



NEWSLETTER

No. 9 Date: 28/09/2018 Week 10 Term 3

Dear St Thomas Aquinas Families,

As the end of Term 3 approaches I would like to acknowledge the achievements and extraordinary amount of hard work undertaken by the students, staff and parents during this term. Mullen Mini Olympics Celebrations, Grandparents Day, Grade Masses, Year 6 Pilgrimage Excursion, Father's Day Stall, Netball Gala day, Zone Athletics Carnival, Touch Football Gala day, Captivate 10 Year Anniversary Concerts, Voice of Youth, Principal's Morning Tea and Confirmation Ceremony are just some of the amazing opportunities and experiences that have only been possible because of the work and commitment of the students, teachers and parents. I hope and pray that the community of St Thomas Aquinas continues to work together to ensure that the children have these wonderful opportunities each and every term. St Thomas Aquinas strives to be a faith filled community where each and every child and family feels welcomed, supported, successful and loved. As we approach the holidays I would like to share with you a message from Pope Francis.

"When I hear the confessions of a father or mother who has young children I ask them if they have the time to play with their children. Values and lessons are transmitted through playing. Do you have time to get on the floor and play with your children? This is big? Never lose this. Know how to spend time with your children. This language of love that you share through play and through time spent with your children is able to transmit all the values of our faith."

Last week we had a great opportunity to celebrate the teaching and learning of our students with a visit from Canadian Educational consultant Lyn Sharratt and the leadership team from Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta. Lyn has generated considerable international professional interest because everything she does has been based on real successes – measurable, unquestionable and replicable success – in real schools, with real teachers and education systems. Our teachers and students were praised for their consistent use of learning intentions and success criteria, our implementation of learning technologies and our professional collaboration of teachers to ensure each student's needs are being met.

We welcomed back Sr Monica this week from her trip to Kiribati. She delighted the students with tales from her trip at our Assembly on Monday. It's great to have you back Monica!

I look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 15 October. Remember that our school day begins at 9.05 am and that all parents are invited and welcome to attend our assembly on Monday at 12.35pm.

I hope that you are all able to find the time to spend time together as a family over the coming few weeks.

I wish all of our families a very relaxing, enjoyable and safe holiday.

Mary Clark

Acting Principal

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



FROM THE REC (Religious Education Coordinator)

Sacrament of Confirmation



We congratulate each of the students and their families who recently received the Sacrament of Confirmation as part of the St Thomas Aquinas Parish. The Sacramental Mass was a beautiful and moving occasion. We continue to pray for these children as they experience the grace of the Holy Spirit in their lives. We also congratulate their sponsors and families on this joyous and significant occasion. Thank you to Mrs Leigha Wills who helped provide music for this celebration.

Kindergarten Parish Mass

On Wednesday of last week, Kindergarten attended our Parish Mass. The theme of our Mass was **'We Belong to the STA Parish Community'**. The children presented Father Paul with a gift of artwork to hang in the church. All children participated beautifully throughout Mass with reverence and enthusiasm. We were blessed to have the parent community join us for morning tea at the conclusion of the mass.



Grade Masses

Every Wednesday morning a year grade attends our Parish Mass. We are all exploring Scripture using a model called 'The Three Senses' and this model helps us to understand the Gospel more deeply. Each student has been presented with an invitation to Mass with the gospel story detailed so parents can take the time either before or after the mass to reflect on the gospel together. I am grateful to all who have dedicated themselves so diligently and prayerfully to enabling this important part of our schooling to continue and evolve.

Parish Celebrations

Term 3 has been a fabulous opportunity to deepen our understanding of the sacred scriptures. Students and teachers have been exploring the deeper spiritual sense of the scriptures and we are ready to celebrate our learning. Throughout Term 4 each of our stages are encouraged to join us celebrating at our Sunday Parish Masses. This is an opportunity for students and families to take part in our mass, make connections and celebrate the faith community to which we belong.

