

# NEWSLETTER

No. 15 Date 22/11/2013 Week 7 Term 4

Dear St Thomas Aquinas Families,

As you are aware every Monday at our school there is a community assembly where everyone gathers to sing, celebrate, perform and learn about upcoming events. The announcement at a recent assembly that the school would host a performance by the Wiggles was greeted by a deafening roar of approval and applause by the children - and even more so by the adults!



The special performance by the Wiggles last Wednesday was a wonderful gesture of support for the school and the Blue Mountains community as we come to terms with the recent devastating bushfires and commence the long journey of rebuilding.

Since returning to school we have kept the focus on re-establishing routines and ensuring children and families feel reassured, supported and know that it is okay to talk about what happened. The visit by the Wiggles provided a much-appreciated distraction and a wonderful boost to morale for the students, teachers and families.

Music and drama are an integral part of learning and culture in our school and this event was a fantastic way to engage our whole community and simply bring a smile to everyone's face.

We are incredibly grateful to the Wiggles management particularly to Paul and Anthony Field for their generosity in visiting our school community in-between engagements overseas. The fact that they offered to help in this way is another example of the outpouring of generosity, kindness and love that has been demonstrated by the wider community.



**The visit by The Wiggles provided a much-appreciated distraction and a wonderful boost to morale for the students, teachers and families.**



We are indeed enriched and sustained by this ongoing generosity of spirit.

Until next time,

*Sergio Rosato*

Sergio Rosato  
Principal



## Enrolments 2014

Any families moving from STA in 2014 are asked to notify the school as soon as possible. The law requires that parents/carers complete a notification of leaving form which is available from the school office. We currently have a number of families on our waiting list therefore notification will enable us to respond to this demand.

*love one another*



ST THOMAS AQUINAS  
NEWS

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Father Paul Slyney  
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## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

### Week 8 Term 4 Assembly – NEXT WEEK

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.

### Kindergarten 2014 Orientation Visits

This week and next week we are hosting our Orientation sessions for children and families of our Kindergarten intake for 2014. During their time at school the children will be able to meet staff and other children as well as engage in a number of activities in preparation for next year. Whilst the children are occupied with all that, their parents and carers will have the opportunity to connect with each other. The final 2 visits will take place **next Wednesday & Thursday at 9.30am**.

### 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 **'muffin day'** and will take place in conjunction **with our Advent Liturgy at 12:30pm next Friday, 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 shortly.

### Counselling Support

The Catholic Education Office has allocated an extra counsellor to our school to assist students and families in our recovery from the bushfires. This allocation supplements our regular counsellor Jeanne Appleton who attends the school every Friday and every second Monday.

### Class Allocation 2014

The Catholic Education Office Parramatta has allocated an extra class to our school for 2014 due to rising numbers in grades 1-6. Therefore we will be forming 21 classes as follows:

3 classes of **Kindies**  
3 classes of **Year 1**  
2 classes of **Year 2**  
1 class of **Year 3/2**

3 classes of **Year 3**  
2 classes of **Year 4**  
1 class of **Year 5/4**

2 classes of **Year 5**  
3 classes of **Year 6**  
1 class of **Year K-6 Aspect**

### Bell Shakespeare

As part of the school's drama program we recently hosted a performance by the renowned Bell Shakespeare Company. The Company aims to provide students with an insight into the plots, characterisation & language of Shakespearean plays. Our Years 4 & 5 children thoroughly enjoyed Double Trouble a play that used a number of characters from a variety of Shakespearean plays. Many students commented that their experience in weekly drama lessons had assisted them in understanding the conventions of theatre performance.

### Home-Liaison Minister – Sister Monica Armstrong sgs

The recent bushfires and journey to recovery has highlighted once again the privileged and special role that Sister Monica carries out in our community. Because of her pastoral ministry in the school, Monica has been very involved in the recovery effort, supporting families who have lost their homes, receiving and distributing donated money and goods and being on hand to simply chat.

We are immensely grateful for Monica's loving vocational dedication to all those in our school community – we give thanks to God for this gift. Included in this newsletter is an article featured on the Good Samaritan Website this month featuring an interview with Sister Monica.



Sister Monica recently with ABC Radio Presenter Richard Glover



### Class KM & Principal at Maccas

Today I had the great joy of accompanying KM and their teacher, Deb Mitchell, and Walkathon Coordinator, Moya Dyer, to McDonalds Blaxland for "high lunch". This special treat for the children was a reward for their outstanding effort with sponsorship during the Walkathon last term. It was great day out and the children enjoyed the outing thoroughly. Well done KM! Great table manners too!

