



NEWSLETTER

No. 5 Date: 08/06/2018 Week 6 Term 2

Dear St Thomas Aquinas Families,

It was a real privilege recently to join our Year 6 students and their teachers on camp. The 3 days away living in community was a most positive, instructive and uplifting time for all. Camp is an important rite of passage for our senior students in their final year of their primary school journey. It provides a shared experience - a time of growth, of better appreciating their peers, a time of moving out of *comfort zones*.

One of the purposes of a learning experience such as camp is about strengthening relationships. In this case it is about appreciating with new eyes relationships with fellow students and with their teachers.

The students who make up the class of 2018 proved themselves an outstanding group whilst away. They were responsive and thoughtful throughout their camp experience. The feedback their teachers and I received from the camp venue personnel was overwhelmingly positive in regards to their conduct, manners and demeanour. Another indicator of the effect of camp has been the overwhelming positive feedback from the students themselves.

Taking groups of students away on extended overnight excursions is a significant exercise and one with considerable responsibility. Our sincere appreciation to the teachers – James Costigan, Blanche Hortense, Virginia Fortunat and Karen Bousfield for their thorough planning, dedication and hard work. Thank you also to the families for supporting our children. (See over page for camp photos.)

Until next time,

S Rosato
Sergio Rosato
Principal

Pentecost Celebrations

Recently we celebrated a beautiful, joyful liturgy marking the birthday of the Church at Pentecost. The liturgy provided our school community with an

opportunity to pray and reflect on the gift of God's own Spirit that was given to the world in that upper room more than 2000 years ago.

When the day of Pentecost had come, the disciples were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Acts 2:1-11

The coming of the Holy Spirit filled the disciples with spiritual attributes or gifts that transformed them from scared and lost individuals to people who were filled with courage and wisdom, and united them in love to live out and proclaim the Good News to the world.

One of the central symbols of the Holy Spirit is the element of fire. In the biblical context the phenomena of fire is always a sign of a powerful presence heralding a chance event. In our Australian context fire has played an important part in the beliefs, rituals and survival of our indigenous people and their relationship with the land. Fire is an agent of new growth, renewal and purification.

Just like on the day of Pentecost, the Spirit often works within our common everyday life in ways that sometimes can be hard to comprehend. The challenge for us is working out where the Holy Spirit is leading us. This requires us to use the Gifts of the Spirit and to discern what is true, good and important.

In our ordinary daily lives the Spirit is present and at work whenever LOVE, JOY, PEACE, COMPASSION, FORGIVENESS, and GENTLENESS are lived out. These "Fruits of the Spirit" reveal themselves in relationship with others and frequently catch us by surprise.



The Spirit is present and at work whenever LOVE, JOY, PEACE, COMPASSION, FORGIVENESS, and GENTLENESS are lived out.

love one another

2018 Year 6 Camp



Kindergarten 2019 Enrolments and Tours of Our School

As you are aware, over the past month we have been hosting tours of our school coinciding with the official enrolment period. The tours have provided families with an opportunity to witness the learning, the relationships and activities that typically occur in our school. Please inform family and friends that the school is currently considering enrolments for Grades Kindergarten to Year 6 and that **applications for Kindergarten 2019 are now due**. Interviews will be conducted shortly.

Prospective families can still book a school tour by contacting the school office. These Tours are hosted by the Principal and/or Assistant Principal and involve a learning walk and feature key aspects and features of student learning in relationship with their teachers. For enrolment packs or enquiries please **phone the office on 4723 3800**.

love one another

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 3

Owen Adorini
Willow Barker
Madeline Blacklock
Jack Blattman
Asher Bogg
Lucas Brown
Emily Burnett
Olivia Byrnes
Alyssa Cantwell
Mackenzie Carey
Deanna Caristo
Ella Danks

