

NEWSLETTER

No. 12 Date 23/10/12 Week 3 Term 4

Dear St Thomas Aquinas Families,

As we commence the third week of Term 4 it gives us an opportunity to look back at some recent school activities and to look forward to a number of significant events to come. Some of these include – Wakakiri, Bell Shakespeare Performance, School Band, Milo T20 Blast Cricket, Diocesan Basketball Competition, Milo Cricket Gala Day, Kindergarten Pizza Day and our upcoming Rice Day. Please see inside for more information.

Wakakiri

On the last day of Term 3 the Wakakiri dance/drama ensemble performed in the grand final at The Hills Centre. St Thomas Aquinas was one of seven schools that performed that evening. Each school presented a story using dance, drama and music to entertain the audience and all performances were of a very high standard. The judges were looking for a clear story line, disciplined and creative dance and drama, costumes, props and set to support the theme as well as enthusiasm, energy and focus from all the performers. Our school's presentation *Keep on Believing*, the story of Li Cunxin (Mao's last dancer) taken from the picture book *The Peasant Prince* was awarded first place. The euphoria of the students, the excitement of the parents and the elation of the teachers was something to witness when the result was announced.

We thank most sincerely the teachers Michelle Nightingale, Karen Bousfield and Bernadette Sierra and the many parents who were involved with props, costumes, sets and make-up, for their dedication and hard work that made the performance possible, but most of all we thank the students who put in time, effort and concentration to make the win achievable. Well done everyone!

WYD13 Raffle Tickets

Please remember to support this very worthy cause in order that some young people from our Diocese can go as pilgrims to experience World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro next year.

St Thomas Aquinas Recipe Book

Thank you to everyone who has already submitted their favourite family recipes. Please remember that all recipes must be in by the end of next week. This promises to be a wonderful publication!

Advent, Christmas and End-of-Term Events

Please make sure that you read all the information about the school events that Joanne Toohey has put in this Newsletter. Please put the dates in your diary. Also our school choir will be joining with the Sydney Welsh Choir on Sunday 2 December at 2pm in the hall for a special Christmas Concert conducted by our music teacher, Viv Llewellyn. The proceeds of this concert will be to support WYD13 pilgrims.

New Students

We welcome to St Thomas Aquinas this term: Laurence Wynne-Jones (KM) and Aidan Wynne-Jones (2T), a 'returning' family as well as Lachlan Morris (5/4N) and Cameron Morris (2S) and also Kai Simpson (5/4N).

Autumn Fair 2013 Planning Meeting

Wednesday 24 October, 2012 at 7.00pm in the hall. All very welcome!

St Thomas Aquinas School warmly invites you to the

Blessing Ceremony for the Bishop Manning Learning Centre

Tuesday 30 October, 2012 at 10.00am

Followed by light refreshments.

All welcome!

love one another



ST THOMAS AQUINAS NEWS

a: 1&8 Hawkesbury Rd
Springwood 2777

p: 02 4754 2554

f: 02 4754 3562

w: www.staspringwood.catholic.edu.au

Parish Priest:
Father Paul Slyney

p: 02 4754 1052

FROM THE PRINCIPAL – cont'd

Bell Shakespeare Theatre Company

Last Wednesday we had the pleasure of welcoming the **Bell Shakespeare Theatre Company** to conduct drama workshops with Year Six and then to perform *Midsummer Madness*, an adaptation of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Some of our Year 6 students have provided their thoughts about the day:

*Last Wednesday, Year 6 was lucky enough to have a visit from four actors in the Bell Shakespeare Theatre Company. We participated in workshops with the actors before recess, where we discussed Shakespeare. We acted out his play, a Midsummer Night's Dream. Later on, the four actors took on all the roles in the play and presented their version of it, called Midsummer Madness. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the experience and loved working with the professional actors. **Abbey Buckle, Jenna Fisher***

Until next time,



Avril Llewellyn
Acting Principal



Scan with your smartphone or tablet for more information.

www.stspringwood.catholic.edu.au

FROM THE REC (Religious Education Coordinator)

Religious Education: Term 4

October: Mission Month

This term all classes have commenced their Religious Education programs with a focus on the work of Catholic Mission. This year's theme 'Restore Hope to a Special Someone' has a particular focus on the Philippines, inviting the students to reach out to those in need. On Wednesday October 24, the day designated as Children's Mission Day, we will be holding a 'Rice Day' to raise funds for Catholic Mission.

