



TRUTH WALK TOGETHER WITH COURAGE

NATIONAL Reconciliation week 2019

NEWSLETTER

No. 3 Date: 28/05/2018 Week 5 Term 2

Dear St Thomas Aquinas Families,

The Gospel reading from a few Sundays ago was of the Good Shepherd. There are many references to sheep and shepherds in scripture. From early childhood these images are so familiar to us that they can almost become stereotyped and mixed together in our minds.

As a child growing up my image of shepherds was somewhat confusing and contradictory. In our home hung a framed picture of Jesus as a shepherd with a crook and surrounded by sheep typical of the images portrayed by artists over time.

At school I struggled with the image of Jesus as the shepherd when I imagined him in an Australian landscape through social studies lessons and Australian songs about sheep grazing and shearing and the opening-up of the country to pastoral settlers. These images like the idealised one before, didn't seem to ring true in the context of Jesus' times.

My other impression of shepherding was from the stories passed on to me by my father. My dad would tell me about his life back in the old country and how each year around September (as Autumn began) the shepherds who tended their sheep in the foothills of the Apennines in the Abruzzi region would walk their sheep flocks south 250 kms to the Puglia region where it was warmer and the grass grew plentiful in the winter. The name given to this long trek was "*transumanza*" (transhumance from the Latin words trans 'across' and humus 'ground).



Jesus had no trouble whatsoever with otherness. In fact, these "lost sheep" found out they were not lost to him at all and tended to become his best followers.

Franciscan Priest Fr. Richard Rohr

The shepherds would then take the same track back home in May when the weather warmed and pastures returned. Along the way the shepherds would find shelter for themselves and their sheep in special rock huts that they built. They would sleep across the entry to these huts to stay on guard against animals who preyed on their flock.

Whenever I looked like I was slacking off or my attitude wasn't deemed up to scratch my dad would remind me that if I kept going this way I'd end up living my life as a mere shepherd - *un pecoraio*. In other words, lowly, uneducated, nomadic and poor. Even to a man like my father of peasant stock, the shepherds were considered lowly.

Shepherds were not highly regarded as particularly good people in Jesus' day either – they were considered dim, shady, outsider types and untrustworthy. So Jesus' choice of the Good Shepherd as an image was deliberate and designed to disturb the status quo.

Jesus' model of the good shepherd is clear and unequivocal. The shepherd WHO IS GOOD, is one:

- who does not abandon his sheep
- who is concerned for and cares for his sheep
- who lays down his life for his sheep.

The image of the good shepherd presented by Christ is not trite but one that is grounded and still rings true in our modern daily lives.

National

Week

Reconciliation

Until next time,

ARosato

Sergio Rosato Principal

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a: 168 Hawkesbury Rd Springwood 2777 | p: 02 4723 3800 | f; 02 4723 3899 www.stthomas.parra.catholic.edu.au | Parish Priest: Father Paul Slyney We acknowledge and pay our respects to the traditional custodians of this land, the Darug and Gundungurra people, and to Aboriginal Elders past, present and future for they hold the traditions, memories and wisdom of Mother Earth.

School Learning Goals 2019

At a recent school assembly we launched our school learning goals for this year. These goals are expectations that we are setting for ourselves as a learning community as markers for improvement. At the assembly and subsequently through class discussion we have been able to explain these goals further and encourage our students to take them on as their personal learning goals.



School Goals - 2019

Numeracy Goal We will get better at solving problems by explaining our thinking.



take place.

School Goals - 2019

Religious Education Goal

We will wonder about how our lives connect with God's word.



Kindergarten 2020 Enrolment Open Days

Each Monday and Thursday the school has been hosting Open Day tours for prospective enrolments for 2020. If you or someone you know would like to find out more about our school, please join us for a tour to see *learning in action on Thursday 30 May at 9.30am or 2.30pm*.

For further information and school enrolment packs **telephone the School Office on 4723 3800** or collect material on the day.