**Sergio Rosato**

### Bushfire Raffle

Local artist, Tanya Loviz, from Loviz Art Pty Ltd, has donated a beautiful painting titled "Great Buds" (pictured) to be raffled through the school to raise money for those affected by the recent bushfires. The painting will be on display in the school office foyer. Raffle will be drawn on Thursday, 12 December. Raffle books will be sent home next week and cost \$2 per ticket or 3 for \$5. Tickets will also be available at the school office.



# ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

## Student Awards

**Congratulations** to the following students, who received Merit Awards at our Week 6 and Week 7 School Assemblies. Well done on your efforts everyone - keep up the good work!



### Week 6

Emily Anderson  
Willow Barker  
Eliza Barr  
Ewan Beaton  
Charlotte Bourke  
Emma Brickwood  
Thomas Butler  
Mia Cini  
Jasmine Clancy  
Lucas Collins  
Brooke Conway  
Patrick Costigan

Samuel Crook  
Evan Davey  
Annalise Della-Libera  
Texas Down  
Callum Dyer  
Alison Edwards  
Jessica Ellis  
Liam Galluzzi  
Caitlin Graham  
Filip Grus  
Eve Hurley  
Kayla Hurley

William Jones  
Lachlan Leehy  
William Lister  
Eliza Manners  
Vincent McLaren  
Anikka Millar  
William Moore  
Niamh O'Connell  
Ryan Peryman  
Alyssa Pospischil  
Trinity Power  
William Rogers

Lorraine Santos  
Alyaan Sia-Stone  
Kai Simpson  
Ariella Smith  
Riley Sophokleous  
Rebecca Tabor  
Ryan Trent  
Matthew Ward  
Jesse Wiggins  
Saffi Wilson  
Daniel Woods

### Week 7

Ryan An U  
Luke Arnold  
Maxwell Blandin De Chalain  
Noah Brown  
David Cant  
Mitchell Crouch  
Jacob Danks  
Evan Davey  
Alison Edwards  
Samuel Edwards  
Katelyn Ellis  
Carmen Fiala  
James Galluzi

Audrey Gauci  
Rachael Hensen  
Henry Hinchliff  
Corey Hutchings  
Georgina Jelovic  
Madison Johns  
Katelyn Jones  
Hayden Keogh  
Declan Klukow-Leavey  
Isabella Luchetti  
Blake Mazurek  
William McLaren  
Diesel Moore

Bridget Morales  
Tess Morris  
Michael Papatotiriou  
Adrian Perez-Eaton  
Jessica Press  
Vienna Reynolds  
William Richardson  
Thomas Rizutti  
Lachlan Roberts  
Sahara Rodemark  
Abigail Rogers  
Tara Slowey

Oscar Stone  
Joshua Taylor  
Jorja Teuma  
Maria Todarello  
Klara Trinajstic  
Gabriel Valle  
Demir Vassallo  
Patrick Wakeling  
Alfie Williamson  
Rebecca Wilson  
Luke Wright  
Benedict Zierholz



## Italian Forum

Last Friday the children in Year 3 were treated to a Pasta Day, with a demonstration by visiting pasta chef, Costa. It was a really fun day and many thanks must go to Costa for his expertise and humorous display. Many thanks also to Chris Della-Libera, Alison and Paul Galluzzi and Louise De La Harpe for preparing the pasta for the children.

**Jenni Wurf, Teacher of Italian**



## Car Park Reminders

Parents and carers are reminded NOT TO STOP AND PARK IN THE 'KISS & DROP' AREA in the Church Car Park driveway. This area is designated for **quick drop-offs only**, so that other parents and drivers may do the same in quick succession on school mornings. This area is also to be kept clear in the afternoons when traffic is at its busiest. Recently, some parents have been parking here during the afternoons instead of parking in the assigned parking bays, which causes blockages and lengthy delays for other drivers. Please remember that this area is set-up for the benefit of all. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

## After School Drama with Georgia Adamson - Vacancies

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. The classes are run in 4-week blocks in our school hall. **Some vacancies still exist for the 2<sup>nd</sup> block, commencing on Wednesday 27 November.** Registrations are through Georgia direct on 0419 287 478 or email on [georgia\\_adamson@netspace.net.au](mailto:georgia_adamson@netspace.net.au) to find out further information.