Sunday 11 November - 9:45am - Years K, 1 and 2

Sunday 25 November - 9:45am - Year 5 and 6

Sunday 9 December - 9:45am - Years 3 and 4



We will share morning tea after mass. *Please bring a plate to share.* Students and their families from our local government schools who attend catechist classes will also be invited to join us.

Plenary Council 2020

Plenary Council 2020 represents an extraordinary opportunity to discover and discern, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the future course for the Church in Australia. It is time to ask, "What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?" Everyone's experience of faith and the Church is unique and it is important that the Plenary Council hears responses from as many people as possible. We want to invite people in this parish/school/faith community to speak boldly, and also listen with an open and humble heart. Our community of St Thomas Aquinas wants to share its faith and aspirations with the wider Australian Church.

Our parish is holding two forums during the holidays, Sunday 7 October at 2pm and Tuesday 9 October at 7:30pm in our school hall. We will also have a school forum for parents on Friday 2 November at 9:30am. You are welcome to attend any of these events.

Please come and bring along a friend. Change is in the air and we get to have our say.

October is Catholic Mission Month

October is the time for World Mission month at our church and STA have been invited to be part of a pilot program for schools. We have been invited to participate in **Socktober Mission Day** to support the work of Catholic Mission throughout the world. We invite you to please register your child at the **Socktober** website below, with a nominal sign-up donation in order that your child can participate on the day and 'sock it to poverty'.

Should you choose, please consider helping your child set a target and fundraise for the poorest children in Myanmar to receive an education. Below are some examples, or please choose your own target:

\$50 can buy a school desk

\$100 can buy 30 uniforms for the children

\$120 can buy a pig and help the school with income

Register your child** now using the link:

<https://2018.socktober.org.au>

** Please note: Children under 16 must have their parent register on the **Socktober** platform. When registering, please use parent's details including date of birth and update supporter page to reflect your child's name. We thank you once again for your support.

Once registered, please read on to find out more and share with your child!



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FROM THE REC – cont'd

On **Monday 15 October**, we will launch the Mission Week at our assembly. On **Wednesday 17 through to Friday 19 October 2018**, students in Years 3 to 6 will participate in a number of mission-focused activities including:

- † Learning and participating in the **Socktober** Challenge – soccer across the world;
- † 'Have and Have Nots' Workshop;
- † Experiencing mission in 360 degree virtual reality; and
- † Shoe Stories – sharing stories of faith and mission.

We invite you to explore the website with your child, especially the Schools Resources, which have an array of interesting information including videos, prayers and worksheets on Myanmar, Catholic Mission's focus country this year.

Enjoy a restful, spirit filled holiday.

Virginia Fortunat

Acting Religious Education Coordinator

Mullen Mini Olympics

Our major school fundraiser for the year was a magnificent community day and was a very special way of celebrating Mr Robert Mullen's legacy of **fun, fitness and fairness** in support of our wonderful school community that Rob loved so much. Every child from Kindergarten to Year 6 took part in a number of engaging circuit-type activities including juggling, skipping, ball games, novelty games, relays, fitness class, dancing, bocce and a ninja circuit. Our school grounds were a sea of active, colourful, happy students.



Each class was given a different country to represent and the students wore the colours of the country forming a Parade of Nations with the national flag, for an opening ceremony in the school hall. The official ceremony was opened by Robert's wife Kath, Robert's mother Betty, sister Julie and nephew Fletcher.



The entire school sang our official Mullen Mini Olympic Song with gusto and pride followed by the Australian national anthem after which, the students began their Olympic journey.



All students, teachers and families agreed that the Mullen Mini Olympics was an amazing community event where everyone showed sportsmanship, encouragement, gained fitness and had a great FUN day!

As with any event at our school, we sincerely thank the volunteers who gave up their day to cook, serve, clean, run an activity, stamp passports, cut ice blocks and also to the many families who turned out to support and cheer on the students. Our Mullen Mini Olympics was made possible by the creativity, planning and hard work of the organising group headed by Ann Gippel, Christie Le Breton and Cheree Brown. Ultimately, the students made the day truly great through their joyful and spirited participation.

