

NEWSLETTER

No. 10 Date 31/08/12 Week 7 Term 3

Dear St Thomas Aquinas Families,

Facilitating high quality and holistic learning opportunities for students in our care is one of our central responsibilities as educators. During the past week I have been conscious of the array of learning opportunities that serve to motivate, engage and inspire children to become active learners. Listed below are just some of these activities from the past couple of weeks that supplement and work to enhance the core learning that students have undertaken.

- The Voice of Youth Speech Competition Finals
- Diocesan Sports Carnival
- Year 2 Excursion to Penrith Lakes
- Year 6 Excursion to Treasure Island Performance at the JSPAC, Penrith
- Junior Rock Eisteddfod (J Rock) Performance at the Entertainment Centre
- Penrith Netball Gala Day
- Basketball Clinics (Years 3 & 4)
- Seasons for Growth Program
- School Drama Project (recommenced) with Year 5
- Year 4 students working on the Diocesan Wide Religious Literacy Assessment
- School Movie Making Team involved in further training facilitated by STA teachers and CEO specialist
- School Choir
- School Brass Band

These pursuits open up possibilities for learning in vastly different ways by providing avenues for children to use and develop their interests and talents. Being engaged in activities where passion and aptitude come together makes for the very pinnacle of quality learning. As Bishop Anthony Fisher recently said, our responsibility is to help **form young people of principle, purpose and passion**. This formation vocation that we all share is ultimately so that our children build up the necessary spiritual, intellectual and social foundations to ground them in the world as truly human.

Father's Day

This Sunday we celebrate Father's Day - a day when we honour all fathers, grandfathers and father figures. It's a day when we pray for our dads and give thanks to God for the preciousness of their lives. In a special way we pray for those who have lost fathers recently and who will miss their dads profoundly at this time.



Over the last few weeks a generous team of parents have initiated and worked tirelessly on collecting and making special coffee mug and treat gifts. These gifts were made available for students to buy today. On behalf of our school community I would like to thank most sincerely these parents for their generosity of time and spirit in helping to assemble and wrap the mug gift sets. Thank you also to those who



assisted today with student purchases and especially to all families who were able to donate coffee mugs for this cause.

Wishing all a Happy Father's Day this Sunday – God bless all fathers.

Until next time,

S. Rosato

Sergio Rosato
Principal

Voice of Youth Speech Competition 2012

On Wednesday our Year 6 students joined with student speakers from St Canice's Katoomba, Our Lady of the Nativity, Lawson and St Finbars, Glenbrook for this annual speech competition hosted this year by our school. Our student speakers were Simone Cooper, Nicholas McMaster & Laura Jelovic. We can be extremely proud of each of our students for their eloquence, passion and subject matter. Each presented speeches of substance and quality and achieved their objective of informing, persuading or entertaining. Congratulations to Nicholas, Laura and Simone on their superb efforts. Simone Cooper was also awarded the best speech in the Social Justice Category on the day.

The Speeches were: **Simone Cooper** – *Asylum Seekers*
Nicholas McMaster – *To be Cool*
Laura Jelovic – *Don't Judge a Book by Its Cover*

Love one another



ST THOMAS AQUINAS
NEWS

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Parish Priest:
Father Paul Slyney
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FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Captivate Drama with Year 5

We are pleased to announce that this very valuable learning experience that Year 5 were involved in with *A Bus Called Heaven* in the first part of this year, will continue until the end of the year but with a different book as the basis for learning.

The actor who will be working with the Year 5 students, Lucinda Amour wrote:

"We are currently using the text *Marshall Armstrong is New to Our School*. The story is ideal in that its themes are difference, tolerance and acceptance set in a school environment with the arrival of a new boy, who is (at first) seen to not fit in. Last semester focused on literacy through drama with the school, this semester will focus on performance making. On that journey we will continue to work on literacy ideas and address the storyline across various learning areas including pastoral care. I will primarily focus on working with all students towards an end of Term 4 performance on Monday 10 December for the whole of the school and parents."

Additionally, Lucinda will be taking drama sessions with all classes over the next weeks. Dr Miranda Jefferson from Sydney University will also be attending the drama sessions to consider the effect of drama on literacy learning.

This initiative has been made possible through the Parramatta Diocese Catholic Education Office, Creative Arts program *Captivate*.

Yours sincerely,



Avril Llewellyn
Assistant Principal

Reminder:

Grandparents Day – Wednesday, 19 September 2012

FROM THE REC (Religious Education Coordinator)

Celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Over the past four weeks a significant number of children from our parish have been preparing for their first experience of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Guided by their parents they have been learning about the way in which we, as Catholics, have a ritual celebration of God's love and mercy.