KINDERGARTEN 2020 ENROLMENTS CLOSE ON 31 MAY 2019.

Late enrolments will be considered if vacancies exist. No student will be refused enrolment because of a family's genuine inability to pay fees.



Monitoring Your Child's Media Use

The best way to monitor media that children use is to experience the media yourself. Test apps and play games before your children use them. View and play apps and games together with your children. And watch what they watch so you can talk about what they're seeing on their screens. You know your children best, so you're the best judge of what they can handle. When closer monitoring and more controls are needed, parents have a number of ways to keep track of the media their children watch, play, and use. These tools may not shield kids from all inappropriate material, but they can help.

Internet Activity

Social media sites like Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram require kids to be at least 13 before they can have their own accounts. To keep an eye on your child's social media activity, set up accounts of your own and check your child's pages and activity for yourself. Many parents also insist on knowing the passwords to their kids' accounts.

A number of programs and apps can monitor teens' social media accounts and alert parents to any inappropriate language or photos. Many software programs and apps are available — from free to expensive — that can give you detailed reports of your child's browsing history and tell you how much time your child spent online and on each site. But no amount of monitoring can protect kids from everything. So encourage your child to be a responsible Internet user by being a good role model and talking to your child about <u>online safety</u>. *From Kidshelp.org*

Tell Them From Me (TTFM) Survey

In the coming weeks we will be inviting students, teachers and parents to provide feedback on their experience of our school using an online survey. The surveys are an important part of our whole school evaluation and planning process.



We would like to invite you to complete the *Tell Them From Me (TTFM)* Partners in Learning survey. As we value the role of parents and carers within our school community we would greatly appreciate your feedback. The information you provide will be used to maintain our commitment to working together in partnership to further improve student learning and wellbeing at St Thomas Aquinas. The survey is anonymous and will take approximately 20 minutes to complete. You will be able to access the parent survey on your computer or mobile device. The link will be sent out to families shortly.

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Student Awards

Congratulations to the following students, who received Merit Awards at the School Assemblies listed below. Well done on your efforts everyone – keep up the good work!

Week 2

Paul Anderson Sienna Ascencio Ethan Ashtyn-Smith James Babbage Jamie Baber Ethan Baddock Edith Banks Ethan Banks Jordan Banks Lillian Boncales Jonathan Bradshaw Emilia Buhs

Week 3

Cameron Barr Zachary Batcock Annalise Blattman Jack Blattman James Chalmers Tyler Chapple Alannah Collins Liam Costigan Cem Damarguc Noah Edwards

Week 4

Abbigail Ballard Issabella Ballard Jordan Banks Chloe Blattman Gemma Boersma Harrison Brown Lucy Brown Elysia Burchall Luca Burchall Ryan Butler-Whitmore Leo Donohue Stella Donohue



Isla Field John Garth Ben Giannakis Benjamin Gomez Sophie Gough Milla Grant Annabel Hall Kate Harrison James Hicks

Joshua Duck Maddie Dyer Eleanor Fortunat Brendan Golby Ziggy Green Thomas Grodzicki Lila Hagelburg Emma Harrison Zachary Heaven William Lister Luke Malone Emir Hussein Emily Jones Will Jones Nicholas Koulouris Kiahna Koutsonikolis Alex Lopez Ronan Loughton Analise Mafi Poppy Milroy Elizabeth Mulhall Jacob Pospischil

Johnnie Hogan Harrison Iles Piper Jeffers Sarita Kamnoetboon Jamelia Kodsy Samuel Lister Maddison Machon Olivia O'Brien Jose Ramires

Alana Mathew Luke Mathew Lennix McSpadden Ella Mecham Christopher Mizzi Aidan O'Brien Patrick Payens Dmitry Pochukaev Willliam Rayner Hamish Richards Samantha Schroeder Elly Richards Mia Rodemark Oliver Savage Maddison Syme Benjamin Synnott Jacob Tan Bella Ticehurst Rhys Walton Lachlan Williamson Hamish Wills Zachary Zalan-Pipe