We are immensely grateful to each family for supporting your child in gaining participation sponsorship. Currently our total stands at \$15,444 which is **fantastic!** The following students were awarded prizes at a special Mullen Mini Olympic assembly for raising the most funds.

Congratulations to:

Highest overall:

Claire Thomas - KM

2nd Place:

Benjamin Hinley - 6H

3rd Place:

Montana Barry - 5C

Highest in each grade:

Kinder:

Ryan Sykes - KD

Year 4:

Ryder Astle - 4W

Year 1:

Isabella Smith - 1C

Year 5:

Alexis Hodge - 5C

Year 2:

Pepper Hughes - 2E

Year 6:

Isaac Bailey - 6C

Year 3:

Mieke Watson - 3BN

Highest Class:

5C – awarded a pizza lunch with Mr Rosato and Mrs Clark.



Year 5 Canberra Excursion 2018

In Week 2 of Term 4, 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.



Student Awards

Congratulations to the following students who received Merit Awards at our School Assembly on Monday 24 September. A fantastic effort everyone! **Keep up the amazing work!**

Madeline Blacklock	Neive DeBono	Ethan Konwerski	Ruby Roberts
Lucy Brown	Madeleine Devitt	Peter Koulouris	Jessica Sharp
Deanna Caristo	Cooper Donohue	William Lister	Arabella Stewart-Rowley
Edward Carr	Penelope Edmonds	Summer Mamo	Julian Sypka
Ben Cassidy	Sienna Evans	Sienna Mathew	Helena Sypka
Thomas Chapple	Zayd Farhan	Vincent McLaren	Brooke Thomas
Liam Clink	Max Friendland-Jaccoud	Kiara Nugent	Claire Thomas
Xander Creamer	Mitchell Garvan	Jacob Palmer	Sienna Valentini
Owen Croft	Myles Golby	Nicholas Peat	Isabel Van Meeuwen
Evelyn Dacey	Lucy Hall	Trinity Power	Amy Withers
Ashton Danks	Jordan Kime	Alana Prior	Jesse Wronski
Billy Dean			



Principal's Morning Tea for Effort in Learning



On Wednesday 26 September we hosted a morning tea for those 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 reflections, which is always a joy to hear.

Congratulations and well done to the following students:

Eden Batcock	Aidan Francis	Bridie Le Breton	Bonnie Phuntsok
Annalise Blattman	Declan Garvan	Scarlett Lia	Florence Rooney
Leo Borg	Matilda Gauci	Alex Lopez	Bridie Shingles
Esme Brennan	Lachlan Golby	Arlo Luchetti	Natasha Springett
Enrique Carabello	Jessica Gomez	Lexie Mackay	Angus St Clair
Chiara Carlino	Georgia Hammond	Analise Mafi	Ruby Stewart
Ruanii Claudino	Emma Harrison	Alana Mathew	Arabella Stewart-Rowley
Mia Cooper	Sienna Hughes	Ryan May	Janaya Teuma
Grace Costigan	Harrison Iles	Poppy Milroy	Lia Trounce
Amelia Crouch	William Jones	Joshua Mitchell	Mia Wade-Ferrell
Neive DeBono	Edward Kerrison	Matilda Nassif	Lola Whitsun-Jones
Cooper Donohue	Oscar Kirton	Angelika Okladnikov	Abigale Wilson
Maddie Dyer	Maisie Lamont	Zoe Papasotiriou	Ruby Wilson

Touch Football

On Friday 21 September, St Thomas Aquinas had five teams participate in the Stage 3 Touch Football competition at St Marys. It was a very successful day with 3 teams finishing in first place and were **undefeated!** Thank you to Miss Mackenzie and Mr Chenoweth for coaching the teams and to the students who assisted with refereeing on the day.

