

NEWSLETTER

No. 11 Date 14/09/12 Week 9 Term 3

Dear St Thomas Aquinas Families,

What price education?

The funding cuts to Catholic schools outlined by the State Government this week has drawn this question into critical focus. For my immigrant, working class parents a Catholic education was a high priority. For them it was about enabling their children to attend a school steeped in a faith and values system that they saw as important for life.

The announcement this week of funding cuts to education was disappointing on a number of levels. Educational funding is a long-term investment in forming the foundations of our society – our young. We can all appreciate the budgetary imperatives of government and that decisions in this regard are challenging. These decisions need to be the right ones for our children and ultimately for our society. By all accounts the announcement regarding cuts to education (if left to stand) are a retrograde step. I would encourage you to advocate for Catholic schools by contacting your local state member of parliament. (Included with this Newsletter is a circular from Bishop Anthony Fisher OP in regards to these funding cuts).

Catholic education has been praised in many quarters, not only for the quality of education it delivers but for the value for money it provides. For example, last evening I had the great privilege of attending the Bishop of Parramatta Inaugural Award ceremony for student excellence. The ceremony was held at St Patrick's Cathedral Parramatta. These newly instituted annual awards seek to recognise one Year 12 student from each of the 24 Catholic high schools in our Diocese.

Students are nominated by their Principal for their personal attributes and for their practical contribution to the life of their school and community. It was incredibly moving and inspiring to listen to each recipient's citation as it was read by a younger student from the same school.



What struck all who were present was the capacity and humility of each of the young graduates and their desire to work with others to make the world a better place.

Watching these young people was a concrete reminder that the purpose of Catholic schooling isn't simply a utilitarian exercise, but is about helping to prepare young people so they can, with spiritual purpose, contribute to their society as members of their families, school, parish and society.

Congratulations to Mitchell Gawthorne, St Columba's Year 12 (and former student of STA), Recipient of Bishop of Parramatta – Award for Excellence

Diocese of Parramatta 25th Jubilee DVD Filming at STA

Last Friday, staff from CEO and a professional film crew came to our school to take footage for a special DVD documentary celebrating 25 years of the Diocese. During their two hours at STA they filmed in some classrooms, a Wakakiri dress rehearsal, a school assembly, a gymnastics lesson and interviewed a student. The crew were most impressed by our school – the culture, tone and the range and quality of learning opportunities they witnessed. We thank the CEO for the opportunity to be a part of this project.

Grandparents' Day

Wednesday 19 September 2012

A cordial invitation is extended to all Grandparents to attend this special day in their honour.

12.30pm: Assembly in the Bishop Manning Learning Centre
1.20pm: BYO Picnic Lunch in school grounds
2.05 – 2.30 pm: Open Classes

(Please bring your own chairs and picnic rugs etc) **Tea and Coffee available**

We look forward to a great grandparents day!

love one another



**ST THOMAS AQUINAS
NEWS**

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Father Paul Slyney
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FROM THE PRINCIPAL – cont'd

Naplan 2012

Reports for students in Year 3 & 5 who undertook this national assessment in literacy and numeracy will be sent home next week.

Welcome Sister Kakare sgs

Recently our school has hosted Sister Kakare, a Sister of the Good Samaritan Order, visiting Australia from Kiribati. Kiribati is a small island nation located in the North Pacific with a population of approximately 100 000 people. Sister Kakare is currently staying with our own Sister Monica at Windsor. As an early childhood teacher, she is most interested in seeing how this part of our school operates and the education approaches of the teachers. In the same way, we have benefitted from learning about her culture and the work of the Good Samaritans in this part of God's Kingdom.

Staff News

We welcome the following valued teachers who are replacing staff on Long Service Leave:

- Joan Noney replacing Megan Strutt currently
- Kylie Williamson replacing Elizabeth Bamford
- John Micallef replacing Viv Llewellyn (music)

We also welcome back starting next week our Assistant Principal, Avril Llewellyn, who has been on Long Service Leave for the last fortnight.

I leave you with some **excerpts from Year 6 Students on the Religious Education Dimension of their School** (as part of their learning in RE):

Firstly, this school is blessed with beautiful surroundings; we have many gardens, trees and other plants. All our teachers are wonderful, including our Music, Italian, Physical Education, Library and aid teachers. Our community is very supportive and we always have many willing helpers in fundraisers, fetes and other similar events. We also have a huge supply of computers, data projectors, speakers, PA system, an electronic whiteboard and many other forms of technology which assist in teaching and learning.

However, although these things are important, one of the things I value most about attending St Thomas Aquinas is that it is a Catholic school. My school has been largely responsible for the development of faith along with my family and church.

Simone Cooper

At this school we have a large environment for your child to run around in and play and won't feel claustrophobic. We have very friendly staff who will look after your child and help your child to learn and grow.

