

NEWSLETTER

No. 13 Date 14/11/12 Week 6 Term 4

Dear St Thomas Aquinas Families,

Bishop Manning Learning Centre Blessing Ceremony ~ Tuesday 30 October ~

Thank you to everyone who recently attended the occasion of the blessing of our new hall. This beautiful ceremony was led by Very Rev Christopher de Souza VG as Bishop Anthony's representative, and Fr Peter Connelly as Pastor Emeritus. The official guests included members of the Parramatta Catholic Education Office, principals of neighbouring Catholic schools and representatives of the architectural and building firms involved.



The ritual of a blessing ceremony – a ritual of gathering, prayer, scripture, response and celebration – reminds us of the importance of gathering as a Catholic community to witness to our faith and to work towards a Gospel-centred future. The words of the Opening Prayer summarise these hopes:

***May this community continue to be a centre of learning,
dedicated to proclaiming God's truth
and love within the parish of St Thomas Aquinas and the
wider community.***

All visitors to the school remarked upon the reverent and joyful participation of our students in the ceremony through song, prayer and action. We are extremely proud of the way in which each member of the school contributed to the overall atmosphere of welcome and worship. Mrs Llewellyn's address reminded us of the many and varied ways in which the Bishop Manning Learning Centre has provided both the school and the wider community with opportunities for gathering, learning, and celebrating in the past twelve months. We now look forward to extending our use of this learning space in exciting and innovative ways. **Joanne Toohey**



The following input about this special occasion was provided by one of our SRC students:

Last Tuesday, the 30th October, the Bishop Manning Learning Centre was officially opened. Father Peter, the Pastoral Emeritus, Mrs Avril Llewellyn, our Acting Principal, Greg Whitby, the Executive Director of Catholic Schools and Father Christopher De Souza, the Vicar General and many other important guests came. During the blessing the choir performed and afterwards our VIPs were served morning tea by the SRC.

Thank you to all who participated and all the organisation required.



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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

Kindergarten 2013

Last Wednesday it was delightful to meet with families who have a child who is joining our school community at St Thomas Aquinas in 2013. As these children and their families prepare to be ready for school next year, we too are preparing for their smooth transition to the beginning of their education in a Catholic School.

Next week and the week after, orientation sessions are planned for Kindergarten 2013 to go to the classrooms, meet the teachers and staff who will be teaching and supporting them, as well as to meet Year 5 students who will be their 'buddies' next year. We know that all the children will be excited to be at 'big' school and we warmly welcome them into St Thomas Aquinas School. I look forward to seeing the children and their families at the orientation sessions.

Assessments and Reporting

Over the next two weeks all students in K-6 will be tested in English and Mathematics with assessments that are carried out each year in order to track each child's progress in these areas of learning. Teachers in Year 1 and Kindergarten also administer the Early Years Assessment to see the development of learning from the beginning of the year. These tests are one aspect of assessment as the teachers consider work undertaken throughout the semester, observations of each student's learning as well as the pupil's attitude and effort within the classroom. All these elements of learning are taken into consideration when reporting to parents. It is important to remember that each child is an individual and learns at their own pace and in their own way.

Until next time.

Avril Llewellyn
Acting Principal

Reminder:
Staff Development Day
(Pupil Free)
Friday 7 December

From Mr Rosato

Dear St Thomas Aquinas Families,

I would like to convey our deep appreciation for the many prayers and messages of support you have bestowed on Keryne and our family during her recent illness. Keryne is now recovering at home after a period in hospital. We pray that her recovery continues and that soon she will be well again.

I would like to thank you all for your kindness and sensitivity. I have a deep affection and respect for this community and this has been borne out in abundance during this time. I continue to pray for the wonderful children in our care and our dedicated staff and leadership of the school as they each carry out their daily vocation.

I ask that you continue to pray for and remember those in our community in need and particularly one of our own, Robert Mullen.

With love and best wishes,

Sergio Rosato



Scan with your smartphone or tablet for more information.

www.staspringwood.catholic.edu.au

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

2013 World Youth Day Raffle Tickets

Thank you to all those families who have returned their raffle tickets. All tickets need to be returned 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.



