

NEWSLETTER

No. 3 Date: 28/05/2018 Week 5 Term 2

Dear St Thomas Aquinas Families,

The Gospel reading from a few Sundays ago was of the Good Shepherd. There are many references to sheep and shepherds in scripture. From early childhood these images are so familiar to us that they can almost become stereotyped and mixed together in our minds.

As a child growing up my image of shepherds was somewhat confusing and contradictory. In our home hung a framed picture of Jesus as a shepherd with a crook and surrounded by sheep typical of the images portrayed by artists over time.

At school I struggled with the image of Jesus as the shepherd when I imagined him in an Australian landscape through social studies lessons and Australian songs about sheep grazing and shearing and the opening-up of the country to pastoral settlers. These images like the idealised one before, didn't seem to ring true in the context of Jesus' times.

My other impression of shepherding was from the stories passed on to me by my father. My dad would tell me about his life back in the old country and how each year around September (as Autumn began) the shepherds who tended their sheep in the foothills of the Apennines in the Abruzzi region would walk their sheep flocks south 250 kms to the Puglia region where it was warmer and the grass grew plentiful in the winter. The name given to this long trek was "transumanza" (transhumance from the Latin words trans 'across' and humus 'ground).

Jesus had no trouble whatsoever with otherness. In fact, these "lost sheep" found out they were not lost to him at all and tended to become his best followers.

Franciscan Priest Fr. Richard Rohr

The shepherds would then take the same track back home in May when the weather warmed and pastures returned. Along the way the shepherds would find shelter for themselves and their sheep in special rock huts that they built. They would sleep across the entry to these huts to stay on guard against animals who preyed on their flock.

Whenever I looked like I was slacking off or my attitude wasn't deemed up to scratch my dad would remind me that if I kept going this way I'd end up living my life as a mere shepherd - un pecoraio. In other words, lowly, uneducated, nomadic and poor. Even to a man like my father of peasant stock, the shepherds were considered lowly.

Shepherds were not highly regarded as particularly good people in Jesus' day either – they were considered dim, shady, outsider types and untrustworthy. So Jesus' choice of the Good Shepherd as an image was deliberate and designed to disturb the status quo.

Jesus' model of the good shepherd is clear and unequivocal. The shepherd WHO IS GOOD, is one:

- who does not abandon his sheep
- who is concerned for and cares for his sheep
- who lays down his life for his sheep.

The image of the good shepherd presented by Christ is not trite but one that is grounded and still rings true in our modern daily lives.

Until next time,

ARouatoSergio Rosato
Principal

love one another

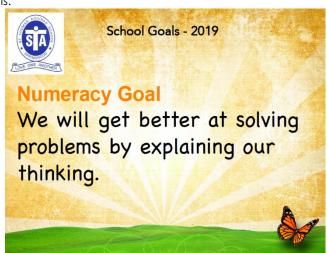
National Reconciliation
Week

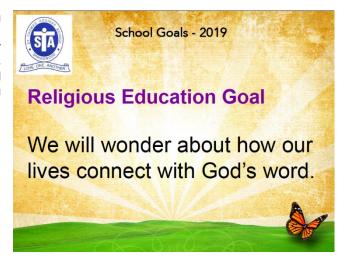
We acknowledge and pay our respects to the traditional custodians of this land, the Darug and Gundungurra people, and to Aboriginal Elders past, present and future for they hold the traditions, memories and wisdom of Mother Earth.



School Learning Goals 2019

At a recent school assembly we launched our school learning goals for this year. These goals are expectations that we are setting for ourselves as a learning community as markers for improvement. At the assembly and subsequently through class discussion we have been able to explain these goals further and encourage our students to take them on as their personal learning goals.





The goals are in 3 areas – Religious Learning, Numeracy Learning & Literacy Learning. The goals have been distilled into student-friendly language. The goals will be a point of contact for teachers and students when discussing how learning is progressing and what future learning needs to take place.

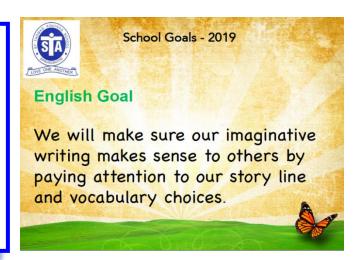
Kindergarten 2020 Enrolment Open Days

Each Monday and Thursday the school has been hosting Open Day tours for prospective enrolments for 2020. 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 Thursday 30 May at 9.30am or 2.30pm*.