November/December: Advent and Christmas

The key focus in Religious Education for all grades in Term 4 will be the liturgical seasons of Advent and Christmas. This year we will be holding our school Advent Liturgy at 12.30pm on Monday 26 November. All families are warmly invited to join us for this liturgy where we focus on preparing ourselves for the coming celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas.

As part of our preparations for Christmas we will again coordinate the collection of goods for St Vincent de Paul Christmas hampers. Specific details regarding the hamper goods will be sent home later in the term.

Two other key liturgical events in the Term 4 calendar are the Thanksgiving Eucharist on Wednesday 12 December, and our Christmas Concert on the following evening, Thursday 13 December. We look forward to celebrating these occasions as members of a shared Catholic community. Further details regarding these events will be placed in the school Newsletter closer to time.

For your information, as in previous years, students will be encouraged to dress thematically for the concert as follows:

Kindergarten – angels

Year 1 – green clothes and tinsel

Year 2 – Mary and Joseph

Year 3 – traditional shepherds

Year 4 – jeans and t-shirt (Australian 'shepherds')

Year 5 – black clothing

Year 6 – Magi/wise men (royal colours)

We hope that as Term 4 progresses it will provide many opportunities for our students and families to reflect on and celebrate the Gospel message of peace and goodwill to all. **Joanne Toohey**

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

2013 World Youth Day Raffle Tickets

World Youth Day Sydney in 2008 and Madrid in 2011 were significant events in the spiritual growth of the young people who attended. The next World Youth Day is in Rio de Janeiro in July 2013 and the Diocese is planning to support as many youth as possible who wish to go. The Diocese, parishes and schools are carrying out several fundraising events to raise funds to assist our young pilgrims. The main fundraiser will be a raffle with the 1st prize being a Toyota Yaris. Tickets will be sold through the 49 parishes and 88 schools.



This week each family who do not have older siblings at St Columba's will receive two books of raffle tickets. Bishop Anthony has asked that every effort be made to sell and return these tickets to school by 7 December 2012. Primary schools are asked to support the fundraising efforts as one day these children may have the opportunity to be a pilgrim when they are in high school. Thank you in anticipation for being part of WYD13 Rio and supporting our young people.

Rice Day for Catholic Mission Wednesday, 24 October 2012



To coincide with **Children's Mission Day** this Wednesday, we will be cooking and serving plain boiled rice. This is the staple diet of many in the Philippines – the country that is the focus of the 2012 Mission Month appeal. We hope to raise both funds and awareness through this response.

Children are asked to bring in a gold coin donation, a labelled plastic cup and a spoon.

Thank you for participating in this venture.

ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

Student Awards

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



Melissa Albery	Tyler Frost	Isabella Luchetti	Martin Perez-Eaton
Ryan An U	Owen Harris	Alex Mahns	Cooper Potter
Sarah Arnold	Henry Hinchliff	Shyelo Malim-Martinez	Siobhan Rafter
Cameron Cassidy	Jeremy Hodges	Thomas Manzie	Jenna Richardson
Grace Costigan	Samuel Huggard	Thomas Micallef	Sarah Robertson
Mitchell Crouch	Ronan Hurley	Jack Morrison	Elle Savage
Lucinda Cunningham	Blake Jones	Nicholas Munro	Micah Segedin
Patrick Dawson	Molly Jones	Keiran Murphy	Nicholas Sirmais
Oscar Delehunt	Amy Kilner	Thaliya Okladnikov	Micah Segedin
Ptolemy Dickenson	Teneka Kime	Mitchell Owen	Demir Vassallo
Oscar Dodd	Levi Kirkpatrick	Wilkin Payens	Bonnie Zarb
Immogen Dunlop			



Italian Forum

Last Friday the children in Kindergarten participated in our annual Kindergarten Pizza Day which is part of their learning of Italian. Danny from the restaurant, Monte Italia, (285 Great Western Highway, Warrimoo; phone 4753 6555) showed the children how to use pizza dough and how to make pizzas and answered their many insightful questions. The children then made and ate their own Italian pizzas!!

