

# NEWSLETTER

No. 9 Date 17/08/12 Week 5 Term 3

Dear St Thomas Aquinas Families,

## Wakakirri – Performing and Creative Arts Challenge for Schools

On Tuesday evening a large number of our students performed at the Hills Centre as part of this creative arts event. Wakakirri is a national initiative and encourages students to learn through the creation and sharing of stories. Students can tell stories through a range of art mediums, sharing them both live and online. Wakakirri is Australia's largest arts challenge for schools involving over 20,000 students in every state and territory. Our participation this year as part of this challenge was in the live dance/story category.

Our students presented the moving story of Li Cunxin (now living in Australia) one of the most talented ballet stars ever to emerge from China. The inspiring and moving story as depicted in the children's book *The Peasant Prince* begins in a poor village in northern China with a small boy's determination and struggle to follow his dreams of being an internationally renowned dancer.

The performance of this story on Tuesday evening at the Hills Centre was one of exceptional sensitivity and quality. The various elements from set design, costuming, make up, choreography and dramatic direction was of an extremely high calibre. Ultimately it is the way that the children carry themselves and their interpretation of the story that makes it come to life. We can justifiably proud of each and every one of the cast of Wakakirri 2012 for their hard work and passion. On their behalf we are immensely grateful for all involved in this production. Notably, Michelle Nightingale, Karen Bousfield, Bernie Sierra and the many parents who assisted the production team in so many ways. We now look forward to the second performance next week as part of J Rock.

To quote a parent's feedback this week – "..... last night the children did not only represented St Thomas Aquinas well, but the Diocese and Springwood as a community. All should be justly proud of the production!"



## Book Week 2012 – Theme: Champions Read

Book Week is the longest running children's festival in Australia. Each year, many schools and public libraries from all over Australia spend a week celebrating books and Australian authors and illustrators. During this week the students have been discussing and reading books that are based on the theme for this year – Champions Read.

Today our students celebrated this theme by coming dressed as a "Champion". It was great to see the vast array of choices and ideas that the students presented. We had Super heroes, pirates, sports people, authors, we even had Mary, mother of Jesus, St Mary of the Cross MacKillop and God. The children also were able to experience a performance by an actor who presented 'Pick a Peck of Pickled Poems'. These poems were amusing, touching and exciting and gave all the children an opportunity to use their imagination in the context of an important literary form, the poem. Additionally, the children were able to share their favourite book in order to demonstrate that 'Champions Read'.

All students have been voting for their favourite Book Week book and on Monday at the assembly the STA results will be announced together with the Children's Book Council choices.

More information about Book Week including short-listed books can be found at <http://cbca.org.au>

## Vietnam Veterans Day March & Wreath-laying – Sunday 19 August

This Sunday the Mountains community will once again commemorate Vietnam Veterans and Associated Forces Day. Our school has supported this remembrance service loyally for many years and we are proud to do so. The memorial day occurs near the anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan and is a moving reminder of the sacrifice made on our behalf by many past and present service personnel. This year also commemorates the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Australia's involvement in Vietnam.

Students wishing to participate in this service will need to meet Mr Rosato and Mrs Llewellyn at Springwood Fire Station at 10.45am this Sunday. Students who have not returned previously sent home notes can still attend.

*love one another*



ST THOMAS AQUINAS  
NEWS

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Father Paul Slyney  
p: 02 4754 1052

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL – cont'd

### Voice of Youth Speech Competition

This week in their classes our Year 6 students have been presenting speeches on a personal topic of interest. Based on this presentation 4 students from each class will present their speech to the entire year group. From this, 3 students will be chosen to present their speech as part of the combined Blue Mountains Finals to be hosted shortly at our school.

### Deepest Sympathies and Prayers

Please keep Elizabeth Rowe and her family in your prayers. As widely reported, Elizabeth's son James tragically died in a house fire last week. Now working at the Catholic Education Office, Elizabeth served our school community for a number of years as our school counsellor. As a school community we extend our love and deepest sympathies.