For further information and school enrolment packs **telephone the School Office on 4723 3800** or collect material on the day.

KINDERGARTEN 2020 ENROLMENTS CLOSE ON 31 MAY 2019.

Late enrolments will be considered if vacancies exist. No student will be refused enrolment because of a family's genuine inability to pay fees.



Monitoring Your Child's Media Use

The best way to monitor media that children use is to experience the media yourself. Test apps and play games before your children use them. View and play apps and games together with your children. And watch what they watch so you can talk about what they're seeing on their screens. You know your children best, so you're the best judge of what they can handle. When closer monitoring and more controls are needed, parents have a number of ways to keep track of the media their children watch, play, and use. These tools may not shield kids from all inappropriate material, but they can help.

Internet Activity

Social media sites like Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram require kids to be at least 13 before they can have their own accounts. To keep an eye on your child's social media activity, set up accounts of your own and check your child's pages and activity for yourself. Many parents also insist on knowing the passwords to their kids' accounts.

A number of programs and apps can monitor teens' social media accounts and alert parents to any inappropriate language or photos. Many software programs and apps are available — from free to expensive — that can give you detailed reports of your child's browsing history and tell you how much time your child spent online and on each site. But no amount of monitoring can protect kids from everything. So encourage your child to be a responsible Internet user by being a good role model and talking to your child about online safety. **From Kidshelp.org**

Tell Them From Me (TTFM) Survey

In the coming weeks we will be inviting students, teachers and parents to provide feedback on their experience of our school using an online survey. The surveys are an important part of our whole school evaluation and planning process.

Tell Them From Me

We would like to invite you to complete the *Tell Them From Me (TTFM)* Partners in Learning survey. As we value the role of parents and carers within our school community we would greatly appreciate your feedback. The information you provide will be used to maintain our commitment to working together in partnership to further improve student learning and wellbeing at St Thomas Aquinas. The survey is anonymous and will take approximately 20 minutes to complete. You will be able to access the parent survey on your computer or mobile device. The link will be sent out to families shortly.



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 2

Paul Anderson Sienna Ascencio Ethan Ashtyn-Smith James Babbage Jamie Baber Ethan Baddock Edith Banks Ethan Banks Jordan Banks Lillian Boncales Jonathan Bradshaw Emilia Buhs

Xander Creamer Ayva Dacey Tyler Davies Billy Dean Robert Doorey Ezra Forsyth Declan Garvan Mitchell Garvan Cooper Golby Blake Gough Ruby Hammond Sienna Hughes Emir Hussein
Emily Jones
Will Jones
Nicholas Koulouris
Kiahna Koutsonikolis
Alex Lopez
Ronan Loughton
Analise Mafi
Poppy Milroy
Elizabeth Mulhall
Jacob Pospischil

Elly Richards
Mia Rodemark
Oliver Savage
Maddison Syme
Benjamin Synnott
Jacob Tan
Bella Ticehurst
Rhys Walton
Lachlan Williamson
Hamish Wills
Zachary Zalan-Pipe

Week 3

Cameron Barr
Zachary Batcock
Annalise Blattman
Jack Blattman
James Chalmers
Tyler Chapple
Alannah Collins
Liam Costigan
Cem Damarguc
Noah Edwards

Isla Field
John Garth
Ben Giannakis
Benjamin Gomez
Sophie Gough
Milla Grant
Annabel Hall
Kate Harrison
James Hicks

Johnnie Hogan Harrison Iles Piper Jeffers Sarita Kamnoetboon Jamelia Kodsy Samuel Lister Maddison Machon Olivia O'Brien Jose Ramires William Rayner
Abby Riddell
Darcy Ryan
Matilda Stephens
Justin Sykes
Lucas Tom
Lia Trounce
Connor Willis
Angus Young

Week 4

Abbigail Ballard
Issabella Ballard
Jordan Banks
Chloe Blattman
Gemma Boersma
Harrison Brown
Lucy Brown
Elysia Burchall
Luca Burchall
Ryan Butler-Whitmore
Leo Donohue
Stella Donohue

