



NEWSLETTER

No. 11 Date: 21/12/2018 Week 10 Term 4

Dear St Thomas Aquinas Families,

The last three weeks of the 2018 school year have provided us with many wonderful opportunities to celebrate and to draw to a close an incredible year of learning, faith and growth at St Thomas Aquinas School Springwood.

These events have included:

- ❖ **The Christmas Concert**
- ❖ **Thanksgiving Mass**
- ❖ **Annual Awards Ceremony**
- ❖ **STA Has Got Talent**
- ❖ **School Spirit Day (facilitated by Year 6 students)**
- ❖ **Year 6 Graduation Mass**
- ❖ **Year 6 Day in the City**
- ❖ **The Final School Assembly (featuring awards for school attendance and the Premier's Reading Challenge)**



Each of these occasions has offered us with an opportunity to appreciate and reflect on the many gifts that our school community shares as part of our shared mission to educate the children in our care.



2018 STA Christmas Concert – All I Want for Christmas is Rain

The Christmas Concert this year was entitled, "All I want for Christmas is Rain". The concert focussed on the nativity story with an Australian contemporary message. All our students who sang, narrated and presented the story of Christ's nativity with joy and passion. Our gratitude to Leigha Wills and Virginia Fortunat ably assisted by many staff working together to craft such a beautiful and spiritual reflection of Christmas. Thank you to all the parents who prepared children for the concert by dressing them in the various characters of the story. Thank you to all for attending and participating the Christmas Concert of 2018.



love one another

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

FROM THE PRINCIPAL Cont'd

Thanksgiving Mass

The thanksgiving Mass on Friday provided us with a fitting way to thank God for the many blessings that we have received as a school community this year. We also gave thanks for the service of a number of teachers who are embarking on new journeys next year. We thanked Mary Clark (moving to Corpus Christi Cranbrook as Assistant Principal), Joanne Toohy (Religious Education Coordinator) moving into tertiary education, Shedden Dunncliffe retiring after almost 40 year of teaching, Megan Mann commencing maternity leave, Cassie Wotherspoon taking up a teaching appointment at St Mary Mackillop South Penrith and Bridgette Moore taking up a teaching appointment at Our Lady of the Rosary St Marys. Each of these educators has made a significant contribution to the students of STA. We thank God for their service and wish them well into the future.

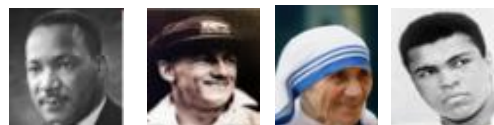
Year 6 Graduation Mass 2018

On Wednesday evening our Year 6 students, their families, school staff and Father Paul came together in our church to celebrate a Mass of thanksgiving for our graduating Class of 2018. The Mass marked a significant milestone in the life of these young people. We trust that these students will continue to build upon the foundations they you have received whilst at St Thomas'. May they dream the big dreams, work hard to make them happen and do what they can to make this world a better place. May God continue to bless each of them with His faith, hope and love.

Annual Presentation Assembly

On Monday we gathered in our Parish Church to acknowledge the many students who this year have been courageous in striving to be the best they can be and have distinguished themselves in some aspect of school life. Some have excelled in striving to live out our motto, Love One Another, some have excelled in their academic achievement. Some have made a consistent effort with learning. Some have had outstanding achievement in areas such as the creative arts, sport, Italian, attendance and chess and some are being recognised for giving of themselves to help make this school community a better place this year.

During the ceremony I addressed the students about something that enables each of us to achieve great things in our lives:



COURAGE

What is courage? When we think of the word courage what do we imagine in our minds? **Do we think of people** who gave of themselves for what was right and just to help make the world a better place such as Saint Mary Mackillop, President John F. Kennedy, Mohammed Ali, Mother Teresa, Martin Luther King?



Do we think of heroes like Sir Edmund Hillary whose courage saw him climb Mt Everest or sporting heroes such as Sir Donald Bradman? **Do we think of** the fearless superhero in movies or on TV? **Do we think of** the bravery of an ordinary person who runs into a dangerous situation to save someone else's life without thinking of their own safety? Often, the person running into that building does not feel that he or she is doing anything extraordinary. What we often hear them say afterwards is, "There was nothing special about what I did. "Anybody would have done it".