Reconciliation, whilst generally regarded as a private experience, regularly takes place within a communal gathering. This helps to remind us of the social nature of sin - that every sin has implications for the wider community. In addition, when we celebrate Reconciliation with others, we are assisted to call to mind the need to "forgive those who trespass against us" even as we ask God to forgive us our own trespasses.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Parish Website

New Parish Website launched - <http://www.stachurchspringwood.org.au/>. As of today a new Parish web site is available to inform of news, activities and upcoming events in the parish.

Parish Planning Meeting – 4 September 2012

A reminder that The Catholic Diocese of Parramatta's 'Faith in Our Future' team will conduct a Pastoral Planning Consultation at St Thomas Aquinas Springwood Parish on **Tuesday 4 September**. All are encouraged to attend.

Venue: St Thomas Aquinas Primary School Hall (Bishop Manning Learning Centre) **Time:** 7.30pm-9.30pm
168 Hawkesbury Road
Springwood

Gastroenteritis

NSW Health has identified an outbreak of gastroenteritis in NSW. **Primary school-aged children** and people in aged care facilities, hospitals and **child care** are at greatest risk.

Viral gastroenteritis is highly infectious, with symptoms including nausea and diarrhoea.

Director of Health Protection, Dr Jeremy McAnulty states - "It is vital that if you or your family contract gastroenteritis that you stay home from work or keep a child home from school if they are sick."

Good hygiene, especially with children is also essential to avoid contracting the virus by **washing hands thoroughly with soap and running water for at least 10 seconds before handling and eating food, and after visiting the bathroom.**

UCANN PARENT FORUM - Is your child struggling at school?

Join our discussion about assessing children's needs and ways to work together with your school to support your child's learning.

Wednesday 12 September at 7.00pm at St Thomas Aquinas Primary School, 168 Hawkesbury Road, Springwood.

Guest speakers:

- David Hawkins (Clinical Psychologist)
- CEO Staff (Student Services)
- Venessa Ward (ucann parent)

RSVP to one of the following:

- Email: ucann@parra.catholic.edu.au
- SMS 0400 477 046 or
- Facebook.com/UCANN.info



For further information visit www.ucann.info

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!



Alex Bagatella
Noah Barr
Christopher Blattman
Gabrielle Bradley
Keegan Breytenbach
Thea Breytenbach
Reid Clarke
Aden Cullinane
Mischa Damarguc
Elizabeth Duncan

Keith Eddy
Brittany Engelbrecht
Bethany Evans
Charlotte Harris
Chiara Hill
Katelyn Jones
Daniel Kime
Danielle Leehy
Ebony Manning
A J Martinelli-Walsh

Ella Maurer
Kaseko Mgaza
Ryan Nightingale
Callum Northam
Luca Penserini
Oliver Rizzutti
Laura Robertson
Hannah Scanlon
Hayley Scanlon

Conna Taylor
Gabriel Valle
Isabella Valle
Dayne Vassallo
Lily-Rose Verpoorten
Dylan Waddell
Caely Waters
Alfie Williamson
Joshua Williamson

Italian Forum

For the remainder of this term, the children in Years 1-6 will be building upon their knowledge of Italian phrases that can be used in conversation. Below are the phrases being learnt by the children in Year 1.

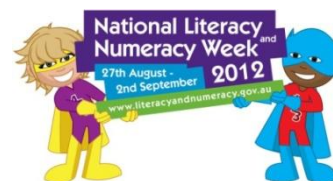


Ciao!	Hi/Bye!	Come ti chiami?	What is your name?
Buon giorno!	Good day!	Mi chiamo...	My name is...
Buona sera!	Good evening!	Et tu?	And you?
Buona notte!	Good night!	Piacere.	Pleasure to meet you.
Arrivederci!	Goodbye!	Il piacere è mio.	The pleasure is all mine.
ArrivederLa!	Goodbye! (formal)		

Jenni Wurf, Teacher of Italian

Literacy and Numeracy Week 2012: 27 August – 2 September

This year, to celebrate this important national event, our school is participating in a program called Share-a-book. This is run by the Australian Literacy and Numeracy Foundation which aims to teach marginalised Australians how to read and write. This year it is specifically asking for books which are suitable for the 0-7years age range.



We would like to ask the students to bring in pre-loved books in reasonable condition from home to donate. Each class will keep a tally of how many books are brought in. Our Mini Vinnies Group will be involved in promoting the event, collecting the books and recording a school tally. We will collect the books until the end of the term. After this they will be delivered to Officeworks, who are providing the transport to areas where the books will be distributed.

K-6A Combined ASPECT Sports Day

On Wednesday K-6A went to their ASPECT combined sports day at the Hockey Fields, Homebush. Schools came from the Hunter region, the South Coast, the Riverina Districts as well as South East Sydney and the West. The students entered into some novelty races as well as the sprint. We had to compete in a War Cry, a march past and the cheering. We all had fun and to add to the fun, we met Guy Sebastian.