Joshua Duck
Maddie Dyer
Eleanor Fortunat
Brendan Golby
Ziggy Green
Thomas Grodzicki
Lila Hagelburg
Emma Harrison
Zachary Heaven
William Lister
Luke Malone

Alana Mathew
Luke Mathew
Lennix McSpadden
Ella Mecham
Christopher Mizzi
Aidan O'Brien
Patrick Payens
Dmitry Pochukaev
Willliam Rayner
Hamish Richards
Samantha Schroeder

Ruby Steward
Arabella Stewart-Rowley
Ryan Sykes
Janaya Teuma
Tyson Verriere
Adele Wade-Ferrell
Liam Willis
Abigale Wilson
Ethan Windeisen
Daniel Woods
Andrew Young

Diocesan Cross Country

On Tuesday 7 May a team of 45 STA students competed in the Diocesan Cross Country Carnival at Eastern Creek Raceway. Our students participated with great enthusiasm and are to be commended on their exemplary behaviour and sportsmanship on the day. We congratulate all students who participated and especially to the students listed below who

achieved a place in the Parramatta Diocesan Team to compete at the NSWCPS Cross Country on Friday 14 June. Special congratulations to all our girls' teams as they were all winners in their age group divisions. Special thanks to Phillipa Kerkham who assisted for the whole day.

Alina Ascencio Annalise Blattman Chloe Blattman Kael Brown Dylan Cantwell Sophia Cantwell Ruanii Claudino Ben Gomez Jessica Gomez Alexander Kerkham Brydan McLeod Eli Schroeder Mia Watson

STA Students Selected for Diocesan Sports Teams

Congratulations to the following students on being selected to represent the Parramatta Diocese in these sports teams: **Boys Cricket** - Alexander Kerkham; **Boys Touch Football** - Lachlan Williamson, Samuel Graham; **Girls Touch Football** – Melissa Lee, Jessica Gomez and Taya Moore. Well done to you all!

Indigenous Immersion Day

Year 4 participated in an Immersion Day in March where they looked at Aboriginal culture and stories. Local Elder, Trevor Eastwood and the Year 4 students created a piece of art which tells a story of our school. Its values, emanating from the school motto, referenced to local water holes and indigenous spirituality. This stunning piece of artwork was presented to the school by Trevor at last week's School Assembly.





ANZAC Day 2019

Thank you to the following students for representing STA at the Springwood ANZAC March and Commemoration Service and we also acknowledge those who marched at other locations:

Jamie Baber Annabell Barr Cameron Barr Eli Borg Leo Borg Lillian Borg Lucy Brown (Canberra) Mackenzie Carey Ben Cassidy Elliott Chapman Lucy Chapman Annabelle Clark Liam Costigan Ayva Dacey **Evelyn Dacey** Matilda Debien (Lawson) Koby Kime Dominique Dewhurst Victor Etherington Isabella Faithfull Harry Fitzgerald Summah Galea

Audrey Godsell Peter Godsell Brendan Golby Blake Gough Sophie Gough Lilia Hagelburg Luke Harrison Payten Holmes Evelyn lles Harrison Iles Poppy Jenkins **Emily Jones** Harvey Jones Erin Kenn Jordan Kime Harry Kitching Ethan Konwerski Lachlan Konwerski Archie Lamont

Maisie Lamont

Lilia Lopes (Cub Scouts) Maddison Machon Lexie Mackay Joseph Mahns Luke Malone Molly Malone (Guides) Finn McCaffery Samuel McGrath (Sydney) Ash Meadows Ella Mecham Olivia Morgan Caitlin Murphy Aidan O'Brien Alexander Papagianis Trinity Power (Canberra) Hamish Richards Abby Riddell Mia Rodemark Florence Rooney Cooper Sams

Jessica Sharp Amelia Steadman Lachlan Steadman **Ruby Steward** Arabella Stewart-Rowley **Emily Stewart-Rowley** Ryan Sykes **Brooke Thomas** Claire Thomas Patrick Thomas Spencer Thomas Lia Trounce Romilly Wade-Ferrell Aiden Wade-Ferrell Mia Wade-Ferrell Tristan Wade-Ferrell Rhys Walton Hayden Willingham

Benjamin Younger

Jamie Sharp



Term 2 School Fees

Statements for Term Two have now been issued. Due date is 5 June 2019. Thank you to all the families who have finalised Term One School Fees or who have formalised a payment arrangement for 2019. It is not too late to commence a payment arrangement. Please contact me on 4723 3800 or email cbrown29@parra.catholic.edu.au. If you are not up to date with your fees, please pay them as soon as possible to avoid your account being escalated to School Fees Management Unit for collection.

