



### *Every Student, Every Day at STA*

**Our School Attendance Goal for 2017 is 90%.**

**Our current School Attendance is 83.4%.**

### *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. 9    Date: 04/09/2017    Week 8    Term 3**

Dear St Thomas Aquinas Families,

The last two weeks have been incredibly fruitful and exciting at St Thomas Aquinas.

## **Wakakirri – Story/Dance Challenge for Schools**

On the evening of Friday 25 August many of our students performed at the Riverside Theatre, Parramatta as part of the national Wakakirri Story-Dance Festival. Wakakirri is Australia's largest annual Story-Dance competition, involving over 20,000 students across every State and Territory.

Over the last 20 weeks our STA Wakakirri troupe involving over 80 students, a number of teachers and assisted by parents and former students have been involved in writing, staging and rehearsing our school's story/dance item. They have used school breaks at recess and lunch and even school holidays to hone their item.

Our story entitled *Songs FOR a War Boy* is based on the inspirational story of Deng Adut. From humble beginnings in Sudan as a six year old boy and forced to march to Ethiopia, Deng Adut was indoctrinated as a child soldier, later wounded and smuggled out of Africa to Australia. Arriving in a new land he suffers many hardships but perseveres with his education in order to learn to read and write and eventually graduates from university as a lawyer. He now practices law in Western Sydney advocating for those in need including many in the migrant community. Deng was named 2017 NSW Australian of the Year.

Our Year 4-6 students were blessed to be visited by Deng earlier in the year where he recounted aspects of his story and of the power of education in his life. All those who witnessed our students' interpretation of Deng's story at the Riverside Theatre came away moved and inspired by their performance. On the night our item **earned the following Performance Awards:**

Excellent Lead Cast  
Excellent Group Acting  
Excellent Theme/Concept

Excellent Set Movement & Staging  
Excellent Performance Teamwork

Spirit of Wakakirri Award  
Best Backstage Crew

Our school also **qualified for the following State Award:** *Best Biographical History Story Award*

We have subsequently been informed by the Wakakirri committee that our school has been chosen as one of the finalists to perform at the Wakakirri Awards Night, which will be held at the State Sports Centre, Homebush on Tuesday 12 September. We are incredibly proud of our students and their teachers for their achievement in this prestigious creative arts competition.

Each of our students whether performing on stage or supporting the production by working backstage have distinguished themselves by their dedication, commitment and creativity. We are also immensely grateful to our Wakakirri teachers led by Michelle Nightingale and assisted by Nicole Pospischil, Cassie Wotherspoon, Virginia Fortunat, Blanche Hortense and Christie Le Breton for their priceless talent, passion and dedication. They in turn, have been ably supported by many support staff, teachers, parents and even former students.

We can be justifiably proud of each and every one of the cast, crew and creators of *Songs FOR a War Boy*. We also extend our gratitude to Deng Adut for allowing our community to use his personal life story as inspiration. To quote one of our students on the night, "I will never forget being part of Wakakirri!"

Until next time,

*ARosato*

Sergio Rosato  
Principal



**WAKAKIRRI**  
CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF SHARING STORIES!

**Sometimes  
you will  
never  
know the  
value of  
the  
moment  
until it  
becomes a  
memory**

Dr Seuss

*love one another*

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



## STA Book Week 2017 - Theme: Escape to Everywhere

Book Week is the longest running children's festival in Australia. Each year, many schools from all over Australia celebrate the gift of literature. During this time our students have been discussing and reading books that are based on the theme for this year - *Escape to Everywhere*. Due to our school's involvement in Wakakiri we postponed our Book Week celebrations until last Wednesday.



This year classes/grades chose to create a door display for their classroom as part of the overall theme. These door displays included the following imaginative themes:

- \* Door to Nursery Rhymes and Fairy Tales - **Kindy**
- \* Door to the Rainforest - **1D**
- \* Door to the Jungle - **1K**
- \* Door to the Bush - **1W**
- \* Door to the Past - **Year 2**
- \* Door to Adventure - **3BN**
- \* Door to Inventions - **3G**
- \* Door to the Australian Bush - **3L**
- \* Door to Your Imagination - **Year 4**
- \* Door to the World - **Year 5**
- \* Door to the Wizard of Oz - **Year 6**
- \* Door to the World of Roald Dahl - **K6A**
- \* Door to the Universe - **STARS**
- \* Door to Treasure Island - **Reading Recovery**
- \* Door to the Orchestra - **Music**
- \* Door to Italy - **Italian**
- \* Door to Dr Suess - **Administration**

On Wednesday our students celebrated Book Week by coming dressed as part of this theme. It was wonderful to see the vast array of attire that the students and their teachers came dressed in on the day. We had characters represented from a vast range of literature, cultural and world subjects. The weather on the day was perfect and we were able to host our Book Week Parade outdoors enthusiastically supported by a great number of families that provided a fantastic atmosphere for the Parade. After the Parade families were able to visit classes and view each of the thematic doors. This was then followed by an outdoor picnic lunch.

