

NEWSLETTER

No. 10 Date 13/08/13 Week 5 Term 3

Dear St Thomas Aquinas Families,

During the first years of life, almost everything a child learns depends on experiences provided by their family - the family is essentially the first school. It is within the family where children are raised and formed as human beings. The parental role in this human formation is directed by love, a love that places itself at the service of children in order to bring out the best in them.

Last Wednesday we celebrated the feast day of Australia's first recognised Saint – *St Mary of the Cross MacKillop*. Her place as a hero of the universal Church and our nation is based on her integrity as a person and her practical, loving service to the marginalised and poor and particularly to children through education.

Before Mary MacKillop embarked on her mission as a fearless and loving servant of God she was a child. Her childhood was both extraordinary and at times incredibly challenging. Like all parents, her mother and father influenced her formation greatly and not always in the way you might expect.

Mary's father, Alexander, had studied to become a priest, but before ordination had an argument with the leader of the religious order and never completed his studies. Although he was a very intelligent man he often ran into verbal disputes with others over his beliefs and his unwillingness to back down. This characteristic meant that he wasn't able to keep a steady job and the family was often destitute - relying on the charity of others to survive.

From her father Mary learnt about strength of character and honesty.

Mary's mother, Flora was staunchly supportive of her husband through thick and thin. She forgave him for his tendency to want to help others at all costs – including his own family.

From her mother Mary learnt about loving forgiveness, compassion and forbearance.

Mary's parents, their character and qualities and her experiences as a child influenced her formation profoundly. Her parents were not, by any means, perfect nor was her childhood idyllic. There were plenty of disappointments, struggles and challenges to overcome.

Whatever their shortcomings Mary's mother and father were able to impart lessons with both their strengths and failings. It was through this experience of family that Mary acquired her deep faith, strong resilience and incredible tenacity to overcome adversity.

Ultimately it was Alexander's and Flora's abiding love for their daughter, their compassion for the needs of others, their strong faith as well as the difficulties of her childhood that inspired their daughter to take up her vocation of service. Like Mary's parents, we need to be content in doing our best, knowing that God will bless our best work with his Grace. Mary is a wonderful example of the fruits of this Grace.

Until next time,

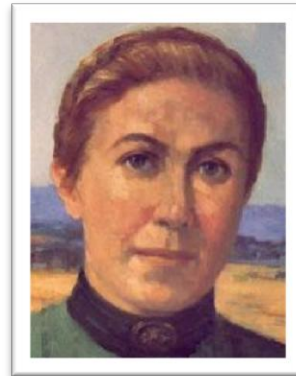
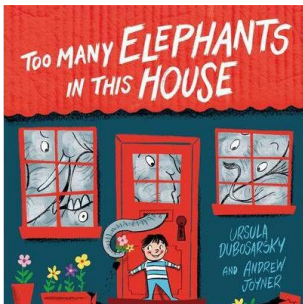
Rosato

Sergio Rosato
Principal

READ ACROSS THE UNIVERSE Book Week 2013

Read Across the Universe is the theme for Book Week this year. To celebrate and mark this event we have planned the following events for our students:

- Visit of Indigenous Story-Teller (last Friday 9 August) – all grades
- Special Book Week Performance (Thursday 15 August) – Year 6
- Book Week Assembly (next Monday 19 August) including announcement of winning books and special readers theatre presentation of a short-listed book, *Too Many Elephants in the House* by teachers – all grades



Mary's parents, their character and qualities and her experiences as a child influenced her formation profoundly.



Watch this Space! School Walkathon to be held on Wednesday 4 September. More information & sponsor cards to be sent home shortly.

Love one another



ST THOMAS AQUINAS
NEWS

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Parish Priest:
Father Paul Slyney
p: 02 4754 1052

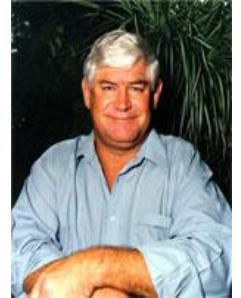
Vietnam Veterans & Associated Forces Memorial Day 2013

Each year to mark the anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan on 18 August 1966, Springwood hosts a Vietnam Veterans March and Wreath-Laying Service. The commemorative service seeks to pay respect and remember those who have served in any post World War II theatre of war, special operations area, or peacekeeping operation.



