

## NEWSLETTER

Week 3 Term 4 - 26/10/2020

### Religious Education in Term 4

All classes from Kindergarten to Year 6 are working with the Draft New Curriculum this term. An updated Draft New Curriculum for Religious Education is now available online on the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta [Website](#).

For several years now, our Catholic community has been working together to update the way we share our faith with children and young people. An updated version of the Draft New Curriculum for Religious Education with references to the relevant sections of the Catechism of the Catholic Church is now available on the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta website together with a guide to help community members learn more.

The Draft New Curriculum remains faithful to Sacred Scripture and Tradition while ensuring that the way that the learning and teaching happens is kept up-to-date. When it is launched in late 2021 the Draft New Curriculum will replace 'Sharing Our Story', the current curriculum that has been in place for more than 20 years.

Throughout the year at St Thomas Aquinas our teachers have spent many Professional Learning hours in Formation with our new Draft Curriculum. We are excited that it allows all students, whatever their experience, to enter the learning and experience the Scripture and Traditions of the Catholic Church at a level that they are ready to embrace.

### Sport in Term 4

#### Dance

Year 5 are participating in a 6-week dance unit during their PE lessons with Mrs Prisc, our CEDP dance teacher. Students will perform a range of dance styles, primarily focusing on JFH which is jazz, funk and hip hop. JFH combines Urban & Jazz influences to create its own dynamic style. Movement sequences will also be explored with the main focus being a dance performance that students will showcase to their peers at the end of the unit. *We cannot wait to see their finished result!*

#### Cricket

This term our students from Kindergarten to Year 6 will be participating in a Woolworths Cricket Blast Health & PE program facilitated by Cricket NSW. This 4-week program will teach students fundamental movement skills and physical literacy through engaging in cricket specific games. At the completion of the program, all students will have gained skills in batting, bowling, catching and throwing and may be ready to test their newfound skills out at their local cricket club!

Year 3 and Year 5 will start their cricket lessons in Week 6 whilst the rest of the school has already commenced. Stay tuned each week for fun filled photos that show off the smiles and skills of many of our students along the way.



### FITNESS FUN DAY



To ensure our final term at STA is fired up with yet another surge of excitement, both infants and primary classes will be having their very own fun activities day.

- **Infants' (K-2)** will have their activity day held on Friday 13 November (Week 5)
- **Primary's (3-6)** activity day will be on Friday 20 November (Week 6)



*More information to come so watch this space...*

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## Swimming Carnival, 2021



Our 2021 swimming carnival **will be held this year, toward the end of this term.**

Students are encouraged to start training now. Due to COVID restrictions and uncertain times, it will need to be competitors only, without any parent assistance. More information regarding this event will be given as it draws closer.

## Visual Literacy Program with Year 3

This term our Year 3 teachers will be co-teaching with Mrs Sadie Ly (Visual Literacy Teacher from CEDP). Our Year 3 students are very excited as they will be creating a sculpture based on their poetry literacy unit and then transferring that artwork into a photographic series or a digital artwork. We look forward to sharing their work with you later this term.

## Science & Technology at STA

On our recent Staff Development Day the teachers engaged in professional learning with a focus on teaching and learning in Science and Technology. Mrs Kelly Jawerth, Teacher Educator, CEDP facilitated the day and will continue to work with teachers and students throughout the term. The teachers have developed and implemented new Science and Technology units for this term with a focus on Inquiry Based Learning.

Through studying Science and Technology our students will explore scientific and technological concepts and gain knowledge and understanding of the world. They will develop skills in conducting scientific investigations and designing and producing solutions through learning about the Living World, Material World, Physical World, Earth and Space, and Digital Technologies.

*We look forward to sharing the students' new learning throughout the term.*

## Changes to Family Levy for 2021

We advise that your school fee statement may look a little different next year. You will notice that the Resource Fee has increased and there is no longer a Family Levy as the Family Levy and Resource Fee have merged. In most cases this has little or no impact. For families with 3 or more students, there will be a slight increase in the combination of these fees. For 2021 there will be no increase in Diocesan Tuition Fees or the Building Levy and therefore you will find that the total school fees increase is within the bounds of normal annual increases. Please contact Cheree Brown if you require any further information.

