

# NEWSLETTER

No. 14    Date 19/12/12    Week 11    Term 4

Dear St Thomas Aquinas Families,

As the 2012 school year draws to a close I take this opportunity to extend my deepest gratitude to you and your families for all you have contributed this year to making this school a wonderful place of learning and life for our students.

I wish to acknowledge the many families who leave our school community this year as the last of their children graduates from Primary School (some who have been associated with the school for over 20 years). Feel certain that your contribution to this school is cherished as a lasting gift to the education of our students now and into the future.

I thank the teachers and staff of the school for their dedication, professionalism and commitment to their vocation as co-educators of your children. In a special way I wish to thank our Assistant Principal, Avril Llewellyn and Joanne Toohey for their unstinting leadership, passion and work during this year and particularly this term. On your behalf I wish to extend our gratitude as a community to Joanne Toohey for her incredible commitment to the Religious Education leadership and wish her God's blessings from this community as she embarks on a year-long sabbatical working at Australian Catholic University.

Finally, my gratitude to our Parish Priest, Father Paul for his pastoral leadership and care.

May the Christ child be present in your hearts this Christmas and may His abundant graces be with your families.

Wishing you a holy, healthy, safe and happy Christmas.

Until next year,

*Rosato*

Sergio Rosato

## Christmas Concert 2012

Last Thursday evening under beautiful, clear summer skies we hosted our annual Christmas Concert.

The Christmas Concert this year featured the retelling of the Christmas story through narrative, choral singing and dance led by the students. Thank you to the large number of families who attended and for your preparation of your children's costumes – each grade looked simply wonderful.

Thank you to the school staff for their preparation of the children and particularly to Joanne Toohey(REC), Viv Llewellyn (Class Choirs), Jesse Cunniffe (Pianist) & Avril Llewellyn(AP) for their hard work and skilful production of the Concert.



*Follow the*



*Christmas Star*



*Love one another*



**ST THOMAS AQUINAS  
NEWS**

a: 168 Hawkesbury Rd  
Springwood 2777

p: 02 4754 2554

f: 02 4754 3562

w: [www.staspringwood.catholic.edu.au](http://www.staspringwood.catholic.edu.au)

Parish Priest:  
Father Paul Slyney

p: 02 4754 1052

## Year 6 Graduation 2012

Tonight our Year 6 students, their families and school staff will come together in our church to celebrate a Mass of thanksgiving for our graduating class of 2012.

It will mark a significant milestone in the life of these wonderful young people. Tonight marks the end of their 7 years of Primary School education and the beginning of the next phase of their school life.

I am proud to say that these students have been an outstanding group of graduates. They have consistently demonstrated care for others, exemplary conduct and been great role-models for our younger students.

We pray that each of them continue on their journey and that they will be able to build upon the educational and spiritual foundation they have received from their families and this school to become people who can make a positive difference in our world.

I include a selection of reflections from our Year 6 students conveying their thoughts about their educational experience at St Thomas Aquinas School:

*Teachers happily take uninformed students under their wing of infinite knowledge to transform them from caterpillars in doubt to butterflies of great wisdom. **Abbey Buckle***

*St Thomas Aquinas School is a glimpse of God's greatness through the beauty of education. **Jack Morrison***

## 2013 World Youth Day Raffle Tickets

Thank you to all those families who have returned their ticket books and money to support our Diocesan pilgrims for World Youth Day 2013.



### St Thomas Aquinas Family Favourites Recipe Book 'Kitchen Creations'

What a fantastic book! These recipe books were distributed earlier this week to all families who ordered them during the term. A few spare copies were printed and will be available in the New Year. Thank you to all those who were involved in this wonderful production and especially our Parent Fundraising team.



### Italian Forum

To all the parents, children and members of our school community, thank you once again this year for your support of our Italian program. I am constantly amazed and delighted by our students' talent and ability to learn another language and its culture.

**Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo!**

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

**Jenni Wurf, Teacher of Italian**

## St Vincent de Paul Class Hampers

Thank you to all those who generously donated to this worthy cause.

## Student Sporting Achievement

Congratulations to Meg Jefferson (6M) who set a new club record for triple jump at Little Athletics on the weekend. Meg also broke the club record for javelin twice in recent weeks. Well done Meg!

## Staff Announcements

- We welcome Mr Coley White as Acting Religious Education Coordinator and Year 2 teacher for 2013. Coley is currently teaching and a Coordinator at St Michael's Blacktown. We warmly welcome Coley to our community.
- We also welcome Miss Blanche Hortence as Year 1 teacher. Blanche has been teaching at Our Lady of the Nativity, Lawson and is a former student of our school. We warmly welcome Blanche to our community.