Year 6 Pilgrimage



On Friday 14 September our Year 6 students and their teachers had the privilege of visiting St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney Harbour Bridge and Mary Mackillop Place. The excursion served to provide a pilgrimage experience and spiritual journey, to the heart of the Australian Catholic Church as our senior students approach the end of their primary school journey. The students demonstrated a great sense of respect, amazement and interest through their visit.



Find happiness in making others happy.

Saint Mary Mackillop

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School Office Relocation

From **Monday 15 October** (first day back in term 4) the school office will be operational from the **demountable** positioned through the basketball courts (COLA). Signs will be in place to direct you. The main building will be undergoing renovations. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause families.

Chess Competition

On Thursday 20 September, nine students travelled to Emu Plains Public School to represent STA in the Nepean District Primary Schools One Day Tournament with a total of 34 local teams attending. The Year 6 team placed third, the Year 4 team placed in the top half of the total teams and the Year 5 team were the **overall winners!** The Year 5 team will move on to the next level in November to compete against other zones. Thank you and well done to the following students who played well on the day and showed sportsmanship and enthusiasm in each other's successes: **Year 6** – Julian Sypka, Ronan Hurley, William Hurley; **Year 5** – Lachlan Steadman, Hayden Willingham, Chelsea Willingham; **Year 4** – Kyle Delfsma, Amelia Crouch, Kate Harrison. **Tanya Graham, Teacher.**



School Uniform Expectations and Uniform Change Over

Parents are reminded that students are to wear **Summer Uniform** when school resumes for **Term 4**. School sports shoes should be mainly white with white (not coloured) laces. Please also ensure that your child is wearing **navy** tracksuit pants and/or shorts with their sports shirts. Students are **NOT** permitted to wear jewellery with the uniform and hair ties need to also be in school colours. Please take time over the school holidays to ensure your children have what they need to comply with the school expectations. For further details please refer to the Parent Handbook located on the school website.

School Sports Uniform Expectations Correction (Update Week 9)

The school sports uniform is to be worn by your child only on **two** designated sports days each week. **In order to maintain continuity of our school sports uniform we are requesting that Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta (CEDP) garments not be worn on school sports days.** Therefore, polo shirts, jackets and hoodies acquired through CEDP sporting events may **ONLY** be worn when students represent the school at Diocesan sports events or on designated mufti days.

STA Parish Temporary Office Hours

Please note that the Parish Office is operating under temporary hours until further notice. The Parish is open every Tuesday and Wednesday from 8.30-3.30pm.

Tennis Clinics

Over the last few weeks our Year 3 and 4 students have benefitted from participating in supplementary Tennis Clinics provided by a local tennis professional. These skill-based lessons have been courtesy of Andrew McLeod from **Springwood Tennis Club**. We are most grateful to Andrew and the Club for providing our students with this great opportunity.



Year 3 Science Incursion

Our Year 3 students had the opportunity to be involved in a Physics Incursion on the last day of term in the hall. The 'Fizzics' team brought science to life and the show was interactive, fun and the children could identify with the experiments to their current Science program. Thank you to 'Fizzics Education' for their innovative and interactive show.

Italian Forum



Our Italian program at STA includes learning about Italian food, a necessity really when learning about Italian culture. One of the most important foods to the Italians is bread, which can be eaten with every meal. Today the children in 6C participated in a workshop to learn how to make pane di casa bread, and eat it with butter or olive oil and balsamic vinegar. They have also taken home recipes so they can make the bread in the holidays.



Children and Sickness

If your child is unwell, please keep them at home to reduce the spread of illness to other students and staff at the school. We also ask that you remind your child of the importance of washing their hands and turning their head and covering their mouth when coughing. **Your attention to this matter would be appreciated.**

Love one another

ST THOMAS AQUINAS PRIMARY SPRINGWOOD



WE CELEBRATE THE UNIQUENESS OF EACH CHILD AND
PREPARE THEM FOR TOMORROW'S WORLD.