## Term 4 Special Costume Events

This term we have several opportunities to “Dress Up”. These days celebrate the learning at school and help to engage the community in a special way. Please use what you have at home; there is no need to seek professional costumes.



- ❖ **Week 4, Thursday 5 November** - Sister Monica Farewell Day: Dress in the Adelaide Crows Colours of Navy Blue, Red and Gold.



- ❖ **Week 5, Monday 9 November** - Book Week - Curious Creatures, Wild Minds: Come dressed as a curious person (Scientists) or creatures (Unicorns) - we look forward to our Book Fair this week too.



- ❖ **Week 7, Monday 23 November** - Grandparents Dress Up Day: Come dressed as one of your Grandparents - we will celebrate our Grandparents with a special Zoomurgy in the afternoon.

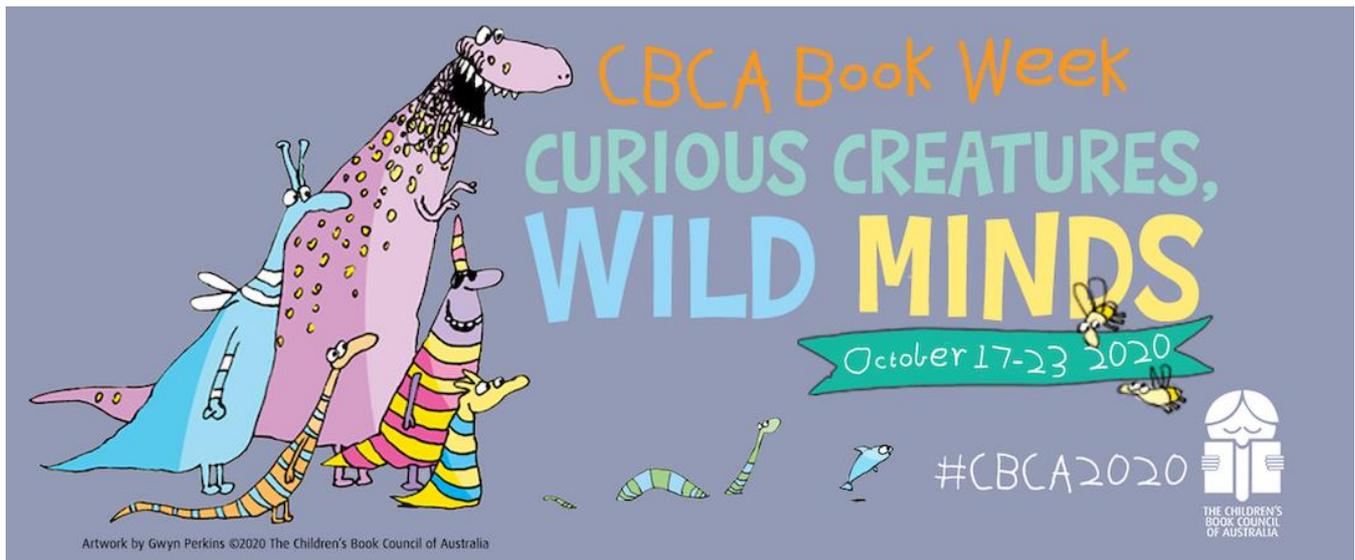
- ❖ **Week 9, Friday 11 December** - Christmas Characters Day: **Kindergarten - Angels, Year 1 and Year 2 - Nativity Animals, Year 3 - Shepherds, Year 4 - Mary and Joseph, Year 5 - Christmas Around the World, Year 6 - Wise Men/Women.** We are working towards a “Virtual Christmas Concert” which will be made available to families on the evening of 11 December (and will be able to be watched at your own convenience.)



## Baby News

*Congratulations to Mrs Dignam on the arrival of your baby daughter, Molly Ellen!*

**Book Week 2020 Dress Up Day – Monday 9 November**



In celebration of Book Week, we are having a Dress Up Day. The theme this year is ‘Curious Creatures, Wild Minds’. In Library lessons the students have had discussions about those characters in stories and in life who demonstrate these qualities.