## Class Teachers for 2013

**KB** Elizabeth Bamford (Mon-Thur), Carolyn Edwards (Fri)

**KL** Annabelle Leroy

**KM** Deborah Mitchell

**1D** Shedden Dunccliffe

**1H** Blanch Hortence

**1R** Jennifer Robson (Mon-Thur), Michelle Hinchliff (Fri)

**2D** Maria Dodd

**2S** Melissa Slatford

**2W** Coley White

**3CH** Chris Chenoweth

**3S** Megan Strutt

**4/3C** Elaine Collier

**4B** Beth Carroll

**4N** Michelle Nightingale

**5B** Bernadette Sierra

**5S** Colleen Scott (Mon-Wed),

Rebecca Williams (Thurs-Fri)

**6/5M** Kate Mackenzie

**6C** James Costigan

**6L** Geraldine Lohan (Mon-Thur), Amy Blom (Fri)



Scan with your smartphone or tablet for more information.

[www.staspringwood.catholic.edu.au](http://www.staspringwood.catholic.edu.au)

## Annual Award Ceremony

Yesterday we held our Annual School Award Ceremony. The ceremony acknowledged the many students in our school who this year have distinguished themselves in various areas of learning and life.



Some have excelled in their academic achievement, some in their persistent effort with learning, some in their outstanding achievement in areas such as sport, creative arts and chess. Others have been recognized for their leadership qualities, for giving of themselves to serving others and in helping to make this community a better place through active citizenship.

We congratulate all students who were presented with school awards for outstanding effort and perseverance. I wish to thank our special guests for their presence and for presenting various special and perpetual awards during the ceremony – Mrs Kathleen Belfanti, Molly Hurley, Gene O’Carrigan, June Hall, George Shewchuk and notably Robert Mullen and his wife Kathy. It was truly lovely to have Robert and Kath with us for this occasion.

**Congratulations** to the following students, who received Awards at our recent 2012 School Awards Ceremony:

Class	Academic Achievement Award 2012	Outstanding Effort Award 2012	Love One Another Award 2012
K-6A	Prudence Lia	Lachlan Roberts	A J Martinelli-Walsh
KB	Matilda Gauci	Amber Lovric	William Hurley
KL	Odette Laurent	Brianna Leehy	Mathew Hall
KM	James Lin-Green	Liam Murphy	Emma Brickwood
1D	Noah Brown	Ryan An U	Mia Grodzicki
1R	Amelia Synnott	Lily Brosnan	Oscar Scanlon
1S	Patrick Bourke	Nyah Hutchings	Patrick Moore
2S	Charlotte Harris	Joshua Harrison	Issac Moss
2T	Rose Miall	Liam Sibbald	Taleah Rust
3C	Elanor Williams	Gigi Orobello	Matthew Hurley
3CH	Grace Fowler	Amy Kilner	Benjamin Tracey
4O	Thomas Gawthorne	Isaac Wardle	Georgina Jelovic
4W	Ainsley Mann	Natasha Nightingale	Steffani Sroczynski
5/4N	Eve Fowler	Sophie Camilleri, Angus Hayden	Emily McMaster
5B	Annalise Della-Libera	Alexander Bagatella	Grady De La Harpe
5S	Oscar Dodd	Tara Clancy	Julian Falcetta
6C	Mikhayla Atkins	Kinaya Mgaza	Nicholas Sirmais
6L	Jack Crouch	Ehren Natter	Zara Gillan
6M	Adam Evans	Katherine Wakeling	Tegan Murphy

**Creative Arts Award 2012:** Nicholas McMaster

**Outstanding Effort and Achievement in Italian:** Simone Cooper

**Sportsperson of the Year 2012 (and a perpetual award):** Jenna Jones

**Principal’s Award for School Spirit:** Tobias Samoluk

**School Academic Excellence Award:** Simone Cooper

**Kathleen Belfanti Award for Consistent Effort (and a perpetual award):** Madeleine Teuma

**Molly Hurley Award for Citizenship:** Alex Gutteridge

**Ursula O’Carrigan Social Justice Award:** Emily Bannister

**Handball Champion for 2012 (and a perpetual award):** Adam Evans

**Chess Champions:**

**Year 3** Grace Fowler

**Year 4** Owen Harris

**Year 5** Lachlan Leehy

**Year 6** Lachlan McDougall

**School Champion:** Benjamin Filla

**Student Representative Council:**

Abbey Buckle  
Jenna Fisher  
Tobias Samoluk

Simone Cooper  
Jack Crouch  
Zara Gillan

William Harris  
Laura Jelovic  
Madeleine Teuma

Jack Hutchings  
Sarah Arnold  
Tara Clancy



### Important Dates to Remember for Term 1 2013

<b>Term 1 Commences for Staff:</b>	Tuesday 29 January
<b>Students Grades 1-6 Commence:</b>	Wednesday 30 January
<b>Students in Kindergarten:</b>	Thursday 31 January
<b>Good Friday:</b>	Friday 29 March
<b>Easter Monday:</b>	Monday 1 April
<b>Term 1 Concludes:</b>	Friday 12 April



## Premiers Reading Challenge

Congratulations to the following students who participated in the 2012 NSW Premier's Reading Challenge:

