

NEWSLETTER

No. 12 Date 11/09/13 Week 9 Term 3

Dear St Thomas Aquinas Families,

What a great week we have just experienced at STA!

Last Wednesday we were blessed with perfect early spring weather for our Walkathon. The buzz on the playground before school was palpable as students eagerly awaited the start of the day.



At 10.30am the students gathered under the shelter in their grade groups for final instructions from Mrs Llewellyn. Then each grade was announced in turn and set off with their teachers and parents on the walk. The enthusiasm, joy and camaraderie of the children was infectious. As each grade set off they were cheered on by fellow students to the sound of our Walkathon theme song, *I'm Walkin'* by Fats Domino (Thanks Mr Domino!). Walking with the students was an immense pleasure as they chatted to each other and occasionally waved to members of the public or to Sister Monica and Mrs Llewellyn in the official Walkathon car.

As each group returned to school and settled again under the shelter, they waited patiently to be called to receive their well-earned sausage sandwich and drink. After eating, the children ventured off and enjoyed the treat of some extra playtime and games.



The Walkathon was always envisaged as both a fundraiser for the purchase of school learning resources (classroom data projectors) and also as a community-building event and this was evident by the generosity and support of the many parents and families who made it such a well-organised and successful one for our school.

To those who walked with classes assisting teachers to ensure student safety, those who were present along the route providing water stops, those on traffic duty at street crossings, those who cooked and served the BBQ lunch and refreshments – a BIG thank you. A



special note of thanks must go to the students from St Columba's who assisted in such a gracious way on the day – many were former STA students and were genuinely delighted to catch up with their former teachers and also contribute to the success of the day. Thank you St Columba's – Mrs Delma Horan & Mr Jim Gillespie for their support.

Our school community would like to sincerely thank Tracey Arnold from **Tracey Arnold & Associates Lawyers** for her generous sponsorship of the 2013 STA Walkathon particularly for the sponsorship of the major incentive prize - Apple Ipad.



Finally, I would like to extend a special note of gratitude to Moya Dyer for initiating this event and for working so incredibly hard in helping the school coordinate the various aspects of the day.



Collectively we are part of an amazing community and for this we give thanks.

Until next time,

S Rosato

Sergio Rosato
Principal

Love one another



ST THOMAS AQUINAS
NEWS

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Springwood 2777

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Parish Priest:
Father Paul Slyney

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Father Peter Connelly

A Requiem Mass for the Life of Father Peter Connelly – Emeritus Pastor and former Parish Priest of St Thomas Aquinas Springwood, was held on Monday in St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. The Mass, celebrated by Bishop Anthony Fisher and concelebrated by Bishop Kevin Manning, Bishop Robert McGuckin and more than 60 priests from the Diocese, was a fitting acknowledgement of Father Peter's life as a teacher and ordained Priest.

At the conclusion of the Mass a large contingent of students from St Columba's and St Thomas Aquinas respectfully farewelled Father Peter with a guard of honour. We give thanks to God for Father Peter's life and ministry to this community.



FROM THE REC (Religious Education Coordinator)



Sacrament of Healing – RECONCILIATION (Penance, Confession)

The Sacrament of Reconciliation offers us the opportunity to reflect on the areas in our lives where we have failed to be the people God has created us to be. We are asked to bring these failures to God in humility and confidence knowing that God loves us and will forgive us.

Today at 7:00pm children of Year 3 or older from our parish and school community celebrate in receiving the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. Over the past four weeks children and parents have been meeting in small groups to help each other learn about the loving forgiveness of the Lord.

On behalf of our school community, we wish all families and their children every blessing on receiving this sacrament of the Church.

Grandparent's Liturgy

Once again this year we celebrate through liturgy and assembly the joy and wonder of grandparents and give thanks for them in our lives. Please join us for an afternoon of celebration! *God Bless. Mr Coley White*

Grandparents Day – this Friday 13 September

A reminder that our annual day to honour grandparents and grandparent figures takes place THIS FRIDAY. Students are required to wear full school uniform. If your child has sport that day they are asked to bring their sports shoes to school with them.

12.15pm: Assembly in the Bishop Manning Learning Centre

1.20pm: Picnic Lunch in school grounds

2.05 – 2.30 pm: Open Classes

Please BYO picnic lunch and chairs/picnic rugs etc.

Free Tea and Coffee will be available.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Bush Fire Alert

With the advent of the bushfire season it is important for families to keep informed about developments if fire is active. The school has a bushfire incident plan and in the event of a bushfire would take direction from the authorities including NSW Police, Rural Fire Service and Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta.

Information pertaining to fire activity and any school closures will be posted on the following authoritative sites:

- **Police:** <https://www.facebook.com/BlueMountainsLAC>
- **Rural Fire Service:** <http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/>
- **School Website:** www.staspringwood.catholic.edu.au

The School will also shortly be able to send out direct text messages to parents via mobile devices.