To better understand what courage means we need to look at where the word courage comes from. Courage comes from the Latin **cor** (the root of **coeur** in French and **cuore** in Italian), meaning, "heart." So rather than meaning some super heroic act of bravery, the meaning of the word 'courage' is to act from one's heart. The word's origin tells us that when we act courageously we are being true to our real self. True to the person that God made in His own image.

This is what we see in the everyday, ordinary type of courage. The many less-famous people in our world who go about their daily lives as nurses, doctors, police, factory workers, paramedics, scientists, fire fighters, mothers, fathers and carers. Those who show daily courage humbly, quietly and with dedication using the gifts of the Holy Spirit to make the world a better place. True courage can happen in our lives, anytime and in many different and unexpected ways:

- **Forgiving** someone who has said something to offend us can be an act of real courage. Saying I am genuinely sorry because I have hurt you takes a lot of courage.
- **Deciding** not to argue with someone but rather trying to imagine what it is like to stand in his or her shoes is certainly courageous.
- **Sticking up** for someone being bullied takes quiet courage.
- **Helping** those who are unloved takes great courage.
- **Trying again** after making a mistake with your learning requires real courage.
- **Learning** to play a musical instrument or a new skill and practicing to master it takes determined courage.
- **Undergoing** surgery and being in hospital when you are sick takes tremendous courage.

At the heart of all courage is love. Our best example of courage out of love is Jesus Christ. His model of courage was always to **LOVE, FORGIVE** and **ENCourage** all those he met and taught. As we approach Christmas we are reminded that the essence of Christmastide is of one of simplicity, wonder, joy, love, forgiveness, family and giving of ourselves. May we enter into this time with Courage.

On behalf of all who have worked with dedication this year to educate the children in our community we wish you and your loved ones a holy, safe, and peace-filled Christmas. May your homes be places of love, compassion and hospitality this Christmas. May we also remember all those whose homes are missing a loved one at this time.

Until 2019,

Sergio Rosato

Sergio Rosato
Principal

love one another

School Office Temporary Relocation

For the duration of Term 4 the school office will be in the demountable building located beyond the COLA and basketball court overlooking the playing fields whilst the main admin building is undergoing renovations. Please follow directional signage. We apologise for the inconvenience.

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

Sadie Albury	Luca Dewhurst	Nicholas Koulouris	Dmitry Pochukaev
Ethan Ashtyn-Smith	Annabelle Duck	Peter Koulouris	Samuel Power
James Babbage	Katelyn Ellis	Emily Leehy	Alana Prior
Isaac Bailey	Leonie Ellis	Maxwell Lovric	Olivia Prior
Madeline Blacklock	Michael Graham	Joseph Mahns	Elly Richards
Harrison Brown	Tom Grodzicki	Luke Malone	Ruby Roberts
Kian Brown	James Hicks	Luke Mathew	River Rodemark
Bonnie Butler	Oliver Hill	Poppy Milroy	Jamie Sharp
Sophia Cantwell	James Hinchliff	Sophie Milsom	Isabella Smith
Mackenzie Carey	Ella Holdsworth	Gela Moss	Preston Tom
Chiara Carlino	Bella Kamnoetboon	Lachlan Newport	Mieke Watson
Liam Costigan	Liam Keogh	William O'Neill	Chelsea Willingham
Cem Damarguc	Elizabeth Kerkham	Adrian Perez-Eaton	Hamish Wills
Emilie Dempsey	Sophie Kerrison	Florencia Perez-Eaton	Andrew Young
Benjamin Devitt	Lachlan Konwerski	Bonnie Phuntsok	Zachary Zalan-Pipe

