

NEWSLETTER

No. 13 Date 20/09/13 Week 10 Term 3

Dear St Thomas Aquinas Families,

On Friday our School community had the great joy of hosting our annual Grandparents' Day festivities. Many grandparents and grandparent figures travelled great distances from various places across the Sydney metropolitan area, from country areas and some even travelled from interstate to be with their grandchildren. This day was also about honouring grandparents who weren't with us, but whom we carry in our hearts, our memories and in our prayers.

Grandparents' Day 2013



The day was comprised of three main parts commencing with a school assembly led by students from each grade and featuring our choirs and band ensembles. This was followed by an outdoor family picnic. We were blessed with fine weather that enabled all to relax and enjoy a meal together. After the picnic lunch there was some time for families to visit classrooms with students.

Grandparents' Day is a special day – it's a celebration that connects us at a very human level. It's a day that is

defined by joy, love and respect. It's a day where we pause and give thanks for all grandparents as well as a day where grandparents have an opportunity to show their love and affection for their children's children.

The role that individual grandparents play in the lives of grandchildren may be different but they all share an important role in helping to influence in a lasting way their grandchildren's growth and formation into adulthood. Primarily this occurs through their example and love.



For grandparents, one of the greatest joys in this stage of life is the being able to put time into nurturing a special relationship with a grandchild. As society changes, the role of grandparents changes. But some things about

Grandparents play a pivotal role in imparting wisdom and common sense

grandparents are constant and timeless.



They help grandchildren better understand who they are by transmitting family values, teaching about family traditions and by telling stories about their parent's childhood. As a child I never tired of listening to my grandparents tell stories of their lives



and lessons for living – I carry these with me to this day.

(Continued over.)

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ST THOMAS AQUINAS
NEWS

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL – cont'd

Grandparents also play a pivotal role in imparting wisdom and common sense. They are equipped to do this because they have lived longer, have had greater experience, and have noticed the cycles and patterns of life. In this way grandparents can give us perspective on life. Grandparents are unique and irreplaceable.

It has been shown that grandparents who have an involvement in the lives of their grandchildren have a positive effect on the overall well-being of their grandchildren. The gift of time that grandparents make for their grandchildren is invaluable. Simple actions like listening, affirming, and speaking with your grandchildren are a precious gift.



We also know that this relationship is reciprocal. Grandchildren love and admire their grandparents with a sense of wonder, appreciation and love that is unconditional. They love their nans and pops simply for who they are.



It is important that we acknowledge and appreciate the many grandparents in our society who provide an incredible witness of generosity as the primary carers for their grandchildren. These grandparents are inspirational and are acting purely out of love and devotion for their grandchildren.



Grandparents' Day is about giving collective thanks for the treasures that are our grandparents. We thank them for giving their unconditional love, their kindness, their patience, their humour, their wisdom and for their presence in the life of their grandchildren.



May God continue to bless them.

Until next term,

S Rosato

Sergio Rosato
Principal

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY – (Week 1) TERM 4

Parents are reminded that **Tuesday, 8 October (Week 1)** will be a Staff Development Day (Pupil Free) as staff will be involved in an RE Day. **Therefore, students commence on Wednesday, 9 October.**

FROM THE REC (Religious Education Coordinator)

Mini Vinnies Knit for Good Cause

This year the Mini Vinnies team at St Thomas Aquinas have been raising awareness for the 2013 St Vincent De Paul Winter Appeal. An initiative developed by St Vincent De Paul, Mini Vinnies encourages primary schools to come together to help those in need in their school and community. The Winter Appeal campaign this year challenged groups and individuals to recognise needs within the community and to do something about it.

To help keep people warm this winter, our dedicated group of Mini Vinnies students knitted squares with community volunteers. Each completed square was then sewn into blankets to be donated to youth on the streets or to families in need of such items.

The fruits of our labour, four beautifully, colourful and warm blankets were presented this week at our school assembly. Jan Wallace, Irene Barr, Alison Galluzzi and Julie Sommerville presented each of the four blankets to our school community and gave thanks to students and their families for their contributions to the project.

