

NEWSLETTER

No. 14 Date 01/11/2013 Week 4 Term 4

Dear St Thomas Aquinas Families,

Welcome back to Term 4! We especially welcome our new families. What a way to start!

With the events of the past few weeks we wish to express our sincere sympathy to all those directly and indirectly affected by the bushfires. We would also like to thank our wonderful school community and also those from the wider community who have contributed so much to assist the school and its families to recover and return to some sort of normality.



We also wish to thank the Catholic Education Office, Diocese of Parramatta, who provided counselling staff for the support of our students, staff and parents on our return to school this week and especially to Greg Whitby, Executive Director of Schools, and Bishop Anthony who visited the school last Monday and spoke to our students. It has been wonderful to witness this amazing community spirit. We are truly blessed.



As a school, we now need to focus our attention on re-establishing school routines and ensuring children feel reassured, supported and know that it is okay to talk about what has happened.

May God continue to bless our community as we work together to rebuild. May we continue to be inspired and guided



by our motto, "Love One Another" to do God's will for others in our midst.

Until next time,

S Rosato

Sergio Rosato
Principal

Kindergarten 2014 Parent Information Evening

Parents of children enrolled in Kindergarten 2014 are invited to attend an information evening **next Wednesday, 6 November from 7.30-8.45pm in the school hall.** We look forward to meeting with you on this occasion.

There will also be an opportunity on the night to nominate which Orientation sessions your child will attend. See information below. For enquiries phone the office on 4754 2554.

Kindergarten 2014 Orientation

Kindergarten Orientation will be held over two consecutive weeks from **9.30-10.30am on Monday and Tuesday, 18 & 19 November and Wednesday and Thursday, 27 & 28 November.** Parents may choose to bring their child on 1 or up to 4 of these sessions. Registration sheets for these sessions will be available at the Information Evening.

NAPLAN 2014 – Years 3 & 5

NAPLAN reports will be sent home today via the students in Years 3 & 5.

Students Not Returning for 2014

The school is currently interviewing families for enrolment for 2014. Places are limited in some grades. To enable the school to plan appropriately we would appreciate families of students in Grades K-5 who are not returning in 2014 to please notify the school in writing as soon as possible. Your timely attention to this matter would be much appreciated as the implications regarding staffing and resourcing by the Catholic Education Office stem from accurate enrolment numbers.



ST THOMAS AQUINAS
NEWS

a: 168 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

Love one another

FROM THE REC (Religious Education Coordinator)

Mission Month 2013

During the past month of October, all classes in their Religious Education lessons have celebrated World Mission Month. This year's theme 'I will build my Church' invites our Catholic school community to reach out to help children who are vulnerable and in desperate need in Mongolia and throughout the world.

This year with the support of the Catholic Mission's School Resource children in our community have learnt about issues of mission and justice and how we can all be involved with global mission and participate in this wonderful work of sharing the loving grace of God throughout the world. World Mission Month is a very special opportunity to witness and nurture the Catholic identity of our school community.

What did Jesus say?

Jesus teaches us about mission and what is important. Our mission is to care for people as Jesus did. Jesus teaches us how to care for the people in need when he talked about who will be welcomed in Heaven.

With your family, read the Gospel of Matthew 25: 31-40.

- In the time of Jesus, how did the local people treat the poor?
- According to Jesus how should people care for them?
- How did Jesus care for them? □ Give an example from what you know about Jesus.
- Do you know people who are sick, lonely, hungry, thirsty?
- What does the Church do to help these people?
- What can you do to help these people?

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 on Friday, 29 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 preparation for Christmas we will once again be supporting the St Vincent De Paul Christmas appeal. Specific details regarding fundraising will be sent home later in the term.

Two other key liturgical events in the Term 4 calendar are the **Thanksgiving Eucharist on 11 December** and our **Christmas Concert/Celebration on the following evening (12 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 & Joseph

Year 3 – traditional shepherds

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

Year 5 - black clothing

Year 6 – Magi/wise men (royal colours)

Term 4 Parish Mass Roster:

Week 6 (13 Nov): Kindergarten

Week 7 (20 Nov): Year 1 & 5

Week 8 (27 Nov): Year 3 & 6

Week 9 (4 Dec): Year 2 & 4

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

God Bless.

Mr Coley White

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

St Columba's High School Orientation Day – Year 7 2014

2013 Year 6 students who are attending St Columba's next year are invited to attend an Orientation Day on **Friday, 15 November 2013**. This day is for parents and students and will **commence at 9.00am**. Parents are to provide transport to and from school and accompany their child to St Columba's. Please contact Mr Bernard Ellis, St Columba's for further information. Ph: 4754 1022.

