

NEWSLETTER

No. 11 Date 23/08/13 Week 6 Term 3

Dear St Thomas Aquinas Families,

Recently we have been meeting with many families looking to enrol their children into our school for next year. It is always an immense privilege to listen to the aspirations and dreams that parents have for their children and their motivation in seeking to join this Catholic community.

Often what are put forward as reasons for seeking a Catholic-based education is described in terms such as: nurturing, community, faith, values, high expectations, holistic & broad education, care, support, committed teachers, family, service, arts, ritual, environment and relationships.

What is often being described in this language are not simply words but a reality to be lived. This reality is based on children being educated as part of a community where Christ is encountered each day through kindness, forgiveness, love, patience, hospitality, compassion and service.

As Pope Francis recently put it:

We need saints without cassocks, without veils – we need saints with jeans and tennis shoes.

We need saints who go to the movies, who listen to music, that hang out with their friends.

We need saints who place God in first place ahead of succeeding in any career.

We need saints who look for time to pray every day and who know how to be in love with purity, chastity and all good things.

We need saints – saints for the 21st century with a spirituality appropriate to our new time.

We need saints who have a commitment to helping the poor and to make the needed social change.

We need saints to live in the world, to sanctify the world and to not be afraid of living in the world by their presence in it.

We need saints who drink Coca-Cola, who eat hot dogs, who surf the internet and who listen to their iPods.

We need saints who love the Eucharist, who are not afraid or embarrassed to eat a pizza or drink a beer with their friends.

We need saints who love the movies, dance, sports, and theatre.

We need saints who are open, sociable, normal, happy companions.

We need saints who are in this world and who know how to enjoy the best in this world without being callous or mundane.

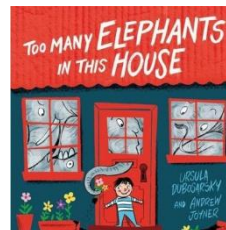
Our collective job is to help form these kinds of saints.

Until next time,

Rosato

Sergio Rosato
Principal

**READ ACROSS THE UNIVERSE
Book Week 2013**



During Monday's School Assembly we featured both the winners of Children's Book Council short-listed books for this year and the results of our students' preferred book.

During the Assembly Staff presented a retelling of the students' popular choice of book – *Too Many Elephants in this House*. The Readers Theatre performance by the teachers of this wonderful book was thoroughly enjoyed by the children.

Thank you to Karen Bousfield and Avril Llewellyn for their coordination of this play and promoting and highlighting quality literature to the students.

Category	CBC Winner	School Winner
Early Childhood	<i>The Terrible Suitcase</i> by Emma Allen and Freya Blackwood	<i>Too Many Elephants</i> by Ursula Dubosarsky
Picture Book	<i>The Coat</i> by Julie Hunt and Ron Brooks	<i>The Coat</i>

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**ST THOMAS AQUINAS
NEWS**

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STA Walkathon 2013 – Launched

The St Thomas Aquinas School Walkathon was officially launched at our Assembly on Monday to the sounds of our Walkathon theme music of Fats Domino's – *I'm Walkin'*. The Walkathon will be held on **Thursday 4 September commencing at 9.15am** starting from school on a course that loops around Winmalee.

This venture promises to be not only an important fundraiser, but also an exciting community-building event. All students are able to participate and contribute to the goal of raising funds to purchase further technology resources for use in the classroom. These include specific items such as electronic whiteboards & ultra short-throw data projectors in learning spaces.

There are some excellent prizes available for students such as an Apple iPad for the individual student who raises the most funds. Other incentive prizes will include a range of items, gift vouchers for each grade and a special class lunch with the Principal for the class that raises the most funds.

Today we held a short assembly to encourage all students to participate in whatever way they can. Sponsorship cards and information were sent home last week. Extra sponsorship cards can be obtained from the office on request.