Our sincere thanks to Danny for a wonderful demonstration that the children really enjoyed. Thank you also to our wonderful parent helpers Maria Falcetta, Toni-Maree Costigan and Tanya Evans for preparing the food and cooking the pizzas for our Kindergarten children. Thank you also to Belinda Waters for photographing the day's events. **Jenni Wurf, Teacher of Italian**

Milo T20 Blast Cricket

On Monday 15 October, the Senior Girl's Cricket team competed in the NSW State Final at Blacktown International Sports Park. They played very well and came seventh in the state. They were:

Mikhayla Atkins	Meg Jefferson	Kinaya Mgaza	Eden Vassallo
Isabel Dyer	Brooke Kay Vaughan	Katie Moore	Hannah Ward
Jenna Fisher	Chiara Major	Emma Szmytka	

We thank their coach Robert Mullen, for all his hard work and dedication and to the girls who did so well.

Diocesan Basketball Championships

Last Tuesday, 16 October, 60 boys and girls from Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 represented St Thomas Aquinas at the Diocesan Basketball Championships. The day was held at the Penrith Basketball Stadium at Cambridge Park with many schools participating in our pool. We had a very successful day with great improvement in skills and game play throughout the day. The Year 5 boys' team came 1st, Year 5 girls equal 1st and were allocated 2nd place on a goal count-back with a two-goal difference. Year 6 boys came 2nd, missing out on 1st place with a last game loss. Year 6 girls placed 4th as did the Year 3/ 4 girls. Finally, the Year 3/ 4 boys came 2nd, also missing out on 1st place with a loss in their final game.

All teams played with a great sporting attitude and spirit and represented STA with great pride. A special thank you to Mr Mullen and Mr Ian Fuller who coached teams on the day, giving expert coaching tips and substituting players throughout the day. Many parents and grandparents helped out on the day - filling out score sheets, doing the bench, getting us to games on time and looking after all players in the team. Most notably, Debbie Breytenbach, Michelle Vassallo, Steve Tait, Louise De La Harpe, Alana Tomas, Alicia Gordon, Craig Harris, William Harris and Kurt Natter. We couldn't have done it without you - thank you. Well done basketball boys and girls! **Melissa Stafford**

Student Sporting Achievement

Congratulations to Jenna Jones (5B) who recently competed in the State Athletics Championships at Homebush achieving 3 Gold medals, 1 Silver and 3 Bronze medals in her events. She was also awarded 'Outstanding Athlete of the Meet'. Jenna will now go on to Adelaide to compete in the Nationals in November. Well done on a fantastic effort Jenna!

St Thomas Aquinas Family Favourites Recipe Book

Families are invited to provide recipes for this book which will be printed and bound and available for purchase in Week 8. Recipes need to be sent to the school by the end of Week 4. Thank you to those who have already sent recipes in. A price and order form will be sent home in Week 5. Blank recipe proforma sheets are available at the school office and a copy of the note with further details. Please support this initiative and help to raise funds for our school. Thank you.

The Parent Fundraising Team

Kanga Cricket Milo Cup Fun Day

On Thursday 18 October, 63 students from Years 3 and 4 attended the Kanga Cricket Milo Cup Fun Day at Summerhayes Park. The aim of the day was to expose the students to cricket in a fun inclusive learning environment. All students played every game and both batted and bowled during the non-competitive tournament. Everyone received a giveaway pack at the end of the day. Some of the instructors were members of the Sydney Thunder Cricket team. They proved quite able dancers as well during the mini-breaks.

