

UPDATE

No. 16 Date 21/09/12 Week 10 Term 3

Dear St Thomas Aquinas Families,

Today concludes another full and varied term of learning for our students. One of the definite highlights of this term occurred on Wednesday as we hosted Grandparents Day.

Grandparents Day

It seems that each year the attendance of families to this event increases – this year surpassing all expectations. It was for students, grandparents and families a joy-filled and grace-filled day. A day to honour and give thanks for grandparents as well as a day where grandparents have an opportunity to show love for their children's children or those dear to them.

We commenced the occasion with a special school assembly led by the students featuring scripture, music and prayer. This was followed by a shared picnic and some time for families to visit classrooms.

We were blessed with beautiful weather that made the day such a pleasant and inspiring scene to witness. It was a great sight looking over the school grounds seeing multitudes spread out on picnic blankets simply enjoying the moment together.

On behalf of the students and staff of St Thomas Aquinas, I extend our sincere gratitude to all who were able to attend and be part of this day and to the many who made it possible. (We will include photos of this great day in our next Newsletter).

St Columba's Year 12 Graduation Mass & Presentation

On Wednesday evening I had the great privilege to attend this Mass and ceremony. It was moving to see and hear such fine young men and women as they come to the end of their school education. Many of this cohort were part of the STA Year 6 Graduating Class of 2007. It was also a reminder that education and formation is a life-long journey. Congratulations to the graduating Year 12 Class of 2012, their families and to Mrs Horan and the dedicated staff of St Columba's for a job well-done.

Wakakirri

Tonight approximately 80 of our students will be participating in the grand final of the Wakakirri story dance competition at the Hills Entertainment Centre. This has been a wonderful growing experience for these children and the dedicated teachers and parents who have loyally supported them along the way. We wish them well for this last performance and know that they will represent themselves and our school community with distinction.

I leave you this week with some quotes about grandparents read by our students during Wednesday's assembly.

Have a safe holiday break. See you back in Term 4!

Rosato

Sergio Rosato
Principal

*What children need most are the essentials that grandparents provide in abundance: unconditional love, kindness, patience, humour, comfort, lessons in life. **Rudolph Giuliani***

*One of the most powerful handclasps is that of a new grandbaby around the finger of a grandfather. **Joy Hargrove***

*Grandparents are there to help the child get into mischief they haven't thought of yet. **Gene Perret***

*An hour with your grandchildren can make you feel young again. Anything longer than that, and you start to age quickly. **Gene Perret***

*Grandchildren are God's way of compensating us for growing old. **Mary H Waldrip***

*If nothing is going well, call your grandmother. **Italian Proverb***

*I don't intentionally spoil my grandkids. It's just that correcting them often takes more energy than I have left. **Gene Perret***

Great Literacy News – Student Initiative

Recently two of our students in Year 6, Libby and Kate Wakeling, entered a competition (their own initiative) for Literacy and Numeracy Week and won a 12-month subscription for our school to a website called Literacy Planet. It is a most worthwhile and engaging student and teacher resource. We thank Libby and Kate for their initiative and foresight in entering this competition and making this resource possible for students at our school. NB: Their younger brother, Patrick in Year 3, also won a literacy resource collection for his class!

love one another



ST THOMAS AQUINAS NEWS

a: 168 Hawkesbury Rd
Springwood 2777
p: 02 4754 2554
f: 02 4754 3562
w: www.staspringwood.catholic.edu.au

Parish Priest:
Father Paul Slyney
p: 02 4754 1052

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!



| | | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Emily Bannister | Alexandria Hinley | Chelsea Micallef | Rebecca Tabor |
| Michelle Bird | Gerard Holman-Lee | Issac Moss | Conna Taylor |
| Makayla Boere | Lachlan Holman-Lee | Jack Murphy | Jemma Tomas |
| Patrick Bourke | Charli Hope | Kiara Nugent | Bowen Vassallo |
| Aliyah Brown | Madison Johns | Brigid O'Brien | Elizabeth Wakeling |
| Charlotte Brown | Isabelle Leet | Gigi Orobello | Matthew Ward |
| Noah Brown | Isabella Ligteringen | Jayda Pangemanan | Lachlan Waters |
| Oliver Clancy | Summer Mabon | Orion Pick | Ellie Watson |
| Brianna Collins | AJ Martinelli-Walsh | Nathan Press | Alayna Williamson |
| Lachlan Conway | Thomas McGrath | Darcy Rafter | Saffi Wilson |
| Francis Dyer | Vincent McLaren | Lachlan Roberts | Sinead Winn |
| Drew Eade | David McMaster | Ariella Smith | Callum Wulff |
| Mischa Evans | Nicholas McMaster | Bailey Solomon | Darian Zunic |
| Nathan Fokes | Bernie Miall | Elizabeth Tabor | |

Student Sporting Success

Congratulations to Ricky Martinello of 5B who recently competed in the MacKillop Athletics Trials for long jump and was selected to compete in the NSW PSSA State Championships. Well done Ricky!

