



# NEWSLETTER

No. 10 Date: 28/11/2018 Week 7 Term 4

Dear St Thomas Aquinas Families,

## St Thomas Aquinas Celebrates

Our final Term of the 2018 school year is in full swing with so much great learning and events having already taken place and more to look forward to as we head towards the final few weeks of the year.

Most would by now be aware that late last term we launched our school Facebook page called, *St Thomas Aquinas Celebrates*. The page seeks to showcase and celebrate the wonderful learning experiences taking place at our school within the various learning spaces (inside & outside) as well as incursions, excursions and other school events.

For many working parents and distant family members *St Thomas Aquinas Celebrates* provides a useful and immediate way to catch up on the various activities our children are immersed in on a daily basis whilst at school. Since its inception *STA Celebrates* has featured countless examples of the varied learning experiences taking place at the school.

I wish to congratulate our Religious Education Coordinator and current Year 6 teacher, Virginia Fortunat for her work in establishing and maintaining this window into your child's learning through *St Thomas Aquinas Celebrates*.

## Assistant Principal at St Thomas Aquinas – Mary Clark

Our Assistant Principal, Mary Clark has recently learnt that she requires foot surgery next Tuesday, 4 December. In order to prepare for her surgery Mary's last day at school will be this Friday. We wish Mary all the very best for this surgery and recuperation.

Mary will be farewelled by the children at a special assembly this coming Thursday at 2.30pm. Mary has been the Assistant Principal at St Thomas Aquinas Springwood for more than two years. Mary's energy, love of education and of the students in our school is a lasting gift to our community.



Mary will take up a new appointment as Assistant Principal of Corpus Christi, Cranebrook at the beginning of 2019. As we farewell Mary we welcome Genevieve Smith to our school as Assistant Principal from the beginning of 2019. We will be formally welcoming Genevieve to our school this coming Thursday at the special assembly.



## Advent: Happy New Year!

This coming Sunday marks the beginning of the Church's Liturgical Year and the start of **Advent**. This liturgical season consists of four Sundays starting with the Sunday closest to 30 November. The word advent is derived from the Latin *adventus*, which means "coming" or "arrival." In the societies of the Roman Empire, the word *adventus* referred to the arrival of a person of dignity and great power -- a king or emperor. For Christians, Advent is the time when the Church intently prepares for the threefold coming of Jesus Christ - past, present, and future.

On Monday we came together to mark the beginning of Advent with a most beautiful and reverent liturgical celebration. Through scripture, music and prayer the students, parents and staff entered into the mystery of this season with a sense of hope and trust that through God's graces our journey to Christmas will renew our own faith and that of the entire world.

Advent also reminds us that as Christians our mission is to bring the message of Christ to others in our daily encounters. It is through this practical application of the Good News that we touch the heart of the meaning of the festive season. In this way we can all contribute to the joy, love and peace that is associated with Christmas and the mystery of God's gift of Christ to the world.

## Principal's Morning Tea for Effort in Learning

The final Principal's Morning Tea for students will take place next Wednesday, 5 December at 11.05am. These morning teas are about acknowledging and celebrating the persistent effort with their learning of students as nominated by their class teachers.

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



## Kindergarten 2019 Orientation Visits

Over the past fortnight, we have hosted children and families of our Kindergarten intake for 2019. During their time at school the children have been able to meet staff and other children as well as engage in a number of activities in preparation for next year. Whilst the children are occupied with all that, their parents and carers will have the opportunity to connect with each other. The final visit will take place this Thursday.



## Sunday Parish Masses for Families

During the month of November an invitation was extended to all school families to attend 9.45am Sunday Mass. The Masses took place for Kindergarten to Grade 4 on the second Sunday of the month and for Grades 5 and 6 last Sunday (Fourth Sunday). Our sincere gratitude to the many families who attended these masses. Thank you also to Father Flor for his hospitality and student-centred homilies.

## Animals on the School Site

To ensure the safety of students animals such as family pets are not brought onto the school site. Animals can only be brought onto the site for educational purposes with the prior written approval of the Principal. Families are asked not to bring pets on to the school site at any time.

## Student Voice – Student Representative Council

The Student Representative Council is currently comprised of students in Years 5 and 6. The SRC comprises 9 students from Year 6 and 3 students from Year 5. These representatives are nominated and then elected by their peers.

