

NEWSLETTER

Week 7 Term 2 – 03/06/2021

Celebrating 200 Years of Catholic Education

On Monday 24 May, the feast of Our Lady Help of Christians, Marina Hardy (Principal) along with Mollie Malone and her mother Kerrie Malone attended the '200 Years of Catholic Education' Mass celebrated by Bishop Vincent Long. This was such a significant and beautiful mass held at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta and was attended by representatives of all of the schools in the diocese. The local indigenous elders started the celebration with a smoking ceremony.

Mollie, Marina and Kerrie received a commemorative plaque for our school as did all the student representatives of the schools in the diocese. A special location for this plaque will be chosen to enable all our students to be able to read its inscription and be reminded that they were a student at St Thomas Aquinas Springwood, when across Australia, we celebrated 200 Years of Catholic Education.



Staff Development Day - Monday 31 May

On Monday 31 May, 2021 our teachers engaged in rich professional learning with a focus on Numeracy. We were fortunate to have two Teaching Educators (Numeracy) from the Catholic Education Office assist in leading the day. Our school goal this year in numeracy is to continually improve students using effective strategies in multiplication and division as well as developing a deeper understanding of place value. Our staff look forward to working with our students on our new learning.

2022 Enrolments

We have had a strong interest in enrolments for 2022. If you are enrolling your child into Kindergarten in 2022 or have a family friend who is interested in enrolling into St Thomas Aquinas, please contact the school office on (02) 4723 3800 for an application form as soon as possible.

Applications are also being taken for Grades 1-6 for 2022.



First Holy Communion

This Saturday many of our students will make their first Holy Communion at St Thomas Aquinas Parish Church, during the Feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. We wish them well as they take this very important step in their faith life. As you take part in the bread of life and the cup of eternal salvation for the first time, know that you will carry the Lord's blessings and love with you forever. Mrs Wills, Mrs Wurf and Mrs Fortunat will provide the music for this special occasion.

Next STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY (Pupil Free)
Monday 12 July 2021 (first day of Term 3)
Students commence on Tuesday 13 July

CAPTIVATE - Visual Literacy

Our Year 3 students have continued with their Visual Literacy program this term which is being led by Mrs Saidie Lye from CAPTIVATE Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta, our Year 3 teachers and Mrs Bousfield. The skills that the students are learning are integrated with their Inquiry unit of work. The teachers work with students equipping them with tools and skills for real world application through the vehicles of visual literacy and digital media.



Students in Year 3 thoroughly enjoyed bringing their Science and Digital Art learning together in Term 1.

"In Science we were learning about Earth and the other planets and how they relate to the Sun. We loved researching lots of facts about our chosen planet. Then in Art, we were able to make a paper mâché model of our planet and take a cool photo of it. At the end we brought our research and our photo together in Canva to make our posters. I know so much more now about the planets and it was fun bringing it all together the way we did."

The students are looking forward to sharing some of their visual literacy work at the Family Learning Conferences.

Book Club

The latest issue of Book Club has been given out to the students. All orders are **due by Monday 14 June** via the loop at www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP



CAPTIVATE - Band

A reminder that students who attend additional music lessons with the CAPTIVATE tutors must bring their instruments to school for their music lessons each week. We have seen an increase in students not remembering to bring them in.

Effort in Learning 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

Myles Albury	Ruanii Claudino	Archie Lamont	Hunter Rawlings
Ryan Andrews	Bentley Colburn	Patricia Lia	Casey Ryan
Jamie Baber	Emily Daw	Angela Lin	Kaden Sammour
Ada Bail	Matthew Daw	Claudia Lloyd	Jamie Sharp
Harley Baker	Jessie Diekmann	Will LoCascio	Romeo Siciliano
Violet Baker	Joshua Duck	Ryder Lopez	Bella Smith
Juliet Balfour	Anna Edwards	Sarah Matteucci	Oscar Smith
Zachary Batcock	Mikayla Fitzgerald	Poppy Milroy	Mila Staciwa
Jack Blattman	Eleanor Fortunat	Catherine Moore	Arabella Stewart-Rowley
Sonny Boncales	Jaxon Galea	Bryson Morgan	Ava Tallon
Harrison Brown	Callum Gibbons	Lachlan Newport	Janaya Teuma
Lucas Brown	James Hackett	Ashley North	Jarrah Thurston
Madeline Buchanan	Archer Harris	Ella North	Baiden Tom
Charli Burton	Keira Holdsworth	Grace O'Brien	Mieke Watson
Alannah Clark	Ella Hoppe	Alana Prior	Megie Williamson
Annabelle Clark	Wolfgang Hummel	Jake Ramires	Abigale Wilson
Indianah Clarke	Ellie Kermode	Cherinda Rawlings	Zachary Zalan-Pipe
Nate Clarke			

Week 4

Ethan Baddock	Lucas Davies	Piper Jeffers	Ash Meadows
Ada Bail	Tyler Davies	Charlotte Kennedy	Lachlan Mecham
Tobey Bail	Arthur Dundas	Jamelia Kodsy	Gabriel Muradian
Lily Boersma	John Garth	Sophia Konstantinoff	Marshall Rivers
Archie Brown	Michael Graham	Luke Malone	Tyler Walker
Kael Brown	Mikaela Horner	Sienna Mathew	Tom Withers
Liam Costigan			

Week 6

Max Bailey	Ethan Leece	Ashley North	Livinia Prineas
Angus St Clair	Ruby Lister	Herbie Pain	Natasha Springett
Byron Feros	Benjamin LoCampo	Callie Peat	Annika Telcher
Harvey Jones	Luke Malone	Dmitry Pochukaev	Liam Willis
Beckett Kearns	Ava Marchesi	Samuel Power	Ruby Young
Maisie Lamont	Ella Mills		

COVID-19 Restrictions

Firstly, thank you for your continued cooperation in ensuring the safety of all students and staff at St Thomas Aquinas, especially with being alert for the signs and symptoms of COVID-19.

