



NEWSLETTER

No. 7 Date: 27/09/2019 Week 10 Term 3

Dear St Thomas Aquinas Families,

As Term 3 draws to a close I would first like to thank all the staff and families that have supported me in the Acting Principal role over the last few weeks. I felt truly blessed at the beginning of the year when I moved to St Thomas Aquinas and the last 4 weeks has only served to reinforce what a special community you have all made me feel a part of. We welcome back Mr Rosato at the beginning of Term 4 from a much-deserved holiday to Italy.

In the last newsletter, Mr Rosato outlined the events and learning that has taken place over Term 3. These events all happen because of the dedicated staff and volunteers that tirelessly give of themselves and their talents. Athletics Carnivals, liturgies, soccer, cricket, Book Week, Voice of Youth, Wakakirri, excursions, Grandparent's Day, chess, netball and touch gala days are just a few of the extra-curricular highlights from the term, all in the midst of the day-to-day learning that always takes place.

I thank all the families that have updated their email contact details and downloaded the Skoolbag App. I am extremely passionate about moving towards a dramatic decrease in the amount of paper we use here at St Thomas Aquinas. In the coming months and years, I envisaged a community where we don't just automatically send out copious reams of paper to communicate with our families. It will be a change and, as we all know, change can be challenging. However, just because it will be difficult, and people may grumble and complain about the inconvenience or the negative aspects of it, does not mean that we don't try and make a positive contribution to helping our environment. You can assist us with this change by ensuring you have the Skoolbag App and that we have your correct email address.

There will be quite a few maintenance and building works taking place over the holidays. Electrical works, demolition of toilets in preparation for the building of new toilet blocks, plumbing works for our gardens and upgrades to other facilities. In the interest of safety, it is best to stay away from the school grounds during the holidays.

It has been an eventful term and I am sure Term 4 will be no different, so I wish all our families and staff a rejuvenating and restful break, where you and your children may get a chance to reconnect and spend some quality family time together.

God Bless and thank you for a great term.

Genevieve Smith
Acting Principal



Grandparents Day 2019

**Reading is
My Secret
Power**

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FROM THE REC (Religious Education Coordinator)

Sacraments

Sacrament of Confirmation

On Tuesday 17 September, 42 of our senior students received the Sacrament of Confirmation. Fr Chris De Souza, Parramatta Diocese Vicar General, confirmed the candidates in a beautiful and sacred ceremony. Fr Chris spoke to the children of the precious gift the Holy Spirit shares with each of them and reminded them to use these gifts to be the face of God to others in the world. Fr Paul Slyney thanked the parents and leaders for supporting the children on their faith journey and encouraged them to continue to share their faith with each other.



Sr Monica and Mrs Fortunat hosted a BBQ for the students on Thursday to celebrate their final Sacrament of Initiation. Please continue to pray for these newly confirmed children that they may call on the gifts of the Holy Spirit as they need them throughout their lives.

First Eucharist - Lawson

Six of our students made their First Holy Communion at Our Lady of Nativity on Saturday 21 September. We congratulate these children on this significant step in their faith life and pray they may always know the love of Jesus through the Eucharist.

Baptism

Often throughout student learning in Religious Education some students express the desire to be baptised. Over the years we have had several students received into the Church family through this beautiful sacrament. Please contact our Parish Priest, Fr Paul Slyney on 4754 1052 to enquire further about the Sacrament of Baptism.

Virginia Fortunat, REC



STA First Eucharist Students at OLN Parish

Touch Football

On Friday 13 September four Stage 2 boys and girls touch football teams competed with 72 teams in Diocesan Gala day. All students represented the school with great sportsmanship and distinction. The school had fantastic results; Year 4 Girls Team - 1st Place; Boys Sky - 1st Place; Year 3 Girls - 2nd Place and Boys Navy - 2nd Place. Thank you to all the families for their support of the teams and to the coaches, Ms MacKenzie and Mr Chenoweth.



Student Sporting Success

Congratulations to Alex Kerham in 5N on his recent selection in the MacKillop representative Cricket Team after competing in Wagga Wagga earlier this term. The MacKillop team will compete in Wollongong at the start of Term 4. Well done Alex and we wish you all the best in Wollongong!