## Book Club

Issue 8 Book Club is out. However, as we have just had the Book Fair we have decided not to send home the forms unless they are requested. So if you would like Issue 8 Book Club please see your child's classroom teacher or Mrs Bousfield in the Library.



## Book Fair

The 2013 Scholastic Book Fair was an enormous success! Thank you to the community for supporting it. As a result, significant funds were raised which will be used to purchase new books for the Library for next year. All ordered books should have been given out to the children or are available in the Library for collection. **Karen Bousfield, Teacher Librarian**

## Remembrance Day

Last week we paused as a school to remember and honour all those who have served and paid the ultimate sacrifice to protect our freedom. It was also an opportunity to pray for peace – in our hearts, home, nation & world. Maintaining traditions such as Remembrance Day encourages all to honour our history and learn from its lessons – *Those who do not learn history are doomed to repeat it.* Congratulations to Trinity Power in KL for explaining the symbolism of the Poppy at our school assembly on Monday. As Trinity explained, *"The poppy was the first flower to be reborn after the battle"*.

*love one another*

## 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 are now due back.**

## Bushfire Recovery Concert

An exciting concert to raise funds for those affected by the recent devastating bushfires will be held at St Thomas Aquinas Primary School in the **Bishop Manning Learning Centre** (school hall) on **Saturday 7 December at 5.00pm**. The concert will feature performances by the *Sydney Welsh choir* – a mixed-voice choir that sings a variety of pieces, many of them in a Welsh harmony style, conducted by Viv Llewellyn, and a local band, *Lazy Drive*. Both musical groups will present songs and music that will entertain and inspire the audience and for the finale will join together to perform such songs as *Let Me Be There*. Tickets are \$15 or \$10 Concession, available at the door. Any enquiries may be made at the school office on 4754 2554.

## PARISH NEWS - Sacraments

### Baptism

Congratulations to the following students from our school who recently received the Sacrament of Baptism – Erin Hutchinson (1R), Isaac Hutchinson (3S) and Willow Hookings (KL).

We are privileged to have these children and their families join our Catholic community.

### First Communion

We extend our prayers for the children who this coming Sunday at 11.00am will receive their First Communion. This sacramental encounter with God is an important event in a child's life. We wish each of these children and their families many blessings and joy for the day.

Thank you to Father Paul and the Parish team for making these possible for our children.

## DIARY DATES

<b>2013</b> <b>TERM 4</b> <b>Week 8</b>	<b>Monday 25 November</b>	Musica Viva Concerts <b>No Assembly – rescheduled to Tuesday this week only</b> 3.40pm Leadership Meeting
	<b>26</b>	9.05am Coffee & Chat <b>12.30pm Assembly – 2S presenting</b> 3.40pm Staff Meeting
	<b>27</b>	8.30am Staff Briefing <b>9.30-10.30am Kindergarten 2014 Orientation</b>
	<b>28</b>	8.30am Staff Prayer <b>9.30-10.30am Kindergarten 2014 Orientation</b>
	<b>29</b>	12.30pm Advent Liturgy & St Vincent de Paul Mufti Day
<b>Week 9</b>	<b>Monday 2 December</b>	12.30pm Assembly – 2D & 3CH presenting 3.40pm Leadership Meeting
	<b>3</b>	Year 2 Excursion to Powerhouse Museum Kindergarten 'Restaurant Day' 3.40pm Staff Meeting
	<b>4</b>	8.30am Staff Briefing 9.20am Parish Mass – Years 2 & 4 attending
	<b>5</b>	8.30am Staff Prayer 2.15pm Author visit
	<b>6</b>	Kindergarten Pizza Day

## COMMUNITY NEWS

**St Thomas Aquinas Playgroup:** This playgroup runs in the Parish Centre from 9.15-11.15am every Thursday during the school term. All are welcome that have a child aged 0-5years. A small gold coin donation helps to pay for supplies. Any enquiries, please phone Natalie on 0403 267 146.

### Sent Home Recently:

- Wiggles Performance note (*gold*)
- Head Lice note to Year 2 (*gold*)
- Head Lice note to Year 4 (*salmon*)
- Excursion Note to McDonalds Blaxland for KM
- Excursion Permission Note to Mary MacKillop Place & Sydney Harbour Bridge for Year 6
- INSERT INCLUDED WITH THIS NEWSLETTER – Sr Monica's Interview



Scan with your smartphone or tablet for more information.

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