

NEWSLETTER

Week 10 Term 4 – 16/12/2020

From the Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

This year I have been blessed to join the St Thomas Aquinas School Community. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, this year has certainly presented its challenges to everyone in our school community. However, it has been a great joy to witness the students sharing their gifts and see them progress in so many ways throughout the year.

To our students, thank you for your resilience and the effort in doing your best work, working together in collaboration and supporting one another to solve problems.

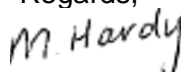
To our parents, thank you for all that you have done to support the school during this year, especially with the many challenges with the COVID-19 restrictions. We acknowledge that it has been extremely difficult for some families and are grateful for everything that you have done.

To our staff, thank you for doing what is best for our students here at STA, your kindness and care for every student as whole people is a wonderful gift and blessing.

I look forward to working in partnership with you in 2021.

May your hearts and homes be filled with the spirit of Christmas. HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

Regards,



Marina Hardy
Principal

2021 Mathematical Assessment Interviews (MAI)

In 2021 we have been granted permission to commence the year with an additional Staff Development Day on Thursday 28 January so that teachers can administer the Mathematical Assessment Interview (MAI) to our students. The Mathematical Assessment Interviews enables teachers to tailor their mathematics teaching program to effectively meet the needs of their students. Being able to perform the assessment at this earlier time will mean that teachers will have valuable information about each child's learning in mathematics from the very beginning of the year. To have a large number of assessments completed before the children formally return to school will enable teachers to perform the remaining assessments in a timely fashion once the term commences and with the least disruption to class learning time.

Students in **Years K – 5 2020** were handed a note yesterday with the details for booking online for the MAI. To book an appointment for your children on either Wednesday 27 January or Thursday 28 January 2021, please go to: <http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au> and enter the **Event Code - xhc6j** and follow the steps to make your booking. The site will be open until Monday 25 January 2021.

For **Kindergarten 2021** students - on Wednesday 27 January, Thursday 28 January, Friday 29 January and Monday 1 February 2021, please visit the above site and enter the **Event Code – cpupj** to book.

This means that school will resume for Years 1 - 6 on Friday 29 January 2021 and on Tuesday 2 February for Kindergarten.

2021 Staffing

Included in this newsletter is the 2021 staff. The process of forming new class groups has been completed. As classes for 2021 have been formed no further changes will be made. I very much appreciate the parents' understanding of the enormity of this task. It is important that parents trust the judgement of the teachers when they are forming classes for the new year. The teachers work with the students in the classroom context every day and know your children very well. The students had the opportunity to meet the teacher yesterday.

2021 Classes

KBL Mrs Amy Blom and Mrs Megan Mann (Thursday)	5F Mrs Virginia Fortunat (Monday - Wednesday)
KB Mrs Elizabeth Bamford and Mrs Megan Mann (Friday)	Mrs Anne Fitzpatrick (Thursday and Friday)
1N Mrs Michelle Nightingale	5L Mrs Christie Le Breton
1S Mrs Megan Strutt and Mrs Maria Dodd (Friday)	5P Mrs Nicole Pospischil
2ER Mrs Carolyn Edwards (Monday - Wednesday)	6C Mr James Costigan
Mrs Jennifer Robson (Thursday and Friday)	6M Mrs Kate Mackenzie
2D Mrs Rene Dempsey	6W Mr James West
3L Ms Annabelle Leroy	Music (RFF) Mrs Leigha Wills (Tuesday - Thursday)
3M Ms Vicki McGrath	Italian (RFF) Mrs Jenni Wurf (Tuesday - Thursday)
4C Mr David Conroy	Sport (RFF) Mrs Simone Blattman (Tuesday -Thursday)
4CH Mr Christopher Chenoweth	
4G Mrs Tanya Graham	

Specialist Intervention Teachers

Reading Recovery and Diversity Teacher	Mrs Keryne Rosato
Reading Recovery Teachers:	Mrs Kylie Williamson and Mrs Keryne Rosato
EMU Teachers	Mrs Kathryn Cefai and Mr David Conroy

Diversity Team

Mrs Kathryn Cefai	Mrs Dianne Khalifeh
Miss Mary Espirtu	Mrs Susannah Sinclair
Mrs Emma Anderson	Mrs Belinda White
Leadership Team Release	Mrs Belinda White and Mrs Michelle Hinchliff
Librarian	Mrs Karen Bousfield

Staff News

As communicated earlier this term we congratulate **Ms Genevieve Smith** on her appointment as Principal in the Broken Bay Diocese. CEDP appointed **Ms Tania Geracitano** as Assistant Principal of our school commencing in 2021. We warmly welcome Tania into our faith and learning community and look forward to her sharing her expertise and gifts with our school community.