William Rayner Abby Riddell Darcy Ryan Matilda Stephens Justin Sykes Lucas Tom Lia Trounce Connor Willis Angus Young

Ruby Steward Arabella Stewart-Rowley Ryan Sykes Janaya Teuma Tyson Verriere Adele Wade-Ferrell Liam Willis Abigale Wilson Ethan Windeisen Daniel Woods Andrew Young

Diocesan Cross Country



On Tuesday 7 May a team of 45 STA students competed in the Diocesan Cross Country Carnival at Eastern Creek Raceway. Our students participated with great enthusiasm and are to be commended on their exemplary behaviour and sportsmanship on the day. We congratulate all students who participated and especially to the students listed below who

achieved a place in the Parramatta Diocesan Team to compete at the NSWCPS Cross Country on Friday 14 June. Special congratulations to all our girls' teams as they were all winners in their age group divisions. Special thanks to Phillipa Kerkham who assisted for the whole day.

Alina Ascencio
Annalise Blattman
Chloe Blattman

Kael Brown Dylan Cantwell Sophia Cantwell Ruanii Claudino Ben Gomez Jessica Gomez Alexander KerkhamEli SchroederBrydan McLeodMia Watson

STA Students Selected for Diocesan Sports Teams

Congratulations to the following students on being selected to represent the Parramatta Diocese in these sports teams: **Boys Cricket** - Alexander Kerkham; **Boys Touch Football** - Lachlan Williamson, Samuel Graham; **Girls Touch Football** – Melissa Lee, Jessica Gomez and Taya Moore. Well done to you all!

Indigenous Immersion Day

Year 4 participated in an Immersion Day in March where they looked at Aboriginal culture and stories. Local Elder, Trevor Eastwood and the Year 4 students created a piece of art which tells a story of our school. Its values, emanating from the school motto, referenced to local water holes and indigenous spirituality. This stunning piece of artwork was presented to the school by Trevor at last week's School Assembly.



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ANZAC Day 2019

Thank you to the following students for representing STA at the Springwood ANZAC March and Commemoration Service and we also acknowledge those who marched at other locations:

Audrey Godsell Jamie Baber Annabell Barr Cameron Barr Eli Borg Leo Borg Lillian Borg Lucy Brown (Canberra) Mackenzie Carey Ben Cassidy Elliott Chapman Lucy Chapman Annabelle Clark Liam Costigan Ayva Dacey **Evelyn Dacey** Matilda Debien (Lawson) Koby Kime Dominique Dewhurst Victor Etherington Isabella Faithfull Harry Fitzgerald Summah Galea

Peter Godsell Brendan Golby Blake Gough Sophie Gough Lilia Hagelburg Luke Harrison Payten Holmes **Evelyn** lles Harrison lles Poppy Jenkins **Emily Jones** Harvey Jones Erin Kenn Jordan Kime Harry Kitching Ethan Konwerski Lachlan Konwerski Archie Lamont Maisie Lamont

Lilia Lopes (Cub Scouts) Maddison Machon Lexie Mackay Joseph Mahns Luke Malone Molly Malone (Guides) Finn McCaffery Samuel McGrath (Sydney) Ash Meadows Ella Mecham Olivia Morgan Caitlin Murphy Aidan O'Brien Alexander Papagianis Trinity Power (Canberra) Hamish Richards Abby Riddell Mia Rodemark Florence Rooney **Cooper Sams**

Jamie Sharp Jessica Sharp Amelia Steadman Lachlan Steadman **Ruby Steward** Arabella Stewart-Rowley **Emily Stewart-Rowley Ryan Sykes Brooke Thomas** Claire Thomas Patrick Thomas Spencer Thomas Lia Trounce **Romilly Wade-Ferrell** Aiden Wade-Ferrell Mia Wade-Ferrell Tristan Wade-Ferrell **Rhys Walton** Hayden Willingham Benjamin Younger