The SRC is responsible for various aspects of school life such as assemblies, greeting visitors, promoting and modelling social skills and representing the student body at community events e.g. ANZAC Day. Their opinions are sought about certain issues, and initiatives by the SRC are encouraged.

In the past the election process for the SRC has occurred during Term 1. This year we are trialling a new process where our current Year 5 students will be discerning the SRC representatives this term for 2019. The reason for this change is threefold:

1. It allows our 2018 representatives to mentor the 2019 SRC over the next few weeks and orientate them to their role.
2. The election of the SRC this year means that we will commence the year with the majority of representatives already in place.
3. Electing representatives this year allows our SRC to take part in a planned leadership forum. This will provide our school leaders with further skills and knowledge to carry out their role successfully.

The election of the 2019 Year 5 representatives will take place at the beginning of 2019 as has occurred in the past.

## Camp Quality – Supporting Students and Families Living with Cancer

Our school will be hosting the Camp Quality Puppets on Wednesday 5 December at:

- 10.00am – 11.00am for Grades 3, 4, 5 & 6
- 11.40am – 12.10pm for Grades Kindergarten, 1 & 2

The program seeks to help students and teachers to learn how to create a supportive school community for children with cancer, whether they are living with the condition themselves or have a family member living with cancer.

The visit consists of a live puppetry performance focusing on cancer education as well as the themes of optimism, friendship and tolerance. **Parents are most welcome to attend the shows, which will take place in our school hall.**

We are most grateful to the Camp Quality organisation for their ongoing work in supporting children and families during a challenging period in their lives. For more information go to: <https://www.campquality.org.au/>

Until next time,

*Sergio Rosato*  
Sergio Rosato  
Principal

### 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.



## Socktober/Funtober Day

Earlier this term the students participated in our Socktober Day raising funds for Catholic Mission. The fun and varied activities kept everyone entertained throughout the day. The students raised a wonderful \$786.45. Thank you to all our families for your generous contribution to this worthwhile cause.

## Rugby League - Greg Alexander and Royce Simmons Shield

St Thomas Aquinas Primary School participated in the Rugby League Gala Day - Greg Alexander and Royce Simmons Shield on Wednesday 24 October at St Marys. All six of the STA teams demonstrated excellent sportsmanship, playing tough football with excellent skills on the day. Two teams finished undefeated and won their respective pools. Congratulations to all students who attended the day and thank you to Ms MacKenzie and Mr Chenoweth for training and coaching the school teams.



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

On **Wednesday 12 December** at the **new time of 6.00pm (children arrive by 5.45pm)**, we will be holding our 2018 Christmas Concert. This year there will be an Aussie theme to fit in with our common prayer for life-giving rain to end the drought affecting much of the country. Students are asked to come dressed in costume as per the following list:

**Kindergarten** – Angels

**Year 3** – Farmers

**Year 5** – White Tops & Blue Jeans

**Year 1** – Christmas Elves (red/green)

**Year 4** – Kings (wisemen/women)

**Year 6** – Mary and Joseph

**Year 2** – Australian Native Animals

All parents and families are very welcome to join us for this celebration. Please remember to bring a folding chair. We also ask that you have dinner either before or after the concert. **Please arrive at 5.45pm so that students will have time to take their place with their class and be ready to start at 6.00pm.** We look forward to seeing you there!



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## 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!