School Leadership Team

Principal:	Marina Hardy
Assistant Principal:	Tania Geracitano
REC:	Virginia Fortunat
Leaders of Learning:	Kate MacKenzie, James Costigan, Michelle Nightingale

Ms Blanche Hortense has been on study leave throughout 2020. Blanche has decided to continue studying and working in other areas. We wish Blanche every blessing as she continues to further her own professional learning. We may see her back in 2021 as a casual teacher.

Mrs Joanne Toohey and Mrs Joan Noney are both experienced teachers in our school community who have made a significant contribution to our school. Joanne and Joan have decided to leave at the end of this year to spend more time with their families.

Mrs Elaine Collier will be taking 12 months Long Service Leave. We wish Elaine all the best for a wonderful 12 months of spending time with family and friends and look forward to her return in 2022.

Welcome

We welcome Ms Tania Geracitano (Assistant Principal) Mr James West (Class Teacher), Mrs Suzannah Sinclair (Diversity Teacher) to our school in 2021.

**2020 Annual Awards Ceremonies**

Congratulations to the following students who were presented with their awards at our 2 Annual Awards Zoom Ceremonies last Monday.

2020 End of Year Awards			
Class	Academic Excellence	Outstanding Effort	Love One Another
K-6A	Riley Carpenter	Poppy Milroy	Angus Young
KB	Amelia Kennedy	Vincent Dickens	Mila Davidsen
KO	Bede Magee	Catherine Moore	Talen Hagelburg
1C	Benjamin Younger	Cooper Daniel	Layla Watson
1S	Annabel Hall	Madeline Buchanan	Patrick Thomas
2ED	Gemma Boersma	Joshua Duck	Benjamin Devitt
2F	Eden Batcock	Poppy Jenkins	Jesse Wronski
3D	Kate Giannakis	Ruby Wilson	William O'Neill
3L	Luke Malone	Lexie Mackay	Lilly Chalice
4C	Dylan Cantwell	Brooke Thomas	Erin Kenn
4CH	Eli Schroeder	Bonnie Butler	Maeve Sullivan
4G	Heidi Willingham	Abigale Wilson	Madeleine Devitt
5L	Nathan Broadhead	Aidan O'Brien	Sienna Hughes
5N	Zachary Batcock	Brydan McLeod	Annalise Lia
5PR	Beckett Kearns	Mieke Watson	Ella Hoppe
6BN	Ruby Roberts	Alex Kerkham	Jack Leahey
6C	Olivia Prior	Grace Ryan	Analise Mafi
6M	Isabella Cantrell	Abigail Richards	Benjamin Giannakis

Graduating Class of 2020 - Year 6 Awards	
Name of the Award	Student Name
Achievement in Italian	Ruby Roberts
Achievement in Music	Amelia Steadman
St Mary Of the Cross Award for Resilience	Elise Hurley
Llewellyn Award for Creative Arts	Ella Danks
Belfanti Award for Consistent Effort	Samuel Moore
Principal's Award for School Leadership	Sienna Curley
Principal's Award for School Leadership	Archer Sproule
O'Carrigan Award for Social Justice	Kate Harrison
Geraldine Lohan's Award for Academic Excellence	Amelia Crouch
Molly Hurley Award - Living Out the School Motto	Samantha Bourke
Servant Leadership Award	Ruby Hammond
Robert Mullen Award for School Spirit	Emily Hall

End of Year Reports

End of Year reports were distributed to all students last Thursday 10 December 2020. If your child did not bring home their report, please contact the school office.

STA Swimming Carnival 2021

We congratulate the following champions from our recent Swimming Carnival held at Lawson Pool on 8 December:



Junior Girls Swimming Age Champion 2021	Claire Thomas
Junior Girls Swimming Runner Up 2021	Florence Rooney
Junior Boys Swimming Age Champion 2021	Sebastian Hickey
Junior Boys Swimming Runner Up 2021	Luke Malone
Girls 11 Years Swimming Age Champion 2021	Isla Croyston
Girls 11 Years Swimming Runner Up 2021	Jessie Hicks
Boys 11 Years Swimming Age Champion 2021	Dylan Cantwell
Boys 11 Years Swimming Runner Up 2021	Hugo Koutsonikolis
Senior Girls Swimming Age Champion 2021	Ella Holdsworth
Senior Girls Swimming Runner Up 2021	Grace O'Brien
Senior Boys Swimming Age Champion 2021	Lachlan McAlpine
Senior Boys Swimming Runner Up 2021	Will Ghata



Well done to you all. We wish all these students well for the Zone Swimming Carnival in Term 1 2021 (date to be advised).

