

NEWSLETTER

Week 4 Term 1 – 18/02/2021

Zone Swimming Carnival



Congratulations to the following students who represented our school at the Nepean Zone Swimming Carnival held on Monday 15 February 2021 at Glenbrook Pool.



Zone Swimmers 2021

Boys

Ben Gomez 6W
Baiden Tom 6W
Will Ghata 6W
Lachlan McAlpine 6W
Nicolas Peat 6C
Eli Schroeder 5F
Dylan Cantwell 5F
Hamish Wills 5L
Hugo Koutsonikolis 5P
Sebastian Hickey 4CH
Luke Malone 4C
Alfie Cook 4G
Tobey Bail 3M
Jack Blattman 3M
Beau Gardiner 3L

Girls

Grace O'Brien 6M
Ella Holdsworth 6M
Isla Croyston 5F
Eleanor Fortunat 6W
Abigail Wilson 5P
Alana Prior 5L
Helena Sypka 5P
Jessie Hicks 5L
Florence Rooney 5F
Pepper Hughes 5L
Ella Mecham 4C
Madison Moore 4C
Claire Thomas 3M
Elyse Peat 4G

Senior Boys Relay

Will Ghata
Ben Gomez
Hamish Wills
Lachlan McAlpine

Junior Boys Relay

Alfie Cook
Jack Blattman
Luke Malone
Sebastian Hickey

Junior Girls Relay

Claire Thomas
Madison Moore
Abigail Wilson
Florence Rooney

Senior Girls Relay

Alana Prior
Ella Holdsworth
Isla Croyston
Pepper Hughes



There was some very fast paced action witnessed by many parents and peers in the pool and all St Thomas Aquinas competitors held nothing back as they fought to try and touch the wall first every time. There were a number of success stories, with our four relay teams almost all making it to the Diocesan Carnival. Our Junior Girls and Junior and Senior Boys teams came fourth securing their spot, closely followed by our Senior Girls team finishing in fifth position, who only narrowly missed out.

All students that will be progressing to the Diocesan carnival are being finalised and will be announced shortly; however, the **Diocesan Carnival** will be held on **Wednesday 10 March (Week 7)** at **Blacktown Aquatic Centre**.

Thank you again to all our parents and carers who were able to attend on the day. Your patience with the latest COVID rules were

adhered to by all, making for a free-flowing carnival that saw students able to deliver not only their best efforts, but their best behaviour on the day, which was very pleasing to see.

As always, we wish each student every success as they continue to train towards their up-and-coming event.

Ash Wednesday

Yesterday, to recognise the beginning of Lent, our Year 6 Project Compassion team invited all **students to wear purple or dark blue mufti clothes**. Throughout the day students gathered in grade groups to participate in **Ash Wednesday Liturgies** and Year 6 attended our Parish Mass at 9.30.



Census Day – Friday 19 February

It is mandatory that parents advise the school in writing if their child is absent any day throughout the school year. If your child is absent on Friday 19 February, please email the school as soon as possible simply advising your child's name, class and the reason for their absence.

AFL

This term, students from Years 6, 4 and 2 are participating in a 4-week AFL coaching clinic led by a Giants AFL coach. Students are learning handballing and kicking skills, developing their hand eye coordination at each level and being taught the main concepts of the game. So far, students are eagerly participating and are looking forward to their next session.



Dance

Students from Year 5 are taking part in dance lessons led by qualified dance teacher, Vanessa Gallina from CEDP. Students will be studying the areas of performance and composition whilst learning movement in the style of Jazz/Funk/Hip Hop. They will work on developing dance technique and personal style, whilst learning about the use of dynamics in movement, partner and group work in relation to formations in space and how to apply their newly developed skills in dance to their own choreography.



CAPTIVATE

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 working with our students in the Band program each day. This term we are excited to have two additional CAPTIVATE programs in some of our learning spaces.

CAPTIVATE – Dance: This term we have introduced a Dance Program for all our students in Year 5 led by Dance Teacher (CAPTIVATE, CEDP) and Mrs Simone Blattman (PE Teacher). This program enables students to learn commercial dance styles through practice and development of foundational skills. Our Year 5 students will explore the elements of performance, composition and appreciation in commercial dance styles. This culminates with a performance to their peers at the end of the term.

CAPTIVATE - Visual Arts: Year 3 launched into their Visual Literacy unit this term. Year 3 students are being led by Mrs Saidie Lye from CAPTIVATE CEDP and are investigating visual literacy skills. 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.

Tennis

Good luck to **Brydan McLeod** of Year 6 who will be attending the MacKillop Tennis Trials in Wollongong on 26 February. It is a long way to travel, but we know that Brydan has the talent to see him through. We wish him all the very best on game day.

Effort in Learning Awards

Congratulations to the following students, who received Merit Awards at last week's School Assembly. Well done on your efforts everyone - keep up the good work!



Asher Bogg	Cody Dickens	Lilia Lopes	Jessica Sharp
Cisco Borbely	Vincent Dickens	Alex Lopez	Romeo Siciliano
Michael Broadhead	Ezra Forsyth	Ryan Mills	Stephanie Sipione
Nathan Broadhead	Declan Garvan	Poppy Milroy	Adam Springett
Caleb Byrnes	Leah Garvan	Olivia Morgan	India Swift
Luke Clunes	Mischa Glassford	Willow Nassif	Ryan Sykes
Alfie Cook	Arwen Gordon	Harrison Newport	Spencer Thomas
Isla Cook	Addison Greaney	Milly Okladnikov	Caitlin Vears
Lincoln Croft	Phoebe-Rose Hampson	Nicolas Peat	Romily Wade-Ferrell
Xavier Curley	Sebastian Hickey	Theia Rodemark	Connor Willis
Mila Davidsen	Jack Hoppe	Kaden Sammour	Grace Wilson
Anthony Daw	Erin Kenn	Ranae Santos	Ben Younger
Benjamin Devitt	Ellie Kermod	Riane Santos	

Diving, Golf And Rugby Girls 7's

Registration for these sports are completed on the CSNSW Sport portal. Nominations are now OPEN. Parents MUST register online. Please note there is NO payment for Diving.