During Sunday's service, held at the Springwood War Memorial, Lt. Col (retired) Gary McKay MC spoke about the Battle of Long Tan where 108 ANZAC soldiers came up against a Viet Cong force estimated between 1500 and 2500. The battle, which took place in a rubber plantation during a heavy thunderstorm, was one of the heaviest conflicts of the Vietnam War as well as one of the few battles in recorded history to be won against such odds. Lt. Col McKay, a veteran of the Vietnam War himself, and the author of a number of books on the conflict, spoke eloquently about the terrible cost of warfare not only on the military personnel but also on the civilian population.

The service on Sunday was attended by a number of our students who joined with veterans and other community groups to pray for and honour the selfless service of all those who made the ultimate sacrifice and to the families that have been affected by war. Our gratitude is extended to the following students and to their families for enabling them to attend and represent our school community with such distinction and reverence. Thank you also to James Costigan and Maria Dodd for their supervision and care of the students during the service.



The students who represented the school at the March and Wreath Laying Service were:

Sarah Arnold (6L)
Grace Costigan (1D)
Patrick Costigan (4N)
Oscar Dodd (6/5M)
Summer Harrison (KM)
Benjamin Hinley (1H)

Ned Lawlor (6C)
Bridget Lloyd-Williams (3CH)
Veronica Lloyd-Williams (KL)
Aemon Marshall (3CH)
Patrick Moore (2S)
Alyssa Pospischil (4/3 C)

Emma Pospischil (2W)
Jacob Pospischil (KM)
Lorraine Santos (1D)
Darian Zunic (2W)
Goran Zunic (4N)



Liturgy for St Mary of the Cross MacKillop - Thursday 8 August

As previously mentioned on Thursday we celebrated the inspired life of our own Aussie saint – St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. St Mary's life exemplifies that Christian love and charity is above all lived out in practical action towards others. Through prayer, music and audio-visual reflection the liturgy served to show some of the qualities that made St Mary MacKillop stand out as such a unique person.

For our school community the feast of St Mary MacKillop also serves to acknowledge her wonderful educational legacy. It was directly through her instigation that the Sisters of St Joseph established St Thomas Aquinas Springwood in 1921. Her determination that every Australian child should receive a quality education, no matter what their economic position, was one of her life's missions. Our school, like so many others established by the Josephite order, owes an incredible debt of gratitude to her for this work.

Thank you to our Religious Coordinator, Coley White for his dedication in preparing for this important celebration to take place.

During the Liturgy our students read a number of quotes by St Mary MacKillop that exemplify her faith and wisdom:

- ❖ We must teach more by example than by word. MM 1867
- ❖ Never see a need without doing something about it. MM 1867
- ❖ Believe the whisperings of God to your own heart. MM 1868
- ❖ There where you are you will find God. MM 1871
- ❖ Be calm and full of hope. MM 1871
- ❖ All will be right with time and a little patience. MM 1873
- ❖ Let us thank God we are as we are. MM 1874
- ❖ Find happiness in making others happy. MM 1889
- ❖ Have courage no matter what your crosses are. MM 1890
- ❖ If we have love in our hearts, we shall have God with us. MM 1890
- ❖ Seek first the poorest and most neglected parts of God's vineyard. MM 1900



Autumn Fair Craft Group

In preparation for next year's Autumn Fair, the craft group are currently meeting each Friday at the school from 9.20am to 11.20am. These dedicated parents and carers are already busy making items for sale at next year's Fair. If you have a talent in this area please feel free to join this group - all are most welcome.

ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

Student Awards

Congratulations to the following students, who received Merit Awards at either Week 3's or Week 4's School Assemblies. Well done on your efforts everyone - keep up the good work!