Operation Art Exhibition

Congratulations to Matthew and Ryan from K-6A who have their wonderful paintings exhibited as part of Operation Art. Operation Art is an initiative of the The Children's Hospital at Westmead in association with the NSW Department of Education and Communities. Operation Art provides opportunities for students to demonstrate their achievements in visual arts through a major exhibition which receives widespread publicity and recognition. The works submitted are designed to contribute to a visual environment that helps relieve anxiety for children during hospitalisation.

Winter/Summer Uniform Changeover

Official changeover to summer uniform is the first day of Term 4. Please refer to the Parent Information Handbook for details.



Scan with your smartphone or tablet for more information.
www.stspringwood.catholic.edu.au

DIARY DATES

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| TERM 3 Week 10 | Friday 21 September | Stage 2 Touch Football Competition – selected students Wakakirri Grand Final – selected students Term 3 Concludes |
| 2012 TERM 4 Week 1 | Monday 8 October | Term 4 Commences for students and staff |
| | 9 | 9.05am Coffee & Chat 3.40pm Staff Meeting |
| | 10 | 8.30am Staff Briefing |
| | 11 | 8.30am Staff Prayer |
| | 12 | 9.30am Parish Mass |
| Week 2 | Monday 15 | Milo T20 Cricket NSW State Finals – selected students *NB corrected date |
| | 16 | Diocesan Basketball Competition – selected students |
| | 17 | Bell Shakespeare Performance |
| | 18 | 8.30am Staff Prayer |
| | 19 | Kindergarten Pizza Day |

COMMUNITY NEWS

Adam Crouch Foundation Trivia Night: Saturday 13 October 2012, 7.00pm for 7.30pm start at Springwood Sports Club. Tickets \$40 per person or \$350 per table of 10. Price includes a Fruit & Cheese Platter per table. Cash Bar (No BYO). Monster Raffle drawn on night. Prizes include: 2010 NRL Dragons Premiership Team framed Jersey; 2 x 1 hour Flight Simulator Experiences from VS Jet at The Edge Katoomba for a group of 4 people – valued at \$275; dinner for 2 at Courtney's Brasserie Parramatta – valued at \$100; dinner for 2 at Springwood Sports Club – valued at \$100; Rugby League Coaching Session with Brad Drew; Benji Marshall signed NRL Ball; Johnathan Thurston signed NRL Ball. Tickets available at The Blue Mountains Laser Clinic, Springwood Mall, 12/150 Macquarie Road, Springwood or by contacting Carmel Crouch on 0435 139 194. Join us and help "Save Precious Lives from Drowning".

Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre – This Girl Laughs by Finegan Kruckemeyer: Three girls. Three pathways. One destination. In the tradition of the Brothers Grimm, 'This Girl Laughs, This Girl Cries, This Girl Does Nothing' is a new fairytale for audiences aged 6 and up. Finegan Kruckemeyer is one of Australia's most exciting playwrights and 'This Girl Laughs, This Girl Cries, This Girl Does Nothing' promises to thrill, delight and surprise audiences of all ages. Performances: **Friday 28 September – 10.30am, 1.00pm & 7.00pm; Saturday 29 September – 10.30am & 1.00pm.** Tickets: Single \$20. Bookings phone 4723 7600 or email jspac.com.au at the Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre, 597 High Street, Penrith. For more info go to the website http://www.jspac.com.au/kids-family/this_girl.php

Sent Home Recently:

- Staff Leave Announcement to 2T (purple)
- Diocesan Basketball Permission note – selected students
- Milo T20 Blast Cricket State Final Permission note – selected students
- Grandparents' Day reminder note (pink)
- Letter from Greg Whitby re State Government Proposed Funding Cuts - today

Love one another