Term 2 School Fees

Statements for Term Two have now been issued. Due date is 5 June 2019. Thank you to all the families who have finalised Term One School Fees or who have formalised a payment arrangement for 2019. It is not too late to commence a payment arrangement. Please contact me on 4723 3800 or email cbrown29@parra.catholic.edu.au. If you are not up to date with your fees, please pay them as soon as possible to avoid your account being escalated to School Fees Management Unit for collection.

If you are having difficulties paying school fees, please contact myself or the Principal to discuss the options that are available to you. Cheree Brown, School Finance Secretary

Principal's Morning Tea for Effort in Learning

On Wednesday 1 May the following students, nominated by their teachers attended the Principal's Morning Tea for Learning hosted my Mr Rosato and Ms Smith. This special celebration seeks to acknowledge students from K-6 for their consistent effort with their learning. Congratulations to the students listed below who were nominated for your effort and persistence. A second Principal's Morning Tea will take place later this term.

Ryan Andrews Sienna Ascencio Lily Boersma Asher Bogg Thomas Brosnan Cooper Brown Lucas Brown Emilia Buhs Lara Buhs Charli Burton **Thomas Chapple** Charlotte Creamer William Crighton

Xavier Curley Chase Davidsen Kyle Delfsma Baxter Ellem Katelyn Ellis Niamh Fagan Lila Hagelburg Annabel Hall **Emily Hall** Ruby Hammond Alexis Hodge Ella Holdsworth Kiara Kanigowski Jessica Kennedy Jordan Kime Harry Kitching Lilia Lopes Lexie Mackay Mollie Malone Liam McGrath Samuel McGrath Lennix McSpadden Macklin Miall Joshua Mitchell Samuel Moore Tess Morris

William O'Neill Alexis Owen Zoe Papasotiriou **Ruby Roberts** Grace Ryan Mackenzie Seymour Patrick Seymour Ryan Sykes Mia Wade-Ferrell Grace Wardle **Reilly Waters** Angus Young Benjamin Younger



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Woolworths Earn & Learn Stickers

STA has joined with Woolworths to collect Earn & Learn stickers for our school. Anyone from our community can collect for us - students, parents, grandparents, staff, neighbours and friends - anyone who shops at Woolworths can either bring the Earn & Learn stickers to school or drop them into the box at Woolworths Emu Plains.

Woolworths has partnered with Modern Teaching Aids which means that once we have counted all our Earn & Learn stickers we will be able to choose resources based on our needs here at school i.e. Science, Mathematics, Sports, Arts and Craft, English, S.T.E.M. Amazing!! So, let's stick together and start collecting.



It was with much excitement that we recently launched our major fundraiser for the year - our STA Colour Run. Funds raised this year will go to the purchase of *playground* equipment. We anticipate the playground to incorporate sensory play, encourage more creative and social play in the playground. This exciting event will be held on Friday 7 June 2019.

Students will complete the course by making their way through a variety of obstacles, such as hurdles, tunnels and 5 different colour tents. On the day students are

encouraged to wear a white t-shirt, old shorts/pants and appropriate running shoes. Students will be supplied with a pair of sunglasses. Face masks will be made available for those who wish to wear them.

For lunch, a cheese toastie, a juice or water and chips/fruit will be provided for everyone who participates. The fabulous Coon Toastie Truck will be visiting the Blue Mountains for the FIRST TIME!

We are calling all volunteers to assist on the day, and parents can come along and watch and cheer on your child. However, if you are assisting you must have completed a volunteer working with children's check (Building Safe Communities).

We have amazing prizes to give away - for every \$50 each child raises they will be entered into the major raffle to be held at assembly on 21 June. We have 3 major prizes to give away along with loads of other prizes to be won. Leading up to our colour run we encourage students to continue to bring in their money each week and watch our 'fundraising thermometer' rise while we aim to meet our target.