STA Students Film Finalist in Indie Gems Film Festival

Congratulations to Annalise Della Libera & Jemma Tomas whose short film on the Theme 'KINDNESS' has been selected as a finalist in a Student Film Competition hosted the Riverside Theatre Parramatta. Screening of the finalist films and the announcement of winners will be held at 2pm on Saturday 14 September at the Riverside Theatre during the Indie Gems Festival. Both students have been part of our School's film team trained by Berni Sierra and James Costigan, however this film competition was entered by the students as a home project. Congratulations to Annalise and Jemma for their initiative and creativity - we are very proud of you both.

Celebrate and Connect Sunday

On Sunday the Parish hosted a celebration as culmination of a focus on the large number of groups that minister within the Parish. The celebration took place on the School grounds after 9.45am mass and consisted of various forms of entertainment including our own Junior Choir. There were fun activities for the children and a convivial barbecue and picnic for all. It was a really friendly and enjoyable gathering of the Parish community. Congratulations to Father Paul and the dedicated team for organising such a wonderful event.

Our gratitude to the students from our Junior Choir who were able to attend and provide such beautiful singing as part of the celebration.

St Columba's High School – name change

St Columba's High School has officially changed its name to **St Columba's College** and will be known as this from now on.

ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

Student Awards

Congratulations to the following students, who received Merit Awards at last week's and this week's School Assembly. Well done on your efforts everyone - keep up the good work!



Week 8

Jackson Bagatella	Grady De La Harpe	Jack Hutchings	Luca Penserini
Isaac Bailey	Olivia De La Harpe	Teneka Kime	Anna Porter
Willow Barker	Jessica Ellis	Ned Lawlor	Jack Poulter
Justice Barnes	Peter Ellis	Brady Leehy	William Richardson
Montana Barry	Tia Foley	Isabelle Leet	Lachlan Steadman
Henry Bender	William Forster	Aemon Marshall	Nicholas Towell
Isabella Bonnici	Jakub Grus	Ella Maurer	William Turner
Lily Brosnan	Joshua Harrison	Lachlan Maurer	Isabella Valle
Charlotte Brown	Isabella Higginbotham	Emily McMaster	Cameron Way
Brianna Collins	Willow Hookings	Patrick Moore	Elanor Williams
Rebecca Collis	Jude Howe	Thaliya Okladnikov	Joshua Williamson
Makayla Crouch	Benjamin Huggard	Ellie Penserini	Alex Young
Clélia Davies	Ronan Hurley		

Week 9

Carla Adamson	Daniel Elliott	Nathalie Jamnicky	Christopher Oliver
Lukas Banks	Annabel French	Sophie Kerrison	Orion Pick
Alice Bauerhuit	Chloe Galluzzi	Dylan King	Jenna Richardson
Lucy Brown	Faith Gill	Bridie Le Breton	Lachlan Roberts
William Bush	Emilia Gosling	Isabella Ligteringen	Cooper Selinger
Louis Caruana	Jack Graham	Ebony Manning	Steffani Sroczynski
Imogen Carvasiglia	Luke Harrison	Brendan McMaster	Conna Taylor
Matthew Cassidy	Connor Harvey	Cameron Morris	Lilli Thompson
Mia Cini	Kate Henderson	Sara-Jane Noonan-Michels	Riley Thompson
Finn Cullinane	Kyle Hodges	Tommy Okladnikov	Will Ticehurst
Claire Dixon	Dominick Jamnicky		

Principal's Morning Tea – correction

We would like to add Liam Carr to our last Principal's Morning Tea recipients for his effort with his learning. Liam's name was mistakenly left off the list. We apologise for this oversight. Congratulations and well done Liam.

Milo Blast Cricket Success

Congratulations to our Senior Girls Cricket team on their recent win at the Regional Finals at Blacktown. They will now go on to compete at State level next term. Well done girls!

Kindergarten Enrolments for 2014

Recently offers of places for Kindergarten were sent to families. Based on these offers we will be able to form 3 Kindergarten classes in 2014. There are currently just a few limited places still available for Kindergarten after which a waiting list will be necessary.

The Catholic Education Office has approved 20 class groups for next year plus 1 ASPECT Class group (currently we have 19 classes plus ASPECT).

Enrolments for 2014 in Grades 1-6

Enrolment places are limited for 2014. Please advise the school as soon as possible if your child will not be returning to STA next year as we currently have a waiting list for enrolments in some grades.

Recent Technology Purchases

Recently the school took delivery of 20 new Apple MacBook Pro Computers. These laptops will add to the bank of technology in the school used to enhance learning.

The school was able to purchase these computers through the Catholic Education Office at a special discounted price of \$999 per laptop. The total cost of this purchase is \$19,980. The funds used for this purchase were from the proceeds of our Autumn Fair. The school is also currently pricing the purchase of Ipads which was set as another goal of our Autumn Fair.

