



NEWSLETTER

No. 1 Date: 21/02/2018 Week 4 Term 1

Dear St Thomas Aquinas Families,

Our school year is now a month old and so much has already occurred in that short time. We extend a warm welcome to all families and welcome particularly our many new students and their families joining this Catholic community. We are indeed honoured, enriched and blessed by your presence and support.

Opening School Mass

On Friday 9 February, we gathered in our Parish Church to mark the beginning of our year with a Mass of thanksgiving. The theme for our Eucharistic celebration was, *Open My Ears to Listen to Your Word*.

We gathered as a faith community to:

- celebrate
- share the Good News
- break the bread and be nourished for the journey ahead
- sing with thanks and praise.

We committed ourselves to listening for and using the 7 Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

The Gifts of:

- Wisdom
- Knowledge
- Courage
- Understanding
- Right Judgement
- Reverence
- Awe & Wonder

The Recessional song, sung so enthusiastically and beautifully by our children at the conclusion of the Mass, declared that we are indeed the voice, heart and hands of Christ each day.

We thank our Parish Priests Father Paul and Father Flor and Joanne Toohey (Religious Education Coordinator) for their pastoral leadership of our school community. We are grateful for the large number of parents and families who were able to attend our Opening School Mass. Your presence, prayers and support are very much appreciated.

Until next time,

S Rosato
Sergio Rosato
Principal

2018 School Focuses – 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.



At our first few assemblies we have shared our year focuses of RESPECT & SERVICE. 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.

love one another

School Uniforms and Hats

Our school uniform makes an unambiguous statement of who we are and what we stand for as a school. At St Thomas Aquinas we expect our students to wear their uniforms correctly at all times. We believe that by encouraging students to take pride and respect in themselves and their appearance we are promoting good learning, school spirit, self-esteem and a sense of belonging to our school community.

Our expectations are that:

- Students wear the correct school uniform every day.
- Black leather shoes are worn on non-sport days and polished regularly.
- Shirts are tucked in at all times (except when at sport or at play).

We congratulate the vast majority of students for the pride they show in wearing their correct uniform on a daily basis and presenting themselves each day so respectfully.

School Uniforms



Sports Uniform Expectations

The school sports uniform is to be worn by your child only on the **two** designated sports days each week. **In order to maintain continuity of our own 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 muffin days.

Outdoor Sun Protection



School hats are to be worn each day whilst outdoors and all year round (*this is in keeping with Sun-safe recommendations*). Students understand that if they are on the playground without a hat they are expected to remain under the COLA (shelter) for the duration of the play period.

Bucket style hats are to be worn by students in **Kindergarten to Year 2**. Students in **Grades 3-6 wear caps**.

St Columba's Road Project Completed

Thank you to all for your patience and understanding in supporting our changed before school and afternoon dismissal routine last Thursday and Friday as work took place at St Columba's College. It is times like these where we can really appreciate the many positive aspects that exist in the close relationship between our two schools.

It was a blessing to have many of our former students back at STA for a brief time and to catch up with them as they continue to grow into wonderful young men and women. We can also appreciate and give thanks for this fantastic community working together with such ease, purpose and good humour. The new road to St Columba's College has now been completed.

Technology for Learning Roll Out

A significant part of the proceeds of last year's fundraising enabled our school to bulk purchase IT devices to enhance learning. With part of the proceeds the school was able to purchase 200 Chromebook laptops plus another 60 Chromebooks were issued by CEDP as part of their contribution.

ICT

This week we commence to roll out the first phase of these laptops to students. 180 Chromebooks will be rolled out to students in Years 5 and 6. Students in Stage 3 will each be issued a laptop, which they will use exclusively in their learning this year. This will enable each child to log on with ease and utilise their device with their learning when required. As well as web-based resources students will benefit from the Google Suite Series applications, which enable and promote collaboration. The remaining 80 Chromebook laptops plus a number of Apple laptops will shortly be integrated into Years 3 and 4.

Our Kindergarten, Year 1 and 2 classes will benefit also as we relocate a significant number of iPad devices from Stages 2 and 3 into Early Stage 1 and Stage 1 for our younger children to use with their learning.

Student Guidelines for Responsible Use of ICT

As we commence the roll out of our new devices our Stage 3 and Stage 2 students will be receiving instruction on the responsible use of technology including Do's and Don'ts. All students and their parents will also be required to sign an agreement to say that they agree with these guidelines and rules. Stage 3 students will also agree to pay for the repair or replacement of their allocated Chromebook if it is damaged or irreparably broken due to negligence.

National Day Against Bullying

Our school will be participating in this focus again as we have over the last 3 years. This year the NDAB is on Friday 16 March, 2018. Teaching and parent resources can be found at <https://bullyingnoway.gov.au/NationalDay/ForSchools>. This site provides very good material that will be used as part of our PD/Health/PE teaching in the lead up to this day. We will also be featuring some of these resources in our assemblies. This year our Anti-Bullying focus will stress the positive values of RESPECT and SERVICE in maintaining respectful and positive relationships.