Week 9

Lani Abraham	Benjamin Devitt	Benard Kodsy	Trinity Power
Owen Adorini	Joshua Duck	Abigail Larkin	José Ramires
Alina Ascencio	Isla Field	Odette Laurent	Cherinda Rawlings
Ethan Banks	Harry Ghata	Connor Leahey	Jessie Reynolds
Cohen Borg	Milla Grant	Cameron McCallum	Lachlan Roberts
Lara Buhs	Amy Harvey	Joshua Mitchell	Florence Rooney
Tyler Chapple	Cameron Hickey	Caitlin Murphy	Maddison Symes
Zoe Cini	Sebastian Hickey	Nicholas Neil	Helena Sypka
Ruanii Claudino	Jessie Hicks	Thomas Neil	Claire Thomas
Luke Clunes	Jack Hoppe	Bailey Nugent	Caitlin Vears
Charlotte Creamer	Kayden Jeffers	Alexis Owen	Mia Wade-Ferrell
Ashton Danks	Poppy Jenkins	Eydie Peake	Darcy Weston
Harriet Davis	Ellie Kermode	Jacob Pospischil	Ruby Wilson
Cameron Dempsey	Talyka Kime	Lucy Poulter	Tom Withers

2019 Classes

Class Teacher/s

K6A	ASPECT Teachers & Aides
KB	Mrs Elizabeth Bamford/Mrs Joanne Godsell
KD	Mrs Deborah Mitchell
1C	Mrs Elaine Collier/Mrs Anne Fitzpatrick
1S	Mrs Megan Strutt/Mrs Michelle Hinchliff
2D	Mrs Maria Dodd/Mrs Sarah Dignam
2W	Mrs Kylie Williamson
3BN	Mrs Amy Blom/Mrs Joan Noney
3E	Mrs Carolyn Edwards
3L	Ms Annabelle Leroy

Class

Teacher/s

4C	Mr Christopher Chenoweth
4G	Mrs Tanya Graham
4W	Mrs Belinda White
5C	Mr David Conroy
5N	Mrs Michelle Nightingale
5RP	Mrs Jennifer Robson/Mrs Nicole Pospischil
6C	Mr James Costigan
6H	Miss Blanche Hortense
6M	Ms Kate Mackenzie

Mathematical Assessment Interview (MAI)

On **Wednesday 30 January and Thursday 31 January, 2019** the teachers will be conducting MAI's with each student in their class. The Mathematical Assessment Interview provides a valuable research-based tool for teachers to gain insights into students' understanding of mathematical concepts. The Interview is used in schools throughout our Diocese providing data to assist teachers to design appropriate learning programs for students.

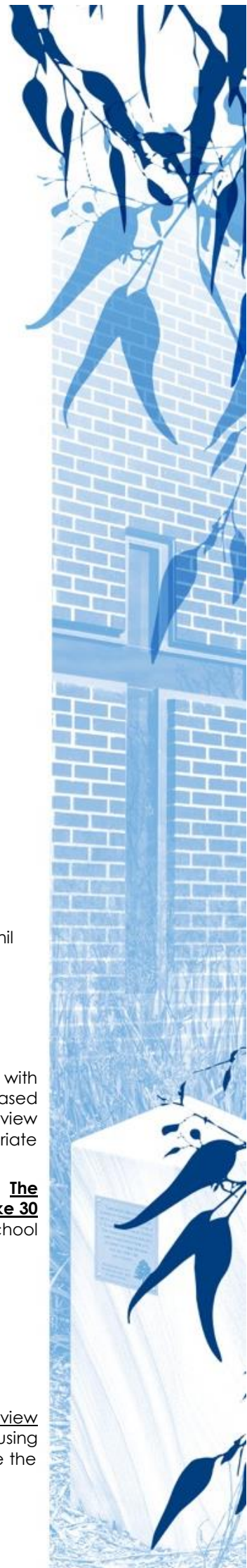
Each class has 24 time slots scheduled in which to conduct these interviews over the 2 days. **The interviews will take place in your child's 2019 classroom with your child's 2019 teacher and will take 30 minutes.** Please arrive 10 minutes before your appointment time. Parents are asked to wait in the school hall during the interview. Please follow the online booking instructions below for the MAI Interview.

Online Booking Instructions

1. Access the online booking site: <http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au>
2. **Enter the school event code – f3wtj**
3. Follow the steps to book your preferred time. (NB: **Year 1** students may book with Mrs Cefai if your own class teacher is already fully booked.)