Ben Dawson
Claire Debien
Matilda Debien
Cameron Dempsey
Leo Donahue
Annabelle Duck
Leonie Ellis
Zayd Farhan
Mikayla Fitzgerald
Ezra Forsyth
Declan Garvan
Harry Ghata

Arwen Gordon
Blake Gough
Thomas Harris
Isabel Hill
Peter Hogan
Jack Hoppe
Edward Kerrison
Oscar Kirton
Poppy Milroy
Sophie Milsom
Amelia Peake
Ari-Kai Rawlings

Jessie Reynolds
Ruby Roberts
Sahara Rodemark
Darcy Ryan
Oscar Smith
Adam Springett
Archer Sproule
Angus St Claire
Brooke Thomas
Zachary Van Meeuwen
Lachlan Waters
Chelsea Willingham

Week 5

Alina Ascencio
Oliver Ashtyn-Smith
Jordan Banks
Cisco Borbely
Sienna Curley
Xavier Curley
Harriet Davis
Erin DeBono
Emilie Dempsey
Benjamin Devitt
Madeleine Devitt
Dominique Dewhurst

Noah Edwards
Mischa Evans
Sullivan Forsyth
Eleanor Fortunat
Arabella Fuge
Kate Giannakis
Jessica Gomez
Zachary Gonzalez
Milla Grant
Lila Hagelburg
Evie Hodgins
William Hurley

Evelyn Iles
Benjamin Kerkham
Ellie Kermod
Koby Kime
Harry Kitching
Odette Laurent
Connor Leahey
Taj Leathers
Ronan Loughton
Jessica Mace
Mikayla Mercieca
Gabriel Muradian

Ruby Phelan
Alana Prior
Isaac Reid
Owen Riddell
Florence Rooney
Ruby Steward
Ryan Sykes
Benji Synnott
Preston Tom
Frankie Turner
Sarah Wydmuch
Andrew Young

Week 6

Paul Anderson
Montana Barry
Chloe Blattman
Caleb Byrnes
Ysobel Chalice
Elliott Chapman
Zoe Cini
Billy Dean
Kyle Delfsma
Luke Edwards
Max Friedland-Jaccoud
Jack Fuge

Will Ghata
Callum Gibbons
Lillian Gosling
Ziggy Green
Jessie Hicks
James Hinchliff
Ella Holdsworth
Mikaela Horner
Elise Hurley
William Jones
Bella Kamnoetboon
Haydn Keogh

Talyka Kime
Abigail Larkin
Ruby Lister
Poppy Milroy
Caitlin Murphy
Harrison Newport
Michael Papatotiriou
Luke Pospischil
Charlotte Priest
Taiyana Rondo
Layla Sawyer

Mackenzie Seymour
Noah Simmons
Lucas Tom
Oliver Toth
Sophie Veira
Romilly Wade-Ferrell
Tristan Wade-Ferrell
Rhys Walton
Meike Watson
Darcy Weston
Connor Willis

Student Sign-in/out Book Reminders

When students arrive late to school or leave early they **must be signed-in/out by the adult who brought them to/collected from school**. We ask that when parents/carers use this green sign-in/out book at the office, they write **each child's details on a separate line** and include the **reason for** late arrival/early departure and **parent/carer signature**. If a signature or a reason is not provided, then the child's partial absence will be entered as UNEXPLAINED and parents will be sent a note requesting an explanation. The book is a legal record of student attendance, as is the class roll, and these partial absences will appear on your child's school learning report.



First Holy Communion

The sacrament of First Eucharist was celebrated at St Thomas Aquinas Parish last weekend. The family-based classes in preparation for the reception of this sacrament have been occurring over a number of weeks. We congratulate and pray for each of these students and their families on this precious occasion. Our gratitude to Father Paul, Father Flor and the Parish team for facilitating this sacrament and to our Year 3 teachers for their ongoing support of the students through their teaching of Religious Education. Particular thanks to Sister Monica for attending the special Mass on Sunday and to Leigha Wills for providing beautiful music for the Mass.