If you are having difficulties paying school fees, please contact myself or the Principal to discuss the options that are available to you. Cheree Brown, School Finance Secretary

Principal's Morning Tea for Effort in Learning

On Wednesday 1 May the following students, nominated by their teachers attended the Principal's Morning Tea for Learning hosted my Mr Rosato and Ms Smith. This special celebration seeks to acknowledge students from K-6 for their consistent effort with their learning. Congratulations to the students listed below who were nominated for your effort and persistence. A second Principal's Morning Tea will take place later this term.

Ryan Andrews **Xavier Curley** Jessica Kennedy William O'Neill Sienna Ascencio Chase Davidsen Jordan Kime Alexis Owen Lily Boersma Kyle Delfsma Harry Kitching Zoe Papasotiriou Asher Bogg Baxter Ellem Lilia Lopes **Ruby Roberts** Thomas Brosnan Katelyn Ellis Lexie Mackay Grace Ryan Cooper Brown Niamh Fagan Mollie Malone Mackenzie Seymour Lucas Brown Lila Hagelburg Liam McGrath Patrick Seymour Annabel Hall Emilia Buhs Samuel McGrath Ryan Sykes **Emily Hall** Lennix McSpadden Mia Wade-Ferrell Lara Buhs Ruby Hammond Macklin Miall Grace Wardle Charli Burton Thomas Chapple Alexis Hodge Joshua Mitchell **Reilly Waters** Charlotte Creamer Ella Holdsworth Samuel Moore Angus Young Benjamin Younger William Crighton Kiara Kanigowski Tess Morris



Woolworths Earn & Learn Stickers

STA has joined with Woolworths to collect Earn & Learn stickers for our school. Anyone from our community can collect for us - students, parents, grandparents, staff, neighbours and friends - anyone who shops at Woolworths can either bring the Earn & Learn stickers to school or drop them into the box at Woolworths Emu Plains.

Woolworths has partnered with Modern Teaching Aids which means that once we have counted all our Earn & Learn stickers we will be able to choose resources based on our needs here at school i.e. Science, Mathematics, Sports, Arts and Craft, English, S.T.E.M. Amazing!! So, let's stick together and start collecting.





STA Colour Run

It was with much excitement that we recently launched our major fundraiser for the year – our STA Colour Run. Funds raised this year will go to the purchase of *playground equipment*. We anticipate the playground to incorporate sensory play, encourage more creative and social play in the playground. This exciting event will be held on *Friday 7 June 2019*.

Students will complete the course by making their way through a variety of obstacles, such as hurdles, tunnels and 5 different colour tents. On the day students are

encouraged to **wear a white t-shirt**, **old shorts/pants and appropriate running shoes**. Students will be supplied with a pair of sunglasses. Face masks will be made available for those who wish to wear them.

For lunch, a cheese toastie, a juice or water and chips/fruit will be provided for everyone who participates. The fabulous Coon Toastie Truck will be visiting the Blue Mountains for the FIRST TIME!

We are calling all volunteers to assist on the day, and parents can come along and watch and cheer on your child. However, if you are assisting you must have completed a volunteer working with children's check (Building Safe Communities).

We have amazing prizes to give away – for every \$50 each child raises they will be entered into the major raffle to be held at assembly on **21 June**. We have 3 major prizes to give away along with loads of other prizes to be won. Leading up to our colour run we encourage students to continue to bring in their money each week and watch our 'fundraising thermometer' rise while we aim to meet our target.