Parramatta Diocesan Team Sports Trials

Any child wishing to try out for the Parramatta Team Sports Trials for the sports of AFL, Cricket, Hockey, Netball, Rugby League Opens, Rugby League 11's, Rugby Union, Soccer and Touch Football for 2013 need to see Mrs Bousfield next Monday, 19 November, for a Player Profile form. These forms will need to be returned to school by Friday, 23 November 2012. **NB. These children need to have played at a representative level to be eligible.**



St Thomas Aquinas Family Favourites Recipe Book

Our first St Thomas Aquinas Family Favourites Recipe Book is well underway and should be ready by the end of Week 9. The book costs \$12 each or 2 or more at \$10 each. Orders are now being taken for the book and must be back with payment to the school by this Friday, 16 November.

Order forms are available at the office. **The Parent Fundraising Team**



Sydney Welsh Choir & St Thomas Aquinas School Choir Christmas Concert – 2 December 2012

A special concert featuring the Sydney Welsh Choir and the St Thomas Aquinas School Choir, conducted by Viv Llewellyn, will be held on **Sunday, 2 December 2012 at 2.00pm** at the **Bishop Manning Learning Centre, St Thomas Aquinas School**. The concert will include Christmas music and carols and the choirs will sing a piece together in Welsh. **Tickets:** \$20 each, \$10 for children under 12. Phone 4754 2554 or 4739 0384 (AH). Proceeds from this concert will help to support our pilgrims to World Youth Day in Rio 2013.

Drinks and Popcorn Sale – Friday 16 November



This Friday, 16 November, students will be able to purchase a packet of popcorn and/or a drink for **50 cents each**, at recess time. All money raised will be added to the Autumn Fair fundraising.



ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

Student Awards

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



Week 5:	Luke Arnold Gabriel Bagatella Alice Bauerhuit Makayla Boere Ayla Bogg Isaac Breia Abbey Buckle Sophie Clink Kyden Cocoris Clélia Davies Lilli Davison Claire Dixon Annah Eade Luke Edwards	Harry Elliott Gabriel Esquivel Jenna Fisher Matilda Gauci Harry Gilchrist Abbey Gomez Jake Gordon Emilia Gosling Elena Goudis Ryan Hanrahan Benjamin Huggard Timothy Hurley Laura Jelovic Matthew Kwiedor	Ned Lawlor Bridie Le Breton Elizabeth Makepeace Mackenzie Marsland Lachlan McDougall Bridget Morales Jack Murphy Benjamin Nixon Tommy Okladnikov Hayley Page Ryan Perryman Zac Reichel William Richardson	Thomas Rizzuti Aamber Rowe Liam Sibbald Benjamin Tracey Dylan Waddell Patrick Wakeling Hannah Ward Harry Watson Jesse Wiggins Mackenzie Williams Alfie Williamson Rebecca Wilson Daniel Wurf
Week 6:	Mikhayla Atkins Mollie Bauerhuit Caleb Blick Thea Breytenbach Sophie Camilleri Imogen Carvasiglia Kaedance Cocoris Makayla Crouch Aden Cullinane Grady De La Harpe Olivia De La Harpe Wyatt Dunlop	Lauren Edwards Dante Falchetta James Galluzzi Abbey Gomez Cameron Hampson Joshua Harrison Rachael Hensen Bradley Hickey Benjamin Hinley Aaron Hodges Lachlan Holman-Lee Kayla Hurley	Georgina Jelovic Brooke Kay Vaughan Alana Kenn Declan Klukow-Leavey Sean Konwerski Benjamin Lewsley Ainsley Mann Rose Miall Nicholas Munro Padraic Murphy Maddison Newbold Cooper Potter	Jackson Potter Nathan Press Noah Samoluk Oscar Scanlon Ethan Sophokleous Amelia Synnott Julian Sypka Caely Waters Cameron Waters Lachlan Wiggins Daniel Wurf



Italian Forum

Across the grades this term the children are learning about famous Italian cities, buildings, artworks and aspects of culture in their Italian lessons. The specific areas being covered in each grade are as follows:

Kindergarten – The shape of Italy, the flag, the capital city, Rome and traditional dance

Year 1 – The Sistine Chapel in the Vatican, including some of its most famous paintings

Year 2 – The Leaning Tower of Pisa and the geography of Italy

Year 3 – Ancient Rome and some of the famous buildings in Rome today

Year 4 – Venice and Carnevale

Year 5 – Famous Italian cities

Year 6 – Italian food and lifestyle

Jenni Wurf, Teacher of Italian

Principal's Morning Tea – Friday 9 November

The following students were invited to this special morning tea for their effort in learning.