Enrolling now for 2019

For more information or to book a school learning tour please call
47233800 or email stthomas@parra.catholic.edu.au

No child will be refused enrolment because of a family's inability to pay fees



St Thomas Aquinas Primary 168 Hawkesbury Road Springwood
P: 4723 3800 www.stspringwood.catholic.edu.au

2018 STA School Focus – RESPECT & SERVICE

Implicit in our school motto, Love One Another, is the great challenge to live this calling each day by all we **DO** and **SAY**. Nurturing, modelling and teaching our children also means guiding them to attend to the interpersonal aspects of their life. These virtues are not simply words but meant to be embodied actions exemplified for us by Christ. The challenge for us as a community is to turn these words into simple genuine ACTIONS each day. May we treat others and ourselves with respect and may we work each day to serve others by acts of kindness – a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an invitation to join in, a helping hand to someone in need.



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FINANCE

Term 3 School Fees

Thank you to all the families who have finalised the Term 3 School Fees or who are currently on track to paying off the school fees in instalments. If you are not up to date with your fees, please pay them as soon as possible to avoid further reminders or risking escalation to the School Fees Management Unit in Parramatta. If you are having difficulties paying the school fees, please contact the school to organise a formal payment arrangement plan or to discuss the options available.

Finance - Notice Period

If a student is to be removed from the school, a term's notice (10 school weeks) must be given to the Principal in writing or a full term's fees will be payable. This ruling forms part of the School Fee Management Policy and is available on the CEDP website <http://parra.catholic.edu.au/school-fees>. When signing the enrolment form all families agreed to these conditions. Sometimes certain circumstances are unavoidable, and these cases can be put forward in writing to the Principal to forward onto the School Fees Manager at CEDP, who then makes the final decision on all cases.

Cheree Brown, School Finance Secretary

School Opal Card Reminder

Parents are asked to please remind your child/ren to tap on/off when travelling by bus to/from school. Transport NSW rely on tallies from this process to accurately account for the number of students travelling on each bus so that the correct number of buses for each bus route are booked for our school. Incorrect readings often result in **overcrowding on buses** where an extra bus is required, or a bus route may be **taken off our school booking altogether**. Thank you for your consideration of the impact this has on our students' safety and comfort for school travel.



TERM 4 FUTURE IMPORTANT DATES:

Tuesday 6 & 7 November

Tuesday 6 November

Tuesday 13 November

Thursday 15 November

Wednesday 12 December

Friday 14 December

Monday 17 December

Tuesday 18 December

Wednesday 19 December

Book Fair 8.00am-4.00pm

Kindergarten Orientation Information Evening 7.30-8.45pm

Kindergarten Orientation 9.30-10.30am

Kindergarten Orientation 9.30-10.30am

Christmas Concert

End of Year Mass at 12.00pm

Awards Ceremony at 12.00pm

STA Spirit Day and Year 6 Graduation Mass at 7.00pm

Year 6 Picnic Day and **LAST DAY OF SCHOOL** for students



Mullen Mini Olympics



We have much for which to be thankful.

Saint Mary Mackillop

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DIARY DATES

2018 TERM 4 Week 1	Monday 15 October	Term 4 Commences for Staff and Students (Summer Uniform) 12.30pm Assembly – Mission Week 3.40pm Leadership Meeting
	16	3.40pm Staff Meeting
	17	8.30am Staff Briefing 9.20am Parish Mass – Year 1 attending Catholic Mission Visit
	18	8.30am Staff Prayer Mountains Music Festival – Selected Students Catholic Mission Visit 3.30pm Spirit in Action Group
	19	8.30am – 3.05pm School Band Soctober Day
Week 2	Monday 22 October	12.30pm Assembly – 1S presenting 3.40pm Leadership Meeting
	23	Stage 2 & 3 Diocesan Basketball Competition – Selected Students 3.40pm Staff Meeting
	24	8.25am Staff Briefing 9.20am Parish Mass – Year 2 attending Years 3 – 6 Rugby League Competition – Selected Students
	25	8.30am Staff Prayer 9.00am – 1.00pm School Band Year 5 CANBERRA TRIP
	26	8.30am – 3.05pm School Band Musica Viva Incursion Year 5 CANBERRA TRIP