I would personally like to thank all our volunteers who contributed to each of the blankets. I would especially like to thank the volunteers who gave of their time each Wednesday to assist with student knitting during Term 3 - Jan Wallace, Alison Galluzzi, Sonia Leehy and Margaret Rafter. Their supports and skills in knitting were a very important component of our success and building of our own knitting skills.

To conclude I would like to thank all the students for participating and contributing to this project. This experience has provided students with a sense of responsibility and sharing. The warm feeling you get in your heart when you help others is beautiful! God Bless. **Mr Coley White**



PARISH NEWS – Sacramental Program

The **Parent Meeting for First Communion** will be on **Wednesday 9 October at 7.00pm in the church.** At this meeting you will receive the enrolment forms to present at any of the Masses on the weekend of 12/13 October. You will also receive your workbook for the program. The cost for the program is \$10.00 payable at the parent meeting. **First Communion will be on 24 November at 11.00am.** There will be a practice on Wednesday 20 November at 3.45pm in the church.

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!



Breanna Banks	Filip Grus	Jake McSpadden	Michaela Teuma
Noah Barr	Joshua Harrison	Anikka Millar	Madisyn Treble
Benjamin Nixon	Chiara Hill	Joshua Mitchell	Samuel Turner
Thomas Brosnan	Lachlan Holman-Lee	Chyna Moore	William Turner
Zoe Cini	Erin Hutchinson	Ethan Muller	Tiarnah Wanimbo
Tara Clancy	Molly Jones	Kiera Natter	Samara Whitton
Patrick Dawson	Eliza Keogh	Kiara Nugent	Jack Wicks
Lachlan Dempsey	Sophie Kerrison	Martin Perez-Eaton	Chelsea Willingham
Addison Down	Ned Lawlor	Jacob Pospischil	Ryan Woods
Callum Dyer	Connor Le Breton	Mark Rubelj	Laurence Wynne-Jones
Thomas Gawthorne	Brianna Leehy	Henry Rutkowski	Darian Zunic
Ellen Glasson	Chiara Major	Lorraine Santos	Goran Zunic
Zachary Gonzalez	Ricky Martinello		

Principal's Morning Tea for Effort in Learning

The following students were acknowledged at a special morning tea yesterday for consistent effort in areas of their learning. Congratulations and well done to you all!



Montana Barry	Kiara Nugent	Vienna Reynolds	Samuel Turner
Alice Bauerhuit	Niamh O'Connell	Aamber Rowe	Lachlan Waters
Isabella Bonnici	Christopher Oliver	Steffani Sroczynski	Jesse Wiggins
Patrick Bourke	Hayley Page	Rebecca Tabor	Clare Williamson
Thea Breytenbach	Alyssa Pospischil	Michaela Teuma	Hayden Willingham
Ysobel Chalice			

Tia Cross
Clélia Davies
Annalise Della-Libera
Tia Foley
Ellen Glasson
Xavier Gonzalez
Jack Graham
Isabel Hill
Jeremy Hodges
Jenna Jones
Alana Kenn
Eliza Keogh
Elizabeth Kerkham
Erin Kilner
Bridie Knibbs
Christian Lia
Scarlett Lia
Alison Lovric
Evey McLaren
Andrew Moran



Italian Forum

This term the children in Year 6 have learnt how to make Italian bread as part of the cultural component of their Italian studies. For anyone who may like to try making it themselves, here is our recipe for Italian pane or bread. **Jenni Wurf, Teacher of Italian**

Pane Italiano (Italian Bread)

Ingredients

750g Plain Flour
1-2 teaspoons salt
4 tablespoons oil
2 tablespoons dry yeast

Method

1. Line trays with baking paper
2. Put the yeast in a bowl first, then add the flour, salt, oil and water
3. Mix in bowl until it forms dough
4. Knead on bench for 5-10 minutes
5. Cut into balls or form a loaf, then place on baking tray and cover with a tea towel until double in size.
6. Place in preheated oven at 210°C for 10-15 minutes (10 for rolls, 15 minutes for a loaf).

Student Sporting Success

Congratulations to Jenna Jones (6C) who went to Adelaide last week to compete in the Australian School National Swimming Championships. Through dedication and hard work Jenna came away with 5 Gold and 5 Silver Medals. Jenna broke 5 Australian National Records and 4 Australian School Records. Well done Jenna on a wonderful achievement!

