



Staff Development Day - Monday 31 August 2020

Our staff will be involved in a full day Staff Development Day (Pupil Free) on **Monday 31 August 2020**. The students will not be at school that day.

CAPTIVATE Creative and Performing Arts Programs at St Thomas Aquinas in Term 3

CAPTIVATE is the creative and performing arts program for schools in the Diocese of Parramatta. It provides learning and performance opportunities for students. It comprises a diverse and exceptional range of specialist teachers who share their passion and expertise with our students. They focus on making creative and performing arts enjoyable to everyone, in a supportive environment

We are extremely fortunate that we currently have CAPTIVATE specialist teachers work with our students in the Band program each day. This term we are excited to introduce two additional CAPTIVATE programs into some of our learning spaces.

CAPTIVATE - Dance

This term we have introduced a Dance Program for all our students in Year 1 led by Mrs Sarah Prisc (Dance Teacher, CAPTIVATE, CEDP) and Mrs Simone Blattmann (PE Teacher). This program enables students to learn commercial dance styles through practice and development of foundational skills. Our Year 1 students will explore the elements of performance, composition and appreciation in commercial dance styles. This culminates with a performance to their peers and hopefully parents at the end of the term.

CAPTIVATE - Visual Arts

Year 5 launched into their Visual Literacy unit this term. Year 5 students are being led by Mrs Saidie Lye from CAPTIVATE CEDP and are investigating visual literacy skills through digital photomedia. The skills that the students will be learning will be integrated with their History inquiry unit of work. The teachers will work with students equipping them with tools and skills for real world application through the vehicles of visual literacy and digital media.

STA Teachers engage in Professional Learning with Dr Anita Collins

Earlier this year our Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 teachers were excited to participate in an excellent professional learning opportunity with Dr Anita Collins. Dr Collins is an internationally recognised educator, researcher and writer in the field of brain development and music learning.

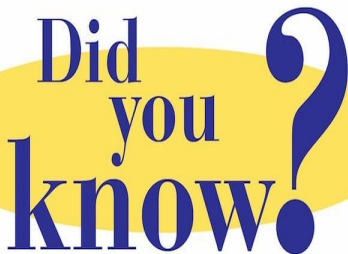
Dr Collins shared the research that highlights the strong connection between music education and language development - *the more you learn music the better your language will become*. The research recognises the positive impact of 10 minutes per day of music education to language and literacy development. Our Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 teachers are excited to introduce 10 minutes per day of music education prior to our 2 hour Literacy Block.

In 2018 Dr Anita Collins also featured on an ABC program “*Don’t Stop the Music*” with Guy Sebastian. You might like to view and listen to Dr Anita Collins regarding her research in her recent TedTalks.

Our Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 not only enjoy the daily music lessons but have shown great improvement each day.

Mathematics at St Thomas Aquinas

This year our teachers and students are continuing to work with Mrs Geraldine Caleta (Teaching Educator - Numeracy) in our Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 learning spaces. Mrs Caleta has knowledge and expertise in Mathematics and works alongside our teachers and students on a regular basis. All our students are engaged in challenging tasks to extend their thinking.

A graphic with the text "Did you know?" in a stylized font. "Did" and "know" are in a large, bold, blue serif font, while "you" is in a smaller, blue sans-serif font. A large, blue question mark is positioned to the right of the text. The entire graphic is set against a yellow oval background.

We have recently installed new air conditioning units in all our learning spaces keeping everyone at school nice and warm during the winter days and soon to keep everyone cool during summer!

All learning spaces will soon have new carpet! So far, we have completed Years 1, Year 3, Year 4, Year 5, Year 6 and our School Library. Kindergarten will be completed this week and Year 2 will be completed in approximately 3 weeks time.

eSafety Webinars for Parents and Carers

At Catholic Education Diocese Parramatta (CEDP) we see parents and carers as partners in your child's learning journey. In partnership with the eSafety Commissioner, CEDP would like to invite you to join one of the following free webinars for parents and carers:

- 1) *Helping Kids Thrive Online (5-12 yrs)* - Thursday 20 August 2020, 12:00 -1.00 pm
- 2) *Tech, teens and time online (secondary schools)* - 7 September 2020, 7.00 - 8.00 pm

These live webinars explore the latest research and they are a great way to learn how you can help your child develop the skills to be safer online. All sessions are delivered by the eSafety Commission's expert educators.

About the webinars

1. *Helping kids thrive online*: is a one hour live webinar suitable for parents and carers of young people aged 5-12 years old.
2. *Tech, teens and time online*: is a one hour live webinar suitable for parents and carers of young people aged 12-18 years old.

Both sessions will cover topics including:

- ideas to start the chat about harmful content, contact with strangers and online bullying/harassment
- strategies for addressing common digital parenting challenges
- skills that young people need to protect themselves online
- how to get help if things go wrong.

What you need to do

- 1) Please register for the course on the site via the following link:
 - 20 August 2020 session - [link to register](#)
 - 7 September 2020 session - [link to register](#)

If you have any further enquiries please email safeguarding@parra.catholic.edu.au.

LEGO Drive

Do you have any unwanted or unused LEGO at home? We would love to take it off your hands. To complement our learning spaces, we are looking to enhance our collection of multi-use resources such as Lego. All donated Lego will be used to support the many learning projects our students will be involved in across the school. *Simply drop off any unwanted Lego to the school office. Thank you.*

COVID-19 Update

We have been advised by the Catholic Education Office, Diocese of Parramatta that some activities remain on hold until further notice. Some of these include:

- school camps
- excursions (school incursions can occur)
- parent and carer attendance at assemblies and other school events
- parent and carer volunteers – e.g. parent reading helpers
- school-based activities that involve large gatherings of adults.

Hygiene & Cleaning

We continue to remind and reinforce to all our students the importance of washing hands before and after meals and after going to the bathroom. Soap and hand sanitizers are available to all students. Parents are encouraged to continually remind the students of good hygiene practices.

Drop off and Pick up

Thank you to all our parents for not coming on site unless you need to go to the school office. Parents are reminded of social distancing from other adults when picking up your children each day.

Safety - Car Park

Due to the safety of everyone, parents are not to use the staff car park at any time.



ENROL NOW ST THOMAS AQUINAS Primary Springwood

St Thomas Aquinas Primary provides quality education in a modern environment with a strong foundation in faith. We help every child achieve their personal goals while feeling happy, safe and cared for.

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Enrolment forms are
now being accepted