Penrith Netball Carnival

Last Tuesday approximately 50 students took part in the Penrith Invitation Netball Gala Day for Parramatta Diocesan Schools, held at Jamison Park Penrith. Six teams were entered and all children played very well on the day and were great ambassadors for our school. Congratulations to the U/9 team who were the big improvers on the day and to the U/10, U/11 & U/12 teams who were all placed either 2nd or 3rd. Special note to the boys team that went through the competition undefeated. Thank you to Geraldine Lohan, Keryne Rosato and Karen Bousfield for coaching and supervising the teams and to the many families who attended the carnival in support.

Treasure Island Performance

Last Friday 24 August, Year 6 and selected Year 5 students went to the Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre to see the story play "Treasure Island" based on the book by Robert Louis Stevenson. The play was done by two actors who had many parts each and it was very entertaining. The play became very interactive in action scenes as the actors were sword-fighting with the front row. The set was also quite multi-functional as guns, windows and puppets came out in certain scenes.

It was a marvellous play and everyone had a great time. Thank you to the theatre company, the Year 6 staff and Mrs Llewellyn for organising the event and taking us along for the show.

By William Harris and Laura Jelovic

Love one another



Diocesan Athletics Carnival

On Friday 24 August, 28 children represented the Nepean Zone team at the Diocesan Athletics Carnival at Blacktown Olympic Park. All students participated well. 13 competitors from St Thomas Aquinas progressed through to the MacKillop trials to be held on 13 September. At this level of competition it is much harder and personal bests were achieved. Thank you to the parents who attended and for transporting and supporting the children on the day. Congratulations to the following students:

Mackenzie Barglik
Olivia De La Harpe
Annah Eade
Drew Eade
George Eddy

Harry Elliott
Kaitlyn Fischer
Meg Jefferson
Jenna Jones

Daniel Kime
Ricky Martinello
Georgie Purcell
Nicholas Sirmais

Robert Mullen, Sports Coordinator

AFL

On Tuesday 21 August, 13 Year 5 & 6 girls participated in the Paul Kelly Cup State Finals. All girls played extremely well to make it to the Final 4. We were placed 3rd overall. A big thank you to the parents for their support and encouragement on the day. **Robert Mullen, Sports Coordinator**

Book Club

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



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.

DIARY DATES

2012 TERM 3 Week 8	Monday 3 September	12.30pm Assembly – 1D presenting 3.40pm Leadership Meeting
	4	9.05am Coffee & Chat Kanga Cricket Regional Finals – selected Year 6 students Year 5 Excursion to Bathurst 3.40pm Staff Meeting 7.30pm Parish Meeting in hall
	5	8.30am Staff Briefing
	6	8.30am Staff Prayer
	7	9.30am Parish Mass – 4O & 4W attending Stage 2 Touch Gala Day
Week 9	Monday 10	12.30pm Assembly – 5S presenting 3.40pm Leadership Meeting
	11	9.05am Coffee & Chat 3.40pm Staff Meeting
	12	8.30am Staff Briefing
	13	8.30am Staff Prayer Principal's Morning Tea
	14	9.30am Parish Mass – Kindergarten attending

COMMUNITY NEWS

Jackeroo Ranch Horse Riding Camps: Located at Bingletree Station in the beautiful Turon Valley (in the Bathurst area) Jackeroo Ranch (established 50 years) is running their popular spring horse riding camps. 1st Week: Saturday 22 September – Saturday 29 September; 2nd Week: Saturday 29 September – Sunday 7 October. Shorter stays are possible if camps are not fully booked. These camps are for 'horse mad' children aged 6 to 16 years. Five to six hours per day are devoted to horse activities including a one hour lesson and three hours trail riding – with tuition still being given. As well, campers are taught grooming, saddling, haltering, catching a horse, safety aspects and many other facets of horsemanship. Catered for beginners to advanced riders. We specialise in teaching nervous riders and developing their confidence. Other activities include gold panning, cattle feeding/checking, cattle mustering, camp fires and native wildlife spotting. (The property abounds with kangaroos, wallabies, wombats, wonderful bird life as well as being a working cattle farm and Quarter Horse Stud. There are Poll Hereford calves and Quarter Horse foals now being born.) This is not just a camp, but a wonderful farm experience your child will treasure for ever! Bookings essential. Enquiries please phone Mrs Pattie Hudson on 6337 7173 (nights are best).

Worldwide Marriage Encounter: A weekend for married couples. Take time out of your busy schedule, to invest in your most precious asset... your marriage! This is a unique opportunity to recharge your relationship batteries, refocus on each other and fall in love all over again. Weekend date: 19-21 October at Winbourne, Edmond Rice Retreat Centre, Mulgoa. Bookings: phone Ardell and Bill Sharpe on (02) 4283 3435 or email wsharpe@bigpond.net.au or for more information visit the website www.wvme.org.au

Sent Home Recently:

- Fathers' Day Stall Reminder note (gold)
- Year 1 Make and Create note (red)
- Kindergarten Pet Photo note (lime green)



Scan with your smartphone or tablet for more information.

www.staspringwood.catholic.edu.au

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