Australia's Largest Performing Arts Event for Schools Again be participating in this dynamic inter-school creative arts competition. The students and staff involved have been rehearsing during lunchbreaks throughout the term and will also be meeting during the July school holidays. The performance will be held on Friday 30 August at Riverside Theatre, Parramatta. Last week families of these students were given a note with first round ticket ordering details. Tickets are \$35.00 each and only 1 ticket per child is available at this stage. Money and ticket order for Round One needs to be returned to school by 7 June (at the latest). Any tickets not ordered by this date will go into the second-round draw for those wishing to purchase a second ticket. Tickets are very limited as other schools will also be booking seats for this event.

Food Allergy Week – 26 May To 1 June 2019

Anaphylaxis Emergency Training

Recently our entire school staff underwent mandatory training in how to respond to students who live with food alleraies and Anaphylaxis. The training sessions were conducted by a clinical nurse specialist from the Department of Allergy & Immunology, Westmead Children's Hospital.

The training was focussed on:

- How to identify the signs & symptoms of an allergic reaction
- What to do in treating a moderate allergic reaction
- What to do in treating a severe allergy (anaphylaxis)

The school currently has 5 students who have been diagnosed with anaphylaxis and therefore have a ASCIA ACTION PLAN. These students have allergies to foods including wheat, nuts, tree nuts, rye, insects and shellfish. An allergic reaction to food/insects can very quickly become life-threatening. Knowing the signs and symptoms and how to respond is critical.

As well as the students who have been diagnosed with anaphylaxis, we have a number of other students who have allergies to foods and insects (non-anaphylactic). One of the important statistics mentioned at the training was that up to 25% of anaphylactic reactions occur to children who have not yet been diagnosed with the condition.

Our students have been informed on HOW to help SCHOOL MATES who have FOOD ALLERGIES.

- 1. Don't share food with friends who have food allergies
- 2. Don't forget to wash your hands after eating
- 3. Know what your friends are allergic to
- 4. If a classmate who has allergies becomes sick, get help straight away. (Even if they don't want to.)

To coincide with Food Allergy Week an easy to understand poster is included in this newsletter that outlines the signs and symptoms of a mild to a moderate reaction and a severe reaction (Anaphylaxis).

It is important to know that children experiencing anaphylaxis may not necessarily experience mild to moderate symptoms before progressing to severe symptoms but may well present with severe symptoms from the outset. (See poster over following pages.)









SIGNS & SYMPTOMS OF AN ALLERGIC REACTION

AN ALLERGIC REACTION TO FOOD/INSECTS CAN VERY QUICKLY BECOME LIFE-THREATENING. IT IS UP TO ALL OF US TO KNOW THE SIGNS & SYMPTOMS AND HOW TO RESPOND.





NSWCPS Endorsed Sports Opportunities for Students of Catholic Primary Schools The following opportunities are now open for individual nomination/registration by parents:

GOLF - 29 July 2019 - Entries close 1st July

NSWCPS 9 Hole Tournament & 18 Hole Championship & Selection trials (Students 8 Years to 13 Years) on Monday 29 July at Blackheath Golf Club. Go to <u>www.csss.nsw.edu.au/nswcps-golf.aspx</u> for more information.

<u>ATHLETICS - NSW PSSA State Athletics Team Selection Trials - 8 August @ Sydney Olympic Park –</u> <u>Entries Close 26 June 2019</u>

In 2019 the School Sport Australia Track and Field Championships will be held in the Northern Territory. Due to extreme heat conditions in Darwin during November/December when the National Track and Field Championships are traditionally held, this year's SSA event will be held from the 18-23 September 2019. In order to select a NSW representative track & field team for this event, the NSWPSSA will be holding a special selection trial. Participation at these trials will be via a formal application to NSWPSSA and athletes MUST compete at this event to achieve selection in the 2019 NSW representative team.