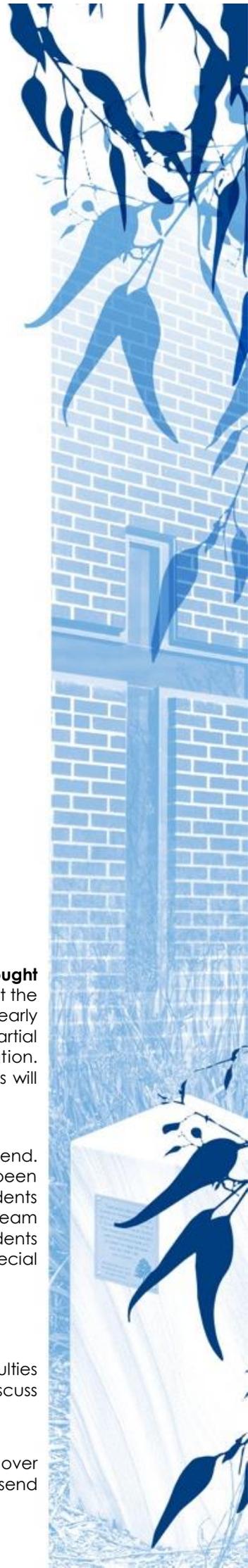
FINANCE

School Fees

School Fees for Term 2 are **now due**. If you have not received your invoice or are having difficulties paying the school fees, please contact Cheree Brown to organise a payment arrangement or to discuss the options that are available to you.

Sports Excursion Fees

A reminder that the \$10.00 fee that is charged for students to attend Gala/Zone Sports days is to cover the team entry fee and to subsidise the teacher to attend and supervise the students. Please send money along with the signed permission note. **Cheree Brown, School Finance Secretary**



Principal's Morning Tea for Effort in Learning



On Friday 1 June, we hosted our first Principal's Morning Tea for Term 2. 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 Banks
Willow Barker
Emilia Buhs
Ruby Butler
Alyssa Cantwell
Marlowe Carey
Xanthe Connell-Badics
Owen Croft
Evelyn Dacey
Mark D'Alessio
Ben Dawson
Luke Edwards
Sullivan Forsyth
Matilda Gaucci
Benjamin Giannakis
Lani Gleeson
Milla Grant
Noah Hicks
Isabel Hill
Mariella Hill
Elise Hurley
Charlotte Kennedy
Jessica Kennedy
Ellie Kermode
Archie Lamont

Odette Laurent
Brianna Leehy
Annalise Lia
Alex Lopez
Jessica Mace
Alice McCallum
Brydan McLeod
Macklin Miall

Olivia O'Brien
Niamh O'Connell
Lilly Phuntsok
Skyler Pick
Abigail Power
Hayden Rawding
Isabella Smith
Amelia Steadman

Lachlan Steadman
Ryan Sykes
Tyson Verriere
Reilly Waters
Mia Watson
Lachlan Williamson
Ruby Wilson
Angus Young



Mountains Youth Band & STA Students Performing in *Out of This World*

The Mountains Youth Band is a community concert band that holds rehearsals in Glenbrook every Tuesday afternoon. MYB gives young musicians aged 10 to 19 the opportunity to play at community events, including Anzac Day, Spring Fairs etc. and be guided by a professional Musical Director with decades of experience with school and community bands. Interested young musicians are being offered a **FREE ticket** to our next performance to enjoy some great music and they are also invited to join us on a Tuesday at rehearsal. Please **call Germaine on 0431 953 217** to receive your free ticket (not the Box Office) and/or if you are interested in finding out more about Mountains Youth Band.