Ash Wednesday, Project Compassion and the Season of Lent

Last week we commenced the season of Lent with a whole-school Ash Wednesday liturgy. During the liturgy our students, parents and teachers were signed with ashes to mark this day. At the liturgy we also launched our participation in the Caritas 2018 Project Compassion Appeal and distributed a collection box and poster for each class.



Caritas Project Compassion (Mini Vinnies Workshop)

Last Friday our Year 6 Mini Vinnies students participated in a Caritas social justice workshop along with students from St Finbar's, Our Lady of the Nativity and St Canice's. They learnt about many aspects of Caritas' action for social justice, particularly the focus stories for this year's Project Compassion, like the story of Janaki that we saw in our Ash Wednesday liturgy. You can find this video, along with other stories and useful resources on the Caritas website

www.caritas.org.au

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Student Awards

Congratulations to the following students, who received Merit Awards at our last two School Assemblies. Well done on your efforts everyone – keep up the good work!



Week 3

Cameron Barr
Zachary Batcock
Lillian Borg
Samantha Bourke
Emma Brickwood
Kael Brown
Savannah Buss
Thomas Chapple
Liam Costigan

Amelia Crouch
Luca Dewhurst
Kate Harrison
Alexis Hodge
Ella Hoppe
Erin Hutchinson
Annalise Lia
Patricia Lia
Alex Lopez

Ryan May
Finn McCaffery
Ryan Mills
Taya Moore
Gela Moss
Sunnee Murtikos
Felicity Paul
Maria Pochukaeva
Annabelle Priest

Sahara Rodemark
Florence Rooney
Patrick Seymour
Bridie Shingles
Oliver Smyth
Lucas Tom
Lia Trounce
Aiden Wade-Ferrell
Billy Wright

Week 4

Annalise Blattman
Jonathan Bradshaw
Esme Brennan
Cooper Brown
Cindy Cantrell
Edward Carr
Mia Cooper
Owen Croft
Shaelee Davies
Stella Dean
Madeliene Devitt
Beau Gardiner

Mitchell Garvan
Myles Golby
Emma Harrison
Amy Harvey
Benjamin Hinley
Peter Hogan
Poppy Jenkins
Jessica Kennedy
Brianna Leehy
Angela Lin
Annalise Mafi
Summer Mamo

Alana Mathew
Chelsea Micallef
Isaac Minter
Tess Morris
Grace O'Brien
Olivia O'Brien
Robbie O'Brien
Niamh O'Connell
Erin Phelan
Jacob Pospischil
Samuel Power
Anneke Prineas

Benjamin Prior
Bailey Rawding
Ari-Kai Rawlings
Noah Simmons
Ava Tallon
Baiden Tom
Sophia Veira
Reilly Waters
Jackson Williams
Abigale Wilson
Tom Withers



2018 School Swimming Carnival

Our 2018 Swimming Carnival was held on 5 February at Lawson Pool. The students showed great sportsmanship, participated with enthusiasm and displayed sensible sun-safe behaviour. We sincerely thank all our parent volunteers for their assistance on the day and our school carnival organisers.

Swimming awards were presented at last week's School Assembly. Congratulations to the students listed below on their success at Lawson. These students are part of a team of approximately 30 students who competed in the Zone Swimming Carnival at Glenbrook Pool yesterday.

Our 2018 School Swimming Champions:

Boys

Senior Champion:

Julian Sypka, Sasha Grahovac and
Lachlan Golby (equal 1st)

Senior Runner Up:

Lachlan Roberts

11 Years Champion:

Thomas Brosnan

11 Years Runner Up:

Harry Ghata

Junior Champion:

Lachlan McAlpine

Junior Runner Up:

William Ghata

Girls

Talyka Kime

Amy Harvey

Montana Barry

Mia Watson

Ruby Roberts

Lucy Brown

This year the Zone Carnival was coordinated and run by St Thomas Aquinas staff led by James Costigan and supported by other staff including Deb Breytenbach, Karen Bousfield, Bridgette Moore, Ann Gippel, Nicole Pospischil and Sergio Rosato. They were also assisted by students from McCarthy Catholic High School, Emu Plains.

Coles Sports for Schools 2018

Coles is once again holding their Sports for Schools Program where families who shop at Coles can collect stickers for the school to gain sports equipment. Grandparents, aunts, uncles, neighbours and friends are welcome to assist with this initiative. Students can return the stickers to the school and put them in the box in the office foyer or near the checkout at Coles, Winmalee. Thank you for your support.

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 much appreciated.