<b>Year 6</b> Mikhayla Atkins Emily Bannister Michelle Bird Sophie Breytenbach Abbey Buckle Grace Caruana Simone Cooper Ptolemy Dickenson Keelan Ellis Claire Gardiner Zara Gillan Alex Gutteridge Piper Hansen William Harris Alexandria Hinley Kaitlin Hurley Meg Jefferson Laura Jelovic Summer Mabon Nicholas McMaster Kinaya Mgaza Katie Moore Caitlin Muller Liam Murphy Ehren Natter Brigid O'Brien Ciaran O'Donoghue Chloe Orobello Brent Ross Tobias Samoluk Elizabeth Wakeling Katherine Wakeling Daniel Wurf	<b>Year 5</b> Sarah Arnold Mackenzie Barglik Jasmine Clancy Oliver Clancy Tara Clancy Grady De La Harpe Julian Falcetta Eve Fowler Hannah Ward Caely Waters  <b>Year 4</b> Justice Barnes Thea Breytenbach Emma Carlin Brooke Conway Samuel Edwards Owen Harris Georgina Jelovic Emily McMaster Bernie Miall Jordan Pagitz Grace Sato Callum Wulff	<b>Year 3</b> Tobey Barr Zachary Carvasiglia Patrick Costigan Grace Fowler Blake Jones Declan Klukow-Leavey Izabelle Lockley Blake Mazurek Ethan Muller Matthew Ward Ellie Watson Goran Zunic  <b>Year 2</b> Jeremy Barker Keegan Breytenbach Sara Carlin Olivia De La Harpe Dante Falcetta Ruby Fuhrmann Liam Galluzzi Audrey Gauci Joshua Harrison Chiara Hill Ella Laurent Rose Miall Taleah Rust Bailey Solomon Sam Turner	<b>Year 1</b> Luke Arnold Riley Barglik Texas Down Carolina Dudley Audrey Ellem Jade Fiala Harry Gilchrist Jake Gordon Mia Grodzicki Harry Hicks Henry Hinchliff Molly Jones Hayley Klime Madison Micallef Patrick Moore Olivia Morrissey Chelsea Muller Riley Pagitz Billie Papatotiriou Wilkin Payens Luca Penserini William Richardson Mayah Shore Isabella Trinajstic Harry Watson Rebecca Wilson Darian Zunic	<b>Kindergarten</b> Willow Barker Brianna Collins Grace Costigan Makayla Crouch Lachlan Dempsey Luke Edwards Giancarlo Falcetta Chloe Galluzzi Matilda Gauci Emilia Gosling Isabella Higginbotham Isabel Hill Benjamin Hinley Alana Kenn Odette Laurent Chelsea Micallef Annie Oliver Isabella Stewart Sarah Wilson
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## DIARY DATES

<b>2012</b> <b>TERM 4</b> <b>Week 11</b>	<b>Wednesday</b> <b>19 December</b>	<b>Term 4 Concludes for students</b>
	<b>20</b>	<b>STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY – Pupil Free</b>
	<b>21</b>	<b>STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY – Pupil Free</b> <b>Term 4 Concludes</b>
<b>- Christmas Holidays -</b>		
<b>2013</b> <b>TERM 1</b> <b>Week 1</b>	<b>Monday 28</b> <b>January</b>	<b>AUSTRALIA DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY</b>
	<b>Tuesday 29</b> <b>January</b>	<b>Term 1 Commences for Staff</b>
	<b>30</b>	<b>Years 1-6 Commence</b>
	<b>31</b>	<b>Kindergarten Commence</b>
	<b>February 1</b>	

## COMMUNITY NOTICES

**Executive Directors Summer Reading Challenge – Read to Win!** Whether you're a book worm or a novice, this summer, simply read 15 books to go into the draw to win an iPad Mini. The holidays are a perfect time to discover the fun and pleasure of reading, and as an added incentive, the executive director of schools, Greg Whitby, is once again running the Summer Reading Challenge for all students enrolled in a Catholic systemic school in the Parramatta diocese. We've raised the stakes this year, by independently reading 15 or more age-appropriate books during their summer holidays, students from each category will go in to the draw to win an iPad Mini. The student who reads the most books in each age category will also be up for an iTunes gift card. There are three age categories, based on the age the student is on Friday 8 February 2013. The categories are **Ages 5 – 8**, **Ages 9 – 12** and **Ages 13+**. Students must record all the books they read on a log sheet, which is signed off by a parent or guardian. **Entries must be received by 5pm, Friday 8 February 2013.** The draw will take place on Friday 15 February and the winners will be published on the Catholic Education website.

"This is an exciting challenge and I encourage students of all ages to take part. The world of reading opens the door to exciting adventures, wonderful new friends and a host of learning opportunities." Greg Whitby. For further information visit the Catholic Education Office's website: <http://www.parra.catholic.edu.au/news--events/special-events--programs/2012-2013-executive-director-s-summer-reading-challenge.aspx>

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