Bookings are open until (and including) Sunday 27 January 2019. Families can change their interview booking at any time prior to and including Sunday 27 January 2019 by re-visiting the website and using the event code. Remember to use the same name and email address you used when you made the original booking.

**** Normal classes for ALL Grades K-6 will commence on Friday 1 February, 2019.**



2018 Annual award Ceremony

Congratulations and well done to our 2018 Award recipients.



Love One Another Award

K6A Andrew Young
KB Ruby Lister
KD Jack Blattman
KM Summah Galea
1C Lexie Mackay
1S Xavier Curley
2D Mia Cooper
2E Florencia Perez-Eaton
2W Charlotte Priest
3BN Ella Hoppe
3L Lily Boersma
3M Hugo Strickland
4CH Benjamin Giannakis
4G Samantha Bourke
4W Analise Mafi
5C Alexis Hodge
5N Emily Jones
5RP Ruby Steward
6C Bailey Rawding
6F Gabriel Valle
6H Brianna Collins

Outstanding Effort Award

Ari-Kai Rawlings
Jesse Wronski
Ryan Sykes
Stella Dean
Sullivan Forsyth
Arwen Gordon
Peter Hogan
Hugo Koutsonikolis
Annabelle Priest
Owen Croft
Luke Pospischil
Cooper Golby
Archer Sproule
Ruby Hammond
Amelia Steadman
Emilia Buhs
Thomas Brosnan
Mia Watson
Lara Heyman
Amy Harvey
Savannah Buss

Academic Achievement Award

Noah Simmons
Caitlin Vears
Ellie Kermode
Beau Gardiner
Kate Giannakis
Audrey Godsell
Heidi Willingham
Pepper Hughes
Connor Willis
Tom Withers
Evie Hodgins
Sophia Cantwell
Ella Danks
Amelia Crouch
Enrique Caraballo
Audrey Hodgins
Lachlan Steadman
Larissa An U
Ruby Butler
Emilia Gosling
Elizabeth Kerkham

Outstanding Effort & Achievement in Italian

Matilda Gauci
Odette Laurent

Llewellyn Creative Arts Award

(& a perpetual)
Marlowe Carey

Geraldine Lohan Award for Academic Excellence

(& a perpetual)
Sahara Rodemark

Principal's Award for Consistent Effort

Chiara Carlino
Jacob Danks

Outstanding Effort & Achievement in Music

Georgia Hammond

Excellence Attendance Award

Joseph Mahns	Dylan Cantwell
Jacob Pospischil	Luke Pospischil
Veronica Lloyd-Williams	Ella Danks
Bridie Le Breton	Luke Edwards
Noah Edwards	Imogen Carvasiglia
Harrison Brown	

Chess Awards

Year 3 Champion William Ghata
Year 4 Champion Ruby Roberts

George Shewchuk Chess Champion Award (& a perpetual)

Lachlan Steadman

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Award (& a perpetual)

Bridie Le Breton

Belfanti Family Award

(& a perpetual)
Harriet Davis

Molly Hurley Award for Citizenship

Brianna Leehy

Principal's Award for Living Out the School Motto

Matthew Kweidor

Robert Mullen Award for School Spirit (& a perpetual)

Luke Edwards

2018 Student Representative Council

Matilda Gauci	Emilia Gosling	Elizabeth Kerkham
Luke Edwards	Brianna Collins	Larissa An U
Nicholas Neil	Olivia Byrnes	Daniel Woods
William Jones	Brianna Leehy	
Lara Heyman	Liam Murphy	

Year 5 Champion Alana Mathew
Year 6 Champion Mark D'Alessio

Year 6 Most Improved Player over 4 Years

Summer Faulkner

Matthew Dyer Sportsperson of the Year (& a perpetual)

Talyka Kime

Ursula and Eugene O'Carrigan Award for Social Justice (& a perpetual)