**Some suggestions are:** Alice in Wonderland, Dora the Explorer, Albert Einstein, Astronauts, Scientists, Indiana Jones, Curious George, to name a few.

The Dress Up Day will be on **Monday 9 November** and will coincide with **Book Fair** that will also be taking place that week.

**Book Club**

The latest issue of Book Club has been given out to the students. Please finalise all orders **online only** via the loop at [www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP](http://www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP) by **this Thursday, 29 October**. Please check that orders are filled out correctly including both the child’s name and class.



**Temporary Change to Sport Days – Monday 19 October to Friday 13 November 2020**

Students are to wear sports uniform on following days:

<b>Kindergarten</b>	Monday & Thursday	<b>Year 3</b>	Monday & Thursday
<b>Year 1</b>	Monday & Tuesday	<b>Year 4</b>	Monday & Wednesday
<b>Year 2ED</b>	Monday & Tuesday	<b>Year 5</b>	Wednesday & Friday
<b>Year 2F</b>	Monday & Thursday	<b>Year 6</b>	Monday & Tuesday

**QKR App**

Earlier this year we launched 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.



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.

## 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](http://www.transportnsw.info/school-students). If you don't have access to the internet **phone 131 500** for assistance.



## Kindergarten 2021 Orientation

Orientation for Kindergarten 2021 will be held over two separate dates this term: the first group will attend on **Tuesday 17 November from 9.30-11.30am** and the second group will attend on **Thursday 19 November from 9.30-11.30am**. Families were recently emailed with details about their child's orientation. If you have a child commencing in Kindergarten 2021 but have not yet received your Orientation email, please contact the school as soon as possible. We look forward to welcoming our upcoming Kindergarten class for 2021!

## Uniform Pop-up Shop – Week 6

We are pleased to announce that **The School Locker** will be holding a pop-up store at STA so families can have the opportunity to try on and purchase our school uniform. We anticipate that all items will be available on the day. The pop-up shop will be by appointment **only**.

To register, go to [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au), enter the **Event Code 74gkp**, and follow the prompts to finalise your appointment.

### Dates

**Tuesday 17 November:** 9am - 2pm

**Wednesday 18 November:** 12pm - 4pm

**Thursday 19 November:** 9am - 2pm

The appointments are set up in *change rooms*, meaning one child per change room. If you have multiple children, you must book a change room **for each child**. Appointments must adhere to COVID-19 protocols and only **one** parent per booking is allowed. Please be on time and wait for your appointment outside the hall.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<b>2020</b>  <b>TERM 4</b>	<b>Week 4</b>	<b>Thursday 5 November</b>	Sr Monica Farewell Day – dress up in Adelaide Crows colours
	<b>Week 5</b> <i>Book Fair</i>	<b>Monday 9 November</b>	Book Week Dress up day - Curious Creatures, Wild Minds
		<b>Friday 13 November</b>	Year 7 2021 St Columba's Catholic College Orientation Infants Sports Fun Day
	<b>Week 6</b>	<b>Tuesday 17 November</b>	Kinder 2021 Orientation Group 1 Uniform Pop-up Shop
		<b>Wednesday 18 November</b>	Uniform Pop-up Shop
		<b>Thursday 19 November</b>	Kinder 2021 Orientation Group 2 Uniform Pop-up Shop
		<b>Friday 20 November</b>	Primary Sports Fun Day
	<b>Week 7</b>	<b>Monday 23 November</b>	Grandparents Dress up Day
	<b>Week 8</b>	<b>Date TBC</b>	Swimming Carnival for 2021 – <i>competitors only</i> – details to come
	<b>Week 9</b>	<b>Friday 11 November</b>	Christmas/Nativity Dress up Day
<b>Week 10</b>	<b>Monday 14 December</b>	Zoom Awards Ceremonies – details to come	
	<b>Tuesday 15 December</b>	Graduation Liturgy – details to come	
	<b>Wednesday 16 December</b>	Year 6 Picnic Day Last Day for Students for 2020	