In this loving school, one of the most important subjects we learn is RE, Religious Education. During these lessons we learn about God, the church, teachings of Jesus and even some of his miracles. **Zara Gillan**

*I think this school is great because the teachers are really encouraging and help students who need help. We also have a wonderful playground and sports teacher. We have a lot of opportunities to represent the school and to see how well you can do against others. Even with all these positives I think the best part about this school is that the students get to learn about the Catholic faith. **Jack Crouch***

...our school motto, "Love One Another" which is taken directly from the Gospel of John and it describes how everyone cares and looks out for each other at school. **Ben Pout**

Until next time,



Sergio Rosato
Principal

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

New STA Parish Website

<http://www.stachurchspringwood.org.au/>

Our parish has a new website. It has information about Mass times, sacramental programs, news, coming events, parish history, the parish bulletin and more. There is a wonderful collection of photos supplied by the Hurley family, which show some of the significant events and people in our parish history. Well worth a look.

Wakakirri News

Parents wishing to purchase tickets from Wakakirri:

Visit the website: www.photosales.com.au . **Password:** school12

Photos can be purchased online here (these will soon be uploaded). DVD's can be purchased online using the form that has been sent home.

NB. Tickets ordered through the school were sent home today.

School Fees Reminders

2nd reminder letters were sent out recently from the Catholic Education Office. If you are having any difficulties paying the school fees, please contact Deborah Lawrence, Finance Secretary, on 4754 2554.

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!



Willow Barker
Sophie Camilleri
Ferris Carey
Lucas Collins
Kate Crook
Jacob Danks
Evan Davey
Oscar Delehunt
Nathan Della-Libera
Ptolemy Dickenson
Britney Dorman
Carolina Dudley

George Eddy
Julian Falchetta
Grace Fowler
Lorelei Gill
Abbey Gomez
Sasha Grahovac
Mia Grodzicki
Aaron Hodges
Benjamin Huggard
Jenna Jones
Odette Laurent
Daisy-May Laws

Lachlan Leehy
James Lin-Green
Aiden Machon
Aemon Marshall
Kurt Mathews
Dylan Mitchell
Diesel Moore
Tomas Murphy
Dylan O'Flanagan
Bronagh Pell
Brent Ross
Luca Segedin

Trent Solomon
Steffani Sroczynski
Thomas Szentkuti
Conna Taylor
Joshua Taylor
Riley Thompson
Will Ticehurst
Ryan Trent
Lachlan Wiggins
Natasha Williams
Luke Wright
Goran Zunic

Italian Forum

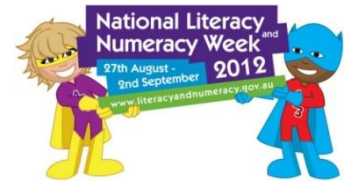
Earlier today the children in Year 3 participated in our annual Year 3 Pasta Day which is part of their learning of Italian. Maria Falchetta showed the children how to make pasta dough and from this to make a variety of different types of pasta. They were then able to sample a bowl of pasta which was served with a simple tomato and onion sauce.

Our sincere thanks as always to Maria for the wonderful demonstration and for her superb culinary expertise. Thank you also to Nahdi Hanrahan and Toni-Maree Costigan for helping to cook and serve pasta for all the children in Year 3.

Jenni Wurf, Teacher of Italian

Literacy and Numeracy Week 2012

We are continuing with this initiative run by the Australian Literacy and Numeracy Foundation which aims to teach marginalised Australians how to read and write, specifically the 0-7years age range. Students are asked if they would like to donate pre-loved books in reasonable condition from home. Each class will keep a tally of how many books are brought in. Our Mini Vinnies Group will be involved, collecting the books and recording a school tally. Thank you to all those who have donated books so-far for this worthy cause. 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.



Principal's Morning Tea

Congratulations to the students nominated by their teachers to attend this on Thursday. During the morning tea each student was able to speak confidently about an area of their learning that they had improved through consistent effort. We congratulate the following students for their dedication and hard work and encourage each one of them to keep up the good work.

Carla Adamson
Ryan An U
Emma Brickwood
Lily Brosnan
Charlotte Brown
Abbey Buckle
Emma Carlin
Imogen Carvasiglia
Jack Crouch
Keith Eddy
Justin Fokes
Chloe Galluzzi
Alex Gutteridge
Corey Hutchings
Georgina Jelovic
Talyka Kime
Luke Major
Mackenzie Marsland

Rose Miall
Grace Miller
Lachlan Morris
Kieran Murphy
Anna Porter

Alyssa Pospischil
William Rogers
Taleah Rust
Tara Slowey
Jemma Tomas

Dayne Vassallo
Kate Wakeling
Cameron Way
Jesse Wiggins
Alayna Williamson



NB. Recipients who were absent on the day will be recognised at a later Morning Tea.