PARISH NEWS – Sacramental Program

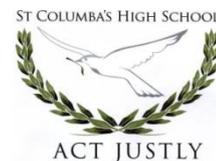
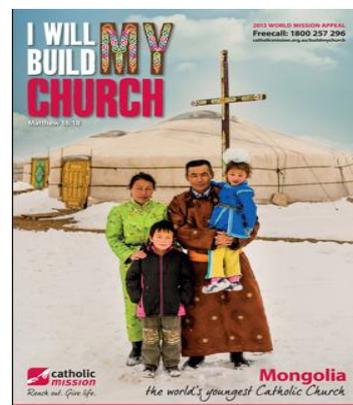
A **Parent Meeting for First Communion** was held on Wednesday 9 October. You would have received your workbooks for the program with small group gatherings starting this week. A reminder the cost for the program is \$10.00 payable to the Parish Office. **First Communion will be on Sunday, 24 November at 11.00am.**

Week 8 Term 4 Assembly

Parents please note; there will be a change of day for Week 8 only for our weekly School Assembly. This assembly will now be held on **Tuesday 26 November**, instead of Monday 25 November. **Class 2S will be presenting** their assembly item and it will be held at the **usual time of 12.30pm** in the Bishop Manning Learning Centre. All other assemblies will be held as usual on Mondays at 12.30pm.

Bell Shakespeare Performance Rescheduled

This performance has now been rescheduled to **Friday 15 November** for students in **Years 4 & 5**.



ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

Student Awards

Congratulations to the following students, who received Merit Awards at our last School Assembly (Week 2, Term 4). Well done on your efforts everyone - keep up the good work!



Charlotte Burke	Lara Gordon	Melissa Lee	Emma Pospischil
Anabel Caristo	Mia Grodzicki	Shyelo Malim-Martinez	Jessica Press
Michael Christof	Kate Harrison	Thomas Manzie	Mark Rubelj
Brooke Conway	Angus Hayden	Julia McIlveen	Astrid Sarazen
Lachlan Conway	Bradley Hickey	Evey McLaren	Isabella Stewart
Nathan Della-Libera	Kyle Hodges	Kaseko Mgaza	Isabella Trinajstic
Texas Down	Lachlan Holman-Lee	Grace Miller	Dylan Waddel
Keith Eddy	Jack Hutchings	Gela Moss	Patrick Wakeling
Baxter Ellem	Nyah Hutchings	Keiran Murphy	Hannah Ward
Mischa Evans	Jenna Jones	Kiera Natter	Lachlan Waters
Jade Fiala	Erin Kilner	Matthew Nutland	Harry Watson
Max Friedland-Jaccoud	Daniel Kime	Tobie Payens	Madison Williams
James Glasson	Ella Laurent	Max Peters	Laurence Wynne-Jones
Jessica Gomez			

Commonwealth Banking News

The Dollarmites Team at Commonwealth Bank have found treasure!! Students simply need to make 2 or more school banking deposits from 21 October to 30 November, regardless of value and will be automatically entered into the competition. You could win an Apple iPod touch 16GB (60 to be won) or an Adventure DVD pack (100 to be won)!!

After School Drama with Georgia Adamson

Georgia Adamson is a professional actor who has worked with many Australian theatre companies who brings her drama classes to our school for Year 3 & 4 students. Classes are joyful and creative, and are run in a playful and supportive atmosphere. Registrations are through Georgia direct for Wednesday afternoons here in the school hall. Please call Georgia on 0419 287 478 or email on georgia_adamson@netspace.net.au to find out further information on this amazing initiative. Classes started this week and are in 4-week blocks.

Student Sporting Success

Congratulations to Owen Harris (5B) who has been selected in the U11 Futsal Team (indoor soccer) to compete in America during July 2014. Well done Owen!

Book Club

Orders for Issue 7 are due by next Monday 4 November. Parents please note: the **Book Fair** will be here on **12 & 13 November** and you may prefer to purchase from it instead. If you still wish to order from Issue 7, please return your order as soon as possible. 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.



2013 SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

The Scholastic Book Fair will be held at the school in **Week 6** on **Tuesday 12 November and Wednesday 13 November** in the library. The book fair is a great opportunity for families to do some early Christmas shopping. Further information will be sent home shortly.

Class Placements for 2014

At this time of year, the school commences the process of placing students in classes for the following year. If you have a reasonable request for a placement for your child for 2014, you are required to put the request in writing stating child's name, child's present class, your request and the reason for the request.