An entry fee will be applicable to successful athletes. For more information and the entry form contact Mrs Gippel at St Thomas Aquinas School on 4723 3800.

St Columba's Catholic College 2020 Year 7 Enrolments

A reminder that enrolment applications for Year 7, 2020 at St Columba's Catholic College are now due. For further information contact the **Enrolment Secretary**, **Sandra O'Brien**, **on 4754 8900 or 47548907**.

DIARY DATES			
2019 TERM 2	Wednesday 29 May	8.30am Staff Briefing Stage 3 Girls Soccer Gala Day – selected students 9.30am Parish Mass – Year 1 attending	
Week 5	30	8.30am Staff Prayer 9.30am & 2.30pm Open Day Tours	
National Reconciliation Week	31	12.30pm Assembly – Reconciliation Week	
	Monday 3 June	Year 1 Excursion to Australian Museum 3.40pm Leadership Meeting	
Week 6	4	3.40pm Staff Meeting	
	5	8.30am Staff Briefing Stage 3 Boys Soccer Gala Day – selected students 9.30am Parish Mass – Year 6 attending 11.05am Principal's Morning Tea – selected students	
	6	8.30am Staff Prayer	
	7	STA COLOUR RUN	

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Drawing Classes for Kids: This course is designed for kids who love drawing and want to learn the skills they need to develop their ability. We draw animals, castles, dragons, landscape, portraiture and much more, using pastel, pencil, charcoal and watercolour pencil (art materials provided). Classes held at Woodford, new class on Wednesdays from 4.00-5.30pm. USE YOUR \$100 CREATIVE KIDS VOUCHER. For more info visit the website at www.vanessajoret.com.au or phone Vanessa Joret on 0409 516 615.

New Zumba Class at STA: Life is too short to sit out another dance... come along to a NEW ZUMBA class in Springwood! **St Thomas Aquinas Primary School Hall**, 168 Hawkesbury Rd, SPRINGWOOD on **Fridays from 5pm-6pm**. **First Class \$7 (\$13.50 thereafter)**. Come along, spread the love and end your week with some Zumba (the happy fitness drug you can never have too much of) ... I can't wait to meet you! * Zumba fitness is suited to ages 12yrs+. * Children <12yrs are more than welcome to come along and sit on the sidelines.

Seminar - Dealing with The Legal System: Each year Solo Parent Services offer a Seminar for anyone interested in gaining a greater understanding of the Legal system, which can benefit those experiencing a marital breakdown. Topics addressed: How to choose the best lawyer for your situation, how best to deal with Lawyers to minimize your legal fees, how to protect your rights regarding family assets and Estates. Date: Tuesday 4 June. Venue: 13 Buller St, North Parramatta. Time: 6.45pm for a 7pm Start. Concludes at 9pm. Cost: \$10.00. Registration Essential via phone: Ph. 8843 2530 or email: soloparentservices@ccss.org.au

Sent Home Recently:

- Mothers' Day Stall Helpers Note (pink)
- School Photo Note (salmon) and Envelope
- Staff Leave Announcement to 4W (lilac)
- Staff Leave Announcement to KD (lemon)
- Mothers' Day Assembly Note (pink)
- NAPLAN Re-sit Note to Year 5
- Wakakirri Ticket Order Note (mauve)
- Staff Leave Announcement to 4G (pink)
- Principal's Morning Tea Invitation selected students
- ANZAC Day Participation Certificate selected students
- Principal's Morning Tea Certificate selected students
- Obstacle Colour Fun Run Note & Sponsor Card
- Diocesan Girls Gala Soccer Day Note selected students
- Grade Mass & Gospel Reading Notes to Years 2, 4 & 1
- FLC Note to 4W (cream)
- Tell Them From Me Student Survey Note to Years 4-6 (blue)