Interdiocesan Sports News

Congratulations to Jenna Jones of 5B who recently competed at the MacKillop Trials for State Representation in athletics. Jenna has been selected to represent the state in 6 events. Well done Jenna, fantastic effort!

Winter/Summer Uniform Changeover

As the weather at this time of year is so changeable students may now wear either summer or winter uniform for the remainder of the term. We ask that parents use their discretion in determining which uniform to wear according to the conditions on the day and that either full summer or full winter uniform is worn and not a mixture of the two. Official changeover to summer uniform is the first day of Term 4. Please refer to the Parent Information Handbook for details.

Love one another

Lost Property

As we approach the end of the term, we ask parents to please check the lost property box if your child has lost any items at the school recently. Due to the changeable weather many jumpers and jackets have been left behind – many with no names on them. Please remember to mark all of your child's items clearly with their name.



Milo T20 Blast Cricket – correction

The correct date for the NSW State Finals is **Monday, 15 October** (*not 5 October as stated in last week's Update*).

Raising Exceptional Kids

Some more 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 # 3: Give Kids Too Much Voice – In this era of giving children a voice it is easy to go overboard and allow them too much of a say in what happens to them. Kids often take the easy option to avoid hard or unpleasant situations. **Resilience Notion # 3:** Make decisions for kids and expect them to adjust and cope.

For further information go to www.parentingideas.com.au

DIARY DATES

2012 TERM 3 Week 10	Monday 17	12.30pm Assembly – 4W presenting 3.40pm Leadership Meeting
	18	9.05am Coffee & Chat 3.40pm Staff Meeting
	19	8.30am Staff Briefing Grandparents Day
	20	8.30am Staff Prayer
	21	9.30am Parish Mass Stage 2 Touch Football Competition – selected students Wakakirri Grand Final – selected students Term 3 Concludes
TERM 4 Week 1	Monday 8 October	Term 4 Commences for students and staff 12.30pm Assembly
	9	9.05am Coffee & Chat 3.40pm Staff Meeting
	10	8.30am Staff Briefing
	11	8.30am Staff Prayer
	12	9.30am Parish Mass
Week 2	Monday 15	Milo T20 Cricket NSW State Finals – selected students *NB corrected date

COMMUNITY NEWS

Pinnaroo Vacation Care: What are your children doing these holidays? Pinnaroo Vacation Care, at Winmalee Public School, Winmalee is open from Monday to Friday, 24 -28 September and Tuesday to Friday, 2 - 5 October from 6.30am to 6.30pm. Activities include games, art & craft, stories, teddy bears picnic, gardening, cooking and excursions. Come and join us for lots of fun. Childcare benefits available. For more information and enrolment forms please call 4754 1543.

Hockey NSW Indoor Holiday Clinics 2012 – Nepean: Hockey Clinics will be held on **26 – 27 September** at **Penrith Valley Regional Sports Centre** from **9.00am – 12.00pm (session one: ages 5-9years)** and **1.00pm – 3.00pm (session two: 9-12years)**. Cost is \$75 per child including hockey pack (\$50 without pack). Hockey pack includes shirt, Hockey NSW Olympic drink bottle, pop-up goal, medal, Hockey NSW wrist bands and Hockey Australia DVD. What you need: mouthguard, 2 x water bottles and snacks. If you have your own indoor sticks and shin guards, bring them too. If not, we have some we can provide for the day. All participants are covered by our Hockey NSW Member Insurance Policy. Download a registration form online today at hockeynewsw.com.au **Registrations close 19 September.** For more information contact Jonathon Schaefer, Sportscover Game Development Coordinator by email to holidayclinics@hockeynewsw.com.au or phone 9764 1911.

Blue Mountains Centre for Religious Enquiry Forum: The next forum entitled “**Hinduism**” will be held on 21 October 2012 from 2.00pm – 4.00pm at the Santa Maria Centre Hall next to Our Lady of the Nativity Catholic Church at Lawson. Guest speakers include Acharva Rami Sivan, a Hindu priest and Sri Vasudevacharya, a teacher in Australia of Non-Duality. Their discussion topics will be “Understanding Hinduism” and “Introduction to Non-Duality” respectively. Everyone is welcome and refreshments will be provided.

Sent Home Recently:

- Grandparents Day Invitation (*lilac*)
- Year 3 Pasta Day note (*salmon*)
- UCANN Meeting Cancellation note (*sky blue*)
- SWOT Tennis School Holiday Clinic Invitation
- Diocesan Touch Football Competition Excursion note – selected students
- Wakakirri Grand Final Excursion note
- Circular from Bishop Anthony OP – with this Newsletter
- Wakakirri Tickets (today - if ordered through the school) – selected students



Scan with your smartphone or tablet for more information.

www.staspringwood.catholic.edu.au