



Every Student, Every Day at STA

Our School Attendance Goal for 2017 is 90%.
Our current school attendance rate is 95%.

Our 2017 School Learning Goals

- * All students will deepen their understanding of Christian **scripture**.
- * All students will improve the quality of their **writing**.
- * All students will improve their **problem-solving** skills.

NEWSLETTER

No. 4 Date: 06/04/2017 Week 11 Term 1

From Desolation to Hope - School Holy Week Liturgies

Dear St Thomas Aquinas Families,

During this week our school community has re-enacted and participated in the events marking the Passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. On Monday our Kindergarten and Year 1 students re-enacted and meditated on Christ's joyful entry into Jerusalem on **Palm Sunday**. Later the same day our Years 2 & 3 students marked Jesus' **Last Supper** with His Apostles. The Lord's Supper was followed by class-based re-enactment of the washing of hands and Last Supper.

On Wednesday our Year 6 students drew us into the events leading up to Christ's suffering and **Crucifixion** and the scene at the **Tomb** when all hope seemed lost. On Thursday, led by Year 4 we celebrated the great feast of the **Resurrection** of Jesus – The Pascal feast of Easter which the Church celebrates the Sunday after next.

During the week the children and parents have also had an opportunity to reflect on the Scriptural **Stations of the Cross** and the **Garden of Gethsemane** led by Year 5 students. One of the outstanding aspects of this was the questions posed by the students after enacting their particular station. These questions challenged us to think about how the particular event calls us to act in our lives and how does it help us to love our neighbour more.

At the heart of our faith story are the events of Christ's ministry – His life, death, and resurrection. During this time of the year we are led to contemplate once again that Jesus was both a person and at the same time divine. As a community of faith we walk with Christ and one another through the triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday to the bitter agony on the cross and to the empty tomb and the joyful resurrection of Easter Sunday. We walk not in great strides during this week but in small steps, passing through each movement mindful that we will reach the Resurrection and that just like our own life we will be forever transformed by the journey.

Why do the emotionally charged events of Holy Week and Easter resonate so strongly within us?

Perhaps it is because we can personally relate with the humanity of Christ's own experience. In our personal struggles, doubts, missteps, losses and challenges we, in essence, share in His Passion. The great hope of Easter is that after the darkness, confusion and desolation love, light and life prevail.

Thank you sincerely for your attendance and participation in our Holy Week liturgies. Our gratitude to the students for their sense of the sacred and to the teachers for their outstanding dedication in this area.

From all those who work and learn at STA we wish all a holy, safe and blessed Easter.

Buona Pasqua!

Until next time,

S Rosato

Sergio Rosato
Principal



The great **HOPE**
of Easter is
that after the
darkness,
confusion and
desolation
**LOVE, LIGHT and
LIFE** prevails.



STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY (PUPIL FREE) – Monday 24 April, 2017

A Staff Development Day has been planned for Monday 24 April (first day of Term 2). The focus of the day will be curriculum and elements of assessment. **Therefore Term 2 for students will commence on Wednesday 26 April, 2017.**

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www.stthomas.parra.catholic.edu.au | Parish Priest: Father Paul Slyney



National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence

Continued

Bystanders & Good Samaritans

At a recent school assembly the students viewed a short animated video to help them learn how to be a safe and supportive bystander if they see bullying happening. This was the second video following an earlier one focussed on the definition of Bullying as opposed to Conflict.

The following information is a summary of the information presented:

Bullying & Bystanders

Bullying is when someone uses 'power' they have over someone else to try to hurt or upset them again and again. The people who see bullying are called bystanders. Anyone can be a bystander – children, parents, teachers and other people around. Some bystanders do things that make the bullying continue. They might join in or cheer someone on. Or they might do nothing and just watch.

Supportive Bystanders

Supportive bystanders use their power to try and stop the bullying. This could be defending or helping the person being bullied. Most people don't like to see bullying happening. But you might feel worried about what you can do. You can be worried that you might make it worse. Or maybe you think someone else should do something. Maybe you just don't know what to do. Maybe you're afraid about getting hurt yourself or being the next person to get bullied.

You do need to stay safe. The best way to be safe is being part of a group. Together, the group can make it clear that the bullying is not okay. That's really powerful!

What can Good Bystanders Do?

Bystanders always have ways to use their power for good. If you feel safe to do so, you can stand up to the bullying.

- You can say 'just stop it' in a cool and casual way.
- You can say something to distract everyone, like 'hey, don't we have to go practise for the game?'
- You can reduce the tension, saying something general like, 'let's try to keep things friendly here hey? No one likes that.'
- You can challenge the bullying by saying something like 'this isn't fair, let's all leave.' (and make sure you take the person being bullied along with you).

If you don't feel safe to stand up to the bullying, you can still help.