Please see the NSW Health Guidelines below for students returning to school after an illness -

(Please note: these guidelines have not changed):

- Students must not attend school if they are unwell. This includes even minor flu symptoms.
- Should a student be absent due to a sore throat or flu like symptoms they must return a negative COVID-19 test result and be symptom-free before returning to school.
- Schools must sight the negative COVID -19 test prior to allowing students to return to school.
- If you do not wish your child to undertake a COVID -19 test or provide the school with a negative test result, the guidelines are that the student is to be excluded from school for a 10-day period. Additionally, the student must be symptom-free for at least 3 days before returning to school.
- If your child has complex health issues, please have your child assessed by your medical practitioner. Where a medical practitioner determines that a COVID-19 test is not required, a medical certificate must be provided to the school to confirm that the student does not have symptoms that warrant a COVID-19 test. The certificate must also indicate that the student is able to return to the school environment.

SPORTS NEWS

This year, our 2021 Athletics Carnival is being held in Week 10 on Thursday 24 June at Tom Hunter Park, Faulconbridge. This will be for Years 3-6 and any Year 2 students who are **turning 8 this year** who wish to compete to represent the school in the zone carnival. Field events as well as running events will occur at the carnival, therefore it would be wonderful if we could have as many parent helpers as possible, please. Since the Olympics are being held this year, we will be hosting our own Mini-Olympics for K-2 in term 3. We anticipate a great fun-filled day for both events, so stay tuned for more information regarding both carnivals. Spectators will be welcome to attend both events.

Athletics Coaching

This term we have "Athletics Australia" delivering a program for five weeks. The program focuses on skill development and introduces team-based activities in an age-appropriate format for all students, as well as offering insight into the more technical aspects of athletics for students who may be more advanced. This program will no doubt assist all of our students as they participate in their up-and-coming events this term and next.



Cross Country

A big congratulations to our 11 Years Girls' and 13 Years Boys' Cross Country teams who competed at Eastern Creek last month. Both of these STA teams came first in their age group and were as proud as punch, as were all the staff and students at STA! Great work teams! We wish all of those students who are competing at the NSWCPSCCC Cross Country Championships on Tuesday 8 June the best of luck as they continue to train hard for this up-and-coming event.



Oliver Toth, Angus Wills, Ben Gomez, Cisco Borbely,
Brydan McLeod, Harvey Jones



Chloe Blattman, Emily Daw, Charlotte Priest,
Ava Tallon, Jessica Sharp, Bonnie Butler

Team Event

Goodluck to Luke Clunes who will try out for the MacKillop team at the Parramatta Diocesan Cricket trials held at Jamison Park on Friday. We wish Luke all the very best and are sure that he will again achieve great results as we have seen previously in a number of other team events that he has made.

Gala Days

Our Gala day tryouts have begun! Soccer, touch football, netball and basketball competitions will be taking place at the end of term 2 and into term 3 with more sports to be shared shortly. Students from years 3-6 are eligible to try out for these teams so students need to listen out for announcements regarding trial information that will be given weekly.



Hats Reminder

A number of students are regularly attending sport lessons during the week without **their own** school hat. Some are borrowing hats from siblings instead of using their own one. In keeping with the school's sun safe procedures, **all students are required to wear their hat when outdoors during the school day (including sport)**. Please ensure your child brings their hat to school, or if needed, purchase a new hat for \$15.00 via the Qkr! App. Please also remember to mark your child's name on their hat.



FOOD DRIVE - Faith in Action

This term as part of our Faith in Action, the students have been learning about an organisation called JRS (Jesuit Refugee Services) who accompany, serve and advocate for refugees and asylum seekers. Our Faith in Action Team is organising a Food Drive to help fill their Food Bank, as they struggle to feed 300 families.

Our Year 5 and 6 Faith in Action Team would like each grade to bring an item to contribute to the Foodbank.

- **Kindergarten** - Basmati Rice
- **Year 1** - Oats
- **Year 2** - Biscuits (plain eg Jatz or Water crackers)
- **Year 3** - Long Life Milk
- **Year 4** - Cooking Oil
- **Year 5** - Tinned tuna and/or Tinned Fruit
- **Year 6** - Lentils, Red Kidney Beans, Chickpeas

We know that we have a very generous community. Please talk to your children about this action, perhaps encourage them to do a special job to earn the money and purchase the item themselves. Thank you.

Virginia Fortunat, Religious Education Coordinator

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2021 TERM 2	Week 8	Wednesday 9 June	Year 3 Excursion
		Wednesday 9 June To Friday 11 June	Year 6 Camp
		Friday 11 June	12.30 Feast of Sacred Heart Mass No Assembly
	Week 9	Monday 14 June	Queen's Birthday Public Holiday
	Week 10	Various days	Family Learning Conferences (Details to follow)
Friday 25 June		2.30pm Assembly Last Day of Term 2	
TERM 3	Week 1	Monday 12 July	Staff Development Day (Pupil Free Day)
		Tuesday 13 July	Students return for Term 3
		To be advised	Semester 1 Reports shared with parents