It was a most memorable Book Week celebration – a great day full of fun, literature and enchantment for our children and the entire community. Thank you to all our families for preparing your children so beautifully for the character parade. Also to our dedicated teachers for your creativity and enthusiasm and in particular to our teacher/librarian Melinda Burness for coordinating the day so magnificently.



## Fathers' Day Stall

Last Thursday, 31 August the STA Parent Fundraising Group held a Fathers' Day Stall at the school selling a range of items for the students to purchase for that special father figure in their lives. The stall proved very popular raising a total of \$2600 for the purchase of new fiction and non-fiction literature for the Primary classes. Thank you to all those who supported this event and especially to our very generous parents who facilitated the running of the stall.

*love one another*



## Student Awards

**Congratulations** to the following students, who received Merit Awards at our **Week 7** School Assembly. Well done on your efforts everyone – keep up the good work!



Cindy Ambrozic	Ruby Forsyth	Talyka Kime	Mia Rodemark
Luke Arnold	Audrey Godsell	Archie Lamont	Eli Schroeder
Ryder Astle	Arwen Gordon	Jack Leahey	Oliver Scurr
Lucas Brown	Eva Hampshire	Samuel Lister	Jessica Sharp
Lucy Brown	Jeremy Harris	Veronica Lloyd-Williams	Benjamin Waters
Mackenzie Carey	Kate Harrison	Ryder Lopez	Lola Whitsun-Jones
Chiara Carlino	Eadi Hazell	Lexie Mackay	Angus Wills
Lily Chalice	Isabel Hill	Caitlin Murphy	Daniel Woods
Isla Coburn	Alexis Hodge	Olivia O'Brien	Andrew Young
William Crighton	Evie Hodgins	Kaelan Penney	Darian Zunic
Britney Dorman	Alana Kenn		



## Principal's Morning Tea for Effort in Learning

On Friday 25 August the following students, nominated by their teachers, attended\* the Principal's Morning Tea for their consistent effort in all areas of their learning. \*NB: some of the students were unable to attend the morning tea due to other school sporting or creative arts commitments at the time. Those students will be invited to attend the next Principal's Morning Tea.

**Congratulations and well done** to you all!

Paul Anderson	William Jones	Summer Mamo	Anastasia Sawyer
Jackson Bagatella	Erin Kenn	Chyna Moore	Annabelle Scurr
Isaac Bailey	Giulietta Kistan	Natalia Muradian	Jamie Sharp
Annalise Blattman	Harry Kitching	Keyuri Naidoo	Isabella Smith
Lily Boersma	Kiahna Koustonikolis	Olivia O'Brien	Justin Sykes
Isabella Bonnici	Matthew Kwiedor	Alexis Owen	Ava Tallon
Emma Brickwood	Emily Leehy	Bethany Paul	Jacob Tan
Thomas Brosnan	Scarlett Lia	Beth Rawding	Bronte Tracey
Harrison Brown	Zoe Long	Abigail Richards	Angus Young
Noah Brown			
Mackenzie Carey			
Edward Carr			
Ysobel Chalice			
Zachary Chapman			
Alannah Collins			
Lucas Collins			
Luke Doorey			
Emilia Gosling			
Georgia Hammond			
Sebastian Hickey			
Henry Hinchliff			
Peter Hogan			
Sienna Hughes			
Evelyn Iles			



## Enrolment K-6 2018

Please advise friends and family that enrolment places for Years K - 6 for 2018 are now being accepted. Please contact the School Enrolment Officer, Kathryn Wachter or see our school website for more details. Enrolment places in some grades are limited.

## Spring into Learning School Tours

For the remainder of the term the school will be hosting school tours for prospective families for 2018. Please let family and friends considering enrolment know about the following dates:

- **Tuesdays:** 5, 12 & 19 September 2017, 9.30am – 10.30am
- **Wednesdays:** 6, 13 & 20 September 2017, 9.30am – 10.30am
- **Thursdays:** 7, 14 & 21 September 2017, 9.30am – 10.30am



## Athletics

The Diocesan Athletics Carnival was held on Friday 25 August at Blacktown. After a very successful day the following students will proceed on to the MacKillop Athletics Carnival at Homebush on Monday 18 September: **Senior Boys Relay** – Riley Pagitz, Vincent Applebee, Alfie Williamson, Zachary Gonzales; **Senior Girls Relay** – Molly Jones, Abbey Gomez, Bella McSpadden, Saffi Wilson; **800m** – Mia Watson and Riley Barglik; **Long Jump** – Molly Jones and Alfie Williamson; **High Jump** – Ryan An U, Vincent Applebee, Lani Gleeson, Jessica Gomez, Zachary Gonzales, Molly Jones, Elizabeth Kerkham, Taya Moore and Riley Thompson. Congratulations and well done to all our STA representatives.