As mentioned earlier in the year St Thomas Aquinas will once again be participating in this dynamic inter-school creative arts competition. The students and staff involved have been rehearsing during lunchbreaks throughout the term and will also be meeting during the July school holidays. The performance will be held on **Friday 30 August at Riverside Theatre**, **Parramatta**. Last week families of these students were given a note with first round ticket ordering details. Tickets are \$35.00 each and only 1 ticket per child is available at this stage. **Money and ticket order for Round One needs to be returned to school by 7 June (at the latest).** Any tickets not ordered by this date will go into the second-round draw for those wishing to purchase a second ticket. Tickets are very limited as other schools will also be booking seats for this event.

Food Allergy Week - 26 May To 1 June 2019

Anaphylaxis Emergency Training

Recently our entire school staff underwent mandatory training in how to respond to students who live with food allergies and Anaphylaxis. The training sessions were conducted by a clinical nurse specialist from the Department of Allergy & Immunology, Westmead Children's Hospital.

The training was focussed on:

- How to identify the signs & symptoms of an allergic reaction
- What to do in treating a moderate allergic reaction
- What to do in treating a severe allergy (anaphylaxis)



The school currently has 5 students who have been diagnosed with anaphylaxis and therefore have a ASCIA ACTION PLAN. These students have allergies to foods including wheat, nuts, tree nuts, rye, insects and shellfish. An allergic reaction to food/insects can very quickly become life-threatening. Knowing the signs and symptoms and how to respond is critical.

As well as the students who have been diagnosed with anaphylaxis, we have a number of other students who have allergies to foods and insects (non-anaphylactic). One of the important statistics mentioned at the training was that **up to 25% of anaphylactic reactions occur to children who have not yet been diagnosed** with the condition.

Our students have been informed on HOW to help SCHOOL MATES who have FOOD ALLERGIES.

- 1. Don't share food with friends who have food allergies
- 2. Don't forget to wash your hands after eating
- 3. Know what your friends are allergic to
- 4. If a classmate who has allergies becomes sick, get help straight away. (Even if they don't want to.)

To coincide with Food Allergy Week an easy to understand poster is included in this newsletter that outlines the signs and symptoms of a mild to a moderate reaction and a severe reaction (Anaphylaxis).

It is important to know that children experiencing anaphylaxis may not necessarily experience mild to moderate symptoms before progressing to severe symptoms but may well present with severe symptoms from the outset. (See poster over following pages.)







FOOD ALLERGY WEEK ALLERGY & ANAPHYLAXIS AUSTRALIA 26 MAY - 1 JUNE 2019

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS OF AN ALLERGIC REACTION

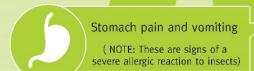
AN ALLERGIC REACTION TO FOOD/INSECTS CAN VERY QUICKLY BECOME LIFE-THREATENING. IT IS UP TO ALL OF US TO KNOW THE SIGNS & SYMPTOMS AND HOW TO RESPOND.

MILD TO MODERATE ALLERGY



Swelling of the face, lips and eyes







SEVERE ALLERGY (ANAPHYLAXIS)

Dizziness Collapse Pale and floppy (young children)

Swelling of tongue

Difficulty talking &/or hoarse voice

Difficult breathing/noisy breathing

Wheeze or persistent cough



If someone with known food or insect allergy suddenly develops severe asthma like symptoms, give adrenaline autoinjector FIRST, then asthma reliever



WHAT TO DO



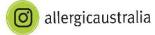
Stay with person & call out for help







f AnaphylaxisAustralia





AAAaust

#FoodAllergyWeek #BeAware #ShowYouCare

WHAT TO DO



Lay the person flat. If breathing is difficult allow to sit (but not stand or walk)









If after five minutes there is no response or the reaction is worsening, administer a second adrenaline autoinjector if available

For further information please contact coordinator@allergyfacts.org.au

1300 728 000 | www.allergyfacts.org.au

NSWCPS Endorsed Sports Opportunities for Students of Catholic Primary Schools

The following opportunities are now open for individual nomination/registration by parents:

GOLF - 29 July 2019 - Entries close 1st July

NSWCPS 9 Hole Tournament & 18 Hole Championship & Selection trials (Students 8 Years to 13 Years) on Monday 29 July at Blackheath Golf Club. Go to www.csss.nsw.edu.au/nswcps-golf.aspx for more information.

