



Every Student, Every Day at STA

Our School Attendance Goal for 2017 is 90%.

Our current School Attendance is 86%.

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. 7 Date: 29/06/2017 Week 10 Term 2

Dear St Thomas Aquinas Families,

Term 2 Concludes

Friday brings to a conclusion the first half of the 2017 school year. Term 2 has been a particularly busy and eventful term with many events, celebrations and accomplishments. These have included: **ANZAC Day March & Wreath-laying, Year 6 Asia Day, School Tours, Year 1 Ceramics Incurion, Year 6 Camp to Vision Valley, NAPLAN, Mobile Dental Clinic, Mothers' Day Stall, Principal's Morning Teas, School Photos, Bocce Tournament, Year 2 Excursion, Pentecost Liturgy, St Columba's Missioning, Weekly Parish Mass Attendance, First Communion, Walkathon, Family Learning Conferences, Captivate Tuition and Performances, Wakakirri Rehearsals, Sports Carnival, Various sporting events, Family Movie Night, Crazy Hair Dayjust naming a few.**

As the term comes to a close with the celebration of student learning through the Family Learning Conferences we give thanks for the incredible dedication, gifts of the Spirit and generosity that have expression each day within this learning community. Truly CHRISTian schools depend on valuing and recognising these Gifts with a sense of love, humility and service towards others.

May the holiday break provide all with some downtime to rest, reflect and renew. I leave you this week with these beautiful words from Pope Francis entitled Angels Among Us. The quotation is a reminder that within our community there exists grace and beauty close to us in the form of our neighbour.

God never abandons us: every time that we are in need, one of His angels will come to lift us up and fill us with consolation. His "angels" will sometimes have a human face and heart, because the saints of God are always here, hidden among us. This is difficult to understand and even to imagine, but the saints are present in our lives. And when someone invokes a saint, it is precisely because they are close to us.



A Note of Thanks

During the term the school has held some major fundraising and other events including the Mothers' Day Stall, Walkathon, Movie Night for families and the Sports Carnival this week. At each of these events we have had a large number of parent helpers and volunteers whose assistance ensured their success. We sincerely thank all those who assisted in any way during the term, especially to our core Fundraising Group coordinated by Mary Clark. We also thank all our families for your generosity in supporting these events to raise valuable funds for the school.

Our thanks also go to the following for their wonderful support of the Sports Carnival barbeque this week, particularly to David Verriere who coordinated and cooked during the day and organised the fabulous food. Barbeque food was either supplied at cost price, discounted or donated by the following: Deli Ham, Sydney Direct Fresh, Sunshine Bakery, Barnhouse Poultry and Moore & Sons Butchery.

St Thomas Aquinas is privileged to have such a wonderful parent community. Your hard work and generosity is very much appreciated. We wish all families a restful and refreshing holiday break and look forward to seeing you again in Term 3.

Until next time,

S Rosato

Sergio Rosato
Principal

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Crazy Hair Day for the Leukaemia Foundation This Friday, 30 June 2017

Students come to school with CRAZY hairstyles and bring a gold coin. We encourage the wearing of 'product' and items in the hair rather than colour. Normal uniform as usual. We thank you for your support of this worthwhile initiative.



Principal's Morning Tea for Effort in Learning

On Thursday 22 June we hosted the second morning tea in Term 2 for students who have demonstrated commitment and effort to their learning. The morning tea is intended as a simple way to celebrate and acknowledge students who strive diligently to do their best. During the gathering many of the students shared their learning goals and how they had gone about working to improve in some area of their studies. It is always a privilege to listen to the reflections and I'm always impressed by their clarity and honesty.

This conversation with the students reminded me of Albert Einstein who once said that he did not believe that he was that smart, but he did believe that he was passionately curious. This curiosity is at the heart of all good learning. Our collective job is to model, encourage and foster this spirit of curiosity. Curiosity sparks imagination and creative thinking. Being curious hinges to a great extent on active listening and asking better questions rather than jumping straight to conclusions.

Learning often involves a large amount of trial and error as well as conceptual reasoning and visualisation. Einstein made numerous discoveries that his more technically able colleagues missed due largely to the fact that his persistence and curiosity led him to make more mistakes and to learn from these. **Congratulations and well done** to the following:

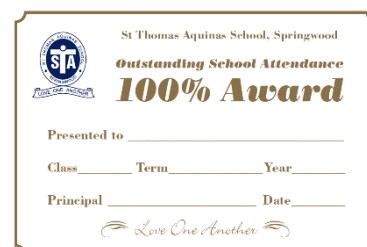
Ryan An U	Nyah Hutchings	Chelsea Muller	Lachlan Roberts
David Anderson	Ava Huxley	Abbey Murphy	Mark Rubelj
Zachary Batcock	Ella Langan	Riley Pagitz	Rosie Sieders
Dylan Cantwell	Lexie Mackay	Billie Papasotiriou	Amelia Steadman
Anneliese Carroll	Eliza Manners	Will Peake	Lachlan Steadman
Zoe Cini	Alana Mathew	Florencia Perez-Eaton	Sienna Valentini
Bentley Colburn	Bella McSpadden	Lucy Poulter	Connor Willis
Brianna Collins	Poppy Milroy	Jack Reynolds	Lola Wyld
Alfie Cook			
Cem Damarguc			
Nieve DeBono			
Lachlan Dempsey			
Annabelle Duck			
Ezra Forsyth			
Max Friedland-Jaccoud			
Blake Gough			
Thomas Grodzicki			
Payton Henson			
Jessie Hicks			
Isabel Hill			
Alexis Hodge			
Sienna Hughes			
Ronan Hurley			



Being curious hinges to a great extent on active listening and asking better questions rather than jumping straight to conclusions.

