



# NEWSLETTER

No. 3 Date: 13/04/2018 Week 11 Term 1

Dear St Thomas Aquinas Families,

This week brings to a conclusion Term 1. It has been a very full and challenging term as we have embarked on the work of establishing the many elements that make up our school as a truly catholic place of learning.

The term has contained many fulfilling learning opportunities for our students to grow in **knowledge and faith**. We are indeed blessed to be part of a school that works in **with one another** - sharing the gifts that we have been endowed with by the Holy Spirit.

Last Sunday's reading from Luke's Acts of the Apostles, tells the story of the early apostles and their communities after Jesus leaves them. Luke shows how the early Christians were so united in heart and soul that they were living witnesses of the **values of faith, love, forgiveness and compassion** that were given to them by Christ himself. Those outside the community were impressed by the Christian lifestyle and by the way they **'loved one another.'**

It is this kind of community spirit that Luke describes that needs to continue to guide and inspire us as we **work together to nurture** our students and build up Christ's kingdom in our patch of the Blue Mountains. Thank you for your generosity and service this term.

Listed below are just some of the events that occurred during Term 1:

- \* STA Swimming Carnival, Zone & Diocesan Carnivals
- \* Mathematical Assessment Interviews with all students
- \* Early Years Assessment Interviews (Years K-2 students)
- \* Reading Recovery Intervention Program (selected students)
- \* Student Representative Council Induction Ceremony
- \* School Learning Goals Launched for RE, Literacy & Numeracy
- \* Scheduled Weekly Parish Mass Attendance
- \* Weekly School Band Tuition & Group Instrumental Lessons
- \* Parish Reconciliation Sacramental Program
- \* National Day Against Bullying & Violence
- \* Catholic Schools Week & School Tours Current Families
- \* Holy Week Liturgies (various) & Project Compassion
- \* Extending Mathematical Understanding Intervention Program (selected students)
- \* Weekly Physical Education, Music, Library and Italian Lessons by specialist teacher
- \* Classroom Device Integration of bulk newly purchased Chromebooks
- \* Guitar & Keyboard Tuition (select students through Springwood School of Music)
- \* Family Liaison Minister - Home Visits Commenced by Sister Monica
- \* AFL Gala Day (Paul Kelly Cup) Stage 3
- \* School Dental Program
- \* Principal's Morning Teas X2
- \* Parent Fundraising Team Meetings
- \* Welcome to Community Bush Dance
- \* Drama Literacy Program
- \* Planetarium Incursion (Year 4)
- \* Bocce Tournament (Italian Program)
- \* Project Based Learning Stage 3
- \* Captivate Instrumental Rehearsals
- \* Captivate Choir Rehearsals
- \* STA Opening School Mass
- \* Personalised Plans Meetings
- \* Weekly School Assemblies
- \* Respect & Service School Focus
- \* Meet the Teacher Meetings
- \* Ash Wednesday Liturgy
- \* Catholic Values Focus
- \* STA Cross Country
- \* Chess Club
- \* Year 5 Coding

Wishing all a restful and refreshing school break!

Until next Term,

*S Rosato*

Sergio Rosato  
Principal

## Springwood ANZAC DAY – March & Wreath-Laying Ceremony Wednesday 25 April 2018

For many years our school has participated in the ANZAC Day March and Wreath Laying ceremony on this day. Students participating in the March will meet Mr Rosato, Mrs Clark and other STA staff at the **Springwood Town Square** on Macquarie Road (next to Westpac Bank) - *not the Fire Station as in previous years* - **from 10am**, dressed in **winter school uniform including hats**. The March will commence from Springwood Post Office at 10.30am and proceed down Macquarie Road to the War Memorial in front of the Hub for the commemorative service. We anticipate a large

## Lest We Forget

contingent of students from STA participating as a sign of respect for those who have served and continue to serve our nation.

*love one another*

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



## Project Compassion

This term students have generously donated to Project Compassion during the season of Lent. This year's Project Compassion theme was – A Just Future. The work of Project Compassion through Caritas Australia is focused on providing practical help for impoverished communities both here and overseas. Funds raised go towards providing communities with sustainable sources of food, water, medicine and education. We thank our students, many of whom have given up their own pocket money to this worthy cause. The total raised by our school was \$1223.20.