Isaac Bailey Riley Barglik Jeremy Barker Willow Barker Gabrielle Bradley Georgia Carter Reid Clarke Sophie Clink Keelan Ellis Adam Evans Bethany Evans Sienna Evans Julia Falchetta Audrey Gauci Piper Hansen Connor Harvey Angus Hayden Alexandria Hinley Connor Hume Jade Hume Jenna Jones Odette Laurent Isabelle Leet	Alison Lovric A J Martinelli-Walsh Bradley McCrea Anikka Millar Katie Moore Liam Murphy	Tegan Murphy Chloe Orobello Hayley Page Lachlan Roberts Daniel Salisbury Hannah Scanlon	Julian Sypka Ethan Szymotka Bronte Tracey Isaac Wardle Saffi Wilson Sinead Winn
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Book Club

Issue 8, the last Book Club for 2012, has been sent home with students this week and is due back to school **no later than Monday, 26 November**. 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.

Student Sporting Achievement

Congratulations to Kaitlyn Fischer and Anna Porter who have been selected to compete in the National Gymnastics Clubs competition in Melbourne next week. We wish you both well.

Student Banking Rewards

Earlier this year I received a request for a Reward i.e. a Handball, with 10 tokens, but there was no identification on the request. If your child requested the Handball and received no reply from me, could you please let me know? Thank you. **Deb Lawrence, Student Banking Coordinator**

Class Placements for 2013

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 2013, 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 2013 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 2013.**

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 this Friday, 16 November, 2012. Please note that no requests will be considered after this date.**

DIARY DATES

2012 TERM 4 Week 6	Thursday 15 November	8.30am Staff Prayer
	16	9.20am Parish Mass – 1D & 5/4N attending Drinks & Popcorn Day
Week 7	Monday 19	12.30pm Assembly
	20	9.30am-10.30am Kinder 2013 Orientation 3.40pm Staff Meeting
	21	8.30am Staff Briefing 9.30am-10.30am Kinder 2013 Orientation 10.30am Reconciliation – 6L Year 5 Drama
	22	8.30am Staff Prayer Year 6 Excursion to Mary MacKillop Centre
	23	9.20am Parish Mass – K6A & 1R attending
Sunday 25 November		11.00am First Eucharist – St Thomas Aquinas Church

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Fair Trade Fair – Saturday 17 November: Springwood Uniting Church is hosting a Fair Trade Fair from 9.00am – 2.00pm this Saturday at 4 Lewin Street, Springwood. Choose fair trade products to help create a brighter future for millions of farmers, workers and their families in developing countries. Stalls include: Jewellery, Carpets, Bags, Home wares, Toys, Fashion, Chocolates, Coffee & Tea, Morning Tea and Sausage Sizzle. Visit www.springwood.unitingchurch.org.au for details or phone 4751 8816.

Volunteer Carers for Children with Special Needs: Can you spare an occasional day or a few hours a month? Are you friendly, caring and accepting? Wanting to do something that will give you great rewards? Westlink Respite Services (WRS) is in need of volunteers, individuals and families, who would like to befriend a child or teenager who has a disability. Care can take place in your home, the child's home or as a companion on outings in the community. This is a great opportunity for the child to make new friends and also give their family a short break. Volunteer Carers receive a small recompense. Training and ongoing support are provided. To find out more, please phone 8805 0917 or 8805 0916. We'd love to hear from you.

Ellison OOSH – Because you care, we care: We have vacancies for 5-13 year olds. Enquiries to Tania or Stephen – phone 4751 5937 or email: ellisonoosh@gmail.com. Teamed with Blue Mountains Family Daycare. Operating under the CCB & CCR schemes.

Sent Home Recently:

- Note to Year 3 re ACARA Research (salmon)
- Year 5 PDHPE note (green)
- STA Family Recipe Book Order Form (lemon)

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