In order to achieve our goal of \$25,000 we need to have every family working together to make the Walkathon a resounding success. To do this we require volunteers to assist in various areas such as:

- Walking with classes (assisting teachers with student supervision on the walk).
- Water stations
- Barbeque
- Traffic and Safety

Parents and carers can volunteer by booking online at:

✓ <http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au>

✓ Event Code: **BHMK3**

We need your good-will and help to make our STA Walkathon 2013 a great success!

Principal's Morning Tea for Effort in Learning

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



Eve Fowler
Audrey Gauci
Thomas Gawthorne
Jake Gordon
Charlotte Harris
Finn Hartley
Chiara Hill
Lachlan Holman-Lee
Charli Hope
Katelyn Jones
Levi Kirkpatrick
Odette Laurent
Eamonn Luchetti
Sophia Minale
Gela Moss
Natasha Nightingale
Nathan Press
Sahara Rodemark

Noah Samoluk
Lucas Sawyer
Oscar Scanlon
Blake Sibbald

Ariella Smith
Millie Ticehurst
Jemma Tomas
Madisyn Treble

Mia Watson
Alayna Williamson
Matilda Worrall
Aidan Wynne-Jones



Numeracy Warm-up of the Week

Week 6 – Salute Card Game

In groups of 3 use cards 2 to 10. Deal one card each, face down. When the dealer says 'salute' each player raises the card to their head. The dealer states the total of the cards. The player has to determine the value of their card by looking at the other person's card.

Questions

- How did you work that out?
- Was there a more efficient way of working that out?
- Which strategy did you use?
- Explain your thinking to me.

Adaptations

For older students the dealer can look at the colour of the Cards. If the colours are the same, the dealer can add and if the colours are different, the dealer can multiply. The dealer must state that this is being done. Each person can be given 2 cards and once the cards have been looked at, each player can go and record the different solutions.

Penrith Eisteddfod – Senior Choir

Congratulations to our senior choir for their wonderful achievement last Thursday in the Penrith Eisteddfod. The choir was awarded 1st place in the Welsh Song Section performing *Lazy Robin*, sung in Welsh and *Diddle Diddle Dumpling*, sung in English. With a score of 92 marks the adjudicator praised the performance with comments such as "Very good Welsh language, diction, sweet sound, good sense of the style and rhythm of the song, very good intonation".

Thank you to Viv Llewellyn for his dedicated preparation of the students and also to Jesse Cunniffe who was the accompanist both during the rehearsals and performance. Well done to you all!

ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

Student Awards

Congratulations to the following students, who received Merit Awards at either Week 5's or Week 6's School Assemblies. Well done on your efforts everyone - keep up the good work!



Week 5

Luke Arnold	Caitlin Graham	Anikka Millar	Blake Sibbald
Patrick Bourke	Charlotte Harris	Sophie Milsom	Riley Thompson 2S
Jasmine Clancy	Bradley Hickey	Olivia Morrissey	Riley Thompson 6/5M
Grace Costigan	James Hinchliff	Issac Moss	Thalia Thompso
Lucinda Cunningham	Connor Hume	Paige Noonan-Michels	Antonio Todarello
Mitchell Cunningham	Alana Kenn	Abby Oag	Kane Walton
Lachlan Dempsey	Hayley Kime	Annie Oliver	Isaac Wardle
Alison Edwards	Lachlan Lloyd	Georgie Purcell	Mia Watson
Audrey Ellem	Alison Lovric	Mia Rodemark	Darcy Weston
Mason Evans	William McLaren	Larraine Santos	Madison Williams
Lachlan Golby	Madison Micallef	Anastasia Sawyer	Lachlan Williamson