## First Profession Good Samaritans

On Easter Monday two Good Samaritan novices who have been living and studying at the Good Samaritan House, Lawson with Sister Monica celebrated their first profession. This special Mass of profession was held at Glebe and was celebrated by Father Paul Slyney (PP Springwood) with many Good Sams in attendance. We congratulate and hold in our prayers Sister Kawi Arebonto sgs and Sister Tenta Maritino sgs on the profession as Sisters of the Good Samaritan. We also congratulate Monica and the Good Samaritan community at Lawson for nurturing Sister Kawi and Sister Tenta in their vocational journey. Both newly professed sisters left for Kirabati last week to take up their respective first posting of service.

## School Attendance

Consistent attendance at school is important in maintaining continuity in a child's learning and development. Regular and punctual attendance also helps students maintain healthy relationships that are integral to learning. If your child has to be absent from school due to illness or pressing family circumstances, you are required to inform the school in writing. This communication is recorded via the electronic roll and retained. The class roll is a **legal register** of school attendance for the year.



Currently our overall school attendance for Term 1 stands at **87%** which is very pleasing.

Our **school target** for attendance this year is: **80%**

Students Attendance Awards will be presented to students for exemplary attendance at the beginning of Term 2.



## Italian Forum

This term our Year 4 students have learnt how to play the Italian game of bocce, which is a favourite pastime of the Italians, and a game very similar to our lawn bowls. This learning included our annual Year 4 Bocce Tournament, which involved all students in the grade. The Tournament culminated in a competition between the semi-finalists and a number of our STA teachers.

Congratulations to Lachlan Konwerski (4CH) who is our Year 4 Bocce Champion this year. Also to Noah Edwards (4W) who is our runner-up, and Elise Hurley (4CH) who came third.



Well done Year 4 for your most enthusiastic participation in the Tournament. **Jenni Wurf, Teacher of Italian**

## Kindergarten 2019 Enrolment Open Days

Next term the school will be hosting Open Days for prospective families for enrolment in 2019. If you or someone you know would like to find out more about our school please join us for a tour to see *learning in action* on one of the following:

### Morning Tours: 9.15am – 10.00am

**Tuesdays – 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

**Wednesdays – 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2018**

**Thursdays – 3<sup>rd</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> May 2018**

### Afternoon Tours: 2.15pm – 3.15pm

**Wednesdays – 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2018**

**Thursdays – 3<sup>rd</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> May 2018**

For further information and school enrolment packs telephone the School Office on 4723 3800 or collect material on the day. **Kindergarten 2019 enrolments close on 31 May, 2018.** Late enrolments will be considered if vacancies exist.

No student will be refused enrolment because of a family's genuine inability to pay fees.

## 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 & 3. Sports shoes should be mainly white with white (not coloured) laces. Further details can be found in our Parent Handbook located on the school website.

## Sr Monica Home Visits

Thank you to those parents who returned the letter for home visits. For those whom I haven't visited you are not forgotten. The afternoon time-slot is the popular one and I am gradually working my way through them. **Sr Monica Armstrong sgs**

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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!



Ryan Andrews	Katelyn Ellis	Alex Lopez	Joe Ramires
Abbigail Ballard	Ruby Forsyth	Seth Loughton	Cherinda Rawlings
Sophia Cantwell	Noah Francia	Arlo Luchetti	Hamish Richards
Chiara Carlino	Summah Galea	Lachlan McAlpine	Sahara Rodemark
Ruanii Claudino	Benjamin Giannakis	Alice McCallum	Oliver Savage
Shayla Coburn	Cooper Golby	Brendan McMaster	Eli Schroeder
Xanthe Connell-Badics	Sam Graham	Ella Mecham	Jessica Sharp
Ayva Dacey	Thomas Harris	Liam Murphy	Jacob Tan
Ashton Danks	Oliver Hill	Lachlan Newport	Bella Ticehurst
Rowan Davies	Piper Jeffers	Aidan O'Brien	Sienna Valentini
Audrey Davis	Jordan Kime	Florencia Perez-Eaton	Mia Wade-Ferrell
Patrick Dawson	Nicholas Koulouris	Lucy Poulter	Heidi Willingham
Luca Dewhurst	Matthew Kweidor	Olivia Prior	Ruby Wilson
Baxter Ellem	Maisie Lamont	James Rafter	Angus Young