AFL Girls

NSW AFL Primary All-Schools Girls 12 Years and Under Selection Trials is open to all Primary school girls turning 12 or under in 2021. The Australian Football pathway differs from the other Sports Primary School offer. Students apply directly to NSWPSA on their DASH system. Forms need to be **downloaded, signed by parent and your Principal**, then uploaded back into their system. Trials will be held **in March** across various NSW venues. **Registrations close 12 March.**

For more information and to register, view the event flyer *NSW AFL Primary All-Schools Girls 12 Years and Under Selection Trials Flyer* <https://bit.ly/3tk3dgr>

STA Cross Country K-6 - Wednesday 17 March

Our 2021 School Cross Country for Years K to 6 will be held in **Week 8** on **Wednesday 17 March** in the school grounds. Due to current COVID restrictions there will unfortunately be no parents/spectators allowed. More information to follow.

Enrolment Open Days 2021

The school will be hosting Open Days for prospective enrolments on Wednesday 10 March and Thursday 11 March. Please let friends and family know. For anyone considering enrolment at St Thomas Aquinas.

Open Day – Wednesday 10 March 2021

9:30am - 11:00am
12:00pm - 1:00pm

Open Day – Thursday 11 March 2021

9:30am - 10:30am

Click here to [Register Your Interest](#).

Contact the school today to enrol and discover the many benefits of joining the St Thomas Aquinas learning community. **Phone: 4723 3800** or **email to stthomas@parra.catholic.edu.au**

We look forward to welcoming you to our community!

School Fees

The First Instalment invoices have been issued. **Instalment 1 will be due on or before 17 March.** Flexible Payment Plans (FPP) are offered as an alternative payment option for your School Fees. If you would like to accept this offer our preferred method is to go to <https://www.parra.catholic.edu.au/fpp> and arrange a direct debit from a nominated bank account or debit/credit card. Please be advised that unless alternative arrangements have been made regarding the payment of your account it will be assumed that full payment will be made on or before the due date. Outstanding accounts will be forwarded to the Catholic Education Office for collection. If you are having difficulties with the payment of your school fees, you are encouraged to contact the school office to arrange an appointment with either myself or the Principal to discuss your options. **Cheree Brown, School Finance Secretary**

Meet the Teacher – Week 5 Term 1

Our school believes it is vital that there is regular communication both formal and informal about your child’s progress throughout the year. At this early point in our school year, you will be invited to meet with your child’s classroom teacher to discuss the year ahead.

Further information was sent home to parents last week and an online booking facility has been made available.

Students Who are Unwell

Thank you to all the families for your great support of students who are not well. We ask all our families to continue to follow the guidelines below as we work together to ensure the well-being and health of our school Community.

- No student should attend school if they are unwell.
- Each student who is absent from school or who has been sent home because they have **flu-like** symptoms, **must have a COVID-19 test**.
- A negative COVID-19 test result **must be provided** to the school **before** a student can come back to school.
- The result notification can be a NSW Health or COVID-19 Testing Centre letter, SMS or email and/or a medical certificate.
- Please send this notification to the school via email BEFORE the commencement of the school day.
- Students are not able to return to school until they return a **negative COVID-19 result** and are **symptom free**.

Symptoms of COVID-19 include:

- Fever (37.5 ° or higher)
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Shortness of breath
- Runny nose
- Loss of smell or taste

COVID-19 testing for students with complex health may be challenging. In these situations, please speak to your medical practitioner for a medical certificate.

Uniform Sale - Old Stock Only

The School Locker will be holding a sale on all **stock from our previous supplier**, savings of **up 40-50% off!** The sale will be held next **Monday 22 February from 8am to 4pm (last booking 3.50pm)** and by appointment only.

To make your appointment click on the link <https://www.schoolinterviews.com.au/> and enter the Event Code **5fca8**

The store will be held in the old canteen, the same location that the previous pop-up shop was held last year. If you would like your child to attend for a fitting **please write a note to the teacher** allowing them to meet you for your appointment. Please adhere to our COVID safety plan. We ask that **you do not attend if you are unwell**; only **one parent per family** is to attend the appointment and **please abide by social distancing** where possible. Please read our SkoolBag notification for details.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2021 TERM 1	Week 4	Friday 19 February	Year 6 Retreat Day
		Saturday 20 February	Community Garden 4 th Anniversary with Costa
	Week 5	Monday 22 February	Uniform Pop-up Shop Meet the Teacher
		Tuesday 23 February	Meet the Teacher
		Thursday 25 February	Meet the Teacher
	Week 7	Wednesday 10 March	Diocesan Swimming Carnival – selected students Enrolment Open Day for Prospective Students
		Thursday 11 March	Enrolment Open Day for Prospective Students
	Week 8	Wednesday 17 March	School Cross Country
	Week 10	Thursday 1 April	Holy Thursday LAST DAY OF TERM 1
		Friday 2 April	Good Friday