<u>ATHLETICS - NSW PSSA State Athletics Team Selection Trials - 8 August @ Sydney Olympic Park - Entries Close 26 June 2019</u>

In 2019 the School Sport Australia Track and Field Championships will be held in the Northern Territory. Due to extreme heat conditions in Darwin during November/December when the National Track and Field Championships are traditionally held, this year's SSA event will be held from the 18-23 September 2019. In order to select a NSW representative track & field team for this event, the NSWPSSA will be holding a special selection trial. Participation at these trials will be via a formal application to NSWPSSA and athletes MUST compete at this event to achieve selection in the 2019 NSW representative team.

An entry fee will be applicable to successful athletes. For more information and the entry form contact Mrs Gippel at St Thomas Aquinas School on 4723 3800.

St Columba's Catholic College 2020 Year 7 Enrolments

A reminder that enrolment applications for Year 7, 2020 at St Columba's Catholic College are now due. For further information contact the **Enrolment Secretary, Sandra O'Brien, on 4754 8900 or 47548907.**

DIARY DATES

DIAKT DATES		
2019 TERM 2	Wednesday 29 May	8.30am Staff Briefing Stage 3 Girls Soccer Gala Day – selected students 9.30am Parish Mass – Year 1 attending
Week 5	30	8.30am Staff Prayer 9.30am & 2.30pm Open Day Tours
National Reconciliation Week	31	12.30pm Assembly – Reconciliation Week
	Monday 3 June	Year 1 Excursion to Australian Museum 3.40pm Leadership Meeting
Week 6	4	3.40pm Staff Meeting
	5	8.30am Staff Briefing Stage 3 Boys Soccer Gala Day – selected students 9.30am Parish Mass – Year 6 attending 11.05am Principal's Morning Tea – selected students
	6	8.30am Staff Prayer
	7	STA COLOUR RUN

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Drawing Classes for Kids: This course is designed for kids who love drawing and want to learn the skills they need to develop their ability. We draw animals, castles, dragons, landscape, portraiture and much more, using pastel, pencil, charcoal and watercolour pencil (art materials provided). Classes held at Woodford, new class on Wednesdays from 4.00-5.30pm. USE YOUR \$100 CREATIVE KIDS VOUCHER. For more info visit the website at www.vanessajoret.com.au or phone Vanessa Joret on 0409 516 615.

New Zumba Class at STA: Life is too short to sit out another dance... come along to a NEW ZUMBA class in Springwood! St Thomas Aquinas Primary School Hall, 168 Hawkesbury Rd, SPRINGWOOD on Fridays from 5pm-6pm. First Class \$7 (\$13.50 thereafter). Come along, spread the love and end your week with some Zumba (the happy fitness drug you can never have too much of) ... I can't wait to meet you! * Zumba fitness is suited to ages 12yrs+. * Children <12yrs are more than welcome to come along and sit on the sidelines.

Seminar - Dealing with The Legal System: Each year Solo Parent Services offer a Seminar for anyone interested in gaining a greater understanding of the Legal system, which can benefit those experiencing a marital breakdown. Topics addressed: How to choose the best lawyer for your situation, how best to deal with Lawyers to minimize your legal fees, how to protect your rights regarding family assets and Estates. Date: Tuesday 4 June. Venue: 13 Buller St, North Parramatta. Time: 6.45pm for a 7pm Start. Concludes at 9pm. Cost: \$10.00. Registration Essential via phone: Ph. 8843 2530 or email: soloparentservices@ccss.org.au

Sent Home Recently:

- Mothers' Day Stall Helpers Note (pink)
- School Photo Note (salmon) and Envelope
- Staff Leave Announcement to 4W (lilac)
- Staff Leave Announcement to KD (lemon)
- Mothers' Day Assembly Note (pink)
- NAPLAN Re-sit Note to Year 5
- Wakakirri Ticket Order Note (mauve)
- Staff Leave Announcement to 4G (pink)
- Principal's Morning Tea Invitation selected students
- ANZAC Day Participation Certificate selected students
- Principal's Morning Tea Certificate selected students
- Obstacle Colour Fun Run Note & Sponsor Card
- Diocesan Girls Gala Soccer Day Note selected students
- Grade Mass & Gospel Reading Notes to Years 2, 4 & 1
- FLC Note to 4W (cream)
- Tell Them From Me Student Survey Note to Years 4-6 (blue)