Week 6

Isaac Bailey	Liam Galluzzi	Talyka Kime	Wilkin Payens
Caleb Blick	Harry Gilchrist	Danielle Leehy	Bronagh Pell
Ayla Bogg	Lara Gordon	Prudence Lia	Luca Penserini
Thea Breytenbach	Lucy Hall	Scarlett Lia	Emily Porter
Olivia Byrnes	Leia Hermosa	Oliver Ligteringen	Cooper Potter
Zachary Carvasiglia	Liam Hicks	Emma Lowe	Siobhan Rafter
Ashley Crighton	Jeremy Hodges	Finn McCaffery	Sophie Rayner
Tia Cross	Isaac Hutchinson	Ashton McLeod	Jayden Rook
Jacob Danks	Daniel Isaac	Bernie Miall	Lilli Thompson
Isabel Dyer	Jenna Jones	Natasha Nightingale	Jemma Tomas
Sienna Evans	Ebony Kent	Billie Papatotiriou	Clare Williamson
Chloe Galluzzi			

Love One Another Awards

Congratulations to Sam Edwards (5B), Caely Waters (6C), Carla Adamson (6C), Isabel Dyer (6L), Isabella Luchetti (6L) and Hannah Ward (6C) who received Love One Another Awards recently at our School Assembly for living out the school motto. Well done to you all.

Voice of Youth Speech Competition

On Wednesday 8 students from Year 6 presented their speeches to their peers as part of this long-standing Diocesan Competition. Each of the students presented speeches of both substance and intellectual quality conveying their opinions, stories and ideas with passion and conviction. All in attendance were extremely proud of these students as representatives of their year group. Congratulations to the following students for your work and dedication:

- Eve Fowler – *Bermuda Triangle*
- Max Peters – *Hyper Inflation*
- Chiara Major - *Support*
- Rachel Henson – *Her Brother and Autism*
- Julia McIlveen – *Dreams*
- Astrid Sarazen – *Ghosts*
- Oscar Dodd – *Refugees*
- Ben Lewsley – *The Stolen Generation*

We congratulate Max Peters, Rachel Henson and Oscar Dodd who will represent STA at the Blue Mountains Zone VOY Final next Friday in our school hall. Congratulations also to each student from Year 6 who presented a short speech to their class as part of this learning experience.

Premiers' Reading Challenge 2013

A reminder that this **closes today!** Please make sure that you have checked and updated all details on the system.



Book Club

Students have been given the second book club magazine for Term 3 (Issue 6). **All orders must be returned by Monday 2 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.

Student Achievement

Congratulations to Shyelo Malim-Martinez (1R) on her recent success at the Penrith City Eisteddfod Drama & Speech competition. Shyelo was awarded 1st place with a score of 85/100. It was her first time and she was the youngest performer and first up to perform on the day. Shyelo also recently participated in the KidXpress dance challenge at the State Sports Centre in Homebush. She participated in the Solo Eliminations and was a finalist out of over 100 children. Well done Shyelo!

Lost Property

Please check the lost property box if your child has lost any items at the school recently. Currently, the box is overflowing – particularly with jumpers and jackets. Please remember to mark all of your child's items clearly with their name. Also, some smaller items such as jewellery and small toys have been handed in to the office.



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FOR YOUR INFORMATION

St Thomas Aquinas Parish – Celebrate and Connect Sunday

The Parish will be hosting this special celebration of our local faith community after 9.45am Mass on **Sunday 8 September** at the School Hall (Bishop Manning Learning Centre) and grounds. The celebrations will consist of various entertainment items such as an Irish Band, a Dance Troupe as well as musical contributions from students of St Columba's High School and our own Junior Choir (a note will be sent home shortly for the Junior Choir).

There will be a free barbeque and refreshments for all. Families are asked to bring either a salad or something sweet to share and supply their own cutlery and crockery. Weather permitting it will be a great day for a picnic lunch, so also bring rugs or folding chairs.



My School Lunchbox – Charity Support Drive

My School Lunchbox are supporting "Youth Off The Streets", which is a not-for-profit foundation funding programs to benefit disadvantaged children. The organisation was founded by Father Chris Riley, and has since its establishment in 1991 assisted more than 10,000 disadvantaged young Australians. He achieves this through the distribution of food, allocation of opportunities, the ensuring of their safety and generous amounts of love. But this would not be possible without the support of people such as ourselves.