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 8

Paul Anderson	Summah Galea	Jamelia Kodsy	Bonnie Phuntsok
Sienna Ascencio	John Garth	Peter Koulouris	Skyler Pick
Emilia Buhs	Mitchell Garvan	Kiahna Koutsonikolis	Maria Pochukaeva
Elysia Burchall	Callum Gibbons	Ronan Loughton	Jake Ramires
Isabella Cantrell	Blake Gough	Lexie Mackay	Elly Richards
Dylan Cantwell	Sophie Gough	Summer Mamo	Owen Riddell
Cem Damarguc	Lila Hagelburg	Imogen Mathew	Samantha Schroeder
Ashton Davies	Jeremy Harris	Ash Meadows	Benjamin Tran
Emily Daw	Mia Harrison	Macklin Miall	Adele Wade-Ferrell
Ben Dawson	Zachary Heaven	Gabriel Muradian	Reilly Waters
Kyle Delfsma	Mariella Hill	Jacob Palmer	Mia Watson
Stella Donohue	Kayden Jeffers	Zoe Papasotiriou	Jessi Wronski
Robert Doorey	Piper Jeffers	Florencia Perez-Eaton	

Week 9

Jamie Baber	Cooper Donohue	Benjamin Kerkham	Hamish Richards
Abigail Ballard	Victor Etherington	Samuel Lister	Mackenzie Seymour
Eden Batcock	Ruby Hammond	Ryder Lopez	Oscar Smith
Jonathan Bradshaw	Noah Hicks	Maddison Machon	Matilda Stephens
Kael Brown	Mariella Hill	Mollie Malone	Maddison Symes
Madeline Buchanan	Payten Holmes	Lennix McSpadden	Helena Sypka
Deanna Caristo	Mikaela Horner	Olivia Morgan	Lucas Tom
Liam Costigan	Poppy Jenkins	Sunnee Murtikos	

Principal's Morning Tea for Effort in Learning

On **Wednesday** the following students, nominated by their teachers attended the Principal's Morning Tea for Effort in Learning hosted by Ms Smith and Mrs Fortunat. Congratulations to each student for your effort, attitude and persistence.



Paul Anderson	Emma Davies	Ellie Kermode	Darcy Ryan
Oliver Ashton-Smyth	Emilie Dempsey	Ethan Konwerski	Oliver Savage
Ethan Baddock	Madeleine Devitt	Annalise Lia	Oscar Smith
Jemima Barnham	Robert Doorey	Alex Lopez	Amelia Steadman
Montana Barry	Mikayla Fitzgerald	Alana Mathew	Emily Stewart-Rowley
Eli Borg	Joe Fitzpatrick	Ashton McLeod	Hugo Strickland
Skye Boyden	Ezra Forsyth	Bonnie Phuntsok	Justin Sykes
Nathan Broadhead	Sophie Gough	Abigail Power	Janaya Teuma
Lucy Brown	April Harper	Jake Ramires	Spencer Thomas
Charli Burton	Kate Harrison	Cherinda Rawlings	Isabel Van Meeuwen
Lucas Claudino	Payton Henson	Isaac Reid	Mieke Watson
Ashton Cooper	Mikaela Horner	Jessie Reynolds	Tia White
Ashton Danks	Piper Jeffers	Elly Richards	Chelsea Willingham



Winter to Summer Changeover of Uniform

A reminder to families that students are to wear **Summer Uniform** when school resumes for **Term 4**. Students wear Summer Uniform for both Terms 1 & 4 and Winter Uniform for 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.

Updated Student Early Pick-up Procedures

Parents/carers collecting students early from the school are now required to inform office staff upon arrival of the student/s and from which class/es they are picking up so that they can be called to the office. Parents/carers must sign the student/s out from the green book as usual. This change of procedure aims to reduce disruption to classes during learning. Students arriving late must always be signed in at the office by a parent/carer and will be given a late ticket by office staff to give to the teacher.

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Thank you!

A very sincere THANK YOU to all our parent volunteers for your help in any capacity this term – some of these include excursions, carnivals, Wakakiri, chess, clothing pool, reading groups, maths groups and Fathers' Day stall. We could not have done it without your dedication and hard work and we wish you all a very restful holiday break.