<b>Week 2</b>	Harley Baker Violet Baker Jemima Barnham Lillian Boncales Cooper Brown Ryan Butler-Whitmore Mackenzie Carey Marlowe Carey Elliot Chapman Lucy Chapman Tyler Chapple Grace Costigan	William Crighton Finn Cullinane Matilda Debien Kyle Delfsma Madeleine Devitt Baxter Ellem Noah Francia Lani Gleeson Zachary Gonzalez Charlotte Harrison Noah Hicks Ava Huxley	Charlotte Kennedy Haydn Keogh Edward Kerrison Joseph Kitching Kiahna Koutsonikolis Ruby Lister Nicholas Lucre-Ivancic Summer Mamo Gabriella Owen Jacob Palmer Bethany Paul Will Peake	Nicolas Peat Orion Pick Cameron Purcell Sophie Rayner Natasha Springett Ava Tallon Spencer Thomas Tyson Verriere Rhys Walton Lola Whitsun-Jones Zachary Zalan-Pipe
<b>Week 3</b>	Ryan Andrews Ethan Baddock Gemma Boersma Emilia Buhs Caleb Byrnes Alannah Collins Mia Cooper Cameron Dempsey Leah Garvan Blake Gough Michael Graham	Ziggy Green Ruby Hammond Thomas Harris Jed Holmes Mikaela Horner Emily Jones Harvey Jones Alexander Kerkham Hugo Koutsonikolis Thomas Larkin Taj Leathers	Angela Lin Lexie Mackay Analise Mafi Mollie Malone Ashton McLeod Harrison Newport Gabriella Owen Dmitry Pochukaev Annabelle Priest Charlotte Priest James Rafter	Jessie Reynolds Noah Simmons Lachlan Steadman Justin Sykes Eve Talbot Sophia Veira Aiden Wade-Ferrell Jack Walker Hayden Willingham Abigale Wilson Sarah Wydmuch
<b>Week 4</b>	Annalise Blattman Chloe Blattman Asher Bogg Lachlan Brown Riley Carpenter Max Carroll Imogen Carvasiglia Zoe Cini Audrey Davis Stella Dean Sienna Evans Joseph Fitzpatrick	Declan Garvan Harry Ghata Ben Giannakis Audrey Godsell Sophie Gough Lila Hagelburg Charles Hicks Emily Jones Oscar Kirton Jessica Mace Maddison Machon Preston Mamo	Alana Mathew Poppy Milroy Liam Murphy Sunnee Murtikos Matthew O'Brien Olivia O'Brien Isaac Osinga-Minter Jake Ramires Ari-Kai Rawlings Charlie Reid Isaac Reid	Jack Reynolds Casey Ryan Darcy Ryan Samantha Schroeder Amelia Steadman Ruby Steward Ryan Sykes Delillah Valle Adele Wade-Ferrell Mia Wade-Ferrell Lachlan Waters
<b>Week 5</b>	Annika Adorini Larissa An U Paul Anderson Sienna Ascencio Willow Barker Jonathan Bradshaw Emily Burke Ruby Butler Alyssa Cantwell Dylan Cantwell Max Carroll Annabelle Clark Ashton Cooper Mark D'Alessio	Eleanor Fortunat Levi Friedland-Jaccoud Arabella Fuge Jack Fuge William Ghata Brendan Golby Arwen Gordon Emilia Gosling Kate Harrison Mariella Hill Peter Hogan Payten Holmes Erin Kenn Joseph Kitching	Abigail Krishna Matthew Kwiedor Jack Leahey Seth Loughton Arlo Luchetti Benjamin Mathew Ryan May Lachlan McAlpine Kate McIlveen Samuel Moore Elizabeth Mulhall Harrison Newport Aidan O'Brien Rory Phelan	Abby Richards Mia Rodemark Layla Sawyer Adam Springett Benji Synnott Millie Ticehurst Oliver Toth Frankie Turner Tristan Wade-Ferrell Lachlan Williamson Heidi Willingham Daniel Woods Lola Wylde
<b>Week 6</b>	Oliver Ashtyn-Smith Ryder Astle Edith Banks Jordan Banks Gemma Boersma Lillian Borg Samantha Bourke Thomas Brosnan Lucy Brown Luca Burchall Isabella Cantrell Thomas Chapple Amelia Crouch Makayla Crouch	Ashton Davies Dominique Dewhurst Luke Doorey Summer Faulkner Ezra Forsyth Summah Galea Chloe Galluzzi Ben Gomez Luke Harrison Ronan Hurley Erin Hutchinson Evelyn Iles Jessica Kennedy Jamelia Kodsy	Masie Lamont Annalise Lia Patricia Lia Alex Lopez Finn McCaffery Ella Meham Ava Murphy Matilda Nassif Thomas Neil Milly Okladnikov Elyse Peat Abigail Power Bailey Rawding	Cherinda Rawlings Sahara Rodemark Mackenzie Seymour Noah Simmons Hugo Strickland Janaya Teuma Bella Ticehurst Lucas Tom William Valentini Lachlan Waters James Watson Hayden Willingham Angus Young

## Student Banking - Finishing for 2018

Parents please note, the last day for student banking will be **Tuesday 4 December**. Dollarmite rewards will not be processed after the 30 November. However, all remaining tokens will be carried over to 2019.

**Cheree Brown, Finance Secretary**



## Scholastic Book Fair 2018

Our annual Scholastic Book Fair was held on 6 and 7 November in the school Library. The event was well visited by families and students and an amazing amount of \$2700.19 was raised which will be used for new books and resources for the Library. Thank you to all those who supported this event.