So, **My School Lunchbox is now donating \$1 from every Muffin purchased** to Youth Off The Streets program. **So please order a muffin today and lets all help support these disadvantaged Australian children.**

For further information visit the website: www.myschoollunchbox.com.au

DIARY DATES

2013 TERM 3 Week 7	Monday 26 August	12.30pm Assembly 3.40pm Leadership Meeting
	27	9.05am Coffee & Chat Year 2 Excursion to Mt Annan Botanical Gardens 3.40pm Staff Meeting
	28	8.30am Staff Briefing 9.30am Parish Mass – Year 5 attending
	29	8.30am Staff Prayer
	30	9.30am Voice of Youth – in Hall
Week 8	Monday 2 September	12.30pm Assembly – 1D presenting 3.40pm Leadership Meeting
	3	9.05am Coffee & Chat 3.40pm Staff Meeting
	4	School Walkathon
	5	8.30am Staff Prayer
	6	Stage 2 Touch Football – selected students

COMMUNITY NEWS

Springwood & District Preschool Kindergarten Open Day: Saturday 31 August from 10.00am to 1.00pm. This is a chance to meet the staff and ask any questions you may have. Offers of enrolment will take place after the open day. There will be a cake stall, BBQ, face painting, jumping castle and a reptile show. Come along and enjoy the day; it's always great! For further information phone 4751 3360 or email: admin@springwoodpreschool.org.au or visit the website: www.springwoodpreschool.org.au.

A Wine Tasting Benefit Evening for Kaitlyn Scott: Kaitlyn is a 7 year old student at Ellison Public School who is suffering a severe illness. The wine tasting will be held by **St Finbar's Church Community** this Saturday evening, **24 August**, in their **Parish Hall, Levy Street, Glenbrook**, commencing at **7.30pm**. Wines for tasting and purchase will be from Calabria Wines of Griffith and tickets at the door are \$10 per person. Plenty of wines, plenty of food and plenty of fun, all to support a lovely and vibrant young mountains lass who needs some help. Please join the community and support this family with your active presence. Enquiries can be made to Geoff Shalala on 4739-4105.

Springwood Cricket Club 2013-2014 Registrations - Celebrating 120 Years Of Cricket: The 2013-2014 cricket season is just around the corner and Springwood Cricket Club is looking for more **7, 8 and 9 year old boys and girls** to play. Simply go to the Club website at www.springwoodcc.com.au and open the Documents/Administration menu where you'll find the junior registration forms. For more information please call Matt Rogers on 0412 289 645 during business hours.

Springwood District Athletics Club 2013/2014 Registration: Athletics is a sport that is fun for all the family, a great way to stay fit in the off-season for footballers and netball players, a great way to meet like-minded people in a supportive environment. Registration is open to all ages – from tiny tots to over 100! **Registration dates: Saturday 31 August, 1pm – 4pm at Winmalee Shopping Centre, Sunday 8 September, 10am – 2pm at Tom Hunter Park, Faulconbridge and Saturday 14 September, 9am – 12pm at Winmalee Village Shopping Centre.** New athletes please bring your birth certificate. No eftpos facilities available on the day - cheque or cash only accepted. For further information contact Ben Chesterman on 4758 7560 or Tammy Lewer on 4754 2173 or visit the website: <http://www.springwoodathletics.org/>

Sent Home Recently:

- Staff Leave Announcement to 5SW (*salmon*)
- Staff Leave Announcement to KB (*pink*)
- Head Lice notes to Year 4 & Year 6 (*salmon*)
- Hazelbrook Bus Route Changes note – selected students
- Design & Make note to Year 1 (*blue*)
- KM Assembly Postponement note



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

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