



Every Student, Every Day at STA

Our School Attendance Goal for 2017 is 90%.

Our current School Attendance is 81.5%.

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. 11 Date: 03/11/2017 Week 4 Term 4

Dear St Thomas Aquinas Families,

Every year, each school in our Diocese develops annual school action plans focusing on the areas of Religious Education, Numeracy and Literacy. These plans identify specific student learning goals and determine professional learning for teachers for the year.

Our Learning Goal in Literacy for 2017 & 2018 is:

- All students will improve the quality of their writing with a focus on text cohesion and spelling.



The Writing Process

One of the whole-school practices in this area is for each student in the school is to engage in the writing process every day. For students this may mean using their own imaginative drawings to spark their writing; for others a motivating event or a piece of literature that serves as an exemplar to stimulate writing. Sometimes students self-select a topic and write whatever comes to mind. Other times they choose from a list of writing prompts and

carry on from there. Occasionally, their writing continues for two or three days and develops into a full fiction or non-fiction story.

The pieces created during daily writing provide teachers with information about a child's comprehension, text cohesion, vocabulary, and various skills as a writer. They provide great content for writing conferences. Often, student writers select a piece to "polish up" to a published product.

Our Term 4 Writing Initiative

In support of our school goal on Writing we commenced this term with a whole school initiative using "shoes" as a common writing stimulus. The process was as follows:

Week 1: The Mysterious Shoe Caper

- Tuesday: Teachers in all classes wore odd shoes to class. This provoked a range of responses from the children.
- At the school assembly that day the students sang a specially composed "shoe song" to further promote curiosity and fun.
- On returning to their classes after assembly the students observed a shoe placed in their room.
- Wednesday: The students used the shoe in their class as inspiration for writing.
- Thursday: The class shoe went missing. The children again wrote about what might have happened to the shoe as inspiration.
- Friday: The same shoe reappeared in the classroom. The shoe now had been transformed and decorated.
- The children wrote again using the transformed shoe as inspiration.

Week 2: Making their Writing Better

Students selected a piece of writing from Week 1 to develop further. During this week the focus was on "making it better" and also focusing on text cohesion. The goal for each student in the school was to produce a published text by the end of Week 3. Grades were asked to set realistic text lengths for their particular grade, e.g. Year 2 - one paragraph, Year 6 three paragraphs and each a different text type.

Week 3: Proof Reading

Parents were invited to come into classrooms and help with final proofreading. Parents were also encouraged to talk to their children at home about their writing to assist the writing process. Each writing piece was published and reviewed by the Editor in Chief (teacher). The published piece of writing was placed on display in the school hall in readiness for the Publication Celebration Week in Week 4. The class stimulus shoe was also displayed with the students' writing.

(Continued over page)

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



FROM THE PRINCIPAL – cont'd

Week 4: Publication Celebration Week

The hall was opened before and after school for students to share their writing with their parents and families. It was truly a celebration of each child's hard work and writing abilities. We are very proud of our students and their achievements in this area and look forward to future Publication Celebrations.

Perhaps amongst these budding student writers are the future Morris Gleitzmans, Emily Roddas, Anthony Horowitzs, J.K. Rowlings and Roald Dahls of our world.



Brown Leather Shoe - © School Writing Focus Theme Song 2017

(Sung To the Tune of Blue Suede Shoes by Carl Perkins)

Well, it's not Term 1!
Nor Term 2! Three's gone already
And 4's in view!
But don't you, step on my **BROWN LEATHER SHOE.**
You can do anything but lay off of my **BROWN LEATHER SHOE.**

Well, get that frown right off your face.
Cos, there's odd shoes all over the place.
Don't you, step on my **BROWN LEATHER SHOE.**
You can do anything but lay off of my **BROWN LEATHER SHOE.**
You can do anything but lay off of my **BROWN LEATHER SHOE.**