- You can walk away, leave the space or chat room. That way you don't provide an audience for the person doing the bullying.

Definitely don't join in.

MORE INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND AT: <https://bullyingnoway.gov.au>

Creative Arts Alive at STA – cont'd

St Thomas Aquinas Springwood has a proud tradition of participation in all areas of the Creative Arts including Visual Arts, Music, Dance and Drama. This culture of music extends to the use of live music to enliven and deepen the liturgical, faith and community life of the school.

The creative arts at STA are seen as vital in providing learning opportunities for students that transcend and develop critical thinking skills. The Creative Arts integrates the 3 languages of learning - the language of the mind, the language of the heart and the language of the hands in harmony and together.

Continuing on from our previous Newsletter we would like to outline the opportunities provided at STA on the Creative Arts for students.

Musica Viva

The school has hosted this high quality, dynamic, accessible and culturally diverse musical troupe for many years. The children are prepared for the visit during their class music lessons by our music teacher. Musica Viva provides access to a wide variety of musical styles and involves students practically in the musical performance. In 2016 our school was featured in a promotional video for Musica Viva featuring the West African music and dance group *Teranga*.

For video see: <https://vimeo.com/193803260>

Drama Literacy

This program will continue this year and is jointly facilitated by a trained actor and STA teachers. The drama-literacy program will focus for the first half of the year in Year 4. The intent of this program is to connect the English and Drama curriculum using texts as stimulus. At the same time, the Drama-Literacy program provides teachers with in-house professional learning in the use of specific high-yield learning strategies. Our students and teachers have benefited greatly from this initiative for many years and we are grateful to Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta for this resource.

Wakakirri & Visit by Deng Adut to STA

The story of Deng Adut will feature in the school's **Wakakirri Story Dance** item later this year. School rehearsals have recently commenced for this production. In 2012 St Thomas Aquinas won the Wakakirri Sydney Grandfinal in Division 1 with a production called, *Keep on Believing* based on the life of the Chinese-Australian author and dancer Li Cunxin also the subject of the film *Mao's Last Dancer*. In 2015 the school once again reached the grandfinal of Wakakirri with its interpretation of the children's book, *A Bus Called Heaven* which also received the Art Story Award.

**** Summer to Winter Uniform **** **Changeover**

A reminder to families that students are to wear **Winter Uniform** when school resumes for **Term 2**. Students wear winter uniform for **both Terms 2 and 3**. For further details regarding uniforms please refer to the Parent Handbook located on the school website.

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Student Awards

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



Leo Borg	Eleanor Fortunat	Molly Jones	William Rayner
Noah Brown	Jack Fuge	Sophie Kerrison	Hamish Richards
Elysia Burchall	Lachlan Golby	Oscar Kirton	Oliver Savage
Marlowe Carey	Abbey Gomez	Ella Langan	Annabelle Scurr
Anabel Caristo	Arwen Gordon	Thomas Larkin	Jessica Sharp
Thomas Chapple	Sasha Grahovac	Connor Leahey	Natasha Springett
Noah Costello	Georgia Hammond	Samuel Lister	Baiden Tom
Grace Costigan	Phoebie-Rose Hampson	Imogen Mathew	Connor Willis
William Crighton	Amy Harvey	Tom McGrath	Hamish Wills
Amelia Crouch	Charles Hicks	Niamh O'Connell	Kitty Wyld
Matilda Debieen	Jessie Hicks	Gabriella Owen	Lola Wyld
Frank Dyer	Oliver Hughes	Felicity Paul	Andrew Young
Noah Edwards	Nyah Hutchings	Jacob Pospischil	Zachary Zalan-Pipe
Sullivan Forsyth	Evelyn Iles	Anneke Prineas	

School Cross Country 2017

After so much wet weather we were given enough respite last Friday to host our Annual School Cross Country. The sunny weather made it such a great day for our students in Grades 2-6. A note of thanks to Ann Gippel (Physical Education Teacher) and to the small but most efficient group of parent helpers who assisted with supervision, marshalling and recording on the day.



The **house results** for the Cross Country are as follows: **Blue** (1st place) – 198 points, **Red** (2nd) – 188 points, **Green** (3rd) – 183 points, **Gold** (4th) – 176 points

The following students achieved a place in their respective age races:

Jackson Bagatella	Lachlan Dempsey	Alexander Kerkham	Andrew Parbery
Riley Barglik	Harry Ghata	Joseph Kitching	Amelia Peake
Annalise Blattman	Lani Gleeson	Odette Laurent	Orion Pick
Olive Borbely	Cooper Golby	Jack Leahey	Emma Pospischil
Emanuel Borg	Lachlan Golby	Melissa Lee	Cameron Purcell
Patrick Bourke	Abbey Gomez	Veronica Lloyd-Williams	Lara Wallace
Kael Brown	Jessica Gomez	Zoe Long	Harry Watson
Kian Brown	Samuel Graham	Bella McSpadden	Mia Watson
Elysia Burchall	Thomas Grodzicki	Chyna Moore	Alfie Williamson
Ruby Butler	Mariella Hill	Taya Moore	Claire Williamson
Sophia Cantwell	Nyah Hutchings	Chelsea Muller	Lachlan Williamson
William Crighton	Molly Jones	Liam Murphy	Angus Wills

We congratulate all our students for their great efforts and wish our Cross Country Team the very best as they proceed through to the Diocesan Cross Country at Eastern Creek on Tuesday 2 May.