Student Attendance Awards – Term 2

At our special school assembly on Wednesday 70 students across the school were awarded with 100% School Attendance Awards for Term 2. All schools in the Diocese of Parramatta are being encouraged to achieve an overall attendance goal for the year of 90%. Our current attendance is fractionally below this rate at 86%. We congratulate all students who have been at school every day possible during this term.



Staff News

- Elizabeth Bamford is continuing her recovery at home and is very appreciative of the many messages of support received.
- Robert Mullen underwent surgery this week - please keep Robert in your prayers.
- Sergio Rosato will be on Long Service Leave for Week 1 and 2 of Term 3.
- A special retirement mass was celebrated at Sacred Heart Mount Druitt for our former STA REC, Learning Support teacher, Marie Prendeville. We congratulate Marie as she commences the next phase of her life.
- Mel Burness will remain as Teacher/Librarian in Term 3 while Karen Bousfield is on teaching secondment in Wilcannia.

Family Learning Conferences

This week we hosted focused meetings between parents, teachers and students. The FLC's flesh out the students' reports by discussing areas where students have shown progress and development, setting goals for the next semester and broadly planning how these can be achieved over the next half of the year. Student Reports will be sent home in Week 1 of Term 3.

Sports Carnival

Our Annual School Sports Carnival took place on Tuesday at Glenbrook Athletics Field. The day was a wonderful day of fun, friendship and fitness. We thank our Physical Education teacher, Ann Gippel, the school administration staff and our wonderful parent volunteers for their work in helping to make the day such a success.

Holiday Wakakirri Rehearsal

Staff and students involved in our Wakakirri story dance production will be at school for rehearsals on Thursday and Friday 13 and 14 July. Thank you to Michelle Nightingale and the Wakakirri Team for your dedication. Our Wakakirri Performance will take place at the Riverside Theatre Parramatta on 25 August.

Community Movie Night

From all accounts a most enjoyable night was had by the many families who attended the event last Friday

evening in our hall. Thank you to our Assistant Principal Mary Clark for her coordination of this community event in conjunction with the school fundraising team.

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Student 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 6

Isaac Bailey
Riley Barglik
Violet-Rose Bentley
Bonnie Butler
Olivia Byrnes
Chiara Carlino
Mia Cini
Reid Clarke
Brianna Collins
Joshua Curtis
Arabella Fuge

Lillian Gosling
Mia Grodzicki
Thomas Grodzicki
Mathew Hall
Jeremy Harris
Noah Hicks
Mariella Hill
Peter Hogan
Ella Holdsworth
Elise Hurley
Nyah Hutchings

Erin Kenn
Matthew Kwiedor
Abigail Larkin
Imogen Mathew
Brendan McMaster
Chyna Moore
Liam Murphy
Lachlan Newport
Milly Okladnikov
William O'Neil
Ellie Penserini

Lilly Phuntsok
Cameron Purcell
Lachlan Roberts
Adam Springett
Archie Sproule
Antonio Todarello
Oliver Toth
Gabriel Valle
Mia Watson
Lola Whitsun-Jones
Alfie Williamson

Week 10

Lucas Banks
Riley Barglik
Cameron Barr
Cisco Borbely
Addison Bradshaw
Cooper Brown
Harrison Brown
Savannah Buss
Antoinette Caristo
Anneliese Carroll
Liam Clink
Charlotte Croft
James Croucher
Rowan Davies
Matilda Debieen
Britney Dorman

Penelope Edmonds
Eva Hampshire
Gwendolyn Henderson
Benjamin Hinley
Kayla Hurley
William Jones
Dylan King
Giulietta Kisten
Lachlan Konswerski
Kiahna Koustonikolis
Ella Langan
Seth Loughton
Aiden Machon
Summer Mamo
Luke Mathew

Nataly Mayorchak
Joshua Mitchell
Lucas Murphy
Bonnie Phuntsok
Abigail Power
Anneke Prineas
Ari-Kai Rawlings
Vienna Reynolds
River Rodemark
Lucas Sawyer
Jamie Sharp
Mayah Shore
Rosie Sieders
Arabella Stewart-Rowley
Julian Sypka

Brooke Thomas
Spencer Thomas
Millie Ticehurst
Lucas Tom
Preston Tom
Tyson Verriere
Darcy Weston
Clare Williamson
Lachlan Williamson
Connor Willis
Hamish Wills
Daniel Woods
Aiden Woolley
Sophie Young
Zachary Zalan-Pipe

From The Finance Secretary

Dear Parents,

When sending money to the school with students please send in correct money. Change will no longer be given or sent home with students. Please also remember to mark envelopes with the purpose of payment, student's name and class. Thank you.