On **Saturday 16 June, 2018** Blue Mountains Concert Band and Mountains Youth Band will combine to take you on a musical journey! *Out of This World* is a concert for all ages to enjoy, featuring all your favourites – *Star Trek*, *Over the Rainbow*, *Game of Thrones*, *Jupiter from "The Planets"* and many more! The show will take place at the **Blue Mountains Theatre and Community Hub**, 106-108 Macquarie Road, Springwood, **commencing at 7.30pm**. Some STA students will be performing in the concert – **Mackenzie Carey (5N)**, **Brianna Collins (6H)**, **Grace Costigan (6H)** and **Georgia Hammond (6C)**, as well as **former student Zophia Hammond (now in Year 8 at St Columba's)**. Guest artist is Liam Gray, talented local musician and performer. Tickets available from Blue Mountains Theatre and Community Hub. Adult: \$25, Concession: \$15, Child: \$10 and Family: (2 adults + 2 children): \$54. Call **4723 5050** or **book online at www.bluemountainstheatreandhub.com.au/box-office**. Reserve your space early!

St Columba catholic College Year 10 Students Visit STA

On Wednesday we hosted Year 10 students from St Columba's Catholic College for Missioning. As part of their Religious Education program the high school students are required to prepare and teach an RE lesson to a small group of primary students.



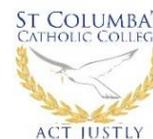
Congratulations to the students from St Columba's and their teachers for the care and thoughtfulness of their lessons. It is always inspiring to move amongst the various groups of students of various ages and viewing and listening to snippets of lessons being taught. Thank you to the Principal, Mr Paul Ryan, Mr Mark Sattler, Religious Education Coordinator and staff from St Columba's for facilitating this beautiful experience for our students.

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COMMUNITY NOTICES

Year 7 2019 Enrolments – St Columba's Catholic College

A reminder that enrolment applications for Year 7, 2019 at St Columba's Catholic College are now due. For further information contact the Enrolment Secretary, **Sandra O'Brien, on 4754 8900 or 4754 8907**



Rainbow Pre-School – Places Available for 2018: "Celebrating 21 years of top-quality pre-school education in a natural bushland setting". **We have a few places available for 2018.** Enrolling now for 2019. Get in quickly! **Please call us on 4754 4910.** Further information at www.rainbowpreschoolwinmalee.com. Visit us on Facebook: Rainbow Pre-school Winmalee.

Parent Prayer Group Sessions: Come and enjoy some creative prayerful time for yourself. **When:** 4th Fridays of the month, 10.00am – 12noon. **Where:** Santa Maria Hall, Lawson. Come to any session or all of them. **Cost:** \$5.00 donation. Facilitated by Sr Veronica sgs. **Enquiries:** contact Sr Veronica via email to vgriffith@goodsams.org.au or phone **0419 532 303.**

Blue Mountains Youth Choir: Places available for Youth Choir (ages 10-16yrs) and the Junior Program (ages 7-9yrs). Mondays at Springwood and Wednesdays at Katoomba. For enquiries and further information **phone 4751 1009 or visit the website** at www.academysingers.com.au.

Catalyst for Renewal Reflection Morning – The Radiant Tapestry of Being: Each of the interconnected threads in a tapestry contributes to the beautiful pattern of the whole – so too in creation. The Radiant Tapestry of Being, presented by Brother Kevin McDonnell, cfc, will explore some implications of this – for how we live on this planet, and for our theology and spirituality. **When:** Saturday 16 June, 9.30am to 12.30pm. **Where:** Santa Maria Hall, Lawson. **Entry by donation. Morning tea provided. No need to book. Parking:** at Lawson Catholic Church (enter by Somers Street) or Kitchener Street. **From Lawson Railway Station:** head east along the Great Western Highway. Turn right at Orient Street, left into Mary Street. Walk to the end (10 minute walk). For more information phone **Carol Teodori on 02 4758 7549.** Program also on Catalyst for Renewal website: www.catalyst-for-renewal.com.au. A joint venture of Aquinas Academy and Catalyst for Renewal.