You can paint my house.
Admire my car.
Drink green cordial from an old fruit jar
But don't you, step on my **BROWN LEATHER SHOE.**
You can do anything but lay off of my **BROWN LEATHER SHOE.**
You can do anything but lay off of my **BROWN LEATHER SHOE.**

Well it's
BROWN-BROWN **BROWN LEATHER SHOE**
BROWN-BROWN **BROWN LEATHER SHOE** – Yeah!
BROWN-BROWN **BROWN LEATHER SHOE** – Baby!
BROWN-BROWN **BROWN LEATHER SHOE**
You can do anything but lay off of my **BROWN LEATHER SHOE.**

Until next time,

S Rosato

Sergio Rosato
Principal

Family Prayer Kit Launched

Our school goal in Religious Education is:
For all students to deepen their understanding of Christian scripture.

To further support this focus recently each class received a Prayer Kit that children can take home and share with their families.

Students can use the items in the Prayer Kit to set up a prayer space, and then lead their family in prayer. There is also a journal in the kit so that children and families can draw or write after their prayer time.

Healing Mass and Senior Citizens Luncheon

Last Thursday our school hosted a number of senior citizens and parishioners for a special luncheon in our school hall. A special Healing Mass celebrated by Father Flor preceded the luncheon. Following the Mass many of the senior citizens were chaperoned to the school by our Year 6 students.

We would like to sincerely thank the many people involved in preparing for this luncheon. Special mention to Colleen Kime, Trish Matchett and their team for their generosity. To our Music Teacher, Leigh Wills and the children of both the Junior and Senior Choirs for providing musical entertainment for our guests, to our REC, Joanne Toohey and the Year 6 teachers and students who helped to serve lunch, we say thank you for making the day enjoyable for all. The luncheon provided a really valuable opportunity for our students to share hospitality, conversation and kindness with our most valued senior citizens.

School Opal Card – Application Information

2018 Applications are now open. 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. If you don't have access to the internet **phone 131 500** for assistance.



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Book Fair 2017

Our Scholastic Book Fair will be held **next Tuesday and Wednesday, 7 & 8 November, in the library from 8.30am to 4pm.** Parents are welcome at any time.

Children are only allowed before school if they are accompanied by their own adult family member. Students who don't have an adult family member able to attend will be called during class time to make their purchases.



Crazy Socks & Shoes Day

Last Monday our school held a special fundraiser for Catholic Missions. Students wore crazy socks and odd shoes and in turn supported this most worthwhile cause to help alleviate poverty.

The students raised \$1450.

Thank you for your generosity.



Student Awards

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



Week 3

David Anderson
Vincent Applebee
Alina Ascencio
Lucas Banks
Chloe Blattman
Lara Buhs
Dylan Cantwell
Marlowe Carey
Lucas Collins
Noah Costello
Lincoln Croft
Joshua Croucher
Aden Cullinane

Joshua Curtis
Coopah Davies
Emilie Dempsey
Noah Francia
William Ghata
Zachary Gonzalez
Sasha Grahovac
Ziggy Green
Sebastian Hickey
Mariella Hill
Audrey Hodgins
Kayla Hurley
William Hurley

Emily Jones
Thomas Larkin
Amber Lovric
Kate McIlveen
Brendan McMaster
Poppy Milroy
Gela Moss
Niamh O'Connell
Andrew Parbery
Kaelan Penny
Floencia Perez-Eaton
Maria Pochukaeva
Luke Pospischil

James Rafter
Henry Re
Abigail Richards
Hamish Richards
Charles Shingles
Natasha Springett
Benjamin Synnott
Sienna Valentini
Darcy Weston
Lola Whitsun-Jones
Saffi Wilson
Daniel Woods

Week 4

Larissa An U
Cameron Barr
Montana Barry
Riley Beattie
Lily Boersma
Lillian Borg
Harrison Brown
Savannah Buss
Enrique Caraballo
Anabel Caristo
Antoinette Caristo
Reid Clarke
Shayla Coburn
Finn Cullinane