For many students this was their first time 'representing' STA. Well done boys and girls and our sincere thanks to Karleen Hutchings for bringing the school sun shelter and to Elaine Collier and Chris Chenoweth who went with the students on the day. Also Robert Mullen selected and trained the teams, but was unable to attend due to ill health.

Love one another



Autumn Fair Craft Group

The St Thomas Aquinas craft group has started up again for Term 4. Over the term the group will be busy making items in preparation for next year's Autumn Fair. They are currently looking for donations of any unwanted bits and pieces you may have at home such as photo frames, fabric, ribbon, jewellery (old or broken is fine), leather thong, thread, or other craft products. They meet each Friday in the school hall from 9.20am to 11.20am. All welcome!



School Band

At the end of Week 1 we said farewell to Tony Gardner who has been teaching the School Band for the last two terms. We thank Tony for his expertise and for giving our students the privilege of being taught by such a fine musician as Tony. We welcome back Emma Nicholson from St Columba's who returns after her maternity leave.

NSW Police Band

The NSW Police Band will be visiting our school this Thursday to perform for our students in the hall. Parents are very welcome to attend at 12 noon or 12.45pm. Thank you to Viv Llewellyn for organising this musical event.

Wakakirri DVD

Parents may order the DVD of the show online at a cost of \$42.00 each. Go to www.wakakirri.com You will need a paypal account to order online. No ordering is done through the school. Order by 31 October 2012.

Lost Property

Recently found at the school: wristwatch with square face on brown leather band; silver two-piece cross. Contact the school office for more details.

Leave for Mr Rosato

Serge Rosato will be on leave for the next few weeks due to the illness of his wife Keryne. Serge and Keryne sincerely thank everyone for their prayers, thoughts and support at this time. Avril Llewellyn will be Acting Principal and Joanne Toohey will be Acting Assistant Principal until Mr Rosato returns to school.

DIARY DATES

2012 TERM 4 Week 3	Monday 22	12.30pm Assembly – 5B presenting
	23	9.05am Coffee & Chat 3.40pm Staff Meeting
	24	8.30am Staff Briefing Rice Day for the Missions 7.00pm Autumn Fair 2013 Meeting
	25	8.30am Staff Prayer 12.00pm & 12.45pm Police Band Concerts
	26 World Teachers Day	9.20am Parish Mass – 3CH & 6M attending
Week 4	Monday 29	12.30pm Assembly – K6A presenting
	30	10.00am Hall Blessing & Opening Ceremony – all welcome. 3.40pm Staff Meeting
	31	8.30am Staff Briefing Musica Viva Concerts
	November 1 (All Saints Day)	8.30am Staff Prayer
	2 (All Souls Day)	9.20am Parish Mass – 2T & 5B attending

Important Dates to Remember for Term 4 2012

Autumn Fair 2013 Meeting:	Wednesday 24 October 2012 at 7.00pm
Kindergarten 2013 Parent Information Evening:	Wednesday 7 November at 7.30pm
Kindergarten 2013 Orientation:	(Week 7) – Monday 19 & Tuesday 20 November 9.30am-10.30am (Week 8) – Wednesday 28 & Tuesday 29 November 9.30am-10.30am
End of Year Mass:	Wednesday 12 December at 12.00pm
Christmas Concert:	Thursday 13 December at 7.00pm
School Awards Assembly:	Tuesday 18 December at 12.00noon (in the Church)
Year 6 Graduation Mass:	Wednesday 19 December at 7.30pm
Last Day of Term 4 2012:	Wednesday 19 December (for students)
Staff Development Days:	Thursday 20 & Friday 21 December (pupil free)

Sent Home Recently:

- Whooping Cough Alert (*blue*)
- Head Lice note to 1D
- Kindergarten Pizza Day note (*green*)
- Week 3 Gym Classes Cancellation note (*mauve*)
- Term 4 Parent Calendar (*red*)
- Rice Day note (*gold*)

love one another