School Banking

School Banking will resume after the school holidays on Tuesday 18 July. **Cheree Brown**

Kindergarten 2018 Enrolment

Mary Clark and Sergio Rosato will be conducting these this Saturday and Monday for parents and children enrolling into Kindergarten in 2018. At this stage indications are that we should be able to form 3 Kindy classes for next year.

Enrolments Year 1-6

The school is currently receiving a number of enquiries for next year in other grades. There will also be a number of newly enrolled students commencing at STA in Term 3 in various grades.

Walkathon 2017

Yesterday we held a special assembly to acknowledge all those who worked in support of the Walkathon in particular the many students and their families who were able to contribute to the cause through their sponsorship.

We recognised the following students who were the incentive prize winners in each grade: **Kindergarten** – Ella Mecham, **Year 1** – Ava Tallon, **Year 2** – Lincoln McLoughlin, **Year 3** – Enrique Caraballo, **Year 4** – Montana Barry, **Year 5** – Ben Hinley and **Year 6** – Chloe Corbett. We also awarded special prizes to the 3 students across the school who earned the most sponsorship overall. These students were: **Ella Mecham (KD), Montana Barry (4B) and Lincoln McLoughlin (2S)**. Finally we announced the class recipient of the special luncheon at McDonalds with Mrs Clark and Mr Rosato.

Congratulations to the winning class, 4B!

Our 2017 Walkathon was an overwhelming success **raising \$25,000**. These valuable funds will be used to purchase Chromebook Laptops and also student literature.



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Captivate Band Performance

The third and final evening known as "The Captivate Showcase" was held last Friday evening at Nagle College Blacktown. The students from STA who were part of the show band distinguished themselves through their wonderful playing, enthusiasm and cooperation. Thank you Jade Tinkler and Andrew Neal for their dedication and tuition of the students that make up the various levels of our school band program. It is evident that with time, practice and experience the quality of the ensemble music is certainly improving.



Save the Dates Term 3

Grandparents' Day (Friday 11 August); **Book Week** (Week commencing 21 August); **Wakakirri Performance @ Riverside Theatre** (25 August). More information to come.

STA School Website Relaunch

This week we saw the relaunch of our school website. Our new site looks fantastic and will serve a greater role in communicating school events as well as supporting our school enrolment process. Check out the site at - <http://www.staspringwood.catholic.edu.au/>

DIARY DATES

2017 TERM 2 Week 10	Friday 30 June	Crazy Hair Day Walkathon Class Luncheon TERM 2 CONCLUDES
--- School Holidays ---		
TERM 3 Week 1	Monday 17 July	9.05am Cuppa & Chat – in the Hall School Band 12.35pm Assembly 3.40pm School Leadership Meeting
	18	School Band 3.40pm Staff Meeting
	19	8.30am Staff Briefing School Band 9.20am Parish Mass
	20	8.30am Staff Prayer
	21	
Week 2	Monday 24 July	9.05am Cuppa & Chat – in the Hall School Band 12.35pm Assembly – 5RP presenting 3.40pm School Leadership Meeting
	25	School Band 10.15am Kinder & Year 1 Bravehearts Show Milo T20 Cricket 3.40pm Staff Meeting
	26	8.30am Staff Briefing School Band 9.20am Parish Mass
	27	8.30am Staff Prayer
	28	

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Girls in Motion: A fun, inclusive, non-competitive running program, designed to inspire and motivate girls to become and stay active as they enter adolescence. All girls in **Year 5 and 6 at St Thomas Aquinas Primary School** are invited to participate in our "Girls in Motion" running program, to be held on the sports grounds of St Thomas Aquinas Primary School. The girls will learn about good running technique, play exciting games, and develop confidence in their bodies' ability to move and be strong, fit and healthy. **PROGRAM DETAILS:** Program runs for **10 weeks during Term 3 2017, on Friday afternoon, 3.20 to 4.45pm**, at school. **FULL SUPERVISION IS PROVIDED.** **Commences: Friday 21 July, finishes Friday 22 September, 2017. COST is \$130 per student.** All coaching provided by Lyndal Maloney, from Serotonin Running. Lyndal is a fully accredited Running Coach with Athletics Australia, an accredited teacher with BOSTES, and has a current Working With Children Check. **REGISTER NOW on 0428 003 324 or email lyndal@serotoninrunning.com.au or visit www.serotoninrunning.com.au**

Sent Home Recently:

- Wakakirri Holiday Rehearsal Note (lemon) – selected students
- Staff Leave Announcement to 2C (jade green)
- Stage 2 Girls & Boys Soccer Gala Day Postponement Note – selected students
- Crazy Hair Day Note (orange)
- School Attendance & Learning Letter – selected students
- 4B Note to Parents re Term 3 Arrangements

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