Xavier Curley
Evan Davey
Baxter Ellem
Jack Fuge
Georgia Hammond
Thomas Harris
Charlotte Harrison
Peter Hogan
Harvey Jones
Levi Kirkpatrick
Joseph Kitching
Matthew Kwiedor
Alex Lopez
Seth Loughton

Preston Mamo
Madison Micallaf
Samuel Moore
Olivia Morrissey
Chelsea Muller
Alexis Owen
Riley Pagitz
Elyse Peat
Adrian Perez-Eaton
Bonnie Phuntsok
Dmitry Pochukaev
Jacob Pospischil
Trinity Power
River Rodemark

Grace Ryan
Mackenzie Seymour
Justin Sykes
Helena Sypka
Gabriel Valle
Tristan Wade-Ferrell
Lara Wallace
Lachlan Waters
Mieke Watson
Tia White
Alfie Williamson
Amy Withers
Mia Withers

Diocesan Basketball Gala Day

Last week a significant number of students from our school competed in the Diocesan Basketball Gala Day. We congratulate each of our Basketball teams for their participation and sportspersonship. We thank Kylie Williamson for training the teams and Mary Clark for helping out on the day. These teams received certificates of participation at our assembly on Monday.

Year 5 Canberra Excursion 2017

In Week 6 our Grade 5 students and teachers will be attending an overnight excursion to Canberra. Whilst in Canberra our students will visit a number of important places including Parliament House (old and new), Questacon, War Memorial, Institute of Sport and Foreign Embassies just to name a few. We wish our students and teachers from Year 5 and K6A the very best on this amazing learning opportunity.

Lollipops at School

Please be aware that students have been told they should not be eating lollipops on the playground or on buses for safety reasons. We kindly request that you reinforce this message with your children and preferably not send lollipops to school. Thank you for your support with this.

Attendance Matters - Extended Leave of Absence

Parents are reminded that notification needs to be given in writing to the Principal for leave of 1-4 days. **Leave in excess of 5 school days** must be processed and approved by the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta (CEDP). Parents may request an **application form** from the **School Office** to **complete and return prior to commencement of leave** for approval by the Principal.

Kindergarten 2018 Parent Information Evening

This will be held next Thursday, 9 November at 7.30pm in our school hall.

Week 7 Band Assembly

The Senior Band will be playing at the Assembly on Monday 20 November. If you have a child in the Junior Band we would love to entertain you with a song prior to the Assembly at 11.30am.

Jade Tinkler, Band Teacher

Students Not Returning for 2018

The school is currently interviewing families for enrolment for 2018. Places are limited in some grades. To enable the school to plan appropriately we would appreciate families of students in Grades K-5 who are not returning in 2018 to please notify the school **in writing as soon as possible**. Your timely attention to this matter would be much appreciated as the implications regarding staffing and resourcing by the Catholic Education Office stem from accurate enrolment numbers.



New STA Hats

Our new-style STA Bucket Hats and Caps are now available at the Office at the new price of **\$15.00 each**. Both styles are adjustable and made of a lightweight poly viscose fabric that is less likely to fade. We currently have Small and Medium sizes in the new Bucket Hats. We also have some Large-sized old Bucket Hats available for \$5.00 each. New Caps are one-size-fits-all.

DIARY DATES

2017 TERM 4 Week 5	Monday 6 November	School Band 12.30pm Assembly – 4B & 4W presenting 3.40pm Leadership Meeting
	7	8.30am – 4.00pm Scholastic Book Fair School Band 3.40pm Staff Meeting
	8	8.30am Staff Briefing 8.30am – 4.00pm Scholastic Book Fair Oz Tag Gala Day – selected students School Band 9.20am Parish Mass – Year 3 attending
	9	8.30am Staff Prayer 11.05am Principal's Morning Tea – selected students 7.30pm Kindergarten 2018 Parent Information Evening - Hall
	10	St Columba's Catholic College Year 7 2018 Orientation Day
	Monday 13 November	9.05am Cuppa & Chat – in the Hall School Band 12.35pm Assembly – 6H presenting 3.40pm School Leadership Meeting
Week 6	14	3.40pm Staff Meeting
	15	8.30am Staff Briefing 9.20am Parish Mass – Year 1 & K6A attending
	16	Year 5 Canberra Excursion
	17	Year 5 Canberra Excursion