Uniform Changeover

Our official changeover from winter to summer uniform is at the start of Term 4. Please refer to the Parent Handbook for uniform details. Summer uniform is worn in Terms 1 & 4 and winter uniform is worn in Terms 2 & 3.

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Indie Gems Film Festival

Congratulations to Annalise Della Libera & Jemma Tomas who last Saturday were awarded 2nd place in this film competition held in conjunction with the Indie Film Festival at Parramatta's Riverside Theatre. The film competition asked school aged students to create a short film on the theme of KINDNESS.



Annalise and Jemma both are members of our school film team. The team operating under the guidance of Berni Sierra and James Costigan have received expert instruction in film-making through the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta Learning Exchange Centre (LEX). Inspired by this experience the students took the initiative to enter this competition. We are very proud of their efforts and extremely happy for their success.

Principal's Morning Tea – correction

We would like to add Charlotte Harris to our last Principal's Morning Tea recipients for her effort with her learning. Charlotte's name was mistakenly left off the list. We apologise for this oversight. Congratulations and well done Charlotte!

Lost Property

The lost property has now been emptied as of today and, thanks to the generous efforts of some kind parents, all clothing items will be washed in the holidays and be placed into our Clothing Pool.



With Gratitude

Thank you to Steve and Matthew Boys from *Walkabout Reptiles* for their generosity last week in capturing a large red-bellied black snake that was sunning itself outside the back of the office building. Due to the bushfires local snake catchers from Wires etc were unavailable. We called on Steve and Matthew to relocate the snake for the safety of all and they responded without hesitation.

Walkabout Reptiles is a local live musical reptile show for schools, children's parties, fetes and special events. More information can be found on www.walkaboutreptiles.com.au.

With the warm weather approaching teachers have instructed all students on snake safety procedures.

DIARY DATES

2013 TERM 4 Week 1	Monday 7 October	LABOUR DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY
	8	STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY – Pupil Free
	Wednesday 9 October	Term 4 Commences for Students 8.30am Staff Briefing
	10	
	11	
Week 2	Monday 14	12.30pm Assembly – K6A presenting 3.40pm Leadership Meeting
	15	Cricket Competition – selected students 3.40pm Staff Meeting
	16	8.30am Staff Briefing Year 2 Excursion to Australiana Pioneer Village
	17	8.30am Staff Prayer
	18	Musica Viva Concerts

COMMUNITY NEWS

Acrobatics and Circus Workshop: Bring some fun, excitement and adventure into your child's school holidays! Our fun time School Holiday Acrobat and Circus Workshop suited to beginners and advanced where children will learn skills in lyra, tissu, trapeze, acrobatics, tricks, tumbling, juggling, plate balancing, hula hoops, performance and so much more. Participants will be taught by qualified experienced instructors in a child safe, fun environment. Come along and meet some fantastic people, get active, learn new skills and have fun! Our workshops are very popular and fill fast so book today to avoid disappointment. Monday 23rd September, 2013. 10am-2.30pm (includes 30 minute break for lunch) \$ 55.00 - includes a Hot Dog and drink for lunch. (Please advise any dietary requirements). All activities are conducted indoors. Wear fitted clothing that is easy to move in, wear sox and joggers and bring lots of water to drink. PAWS Studios, Unit 3/ 92-94 Batt Street, Penrith. Bookings: Phone: 4721 3750. Email pawsstudios@gmail.com

Pinnaroo OOSH & Pupil Free Day: Pinnaroo will be **open for the St Thomas Aquinas Pupil Free Day on Tuesday 8 October**. If you are new to Pinnaroo and would like to book, please phone 4754 1543 or email pinnaroo@bigpond.net.au for enrolment forms.

Sent Home Recently:

- Head Lice notes to Kindergarten and Year 1
- Chicken Pox Alert to Kindergarten (*red*)
- Note to Kindergarten re change to Parish Mass (*pink*)
- Staff Leave Announcement to 1D
- Australiana Pioneer Village Excursion Permission note to Year 2



Scan with your smartphone or tablet for more information.

www.staspringwood.catholic.edu.au

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