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Corpus Christi Primary School SPRING FAIR: Come along to our Spring Fair for some frivolity and fun on **Sat 17 October from 10-2pm**. There will be children's craft, small gifts, food vendors, handmade garments, jewellery, candles, face painting, magician shows, games... **Where:** Corpus Christi Primary School, 90 Andromeda Drive, Cranebrook. For information on stall availability please email corpuschristi@parra.catholic.edu.au

What's On at Penrith Observatory in October: Astronomy Night: New Worlds. Speaker – **Dr Nicholas Tothill**. We have now known about the existence of planets around other stars for almost a quarter-century. We've found planets with two suns, planets a bit like the ones we know, and planets very different to anything we've seen in our own Solar System. Dr Nick Tothill will talk about some of the planets out there, and how we get to find out about them. Includes presentation, short 3D movie, tour of the dome, and viewing of the night sky through a range of telescopes (weather permitting). \$18.00 Adult, \$12.00 Child/Concession, \$50.00 Family (2 adults + 2 children), Children under 3 years of age free. **BOOKINGS VIA OUR WEBSITE ESSENTIAL.** **Date:** Saturday 20 October. **Time:** 8pm – 10pm. **Venue Address:** Penrith Observatory (Building AO), Western Sydney University, Werrington North campus, Great Western Highway, Werrington. **Contact phone or website for public enquiries and bookings:**

https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/observatorypenrith/penrith_observatory/whats_on

Facebook Event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/236051160406927/>

Springwood Children's Centre October Holiday Workshops: Children from Year 5 and upwards can enjoy 2 hour workshops at the Springwood Children's Centre, 2/119 Macquarie Rd, Springwood. Wed 3 Oct and Wed 10 Oct from 2-4pm: **Fun Creative Writing** – bring along your ideas and turn them into "Fractured Fairytales" or "Tall Tales but True". Thurs 4 Oct from 2-4pm: **Scratch-Foam Printing** – scratch into foam and create printed masterpieces. Thurs 11 Oct from 2-4pm. **Telling Stories Through Music** – Bring your own acoustic instrument, or use ours, to compose music to accompany stories. **Phone** 4751 4642 or sccr@inet.net.au to book.

Catholic Care - Keeping Kids In Mind: Keeping Kids In Mind is a 5 week course for separated parents who are experiencing on-going conflict. This course examines issues such as: Grief and Loss after separation; The Hidden World of Children; Rebuilding Resilience; Bridging the Gap; and Look Back, Moving Forward. This course is facilitated by qualified and experienced educators and counsellors. **When:** Every Wednesday from 17 Oct – 14 Nov, 6-8pm. **Where:** Catholic Care, Springwood Drop-In Centre, Shop 3, 163 Macquarie Rd, Springwood. **Cost:** \$100 for all sessions, includes handbook. Concessions available. **Bookings are essential.** **Phone** 8843 2530.

Pinnaroo OOSH Spring Vacation Care: Practice your construction skills; come dressed as mad scientists and take part in a day of exciting and messy experiments; play tennis; drumming, music, congas and karaoke; have fun at an AFL Clinic!! Pinnaroo OOSH is a community owned and community focused service located in Winmalee. **Phone:** 4754 1543; **Email:** pinnoosh@bigpond.net.au

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/Pinnaroo.OOSH/>

Sent Home Recently:

- Glandular Fever Note Yr 2 (yellow)
- Gospel Reading Note to Year 3 (salmon)
- Long Service Leave Note to KB (pink)
- Blue Mountains Independent Primary School Music Festival Note – selected students
- Year 5 Canberra Excursion Medical Notes and Packing Note
- Year 3 Science Excursion (lime green)
- World Youth Day Muffin Note (yellow)

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