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Blue Mountains Artfest Creative Workshops: **Saturday 11 November – 1-2pm: Illustrating** by Tohby Riddle, \$20 for Year 3 – Adults; **2-3pm: Cartooning** by Tohby Riddle, \$20 for Year 3 – Adults; **3-4pm: Paper Clay** by Naomi Oliver, \$15 for Kindergarten – Year 3. **Sunday 12 November – 10-11am: Mandalas** by Leonie Packer, \$15 for Kinder to Year 4; **12-1pm: Mandalas** by Leonie Packer, \$15 for Year 5 – Adults; **12-1pm: Paper Craft** by Naomi Oliver, \$15 for Kinder – Year 2; **10.30am-12pm: Woven Sphere** by Branching Out, \$25 for 9years – Adults; **1-2.30pm: Tipi/Christmas Tree** by Branching Out, \$25 for 9years – Adults. For details and to book visit the website at www.bluemountainsartfest.net.au or email enquiries to workshops@bluemountainsartfest.net.au. All workshops held at Wentworth Falls Public School, Falls Road, Wentworth Falls.

Springwood East Timor Support Group Annual Dinner: **Saturday 18 November, 6.30pm for 6.00pm (Mains), The Orchard Brasserie, Springwood Golf/Country Club, 84 Hawkesbury Road, Springwood.** This fundraiser will be held to aid educational and medical initiatives in Timor Leste. Guest speakers Jude Finch and Mary Waterford will share their experience of Twelve Months in Timor Leste. **Two course dinner - \$35, tables of 8-10 people.** Drinks available at the bar. **For bookings contact Pam Gorman on 02 4754 1160.** Payment details: CBA Springwood – Springwood East Timor Support Group, BSB 062 601, Account Number: 1016 6969. When paying, include the table name or individuals name together with SETSG Dinner as identifier. Please pay by 9 November.

Mountains Youth Band Open Rehearsal: Do you play a musical instrument? You are invited to join the Mountains Youth Band for an Open Rehearsal on **Tuesday 21 November at Uniting Church Hall, Lucasville Road, Glenbrook from 5.15 to 7.00pm.** Come along with your instrument and play some music with our band. All music and stands will be provided. Bring a friend! For more information contact Germaine on 0431 953 217 or email mountainsyouthband@gmail.com

eSafety Workshop for Parents: An eSafety expert from the Office of the Children's eSafety Commissioner will be delivering a FREE workshop on how you can help keep young people safe online. At the workshop parents will learn how young people are using social media and technology, how to make a complaint about child cyberbullying and how we can remove serious cyberbullying material. **Monday 27 November, 5.30pm-6.30pm, at Blaxland High School Auditorium.** **RSVP by 17 November to S/Cst Michelle Jansco 4751 0268.** For more information visit www.safety.gov.au

Sent Home Recently:

- Winmalee High School Creative and Performing Arts Transition Day Note – selected students
- Diocesan Gymnastics Competition Permission Note – selected students
- Publication Celebration Invitation (*pink*)
- Year 5 Canberra Excursion Permission Note
- Oztag Gala Day Permission Note – selected students
- Staff Leave Announcement to 1W (*mauve*)
- Crazy Socks & Shoes Day Note (*blue*)
- Head Lice Notes to Years 4 & 6
- Note to Year 4 re Week 5 Assembly (*green*)
- Note to Junior & Senior Choirs re Conservatorium Chamber Choir



Scan with your smartphone or tablet for more information.

www.staspringwood.catholic.edu.au

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