Next Monday the two current Year 4 classes will have Ultra Short Throw Data projectors installed with amplified speakers and associated work. The cost of this work is \$5,500. This work will be funded via proceeds of the Walkathon. This will bring the total classes with this installed resource to 8. Our goal is to install data projectors into another 9 classes and an interactive white board in Kindergarten.

Uniform Changeover

Our official changeover from winter to summer uniform is at the **start of Term 4**. However, as the weather has been unseasonably warm recently, we leave it up to parents to use their discretion in deciding which uniform their child should wear. Please remember that students must wear either winter or summer uniform, not a mixture of the two.

Lost Property

As the term draws to a close we ask parents to please check the lost property box if your child has lost any items at the school over recent weeks. 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.



Exemption from School Applications

Parents are reminded that if your child will be absent from school on leave, such as for an upcoming family holiday, you must apply for an exemption from attendance at school. Forms are available from the office and must be completed and returned to the school in advance so that the Principal can consider the application and where applicable, issue the parent with a Certificate of Exemption from Attendance at School before the child's intended absence. This is a legal requirement as school attendance is compulsory.

DIARY DATES

2013 TERM 3 Week 9	Wednesday 11 September	8.30am Staff Briefing Voice of Youth Semi-finals at Seven Hills – selected students 9.30am Parish Mass – Year 6 attending
	12	8.30am Staff Prayer
	13	Grandparents Day (see information in this newsletter)
Week 10	Monday 16 September	12.30pm Assembly – KM presenting 3.40pm Leadership Meeting
	17	9.05am Coffee & Chat CSIRO visit for Year 4 & 4/3C 3.40pm Staff Meeting
	18	8.30am Staff Briefing 9.30am Parish Mass – Kindergarten attending 1.30pm Band Ensemble to St Columba's – selected students
	19	8.30am Staff Prayer Principal's Morning Tea – selected students
	20	Term 3 Concludes

COMMUNITY NEWS

The Gabrielle Centre For Children – Open Night: The Gabrielle Centre for children is a new multidisciplinary clinic based in the lower Blue Mountains. Our services include: Paediatric Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy, Physiotherapy and Psychology. The centre is located at Level 1 & 2 9 Normic Avenue, Blaxland. The Open Night will be held on Thursday 12 September from 6.00pm – 8.00pm. Please join us to celebrate our opening and meet our team of therapists – Linda Collier, Sarah Turner, Peta Walzak, Nicole Woods, Hannah Edwards, Jodie Barrett, Helen Nicholson and Rosemary Anderson. Please RSVP as soon as possible to Sarah Turner (Speech Pathologist) at sarah@gabriellectreforchildren.com.au or phone 0420 823 767 or Linda Collier (Occupational Therapist) at linda@gabriellectreforchildren.com.au or phone 0403 086 857. For more information visit the website at www.gabriellectreforchildren.com.au

Rabbit Found: Fawn coloured with some black markings with one floppy ear and one upright ear found recently in Springfield Crescent, Springwood. Phone Katrina on 0417 749 380.

"Absent" a Justin Hunt Documentary Movie - 7:30pm Friday 13 September 2013: Jesus taught that when we pray we should speak to God just like a young child would speak to a loving father. He used the word 'Abba' which means Daddy/Dad in English. The father/child relationship was used by God to demonstrate the closeness of relationship that God wants with us. Being acknowledged as a son or a daughter by our own father is important to our perception of self-worth. With this in mind we have arranged to screen the movie "Absent", a multi-award winning documentary on the crisis of fatherhood in the western world. It will be screened at 7:30pm on Friday, 13 September at the Bishop Manning Learning Centre, St Thomas Aquinas Primary School. Those attending are asked to donate two dollars per person to help cover the cost of the licence fee.

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 21 September – Saturday 28 September; 2nd Week: Saturday 28 September – Sunday 6 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).

Adam Crouch Foundation Trivia Night: On Saturday 12 October, the Adam Crouch Foundation will be hosting a Trivia Night at the **Springwood Sports Club, Macquarie Road, Springwood** from **7.00pm for 7.30pm start**. Activities include a monster raffle, fun games and lucky door prizes. Tickets cost \$50 per person or \$450 for a table of 10 people (includes a selection of delicious warm savouries and finger food) and will be available from the Turning Page Book Shop, 125 Macquarie Road, Springwood or by contacting Louise De La Harpe on 0438 493 960. *Help the Foundation educate our community on water safety and awareness and save precious lives from drowning.* For more information visit the website – www.adamcrouchfoundation.org.au

Sent Home Recently:

- Note re Fr Peter's Passing (*lilac*)
- Impetigo Alert to 2S (*orange*)
- Note re Fr Peter's Funeral (*mauve*)
- Head Lice note to Year 2
- Junior Choir note re Celebrate & Connect Sunday (*lime green*)
- Voice of Youth Excursion Permission Note – selected students



Scan with your smartphone or tablet for more information.

www.staspringwood.catholic.edu.au

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