

UPDATE

No. 8 Date 08/11/13 Week 5 Term 3

Dear St Thomas Aquinas Families,

Over the last two weeks the school community has been overwhelmed by the generosity of so many people within our own school, parish and local area. Additionally we have had many calls, offers of practical and financial help from a variety of sources to assist our students and families in this time of need.

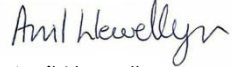
Many schools and staff in the Parramatta Diocese have held fund-raising events to support all those in the Blue Mountains who need help. Students from other schools in the wider Sydney area have also sent wonderful letters of support and financial help. As a school community we feel most grateful, supported and blessed. We sincerely thank everyone who has shown such a loving spirit in so many ways. There will be some opportunities for all our children at St Thomas Aquinas to benefit from other's generosity. This will help our students over the next few weeks.

At this time further practical help is best as a monetary donation. If anyone still wishes to support those in need please give to the Bishop's Bushfire appeal or to other agencies.

We received the following prayer from a little girl at another school that says it all:

I hope that God is watching over you. I love you and care for you. I hope you are safe and sound.

Yours sincerely,



Avril Llewellyn
Assistant Principal

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!



Ryan An U	Lachlan Golby	William McLaren	Oliver Rizzuti
Alex Bagatella	Samuel Graham	David McMaster	Aamber Rowe
Noah Barr	Thomas Grodzicki	Macklin Miall	Grace Sato
Alice Bauerhuit	Summer Harrison	Rose Miall	Isabel Sia-Stone
Genevieve Blandin de Chalain	Lachlan Holman-Lee	Dylan Mitchell	Oliver Stewart
Aliyah Brown	Odette Laurent	William Moore	Julian Sypka
Ruby Butler	Scarlett Lia	Olivia Mountain	Will Ticehurst
Ferris Carey	Lachlan Lloyd	Keyuri Naidoo	Benjamin Tracey
Grace Costigan	Bridget Lloyd-Williams	Wilken Payens	Bronte Tracey
Luke Crouch	Veronica Lloyd-Williams	Cooper Potter	Nathan Treble

2013 SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

The Book Fair will be held at the school **next week**, 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. Purchasing timetable as follows:

- **8.30am-9.05am: Parents and children accompanied by a parent only**
- **3.20pm-4.00pm: Parents and children accompanied by a parent only**
- **Students who are buying books on their own will be called up during class-time.**

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal and Advent Liturgy

Once again this year we will be supporting the St Vincent de Paul Society with their annual Christmas Appeal. This year our Christmas Appeal Day will be a '**muffi day**' and will take place in conjunction **with our Advent Liturgy at 12:30pm on 29 November**. Children are encouraged to wear the colours of Advent to school – Purple, Pink, White or Green. We are asking that children make a '**Gold Coin**' donation on the day. All funds raised on the day will be distributed to our local St Vincent de Paul Chapter, for families to use in preparation for Christmas. Further information will be sent home next week.

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

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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.**

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.**



Baby Congratulations

Congratulations to Olivia and Darren Barker on the birth of their new son Jude, brother to Jeremy (3S) and Willow (1D).



Scan with your smartphone or tablet for more information.

www.stspringwood.catholic.edu.au

Parish Sacramental Program – First Holy Communion

First Holy Communion will be on **Sunday, 24 November** at **11.00am**. Practice will held on **Wednesday 20 November** at St Thomas Aquinas Church at **3.45pm**.

DIARY DATES

2013 TERM 3 Week 6	Monday 11 November	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 Parish Mass – Kindergarten attending
	14	8.30am Staff Prayer
	15	Bell Shakespeare Performance – Years 4 & 5 (rescheduled) St Columba's High School Orientation for Year 7 2014
Week 7	Monday 18	9.30-10.30am Kindergarten 2014 Orientation 12.30pm Assembly – 1H presenting 3.40pm Leadership Meeting
	19	9.30-10.30am Kindergarten 2014 Orientation 3.40pm Staff Meeting
	20	8.30am Staff Briefing Parish Mass – Years 1 & 5 attending
	21	8.30am Staff Prayer Year 1 Excursion to Art Gallery
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COMMUNITY NEWS

Happy 18th Birthday Rainbow Preschool: **Saturday 16 November from 4.00pm** at **53 Singles Ridge Road, Winmalee**. BYO everything! RSVP by 13 November to Debbie Filmer on (02) 4754 4910 Monday - Wednesday or email to rainbowpreschoolwinmalee@yahoo.com.au

Jericho Road – Bushfire Recovery Service – Community Freezer: This service (an initiative of Presbyterian Social Services) has been set up for bushfire-affected families and also those who may be looking after extras during this time, where people can pick-up a home cooked meal (as much as you need) from a community freezer based at **585 Hawkesbury Road, Winmalee**. Feel free to deliver to someone in need if that works best or let us know and we will deliver. The service will be available for as many months as needed. There are vegetarian and gluten free available as well. For more information please phone Liz on 0427 421 467 or Gill on 0413 808 062 or just call in to collect your meal.

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