NOTE: It is important that parents understand this is not an opportunity to request a specific teacher as your child's class teacher for next year. Teachers will not be assigned classes for 2014 until mid-December. Class lists will be formed first and then teachers assigned to the classes.

Requests may relate to special needs, pastoral care, wellbeing needs or the like. **No absolute promises regarding class placements can be made by the school. Please be assured that the best interests of the children will be carefully and professionally considered by teachers as they form class groupings for 2014.**

There are MANY factors which affect the placement of students. Parental requests are only one of the issues to be taken into account. The school has a highly rigorous process in place which carefully considers all these factors before placing a student in a class.

For requests to be considered, they must be received at the school office **no later than Friday, 15 November, 2013. Please note that no requests will be considered after this date.**



Scan with your smartphone or tablet for more information.

www.stspringwood.catholic.edu.au

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Bus Travel for Students in Year 3, 2014

At the end of the year all students in Year 2 with bus passes will be automatically taken off the bus company system as they progress from infants to primary level. Therefore, it will be necessary for those students to reapply for 2014. To be eligible for free bus travel, a primary school student must reside more than 1.6 kilometres radial distance from the centre of the school property, or 2.3 kilometres or more by the most direct practicable walking route to the nearest point of entry to the school.

If you have received a bus pass application recently from Blue Mountains Bus Company for your student moving into Year 3 in 2014, please complete the form as soon as possible and send it to the school office for processing. **All forms must be returned by Friday, 22 November 2013.**

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 meet **each Friday in Sr Monica's room from 9.05am to 11.05am.** All welcome!



DIARY DATES

2013 TERM 4 Week 5	Monday 4 November	12.30pm Assembly – 3S presenting
	5	9.05am Coffee & Chat 3.40pm Staff Meeting
	6	8.30am Staff Briefing 7.30pm Kindergarten 2014 Parent Information Evening
	7	8.30am Staff Prayer
	8	
Week 6	Monday 11	12.30pm Assembly – KL presenting 3.40pm Leadership Meeting
	12	Book Fair 9.05am Coffee & Chat 3.40pm Staff Meeting
	13	Book Fair 8.30am Staff Briefing
	14	8.30am Staff Prayer
	15	Bell Shakespeare Performance – Years 4 & 5 (rescheduled)

Important Dates to Remember for Term 4 2013

Kindergarten 2014 Parent Information Evening:	Wednesday 6 November at 7.30pm (in the hall)
Kindergarten 2014 Orientation:	(Week 7) – Monday 18 & Tuesday 19 November 9.30am-10.30am (Week 8) – Wednesday 27 & Thursday 28 November 9.30am-10.30am
Advent Liturgy:	Friday 29 November at 12.30pm (in the hall)
Thanksgiving Eucharist:	Wednesday 11 December at 9.30am
Christmas Celebration:	Thursday 12 December at 7.00pm
Year 6 Picnic Day:	Monday 16 December
School Awards Assembly:	Tuesday 17 December at 12.00noon (in the Church)
Year 6 Graduation Mass:	Wednesday 18 December at 7.00pm
Last Day of Term 4 2013:	Wednesday 18 December (for students)
Staff Development Days:	Thursday 19 & Friday 20 December (pupil free)

COMMUNITY NEWS

Short Term Foster Carers: The Penrith centre of Barnardos Australia are urgently recruiting carers who can provide a safe and loving home to a child on a short term basis. Barnardos provide training and 24 hour support. Please call Amber on 1800 663 441 or visit their website: www.barnardos.org.au

Music of Antonin Dvořák – Mass in D Major at St Finbars Church: **Friday 8 November at 7.30pm, 46 Levy Street, Glenbrook.** Presented by Warrimoo Chorale with Organ Accompanist Michael Butterfield and directed by Brian Eggert. Experience the power and excitement of Dvořák's major work on the heritage-listed Hele Pipe Organ with a superb choir in the beautiful stone church of St Finbar's. Also on the program will be a selection of Folk Music, old and new by Stephen Foster, Aaron Copland, Johannes Brahms and Eric Whitacre. Accompanist Melanie Roddy. Suggested donation \$15, \$10 concession. Accompanied children free. Enquiries phone 4754 1780.

Sent Home Recently:

- Chicken Pox Alert to Kindergarten (*mauve*)
- Chicken Pox Alert to Year 4 (*orange*)
- Chicken Pox Alert to Year 2 (*lemon*)
- Year 6 PDHPE Growing & Changing note (*green*)
- Diocesan Gymnastics Competition Excursion note – selected students
- Milo T20 Cricket Competition Excursion note – selected students
- Note re Bushfires - to all families (*3-page multi-coloured*)
- Kindergarten Numeracy & Literacy Groups note (*blue*)

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