### Principals Morning Tea for Effort in Learning

Recently 40 students from across the grades were nominated by their class teachers to attend a special morning tea. As previously mentioned the purpose of this celebration is to acknowledge in some way the consistent and conscientious effort that particular students are making with their learning. It was very impressive to hear students as young as Kindy right through to Year 6 speak so confidently about an area of learning that they had conscientiously worked to improve through focussed effort. Congratulations to the following students:

Grace Abell  
Alice Bauershuit  
Michelle Bird  
Thea Breytenbach  
Simone Cooper  
Finn Cullinane  
Lucinda Cunningham  
Evan Davey  
Lachlan Dempsey  
Benjamin Filla  
Jenna Fisher  
Annabel French  
Harry Gilchrist  
Gala Grahovac  
Alexandria Hinley  
Jude Howe  
Matthew Hurley  
Sophie Kerrison  
Declan Klukow-Leavey  
Ella Laurent  
Bridie Le Breton  
Will McLaren  
Nicholas McMaster

Chelsea Micallef  
Madison Micallef  
Sophia Mindale  
Matthew Nutland  
Thaliya Okladnikov

Gigi Orobello  
Oliver Rizzutti  
Thomas Rizzutti  
Brent Ross  
Ryan Trent

Isabella Trinajstic  
William Turner  
Joshua Williamson  
Benedict Zierholz  
Darian Zunic



Until next time,

*S Rosato*

Sergio Rosato  
Principal

### Reminder:

**Grandparents Day – Wednesday, 19 September 2012**

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

### Mini Vinnies Knitting for Blankets

The Mini Vinnies group in the school has been knitting wool squares at lunch time on Wednesdays for the last term. These squares have been made into rugs and blankets and will be presented to representatives of St Vincent de Paul at the Assembly on Monday in order that they can distribute the blankets to those who need them.

A number of parents and grandparents together with Mrs Toohey & Sr Monica have taught the students how to knit and have assisted with any dropped stitches! Thank you to the families and friends who have helped and donated the wool and needles as well as to the Mini Vinnie students. We know that these rugs will be appreciated by those who need them.



### Premier's Reading Challenge 2012

A reminder that all books need to be entered onto the Premier's Reading Challenge website by 31 August 2012.



## 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!



Justice Barnes	Brittany Engelbrecht	Corey Hutchings	Jack Rowe
Alice Bauerhuit	Jenna Fisher	Alana Kenn	Daniel Salisbury
Makayla Boere	Tyler Frost	Bridie Knibbs	Anastasia Sawyer
Imogen Carvasiglia	Liam Galluzzi	Isabelle Leet	Mayah Shore
Zachary Carvasiglia	Matilda Gauci	Oliver Ligteringen	Lachlan Slatford
Tara Clancy	Loralei Gill	Alison Lovric	Tara Slowey
Ashley Crighton	Charli Goodway	Ainsley Mann	Tahlia Thompson
Tia Cross	Jake Gordon	Bradley McCrea	Kate Wakeling
Luke Crouch	Mathew Hall	Holly McIlveen	Tiarnnah Wanimbo
Claire Dixon	Amy Harvey	Rose Miall	Joshua Waters
Oscar Dodd	Angus Hayden	Emma Pospischil	Madison Williams
Marius Edmonds	Kyle Hodges	Lachlan Roberts	Bonnie Zarb
Samuel Edwards	Eve Hurley		

### Love One Another Awards

Congratulations to Zachary Farley in 5B who received a Love One Another award at this week's School Assembly for living out the school motto. Well done Zachary!