Week 3

Laura Anderson	Samuel Edwards	Kayla Hurley	Lachlan Morris
Gabriel Bagatella	Daniel Elliott	Molly Jones	Keiran Murphy
Alice Bauerhuit	Jade Fiala	Peter Koulouris	Liam Murphy
Mollie Bauerhuit	Zachary Filla	Lachlan Leehy	Adrian Perez-Eaton
Lauren Beaton	Tyler Frost	Christian Lia	Ryan Perryman
Maxwell Blandin de Chalain	Zachary Gonzalez	James Lin-Green	Cameron Purcell
Sophie Camilleri	Luca Goudis	Veronica Lloyd-Williams	Mark Rubelj
Cameron Cassidy	Filip Grus	Eamonn Luchetti	Riley Sophokleous
Mia Cini	Jarrold Hackney	Ainsley Mann	Steffani Sroczyński
Tara Clancy	Ryan Hanrahan	Bradley McCrea	Isabella Stewart
Lucas Claudino	Amy Harvey	Lachlan McGrath	Jackson Williams
Patrick Dawson	Harry Hicks	Holly McIlveen	Matilda Worrall
Claire Dixon	Isabel Hill	Julia McIlveen	Laurence Wynne-Jones

Week 4

Oliver Alves-Jones	Kate Crook	Madison Johns	Noah Samoluk
Larissa An U	Britney Dorman	Sean Konwerski	Flynn Shiels
Emily Anderson	Texas Down	Benjamin Lewsley	Amelia Synnott
Riley Barglik	Marius Edmonds	Izabelle Lockley	Rebecca Tabor
Keegan Breytenbach	Gabriel Esquivel	Amber Lovric	Isabella Trincjstic
Charlotte Burke	Jake Gordon	Genevieve Miruzzi	Gabriel Valle
Lillian Burke	Lucy Hall	Maddison Newbold	Ellie Watson
David Cant	Kate Harrison	Annie Oliver	Georgia Weston
Ferris Carey	Angus Hayden	Mitchell Owen	Jesse Wiggins
Marlowe Carey	Audrey Hodgins	Orion Pick	Hayden Willingham
Lucas Collins	William Hurley	Taleah Rust	Saffi Wilson
Patrick Costigan			



Italian Forum

This term the children in Years 1-6 are learning a number of Italian phrases that can be used in conversation. Below are the phrases being learnt by the children in Year 1. These phrases are also being learnt by the older children, along with the addition of many others.

Ciao!	Hi/Bye!	Come ti chiami?	What is your name?
Buon giorno!	Good Day!	Mi chiamo . . .	My name is . . .
Buona sera!	Good Evening!	E tu?	And you?
Buona notte!	Good Night!	Piacere	Pleasure to meet you.
Arrivederci!	Goodbye!	Il piacere è mio.	The pleasure is mine.
ArrivederLa!	Goodbye! (formal)		

Jenni Wurf, Teacher of Italian

CREATIVE ARTS NEWS

Penrith Eisteddfod – Senior Choir

We wish our senior choir all the very best for this coming Thursday, 15 August, as they participate in the Penrith Eisteddfod. Thank you to Viv Llewellyn for his dedicated preparation of the students for this event.

School Ensemble

Members of our ensemble will be joining with ensemble members from St Columba's this Thursday at the High School. Once again we thank Viv Llewellyn and St Columba's music teacher, Emma Nicolson, for their dedication. Congratulations to these students for their perseverance and commitment. Members of the ensemble were able to play the Australian National Anthem at our School Assembly yesterday. It was a wonderful rendition and will be continued at future assemblies.

Nepean Zone Athletics Carnival

Last Friday, 9 August, 46 students from St Thomas Aquinas participated in the Nepean Zone Athletics Carnival at Blacktown Olympic Centre. It was a beautiful day to be outdoors representing the school. Our students were exceptionally well-behaved on the day, participated enthusiastically and displayed great sportsmanship and manners as well as encouraging others and did themselves and the school proud. Of the students who were successful on the day Georgie Purcell achieved 1st place in the Jnr Girls age group; Ricky Martinello was runner-up in the Snr Boys and Jenna Jones was runner-up in the Snr Girls. The following students will now progress onto Diocesan:



Olivia De La Harpe	Lara Gordon	Evey McLaren	Cooper Sellinger
Annalise Della-Libera	Jenna Jones	Mitchell Owen	Isaac Wardle
Eve Fowler	Chiara Major	Zoe Peters	Benjamin Williamson
Annabel French	Ricky Martinello	Georgie Purcell	Callum Wulff

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Numeracy Warm-up of the Week

Week 5 - Array Busting Cover-up

Use a sheet of dots and cover a smaller section of the array with a piece of paper. Ask a partner how many dots are hidden. The partner has to work it out and explain their thinking. Each student scores a point for every one answered correctly.