School Uniform (The School Locker)

The pop-up shop held at school in November was a great success and most families were able to purchase all uniform items without any issues. We have decided to hold more pop-up shops in 2021 around the change of seasons - further details will follow once dates are confirmed.

Recently we were advised that The School Locker is moving our stock to a warehouse in Wetherill Park. The new location will be a warehouse only and not a retail store, therefore **our stock will no longer be available at Liverpool**. We have been assured that moving to a warehouse will provide a better online service and faster shipping for our families.

To do this, The School Locker website will be closed for 1-2 weeks starting from Wednesday 16 December. Stock will be counted, packed up and moved ready for all back-to-school orders in January.

The school now holds a full sizing set of all uniform items for families to try on then purchase online. We hope this will be more convenient for families having stock at school. Please contact the school office to make an appointment.

The new STA school bag is due to arrive in January and will be available for purchase at school or online.

QKR! App

It's time to install the QKR! App; our **new payment platform** for all ad-hoc items for purchase. This app will now replace all cash payments and parents are able to order hats and pay for Clothing Pool items. Once you have made a purchase for a hat, the school is notified immediately, and we will then deliver the hat to the student for their recess or lunchtime play. The app is free, and your profile is confidential.



masterpass

To install →: Go to the **Google play store or Apple App store** to download for Android or iPhone, register your country of residence as Australia, search for our school by name (will appear in nearby locations if within 10km of STA), register your child's details then you are ready to make purchases and payments.

Please note:

- **Payments for school fees cannot be made on QKR!** Current arrangements for school fees have not changed.
- We cannot refund on the QKR! App. Please **email the school with any Clothing Pool orders before processing payments**, so that we can check that the items are in stock.

If you require any assistance, please contact Cheree Brown, our Finance Secretary.

COSHC

Our COSHC centre operates within the safety and convenience of school premises for children in Years K-6. Various activities are available for the children ranging from craft, games, puzzles, cooking, dramatic play, construction and outdoor play. As a recreationally based environment we are focused on offering the children the all-important balance they need with fun and positive social interaction! **Operating Hours – Monday to Friday:** 6:30am to 8:45am and 2:30pm to 6:30pm. **Enquiries: email - coshcstthomasspringwood@parra.catholic.edu.au or phone Kelly Travers on 0400 253 528.** All COSHC services abide by the policies and procedures of Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta.



School Opal Card – Application Information

Applications for 2021 for School Opal Card are now open. A new or updated application for school travel passes is only needed when a student is: **applying for** a school travel pass for the first time; **requesting an additional pass** as a result of a new shared parental responsibility situation (eg joint custody); **changing school** or campus; **changing home address**; receiving an **expiry** notification; **repeating** a school year; **changing their name** or requesting a **new transport operator**. This means students who are progressing to Year 3 and Year 7 only need to reapply if they are changing circumstances. To apply or update your child’s details visit www.transportnsw.info/school-students. If you don’t have access to the internet **phone 131 500** for assistance.



PARISH NEWS

St Thomas Aquinas Parish CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES 2020:



	Springwood	Lawson (OLN)
Christmas Eve, Thurs 24th Dec	5.00pm Children’s Mass 8.00pm VIGIL	5.00pm Children’s Mass 8.00pm VIGIL
Christmas Day, Fri 25th Dec	8.00am, 9.30am	8.00am, 9.00am
Boxing Day, Sat 26 Dec	No Mass	No Mass
Sun 27th December	8.00am, 9.30am	8.30am
Tues 29th, Wed 30th Dec	9.30am	5.00pm
Thurs 31st Dec	9.30am	9.00am
Fri 1st January	9.30am	

The Christmas Masses are filling up fast and numbers are restricted to 10 per family. **To book please phone the Parish office on 4754 1052 or email springwood@parracatholic.org**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2020	Week 10	Wednesday 16 December	Year 6 Picnic Day Last Day for Students for 2020
--- CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS ---			
2021	Week 1	Wednesday 27 January	STAFF ONLY COMMENCE – No classes Mathematical Assessment Interviews (MAI) for Years K-6
		Thursday 28 January	No classes Mathematical Assessment Interviews (MAI) for Years K-6
		Friday 29 January	Year 1-6 Students Commence Term 1 Mathematical Assessment Interviews (MAI) for Kindergarten
	Week 2	Monday 01 February	Mathematical Assessment Interviews (MAI) for Kindergarten
		Tuesday 02 February	Kindergarten Commence Term 1 (Full days)

*Wishing you all a safe
& peace-filled Christmas
and holidays!*