## STA Parish Christmas Carols – Monday 17 December at 7.30pm

A warm invitation is extended to Parents Students and Friends to attend an evening of beautiful Christmas Carols which will be performed by St Thomas Aquinas Springwood Parish Choir together with Bible Readings to be held at **St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church, 168 Hawkesbury Road, Springwood on MONDAY 17 DECEMBER commencing 7.30pm (please be seated by 7.20pm)**. Admission is FREE and supper will be served at the conclusion of the evening. All welcome!

## DIARY DATES

<b>2018 TERM 4 Week 7</b>	<b>Thursday 29 November</b>	8.30am Staff Prayer 9.00am – 1.00pm School Band <b>9.30-10.30am Kinder 2019 Orientation</b>
	<b>30</b>	8.30am – 3.05pm School Band
<b>Week 8</b>	<b>Monday 3 December</b>	12.30pm Assembly 3.40pm Leadership Meeting
	<b>4</b>	3.40pm Staff Meeting
	<b>5</b>	8.30am Staff Briefing 11.05am Principal's Morning Tea – selected students
	<b>6</b>	8.30am Staff Prayer <b>Kinder Restaurant Day</b> 9.00am – 1.00pm School Band 10.00-11.30am Manners Park Tree Decorating
	<b>7</b>	8.30am – 3.05pm School Band Years 1 & 2 Drama Incursion
<b>Sunday 9 December</b>		Years 3 & 4 Invited to Attend 9.45-10.45am Parish Mass
<b>Week 9</b>	<b>Monday 10 December</b>	12.30pm Assembly 3.40pm Leadership Meeting
	<b>11</b>	
	<b>12</b>	8.30am Staff Briefing <b>6.00pm School Christmas Concert</b>
	<b>13</b>	8.30am Staff Prayer Band Instrument Cleaning
	<b>14</b>	<b>12.00pm End of Year Mass</b> in Parish Church

## COMMUNITY NOTICES

**The Lounge Youth Group at St Finbar's Parish:** St Finbar's Glenbrook's final Youth Mass for the year is **on Sunday the 2nd of December at 6pm**. Everyone is welcome to join us for sausage sizzle and soup after Mass, followed by 'The Lounge', our Youth Group for High School students. **Year 6 students are specially invited to come along** to The Lounge, which might even include water balloon *Capture the Flag* ending at 8.30pm! See you all there!!

**Blue Mountains Australia Day Awards:** The awards recognise and reward those citizens who have a consistent record of excellence, who have made outstanding achievements in their field and have contributed in a significant way to the Blue Mountains community. Nominations are sought for the: **▪ Citizen of the Year** (25 years +), **▪ Young Citizen of the Year** (24 years and under) and **▪ Community Achievement of the Year**. For more information, nomination guidelines, selection criteria or to nominate go to [www.bluemountainshaveyoursay.com.au/citizenawards](http://www.bluemountainshaveyoursay.com.au/citizenawards). **Closing date: Sunday 9 December 2018**. Need help? Please contact Mikaela Sherlock, BMCC Communications Officer on [msherlock@bmcc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:msherlock@bmcc.nsw.gov.au) or call 4780 5760.

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

### Sent Home Recently:

- Grade Mass & Responsorial Psalm Notes Sent Out Weeks 2-7: Years K, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6
- Parish Mass Invitations to Kinder, Years 1 & 2 and Years 5 & 6
- Personal Health & Safety Note to Year 6 (*salmon*)
- Diocesan Gymnastics Competition Permission Note – selected students
- Year 2 Fizzics Science Incursion Note
- Plenary Council 2020 Invitation
- Scholastic Book Fair Note (*orange*)
- STA Celebrates Facebook Page Note (*pink*)
- Term 4 Weekly Activities Note (*jade green*)
- Socktober Day Note (*gold*)
- Year 1 Drama Toolbox Incursion Note
- Year 6 Picnic Day Expression of Interest Note
- Year 4 Rocks Discovery Excursion Note
- Year 5 PDHPE Note (*blue*)
- Kinder Opal Endeavour Excursion Note
- Head Lice Notes to Kinder & Year 2
- Camp Quality Note (*cream*)
- Manners Park Christmas Tree Decorating Permission Note – selected students
- Important Health Notice (*pink*)
- Kindergarten Restaurant Note (*pale blue*)
- 2019 STA Band Note – Years 2 to 5 (*orange*)

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