of students may be affected by late enrolment applications in this case. Enquiries: Enrolment Secretary Mrs Lisa Jordan - 4754 8906.

DIARY DATES (Please find attached the Term 2 Calendar)

2013 TERM 2 Week 4	Wednesday 23 May	8.30am Staff Prayer 9.30am Kindergarten 2014 Open Day Tours of school
	24	11.35pm 'Holey Dollar' Assembly (Crossing of the Blue Mountains) * Please note change of time
Week 5	Monday 27	12.30pm Assembly – 6C 3.40pm Leadership Meeting
	28	9.05am Cuppa & Chat Soccer Gala Day – Stage 3 9.30am Kindergarten 2014 Open Day Tours of school Tennis Clinics – Stage 2 3.40pm Staff Meeting
	29	8.30am Staff Briefing 9.30am Parish Mass – Year 4 & 4/3C attending
	30	8.30am Staff Prayer 9.30am Kindergarten 2014 Open Day Tours of school 2.15pm Kindergarten 2014 Open Day Tours of school
	31	Walk to School Day * Please note new date

Reminder: Pupil Free Day – Tuesday 11 June
(day after Long Weekend)



Scan with your smartphone or tablet for more information.

www.staspringwood.catholic.edu.au

COMMUNITY NEWS

Kids Movie Night at Josh's Bistro: This **Friday 24 May at 6.30pm**, Josh's Bistro, at **Springwood Country Club**, Hawkesbury Road, Springwood, is hosting a Disney Movie Night. Cost is \$15.00 which includes dinner, drink and popcorn. Dinner options: 1. Nuggets & Chips, 2. Fish Cocktails & Chips, 3. Pizza & Chips. Bring a pillow to sit on. Supervised by our staff.

Parents must stay in the club. For more information phone 0413 811 056 or 4751 1122.

Sent Home Recently:

- Pentecost Liturgy Invitation (*orange*)
- Kindergarten Pentecost Day note (*gold*)
- Head Lice note to Kindergarten
- Head Lice note to Year 3
- Staff Leave Announcement for 2S (*salmon*)
- Hazelbrook Bus Stop Change note – selected students
- Year 1 Term 2 Information note (*pink*)
- Stage 2 Blue Mountains Excursion note
- Catholic Outlook Magazine

love one another