Thank you!

DIARY DATES

2019	Friday 27	Stage 3 Touch Football Gala Day – selected students
TERM 3	September	12.30pm Assembly – 3E presenting
Week 10		Term 3 Concludes
SCHOOL HOLIDAYS		
TERM 4	Monday 14	Term 4 Commences for Students and Staff
	October	3.40pm Leadership Meeting
	15	3.40pm Staff Meeting
Week 1	16	8.30am Staff Briefing
		Stage 3 League Tag Gala Day – selected students
	17	8.30am Staff Prayer
	18	12.30pm Assembly – World Teachers Day
		4.00-6.00pm Spirit in Action Retreat
	Monday 21	3.40pm Leadership Meeting
Week 2	October	
	22	3.40pm Staff Meeting
	23	8.30am Staff Briefing
		9.30am Parish Mass –Year 1 attending
	24	8.30am Staff Prayer
		Year 5 Canberra Excursion
	25	World Teachers Day
		Year 5 Canberra Excursion
		Year 4 Maritime Museum Excursion
		NO ASSEMBLY

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Gumnuts & Tricks Family Friendly Circus: A circus spectacular inspired by tales of the Australian Bush. Come on an adventure with Snugglepup, Cuddlepie and all their friends these school holidays. Three shows only, held at **Winmalee High School: Saturday 12 October 1.00pm and 7.00pm and Sunday 13 October 1.00pm**. Tickets available for **\$15, \$10 concession or \$40 family (2 adults 2 concession)**. Tickets can be purchased by emailing info@zanyvare.com.au or purchased at the box office.

Featherdale Wildlife Park: Book a spot now for your child in our Keeper for a Day Program these school holidays! For kids aged 8 - 13 years, this program is perfect for little animal lovers who want a hands-on experience with Aussie wildlife. Time: 9.00am - 3.30pm. **Sessions available:** Monday 30 September 2019, Wednesday 2 October 2019, Monday 7 October 2019 and Wednesday 9 October 2019. ***Bookings are essential.** Maximum of 10 children per session. **Call (02) 9622 1644.**

Kids Can Act October School Holiday Workshops: **Monday 30th September, 1st, 2nd, 8th & 9th October.** Use your **\$100 Creative Kids Voucher**. For details visit www.kidscanact.com.au or call Cathie on **0414 475 158**.

School Holiday Fusion Football Coaching Program at Glenbrook Oval: **30th September, 1st & 2nd October** from **9.00am – 12.30pm**. Open to **ages U6's to U13's**. Cost is **\$150**. Register now at www.fusionfootball.com.au or call Mario on **0450 227 508**.

Disability and Puberty Workshop for Parents and Carers - PENRITH – FPNSW: Registrations are now open for the upcoming Puberty and Relationships Workshop for Parents and Carers of People with Intellectual Disability and Autism, being held in Penrith on **Wednesday, October 23**. Come join the team at Family Planning NSW for an interactive workshop that will cover issues across the lifespan, and find out how to support your family member's personal development in a positive way. **Registrations are essential to secure your spot.** **Date:** Wednesday 23 October 2019. **Time:** 5:30pm – 7:30pm. **Location:** Penrith Library Theatre, 601 High Street, Penrith. **Cost:** Free. This course is fully funded by Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health. Light refreshments provided. **Please note this workshop is for Parents and unpaid carers and is not suitable for professionals.** To register contact: **Erin Donnelly** via email at erind@fpnsw.org.au or phone **(02) 8752 4312**. We hope to see you there!

Sent Home Recently:

- Staff Leave Announcements to Kinder (pink) and 5N (green)
- Principal's Morning Tea Invitation – selected students
- Confirmation BBQ Invitation to selected Year 6 students
- Stage 3 Touch Football Competition Note – selected students
- Principal's Morning Tea Certificate – selected students
- Parish Mass Note to Kindergarten (cream)
- Year 5 Canberra Excursion Details Note (cream)
- Design & Make Note to Kindergarten
- Year 6 Pilgrimage Excursion Note
- Term 4 Parent Calendar (lilac)

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