School Parent Fundraising Team

The school has invited parents to be part of this group. Under our Assistant Principal, Mary Clark's guidance the group will be responsible for coordinating various fundraising initiatives throughout the year. On Monday a number of parents and Mary worked in the canteen space organising and sorting through stock. The first fundraiser is planned to coincide with Mother's Day. Thank you to the parents who have indicated their availability to be part of this group whose work will benefit our students through the purchasing of learning resources.

Springwood ANZAC Day Parade and Wreath Laying Ceremony 2017

All students are welcome to attend the Springwood ANZAC Day Parade and Wreath Laying Ceremony on Tuesday 25 April. Students are to meet Mr Rosato, Mrs Clark and staff in front of Springwood Fire Station on Macquarie Road at 10.00am dressed in **full winter uniform, including a hat** and jumper or jacket if necessary. Let's show our appreciation for the sacrifice of those who have served in our armed forces.

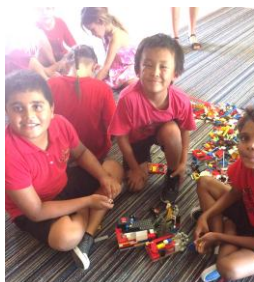
— *Lest We Forget* —

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St Therese's Community School Wilcannia say thanks!

Late last year we requested the donation of Lego no longer being used at home by children. A significant amount of Lego was donated and taken by Karen Bousfield (Teacher/Librarian) to St Therese's Community School Wilcannia. Karen is currently on a 6 months teaching secondment at the school.

This week we received news from Mrs Bousfield that the children at the St Therese's are certainly enjoying the Lego. After some initial reluctance the children have taken to using the material as one of their favourite Friday activities. The teachers at St Therese's will also be sending some of the Lego donated by the STA community home with the students for the upcoming holiday period. Thank you to everyone who donated Lego and know that it is being used well by the children in Wilcannia.



PARISH NEWS


St Thomas Aquinas Parish Holy Week Ceremonies

Second Rite of Reconciliation: Tuesday 11 April at 7.00pm

Holy Thursday:	Mass of the Lord's Supper	7.30pm
Good Friday:	Stations of the Cross	10.00am
	Celebration of the Lord's Passion	3.00pm
Holy Saturday:	Easter Vigil	6.00pm
Easter Sunday:	Easter Morning Mass	9.45am
	(No 5.00pm Mass)	



DIARY DATES

2017	Friday 7 April	Term 1 Concludes	 <p>Scan with your smartphone or tablet for more information. www.stspringwood.catholic.edu.au </p>
-- School Holidays --			
TERM 2	Monday 24 April	STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY (PUPIL FREE)	
	25	ANZAC DAY	
	Wednesday 26 April	Term 2 Commences for Students	
	27	8.30am Staff Briefing	
	28	8.30am Staff Prayer	
Week 1	28	Year 6 Asia Day	
	Monday 1 May	9.05am Coffee & Chat – in the Hall School Band 12.35pm Assembly – 5C presenting 3.40pm School Leadership Meeting	
	2	Diocesan Cross Country – selected students School Band 3.40pm Staff Meeting	
	3	8.30am Staff Briefing School Band 9.20am Parish Mass – Year 5 attending	
	4	8.30am Staff Prayer Mothers' Day Stall	
	5		

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Springwood East Timor Support Group Trivia Night: On **Saturday 20 May** the Springwood East Timor Support Group will be holding their annual Trivia Night at **St Thomas Aquinas School Hall**. Table bookings are advised with groups of 8 – 10 available. Contact Pam Gorman on 4754 1160 for bookings. **Cost is \$20 per head**. BYO drinks and nibbles for a great night out.

Sent Home Recently:

- Parent Fundraising Group Note (pink)
- School Holy Week Note (lilac)
- Kindergarten Helpers Note
- Staff Leave Announcement for 5N (dark green)
- Touch Football Competition Permission Note – selected students
- Parvovirus Note (mauve)
- Muffi Day Note (light green)
- ANZAC Day Note (blue)
- Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease Note (red)
- Asia Day Note to Year 6 (salmon)

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