### Italian Forum

This term the children in Year 3 have been learning the Italian words for some "things". These are the words they have learnt:

Il sole	<i>the sun</i>	la sedia	<i>the chair</i>	la palla	<i>the ball</i>
Il cielo	<i>the sky</i>	il tavolo	<i>the table</i>	la casa	<i>the house</i>
il mare	<i>the sea</i>	il legno	<i>the wood</i>	la porta	<i>the door</i>
la luna	<i>the moon</i>	l'albero	<i>the tree</i>	la finestra	<i>the window</i>
il seme	<i>the seed</i>	il frutto	<i>the fruit</i>	il fiore	<i>the flower</i>

**Jenni Wurf, Teacher of Italian**

### Catholic Schools Nepean Zone Athletics Carnival 2012

Last Friday approximately 50 children attended the Nepean Zone Athletics Carnival at Blacktown Olympic Centre. Congratulations to each student selected on this team. Our sincere gratitude also to Robert Mullen, James Costigan & Karen Bousfield for the expert way in which they organised the event on behalf of schools in the Zone. Thank you also to Melissa Slatford, Kate Mackenzie and many parents for their work in marshalling and supervising the team on the day. The students conducted themselves in an exemplary way on the day with many personal best results being achieved across a number of areas of athletics. The STA Team consisted of the following students:

Sarah Arnold	Drew Eade	Daniel Kime	Jackson Potter
Mikhayla Atkins	George Eddy	Isabella Ligteringen	Benjamin Pout
Mackenzie Barglik	Harry Elliott	Isabella Luchetti	Georgie Purcell
Aliyah Brown	Kaitlyn Fischer	Alex Mahns	Nicholas Sirmais
Matthew Cassidy	Jenna Fisher	Richard Martinello	Lachlan Slatford
Michael Christof	Annabel French	Evey McLaren	Ryan Trent
Jack Crouch	Thomas Gawthorne	Katie Moore	Elizabeth Wakeling
Grady De La Harpe	Elena Goudis	Lachlan Morris	Isaac Wardle
Olivia De La Harpe	Gerard Holman-Lee	Jack Morrison	Benjamin Williamson
Annalise Della Libera	Meg Jefferson	Tommy Okladnikov	Callum Wulff
Annah Eade	Jenna Jones	Mitchell Owen	

### IT & Film Purchase

Recently the school purchased new equipment to facilitate student filming projects in the school. The purchased equipment includes new digital camera, shoe & lapel mike, tripod and travel case. The total cost of this IT being \$3400 made possible from some of the proceeds of our Autumn Fair. The filming equipment is available to all students and teachers in the school and is currently being used by Year 5 students supported by James Costigan & Berni Sierra who have received professional training by the Catholic Education Office in film making. This team is being trained as our own school media team who in turn will train other students in these techniques.

### National Schools Swimming Carnival - Jenna Jones

Recently one of our Year 5 students, Jenna Jones, represented the State in the National Swimming Competition held at the Olympic Swimming Centre, Homebush. Jenna's selection for this team is a significant achievement. Her consistent selection as part of this team is also notable. We congratulate Jenna for her outstanding success in the pool and for being such a fine ambassador for our Diocese and School. Listed below are Jenna's remarkable achievements at the meet.

200 IM – Silver Medal	50 Freestyle – Bronze Medal	100 Freestyle – Silver Medal
200 Relay – Gold Medal	100 Backstroke – Silver Medal	200 Freestyle Relay – Gold Medal
200 Freestyle – Gold Medal	50 Breaststroke – Silver Medal	9 by 50 Relay – Silver Medal
50 Fly – Silver Medal	50 Backstroke – Silver Medal	

*love one another*



## Coles Sports Equipment for Schools Program

Thank you to everyone for collecting these vouchers in support of the school. The program has now finished. Any outstanding vouchers can still be sent into the school.

## Book Club

Issue 6 has been sent home with students and is due back to school **no later than Monday 3 September**.

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.



### Raising Exceptional Kids

In the coming newsletters we will be including some information on **Resilience** from Australia's leading parenting expert, Michael Grose (who appeared on Channel 9's The Today Show).

#### Resiliency Robbers

All parents have the best of intentions when raising kids. Wanting what is best for kids can cause parents to make decisions that are not always in their (children's) long-term best interests.