Grace Costigan

St Thomas Aquinas Servant Leadership

Liam Murphy

Principal's Award for Leadership

Emma Brickwood

2018 Handball Champion (& a perpetual)

James Hinchliff

PARISH NEWS

2018 Christmas Mass Times

SPRINGWOOD

Children's Vigil Mass: 5.00pm
Vigil Mass: 8.00pm
Christmas Morning Mass: 9.30am

Monday 24 December
Monday 24 December
Tuesday 25 December

LAWSON

Children's Vigil Mass: 6.00pm
Vigil Mass: 8.00pm
Christmas Morning Mass: 8.30am

**** NO EVENING CHRISTMAS MASS AT EITHER PARISH ON CHRISTMAS DAY.**

DIARY DATES

2018 TERM 4 Week 10	Wednesday 19 December	Year 6 Picnic Day Excursion to Darling Harbour Last Day for Students for 2018
	20	STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY – Pupil Free
	21	STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY – Pupil Free Term 4 2018 Concludes
Christmas Holidays		
2019 TERM 1 Week 1	Monday 28 January	Australia Day Public Holiday
	29	School Commences for Staff – Pupil Free Day
	30	Mathematical Assessment Interviews (MAI) for Years 1-6 Early Years Assessments (EYA) for Kindergarten NO CLASS LESSONS
	31	Mathematical Assessment Interviews (MAI) for Years 1-6 Early Years Assessments (EYA) for Kindergarten NO CLASS LESSONS
	Friday 1 February	TERM 1 2019 COMMENCES FOR ALL STUDENTS K-6

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Skills for Kids School Holiday Camps: **Getting Ready for High School – Monday 7 January to Friday 11 January, 9am – 12pm.** This camp is for children who are transitioning into Year 7 or repeating Year 7 and who have organization difficulties with school tasks and routines as well as social difficulties in their interactions with others. **Getting Ready for Kindergarten – Monday 14 January to Friday 13 January, 9am – 12pm.** This camp is to assist children in their transition from preschool to school and is for children who are about to start Kindergarten in a mainstream classroom setting. **Playground Skills: Monday 21 January to Friday 25 January, 9am – 12pm.** This camp is for children in Kindergarten to Year 3 who have difficulty knowing how to play in the playground, how to make friends, how to keep friends, how to understand and communicate their feelings. All camps will be held at the Skills for Kids premises at 580 High Street, Penrith. For further information and to book **phone 02 4739 0267** or email to contact@skillsforkids.com.au or visit the website: www.skillsforkids.com.au

Blue Mountains Drama Holiday Workshops: During mid to late January Blue Mountains Drama will be holding 'super-fun' school holiday workshops where children can 'learn and play' at both Springwood and Wentworth Falls. For details of dates and times email eliza@bluemountainsdrama.com.au or call 0414 930 455 or visit the website www.bluemountainsdrama.com.au Like our Facebook page and keep your eyes peeled for special offers!

Blue Mountains Youth Choir: A special performance opportunity for children aged 9-16 years. Join us to sing at the opening of the Zest Awards Ceremony 2019 in the Sydney Olympic Park complex on Friday evening, 15 February. **Rehearsal dates:** Sunday 3 and 10 February. For further information, **phone 0409 602 016**, visit our website www.academysingers.com.au or find us on Facebook.

Summer Holiday Code Camps: These Summer holidays Code Camp are coming to the Blue Mountains to teach your child to code and build their very own app or website! Code Camp has already taught more than 45,000 students in Australia and is a great way to spend time over the holidays as kids have lots of fun with friends while learning important new skills such as logic, creativity, problem-solving, app development and game building in a fun and engaging way, ready to take on the digital world of the future. **Where:** Blue Mountains Grammar School **When:** 14-15 January 2019 **Ages:** 7-13 **Bookings:** www.codecamp.com.au/BMGS

Plenary Council 2019 - 10 February 2019 at 2pm: and "Have your say about the future of the Catholic Church in Australia" at Mavis Wood Hall, Mid Mountains Community Centre. EVERYONE is welcome. Maureen Ryan, **Blue Mountains Deanery Pastoral Council on 0403 931 782.**

Sent Home Recently:

- Senior Band Open Rehearsal Note (*green*)
- Camp Quality Note (*cream*)
- End of Year Events Invitation to Families
- Literacy and Numeracy Resourcing Note for Kindergarten
- Diocesan Tennis Trials Information Sheet – selected students
- Principal's Morning Tea Invitation – selected students
- 2019 MAI Letter to All Families Years 1 - 6