Musical Opposites Concert: Musical Opposites is a concert created to introduce children to music: the sights, sounds and possibilities of the orchestra, in a selection of works, including the passion of Brahms' Hungarian Dance, the vivacity of Bizet's Habanera, and the raw energy of Copland in Hoe Down. In a concert for the young and young-at-heart, guided by George Ellis (a.k.a 'Big G'), the audience will have the opportunity to meet the musicians and see the instruments up-close; find out the difference between a violin and a viola, or the oboe and clarinet. If you've ever wanted to conduct an orchestra, bang on a drum or sing along, now is your chance! **Sunday 17 June at the Q Theatre, Penrith at 11.00am. Discounted Ticket Prices:** Child (under 16) \$20, Infant (under 2) Free, Adult \$30, Family (2 + 2) \$80. Discount prices are available to STA families – **go to www.thejoan.com.au or phone 02 4723 7600 and quote the codeword: SCHOOL.** Please note that this special rate for our STA school community has been reduced from the full prices. *Book now!*

Glenbrook Panthers Bowling Club – Junior Recruitment Open Day: Glenbrook Panthers has an active Junior Bowls Mentoring Program and we are looking for youngsters to join our program and be coached by our 'Pros'. On **Sunday 24 June from 2pm** we will be holding a Junior Recruitment Open Day. The **afternoon is FREE to attend** and the kids will be supplied with a **BBQ from 4pm**. Soft joggers should be worn. For further information or to register please contact either **Karen McLeod** (Senior Duty Manager) on **02 4720 6800**, **John Leadbitter** (Glenbrook Panthers Men's Bowling Club) on **0434 594 894 (email: jleadbit@bigpond.net.au)** or **Ailsa Leadbitter** (Glenbrook Panthers Womens Bowling Club) on **0416 262 223**. We would like to recruit Primary and High School students into our program. You never know, we may just find a new 'champ' to look out for at the Commonwealth Games in the future. *No experience necessary – everyone is welcome to come along and have a try of lawn bowls.*

Skills for Kids Programs:

Language Through Play: A program designed to increase communication skills and stimulate communication through play. Children will attend sessions with parents. Our clinicians will model strategies and upskill parents. **Where:** Skills for kids, 580 High Street, Penrith. **When:** Monday 9 July, Wednesday 11 July and Friday 13 July **for 2 hours each day. For 2-3 year olds: 9.30am – 11.30am; 4-5 year olds: 12.30pm – 2.30pm. Cost:** \$198.00*. Cost includes attendance and a package of written language and play strategies. *Price subject to change.

Communication and Coordination – Hip Hop Dance: A program designed to increase communication and to increase physical coordination. Improves: vocabulary, following directions, sequencing, creativity – generating ideas, using imagination, body awareness and personal space, flexibility, balance, bilateral coordination, motor planning, rhythm and fluency, teamwork, managing transitions, focussed attention, recall – remembering movement patterns, problem solving and improvising and self-esteem. Led by our speech language pathologists and occupational therapists. Our speech pathologist is also a qualified dancer and dance teacher. Hip hop is an opportunity for creativity, self-expressions and freedom of movement. **When:** Monday to Friday 16-20 July from 1.30pm – 4.30pm. **Who:** Boys and girls in Year 3 – Year 7. **Where:** Skills for Kids, 580 High Street, Penrith. **Cost: Option 1 - \$495** (includes portfolio of visual supports to use at home, to share with your child's teacher at pre-school. Group parent feedback.) **Option 2 - \$585** (includes Option 1 plus verbal report via phone after camp discussing your child's participation. **Option 3 - \$675** (includes Option 1 plus written report documenting progress, describing main strategies, providing recommendations. **Option 4 - \$875** (includes 1:1 targeted support, enabling learning for children with higher support needs. Prices subject to change. Note: Dance Sport is the new event in the 2022 Special Olympics. We can provide links to dance clubs in our local area.