## Principal's Morning Tea for Effort in Learning



On Wednesday 11 April, we hosted our second Principal's Morning Tea for Term 1. Invitations were sent to two students from each class who were nominated by their teacher. These morning teas are a way to celebrate and acknowledge students who strive diligently to improve their learning – often the quiet achievers. During the morning tea students are asked to share an area of their personal learning journey with each other. Congratulations to the following students for their hard work and dedication to their learning:

Ethan Baddock	Evie Hodgins	Brydan McLeod	Layla Sawyer
Jordan Banks	Alana Kenn	Lincoln McLoughlin	Archer Sproule
Jemima Barnham	Matthew Kweidor	Sunnee Murtikos	Gabriel Tuckey
Noah Barr	Connor Leahey	Harrison Newport	Rhys Walton
Gemma Boersma	Bianna Leehy	Trinity Power	James Watson
Lillian Boncales	Ronan Loughton	Tyson Ramires	Hamish Wills
Michael Broadhead	Brodie McCallum	Ari-Kai Rawlings	Amy Withers

Thomas Brosnan  
Lucy Brown  
Sophia Cantwell  
Antoinette Caristo  
Chiara Carlino  
Thomas Chapple  
Luke Clunes  
Stella Dean  
Anna Edwards  
Ruby Forsyth  
Beau Gardiner  
Matilda Gauci  
Audrey Godsell  
Emilia Gosling  
Michael Graham  
Kate Harrison  
Charles Hicks



## School Cross Country



Last Friday we were blessed with beautiful sunny weather for our Annual School Cross-Country. Our students supported and encouraged each other on the day with great enthusiasm. We are grateful to the many parent volunteers who assisted as marshals along the course. We thank Ann Gippel (Sports Teacher) for coordinating the cross country supported by Karen Bousfield, Leigha Wills and James Costigan. We congratulate the following students who will compete at the Diocesan Cross Country next term:

Alina Ascencio	Max Friedland-Jaccoud	Abigail Larkin	Amelia Peake
Montana Barry	Lani Gleeson	Thomas Larkin	Orion Pick
Annalise Blattman	Brendan Golby	Odette Laurent	Luke Redmond
Chloe Blattman	Cooper Golby	Jack Leahey	Ruby Roberts
Leo Borg	Lachlan Golby	Melissa Lee	Eli Schroeder
Emma Brickwood	Jessica Gomez	Amber Lovric	Archer Sproule
Kael Brown	Samuel Graham	Bailey McGregor	Oliver Toth
Elysia Burchall	Thomas Grodzicki	Ashton McLeod	Gabriel Valle
Sophia Cantwell	Jessica Kennedy	Samuel Moore	Mia Watson
Ruanii Claudino	Alexander Kerkham	Taya Moore	Lachlan Williamson
Claire Debien	Elizabeth Kerkham	Elizababeth Mulhall	Angus Wills
Katelyn Ellis	Joseph Kitching	Liam Murphy	Lola Wyld

**Sports House Results:** 4<sup>th</sup> Place – Green (161 points)

3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Red (187 points)

2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Gold (194 points)

1<sup>st</sup> Place – Blue (216 points).

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## DIARY DATES

<b>2018</b>  <b>TERM 2</b>  <b>Week 1</b>	<b>Monday 30 April</b>	<b>Term 2 Commences</b> School Band 12.35pm Assembly 3.40pm Leadership Meeting
	<b>1 May</b>	Diocesan Cross Country – selected students <b>9.15-10.00am Open Day Tour</b> 3.40pm Staff Meeting
	<b>2</b>	8.30am Staff Briefing School Band
	<b>3</b>	8.30am Staff Prayer School Band <b>9.15-10.00am Open Day Tour</b> <b>2.15-3.15pm Open Day Tour</b>
	<b>4</b>	
<b>Week 2</b>	<b>Monday 7 May</b>	12.35pm Assembly – 6F presenting 3.40pm Leadership Meeting
	<b>8</b>	<b>9.15-10.00am Open Day Tour</b> 3.40pm Staff Meeting
	<b>9</b>	8.30am Staff Briefing <b>9.15-10.00am Open Day Tour</b> 9.20am Parish Mass – Year 4 attending <b>2.15-3.15pm Open Day Tour</b> School Band
	<b>10</b>	8.30am Staff Prayer School Band Mothers Day Stall
	<b>11</b>	Year 2 Penrith Lakes Excursion

## COMMUNITY NOTICES

**Hughes Studio – School of Visual Art and Mosaic:** Hughes Studio is offering a range of hands-on workshops for children these coming holidays. Including Felted bags with Fojo Fibre, Fabric Flowers with Christine's Millinery, Mosaic Mandalas for young makers, Mosaic Jewellery, Hebel Carving and Wire Sculpture. Term time classes in Visual Arts, Ceramics and Mosaics also available. Further information at [www.hughesstudio.com.au](http://www.hughesstudio.com.au).