School Fees – Urgent Notification

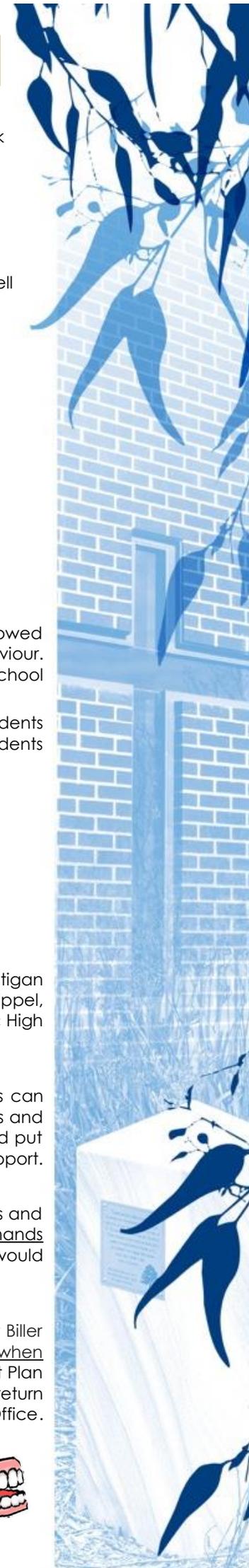
It has come to our attention that all School Fee Statements have been issued with the incorrect Biller Code for BPay. The **correct Biller Code is 565010**. Please ensure you use the correct biller code when paying via BPay. Also, parents will have the opportunity this year to take up the Flexible Payment Plan offer online and by post. Forms should be returned for processing by **9 March**. Should parents not return these forms by the due date, the family may receive a reminder notice from Catholic Education Office.
Cheree Brown, Finance Secretary

School Dental Program

We currently have approximately 75 students who have indicated that they will be utilising the services of the mobile School Dental Clinic, which will be at STA during Week 6.



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Meet the Teacher – Monday 26 & Tuesday 27 February, 2018

Letters and booking information were sent out last week. We ask that parents return the parent questionnaire by the end of this week in readiness for MTT next week. To book go to <http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au> and enter the **Event Code w3pqm** and follow the prompts. Bookings close Friday 23 February.

2018 Diary Dates

The following dates relate to events occurring throughout this year. For your information all important school dates such as these will be posted on the School Calendar located on our school website.

KEY LINKS



Catholic Schools Week - Sunday 4 March - Saturday 10 March

CSW Assembly - Monday 5 March

Class Learning Tours - Thursday 8 March

Year 6 Camp

17-19 May

Book Week

17-24 August

NAPLAN

15 - 17 May

Grandparents' Day

24 August

Catholic Values

The CEDP has given all schools sets of classroom resources about the *Seven Catholic Values*. We will gradually disseminate these resources through our weekly assemblies. Last week introduced and provided a context for the value 'Positive View of Life' (CV1). There will be some suggestions about how you could engage students in discussion about these values and relate them to Religious Education as well as other curriculum areas. This week our CV will feature, Love Thy Neighbour.

DIARY DATES

2018 TERM 1 Week 4	Thursday 22 February	8.30am Staff Prayer School Band
	23	School Band
Week 5	Monday 26 February	12.35pm Assembly – SRC Induction Ceremony 3.30-7.30pm Meet the Teacher Evening
	27	3.30-6.30pm Meet the Teacher Evening
	28	8.30am Staff Briefing 9.20am Parish Mass – Year 5 attending School Band
	1 March	8.30am Staff Prayer School Band
	2	School Band STA Bush Dance – <i>info to come</i>
Week 6	Monday 5 March	12.35pm Assembly 3.40pm Leadership Meeting
	6	3.40pm Staff Meeting

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Rainbow Pre-school – Vacancies: Rainbow Pre-school Winmalee, "where friends come in all sizes", has a few vacancies for 2018. We offer top quality pre-school education in a bushland setting. Hours from 8.00am to 4.00pm. Located at 53 Singles Ridge Road, Winmalee. **Enquiries please phone 02 4754 4910** or visit the website: www.rainbowpreschoolwinmalee.com or visit our Facebook page: Rainbow Pre-school Winmalee.

Senior After-School Drama – Vacancies - Try Your First Class Free: Join us on Monday afternoons for Blue Mountains Drama's Senior After-School Drama. This group is for students in Years 6-8 and this year we are focusing on improvisation, physical theatre and performance skills. Held in the STA Hall, classes are 4:45-5:45pm on Mondays, but supervision is available from 3:20pm if students are happy to do their homework in the hall during the Junior session. Cost: \$15 per week (sibling discount available). Please contact Georgia via hello@bluemountainsdrama.com.au or 0419 287 478. Let's Play!

Sent Home Recently:

- School Swimming Carnival Note – Years 3 - 6
- Opening School Mass Invitation (*mauve*)
- School Dental Program Note (*pink*)
- 2018 Weekly Class Activities Schedule (*lemon*)
- Meet the Teacher Note (*white & salmon*)
- Nepean Zone Swimming Carnival Note (*green*) – selected students
- Roadworks Notification
- Zone Swimming Volunteer Request Note (*blue*) – Years 3-6 only
- Head Lice Note to Year 2

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