Questions

- How did you know?
- Prove it to me?
- Is there a faster way?

Adaptations

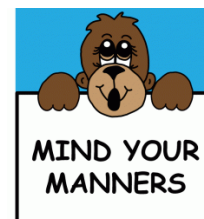
- Make dots smaller or larger
- Use pictures other than dots
- Record a number sentence to represent this array

Student Representative Council – Manner of the Week

The Proper Way to Greet People

Last week at our school assembly members of the SRC demonstrated the skill of how to greet people properly.

1. Stop and look at the person.
2. Say "Good morning/Good afternoon" and be sure to use their name e.g. Good morning Mr Costigan, Good afternoon Mrs Bamford.
3. We can also shake hands when greeting the person if this appropriate.



PARISH NEWS

All families are invited to note in their diaries and calendars the **Celebrate and Connect Event** on Sunday 8 September from 11.00am. This whole-of-parish event will be at the Bishop Manning Learning Centre at St Thomas' Primary School. Entertainment and music, and a free BBQ will be provided. You are asked to invite others to attend this event which marks the conclusion of the first phase of the Welcoming Program. If you haven't been part of the parish scene for a while this is the chance to find out what is happening.

DIARY DATES

2013 TERM 3 Week 5	Monday 12 August	12.30pm Assembly – 1R presenting 3.40pm Leadership Meeting
	13	9.05am Coffee & Chat Stage 2 Basketball Clinics 2.20pm Reconciliation – 6L *(to be rescheduled) 3.40pm Staff Meeting
	14	8.30am Staff Briefing 9.30am Parish Mass – Year 3 & K6A attending Principal's Morning Tea – selected students 1.30pm Band Ensemble to St Columba's
	15	Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary 8.30am Staff Prayer Book Week Performance at Riverside Theatre – selected Stage 3 students 12.30pm Senior Choir to Penrith Eisteddfod
	16	
Week 6	Monday 19 August	12.30pm Assembly – Book Week 3.40pm Leadership Meeting
	20	9.05am Coffee & Chat Diocesan Netball Gala Day – selected students Stage 2 Basketball Clinics 2.20pm Reconciliation – 5SW 3.40pm Staff Meeting
	21	8.30am Staff Briefing 9.30am Parish Mass – Year 4 & 4/3C attending
	22	8.30am Staff Prayer
	23	Diocesan Athletics Carnival – selected students

COMMUNITY NEWS

Managing Reduced Finances: Each year CatholicCare Solo Parent Ministry offers an Information night for anyone interested in gaining a greater understanding on how to manage on reduced finances. This seminar will cover things like Tracking your spending, Money plans, Prioritising your finances and how to make your money work for you. There will be brochures on No Interest Loans, Fridge Buy Backs, Centrelink etc. This night is being held on Wednesday 14 August at 7.30pm at CCSS Centre, 51-58 Allawah St, Blacktown. Guest Speaker: Sharon Yeh (CCSS Financial Counsellor) and Jennifer Saunders (Home Energy Savings Scheme). Further details and registration: soloparentministry@ccss.org.au or Phone 99330205.

Sent Home Recently:

- Religious Literacy Assessment note to Year 4 & Year 6 (blue)
- STA Youth Group note to Year 6
- Staff Leave Announcement to 5B
- Penrith Eisteddfod Permission note – selected students
- Mt Annan Botanic Gardens Excursion note to Year 2 (lime green)
- Term 3 Parent Calendar (gold)
- Diocesan Netball Gala Day Permission note – selected students
- Book Week Excursion note to Year 6



Scan with your smartphone or tablet for more information.

www.staspringwood.catholic.edu.au

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