## Sports Representative Uniforms Reminder

Parents are reminded to please return any STA sports representative uniforms i.e. polo shirts or socks that you may still have at home. Currently there are quite a few that are outstanding, leaving upcoming teams without enough uniforms. Your urgent attention would be much appreciated. Thank you.

*love one another*

## School Opal Card – Application Information

The application process has been simplified so that 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.



## DIARY DATES

<b>2017</b>  <b>TERM 3</b>  <b>Week 8</b>	<b>Monday 4 September</b>	9.05am Cuppa & Chat – in the Hall School Band 12.35pm Assembly – 1K presenting 3.40pm School Leadership Meeting
	<b>5</b>	School Band <b>9.30-10.30am Spring into Learning School Tours</b> 3.40pm Staff Meeting
	<b>6</b>	8.30am Staff Briefing School Band 9.20am Parish Mass – Kindergarten attending <b>9.30-10.30am Spring into Learning School Tours</b>
	<b>7</b>	8.30am Staff Prayer <b>9.30-10.30am Spring into Learning School Tours</b>
	<b>8</b>	Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Year 3 Pasta Day
<b>Week 9</b>	<b>Monday 11 August</b>	9.05am Cuppa & Chat – in the Hall School Band 12.35pm Assembly – KD presenting 3.40pm School Leadership Meeting
	<b>12</b>	<b>9.30-10.30am Spring into Learning School Tours</b> 3.40pm Staff Meeting
	<b>13</b>	8.30am Staff Briefing 9.20am Parish Mass – Year 6 & K6A attending <b>9.30-10.30am Spring into Learning School Tours</b> Tennis Clinics for Stage 2
	<b>14</b>	8.30am Staff Prayer <b>9.30-10.30am Spring into Learning School Tours</b>
	<b>15</b>	Stage 2 Touch Football Competition – selected students Year 1 Incursion

## COMMUNITY NOTICES

**Bushfire Building Community Day – Forum and Marketplace:** On **Saturday 9 September** this FREE event will be held at the **Blue Mountains Theatre and Community Hub**, Macquarie Road, Springwood from **10.00am – 3.00pm**. With a whole range of bushfire related topics to be discussed on the day, this event is not to be missed. Event includes bushfire season update, BAL-rated products expo, bushfire building expert advice, NSW RFS interactive displays, free sausage sizzle and kids activities. Register at [www.bmee.org.au](http://www.bmee.org.au) or email [admin@bmee.org.au](mailto:admin@bmee.org.au) or **phone 02 4783 6555**. All welcome!

**FREE Kids Bike Skills Workshops:** This fun workshop aims to improve kids practical riding skills and confidence with a fully qualified AustCycle trainer. Parents and kids will also learn how to do a helmet and bike check. Kids need to be able to ride unassisted and have a helmet and working bike and be wearing closed shoes. They also need to be accompanied by a parent or carer. **When:** Saturday 16 September **5-8 year olds 9am to 11am; 9-12 year olds 11:30am to 1:30pm. Where:** Churchill Place Netball Courts, Springwood. Be quick as numbers are limited! **Bookings are essential:** **Phone** BMCC Road Safety Coordinator on **4780 5000**.

**Springwood District Athletic Club Registrations:** Registrations for the 2017/18 Season are now open. Keep fit, have fun and enjoy the outdoors. Springwood Little Athletics Club provides a positive and supportive environment for athletes of all abilities from U4 to U17. Competition for Little Athletics is on Saturday mornings from 8.15am. Coaching is also available on Monday evenings for members. To register please visit the website [www.springwoodathletics.org.au](http://www.springwoodathletics.org.au) or see us in person **between 10am and 2pm** on **Saturday 2 September** at Hazelbrook Shops, **Saturday 9 September** at Winmalee Shops, **Saturday 16 September** at Springwood Town Square.

### Sent Home Recently:

- Book Week Rehearsals Note
- Year 5 Canberra Excursion Payment Note (yellow)
- Wakakirri Awards Night Ticket Order Form – selected students
- Year 3 Pasta Day Note (salmon)



Scan with your smartphone or tablet for more information.

[www.stspringwood.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stspringwood.catholic.edu.au)