**Resiliency Robber # 2: Make their problem, your problem** – Sometimes parents can take too much responsibility for issues that are really up to children to work out or decide. Here's a clue if you are wondering what I am talking about: a jumper is something a mother puts on her son when she is cold! **Resilience notion # 2: Make their problem, their problem.**

For further information go to [www.parentingideas.com.au](http://www.parentingideas.com.au)

## DIARY DATES

	Sunday 19 August	Vietnam Veterans March - STA students will be participating.
<b>2012</b>  <b>TERM 3</b>  <b>Week 6</b>	<b>Monday 20</b>	12.30pm Assembly – 3CH presenting JRock Performance at the Sydney Entertainment Centre – selected students 3.40pm Leadership Meeting
	<b>21</b>	9.05am Coffee & Chat Netball Gala Day – selected students 3.40pm Staff Meeting
	<b>22</b>	8.30am Staff Briefing Year 2 Excursion to Penrith Lakes
	<b>23</b>	8.30am Staff Prayer Basketball Clinics – Years 3 & 4
	<b>24</b>	9.30am Parish Mass – 1S & 5B attending Diocesan Athletics Carnival Treasure Island Performance at JSPAC – Year 6
	<b>Week 7</b>	<b>Monday 27</b>
<b>28</b>		9.05am Coffee & Chat 3.40pm Staff Meeting
<b>29</b>		8.30am Staff Briefing Voice of Youth (Year 6)
<b>30</b>		8.30am Staff Prayer Basketball Clinics – Years 3 & 4
<b>31</b>		9.30am Parish Mass – K6A & 5/4N attending

## COMMUNITY NEWS

**Australian Red Cross Blood Service – Low Blood Supplies:** The blood service is experiencing a late winter fall in donations. Many people are still feeling the effects of colds, flu and viruses which means they are unable to donate blood. However the hospitals are experiencing an increase in their demand. This has seen recent shortages of our major blood groups. If you are able to help, please roll up your sleeve and donate blood. Call 13 14 95 for more information or visit [donateblood.com.au](http://donateblood.com.au)

**FIFA 5-A-Side Futsal – Indoor Soccer:** Play Futsal – the fastest growing indoor sport! Upcoming competitions are available at Blaxland Basketball Stadium and Katoomba Aquatic Centre commencing in September 2012. **Blaxland: Starting Wednesday 5 September** - Juniors U10-U12, All Age Men; **Starting Friday 7 September** – Minis U6-U8, Juniors U9-U16, All Age Men; **Starting Sunday 9 September** – Minis U6-U8, Women, All Age Men, Mixed, Over 35's. **Katoomba: Starting Thursday 13 September** – Minis U6-U8, Juniors U9-U16; **Starting Wednesday 19 September** – All Age Men. For more information phone (for Blaxland) – Fabio Macerola on 0414 358 346) or (for Katoomba) – Susan Kondek on 0419 434 725 or email [mountainmajik@y7mail.com](mailto:mountainmajik@y7mail.com)

**UWS Penrith Observatory Family Astronomy Night: Black Holes - Saturday 25 August from 7-9pm.** Black holes create so much gravity that not even light can escape, and are some of the mysterious things in the universe. We look at how we know black holes are there and what we know about them. The evening will also include a 3D astronomy movie and stargazing through the University's computerised telescopes. Cost: \$15 adult, \$10 child/concession or \$40 family. Bookings essential. Phone 4736 0135 (Mon, Wed or Thurs) or email [r.mccourt@uws.edu.au](mailto:r.mccourt@uws.edu.au) or visit the website [www.uws.edu.au/observatory](http://www.uws.edu.au/observatory)

### Sent Home Recently:

- Netball Excursion note – selected students
- Paul Kelly Cup Excursion note – selected students
- Yr 5 Bathurst Excursion note
- Yr 6 Treasure Island Excursion note
- Champions Read Book Week note (orange)



Scan with your smartphone or tablet for more information.

[www.staspringwood.catholic.edu.au](http://www.staspringwood.catholic.edu.au)

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