**Kids Can Act – April Holiday Workshops:** The following workshops are just a few of those held during the upcoming school holiday break. **The Birthday Party that Went Wrong The Musical, 2 DAY WORKSHOP – Tuesday 17 April & Wednesday 18 April, 9am to 3pm at Springwood Court:** The whole class has been invited, it's the biggest social event of the year, you can't wait. People start arriving with amazing presents, the party is in full swing when all of a sudden..... Come SING, DANCE and ACT, find out what happens. **1,2,3 Let's Make a Movie – Thursday 19 April, 9am to 2pm:** 1. Brainstorm a storyline together, 2. Devise what you are going to wear, 3. Make the movie. AND **Survive! (9-16yrs), 2pm to 6pm:** What happens when technology stops working? How do young people survive? Is it chaos or calm? Life or death? How do they cope? Or do they? **Both at Springwood Court, FULL or HALF DAY.** To see the full details and prices of these and other workshops and. to book visit the website: [www.kidscanact.com.au](http://www.kidscanact.com.au) or **phone Cathie on 0414 475 158.**

**Seussical the Musical:** Penrith Musical Comedy Company Inc proudly presents, *Suessical the Musical* during the April school holidays at **the Q Theatre, Penrith**. Music by Stephen Flaherty and lyrics by Lynn Ahrens. Based on the works of Dr Seuss. There will be 6 shows at the following times: **13 April at 7.30pm, 14 April at 1.30 and 7.30pm, 20 April at 7.30pm and 21 April at 1.30 and 7.30pm.** For ticket bookings and more information visit the website at [www.thejoan.com.au/whats-on/seussical](http://www.thejoan.com.au/whats-on/seussical)

**Varuna & Sydney Writers' Festival: 27-30 April Kids' Events:** Varuna, the National Writers' House, is hosting exciting Sydney Writers' Festival events from 27-30 April in Katoomba, featuring bestselling national and international writers. **Saturday 28 April** begins with a treat for the kids at Katoomba library. The well-loved character of **Grug will make a special appearance from 10.00am – 10.45am** followed by Australia's renowned children's author **Emily Rodda** of *Deltora Quest* fame **from 11.00am – 12.00pm**. Young readers will have a chance to tap into their creative genius with **Tobhy Riddle's workshop Good Thinking, Good Writing from 9.30am – 11.00am**. To view the full program and for bookings, visit [www.varuna.com.au/festival/](http://www.varuna.com.au/festival/)

**Rainbow Preschool Enrolling for 2019:** Located at 53 Singles Ridge Road, Winmalee, Rainbow Preschool, celebrating 21 years of top-quality preschool education in a natural bushland setting, is enrolling now for 2019. There are also a few places available for 2018. To enquire or for further information please phone 4754 4910 or visit the website at [www.rainbowpreschoolwinmalee.com](http://www.rainbowpreschoolwinmalee.com)

**Springwood East Timor Support Group Trivia Night:** Join us for an entertaining evening of quizzical moments, laughter, fun and games with a warm community feel. **Saturday 19 May, 7.00pm for 7.30pm start, at St Thomas Aquinas School Hall, 168 Hawkesbury Road, Springwood. Tickets cost \$20 each. Tables of 8 to 10. BYO nibbles and drinks. Sausage sizzle available.** Funds raised go to aid educational and medical initiatives in Timor Leste. **Tickets available from Pam Gorman on 4754 1160.**

### Sent Home Recently:

- School Cross Country Note (orange)
- Staff Leave Announcement re Mrs Toohey – selected students
- School Dentist Information for Parents – selected students
- Diocesan Cross Country Permission Note - selected students
- Staff Leave Announcement to 1C
- Year 6 Shirt Note
- Head Lice Note to Year 6
- ANZAC Day Note
- Year 5 Canberra Excursion Note
- Whooping Cough Notice to Parents (lime green)

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