Office of Sport School Holiday Programs: Have an active holiday adventure at one of our exciting residential camps these winter school holidays. Bookings are now open! For the best holiday fun our popular residential camps get kids and teens outdoors, learning new skills and making new friends. Our residential programs include: 24 hour supervision, instructor led activities, accommodation, meals and supervised transport (where applicable). **Residential programs for winter 2018: For Kids – Adventurer** (Broken Bay, Milson Island and Myuna Bay). **For teens – Adventurer** (Broken Bay). Don't miss out! Book now before places fill! For further information **phone the Office of Sport on 13 13 02** or book online at www.sportandrecreation.nsw.gov.au/schoolholidays. Check the website for a range of day programs in your local area.

DIARY DATES

2018 TERM 2 Week 7	Monday 11 June	QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY
	12	AFL Paul Kelly Cup Regional Finals – selected students 3.40pm Staff Meeting
	13	8.30am Staff Briefing 9.20am Parish Mass – Year 3 attending
	14	8.30am Staff Prayer 9.00am – 1.00pm School Band
	15	8.30am – 3.05pm School Band MacKillop Cross Country – selected students
Week 8	Monday 18 June	12.30pm Assembly – 4G presenting 3.40pm Leadership Meeting
	19	3.30pm Staff Meeting
	20	8.30am Staff Briefing 9.20am Parish Mass – Year 3 attending
	21	8.30am Staff Prayer 9.00am – 1.00pm School Band 3.30 – 4.30pm Spirit in Action – Student Session 2
	22	8.30am – 3.05pm School Band
Week 9	Monday 25 June	12.30pm Assembly – No item 3.40pm Leadership Meeting
	26	Stage 2 Boys and Girls Soccer Gala Day – selected (TBC) 3.40pm Staff Meeting
	27	8.30am Staff Briefing 9.20am Parish Mass – Kindergarten attending
	28	8.30am Staff Prayer 9.00am – 1.00pm School Band
	29	SPORTS CARNIVAL AT GLENBROOK (K-6)
Week 10	Monday 2 July	12.30pm Assembly – 2E presenting 3.40pm Leadership Meeting
	3	3.30 – 8.00pm Family Learning Conferences
	4	8.30am Staff Briefing No Parish Mass 11.05am Principal's Morning Tea – selected students 3.30 – 6.30pm Family Learning Conferences
	5	8.30am Staff Prayer Back up Date for Sports Carnival 9.00am – 1.00pm School Band 3.30 – 4.30pm Spirit in Action – Parent & Student Celebration
	6	Term 2 Concludes
School Holidays		
TERM 3 Week 1	Monday 23 July	Term 3 Commences

Save the Date – Term 3 2018

Please note the following diary dates for next term. Further details will be published closer to each event.

- ❖ **Spoken Word Choir at St Finbars Primary School – selected students:** Thursday 2 August
- ❖ **Zone Athletics – selected students:** Friday 10 August
- ❖ **Grandparents Day –** Friday 24 August
- ❖ **Mullen's Mega Mania Day:** Thursday 13 September

Sent Home Recently:

- Diocesan Girls Soccer Gala Day Permission Note – selected students
- Australian Early Development Census Note
- Tell Them From Me Student Survey Note
- Years 5 & 6 Spirit in Action Program Note (orange)
- Blue Mountains Heritage Centre Excursion Note to Year 3
- Captivate Combined Choir Rehearsal Note – selected students
- Spirit in Action Permission Slip Years 5 & 6 (salmon)
- Paul Kelly Cup AFL Permission Note – selected students
- Diocesan Boys Soccer Gala Day Permission Note – selected students
- School Sports Carnival K-6 Permission Note (multi-coloured white, gold, salmon)
- Skoolbag App Update Note (pink)
- Term 2 Parent Calendar (green)
- Staff Development Day Reminder (blue)
- Note to Year 1 re Ryder Lopez (salmon)

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