



**Current Student Attendance**  
**Our School Attendance Goal for 2019 is 90%.**  
**Our current student attendance stands at 88.4%.**

# NEWSLETTER

No. 2 Date: 20/03/2019 Week 8 Term 1

Dear St Thomas Aquinas Families,

I recall reading that it took the American songwriter Paul Simon six months to complete the lyrics to one of his best-known compositions, *The Sounds of Silence*. In writing the song he averaged one line per week. Between the writing of each lyrical line there were days when literally no words came – just silence. It made me think about the times in our lives when words just do not cut it and when our silence speaks more appropriately than verbal language.

As a young boy my father would often advise me, "Se non hai nientedi bene da dire, non dire niente". Translated into English it means, "If you have nothing nice to say, say nothing at all". This mantra has served me well as a timely reminder that sometimes words offered can get in the way.

Recently I have further reflected on my father's advice when thinking about the place of silence in my own life. It is a reality in our modern world that silence can be a rare commodity and in many respects hard for many of us to deal with at all. We are conditioned to fill any pauses and silences with words and sounds. We don't need to be silent all the time. However, it is in the silences and the pauses between our words that God exists and in turn, the Spirit does its work.

Mother Teresa explains this better:

*In the silence of the heart God speaks. If you face God in prayer and silence, God will speak to you. Then you will know that you are nothing. It is only when you realize your nothingness, your emptiness that God can fill you with Himself.*

**Silence and reflection are integral parts of the learning cycle.**

**They help students to make connections, to think, to ponder, to wait, to consider possibilities and to dream. There are times in the school day when students are guided to be silent as a way of focussing their attention on what they have learnt, of allowing for exploration and assimilation of ideas and therefore, as a way of personalising their learning.**

Until next time,

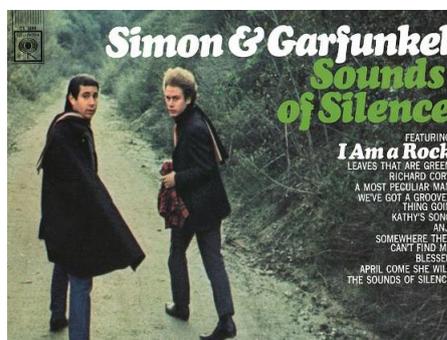
*S Rosato*  
Sergio Rosato  
Principal

## Celebrating Catholic Schools Week 2019

### STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY – MONDAY 8 APRIL, 2019

A Staff Development Day has been scheduled for Monday 8 April (**Week 11 Term 1**) when all teaching staff will be engaged in a professional learning seminar at school. The focus for the day will be based around **literacy, particularly on improving student spelling, vocabulary and grammar**. Due to this professional learning Monday 8 April will be a PUPIL FREE day. Normal lessons resume on Tuesday 9 April.

***Hello darkness my old friend  
I've come to talk with you again  
Because a vision softly creeping  
Left its seeds while I was sleeping  
And the vision that was planted in my  
brain still remains.  
Within the sounds of silence. Paul Simon***



**Silence can be a gentle expression of comfort for the afflicted, the grieving, the sick and especially appropriate in times of adversity.**

*love one another*

## 2019 SRC Induction

Congratulations to our 2019 Student Representative Council (SRC) who were acknowledged for their commitment to serve our school at the Induction Ceremony at our recent Opening School Mass.



### The STA 2019 Student Representative Council

Lucy Brown 6M      Luke Harrison 6C      Samantha Schroeder 6H      Annalise Blattman 5N  
Zoe Cini 6M      Lachlan Steadman 6C      Hayden Willingham 6H      Amelia Steadman 5C  
Brendan Golby 6M      James Watson 6C      Daniel Woods K6A      Charlotte DeBono 5RP  
Emily Jones 6M



Fr Giteau (new Assistant Parish Priest)



2019 Student Representative Council

## Catholic Schools Week 2019

Catholic Schools Week celebrates the strengths and distinctiveness of Catholic schools, and highlights the significant contributions made to their communities. There are almost 600 Catholic schools across NSW, educating more than a quarter of a million students from all cultural and socio-economic backgrounds. We owe great gratitude to St Mary MacKillop and her Sisters for her vision and persistence in establishing Catholic schools in the fledgling colonies. Mary MacKillop had a personal and deep understanding of the transformative power of education particularly for children from impoverished circumstances.

Catholic Schools Week at STA had many distinct highlights this year including:

- **Lead the Way Seminar**

The seminar held at school for our Student Representative Council (SRC) was facilitated by *Values For Life* and focussed on engaging students in the key characteristics of being an ethical servant leader. <https://www.valuesforlife.net>



- **Ash Wednesday Liturgy**

To mark the beginning of this special time of reflection and renewal our school joined together with many families for a beautiful liturgy to mark the beginning of the season of Lent. During the liturgy all in attendance received the mark of ashes on their foreheads. The ashes burnt from last year's Palm Sunday palms symbolise our beginning and our ending and challenge us anew to act with compassion, generosity and humility during this 40-day season.

The beginning of Lent also focuses our attention on how we can provide practical support to those who are not as well off as ourselves. Each class received a Project Compassion box dedicated to raising funds to assist communities both here and overseas to help themselves. Students wore muffin on the day by coming dressed in something purple or blue to mark the beginning of Lent. Gold coin donations will go to support the Caritas Australia Project Compassion Appeal. This year's theme is entitled 100% Hope. <https://lent.caritas.org>



- **Open Classrooms**

Our Ash Wednesday Liturgy was followed by Open Classrooms. Families were invited by students to visit their classrooms to view the amazing array of learning and creativity in each room.

- **Education Mass**

On Thursday many teachers joined with colleagues from across the Diocese to celebrate a special mass held at St Patrick's Blacktown. The chief celebrant for this mass was Bishop Vincent Long. The mass also saw the commissioning of new teachers and principals in the Diocese.

- **Catholic Schools Week Assembly**

The celebration of CSW concluded on Friday with a whole school assembly featuring an engaging and entertaining presentation by Class 5C as well as Effort in Learning Awards and a number of other school features.

## Principal's Morning Tea for Effort in Learning

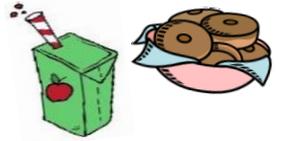
On Thursday 14 March the following students, nominated by their teachers attended the Principal's Morning Tea for Learning hosted by Mr Rosato and Ms Smith. This special celebration seeks to acknowledge students from K-6 for their consistent effort with their learning. Congratulations to the students listed below who were nominated for your effort and persistence. A second Principal's Morning Tea will take place later this term.

Larissa An U  
Michael Broadhead  
Madeline Buchanan  
Ben Cassidy  
Ashton Cooper  
Amelia Crouch  
Ella Danks  
Emily Daw  
Benjamin Giannakis  
Jessica Gomez  
Benjamin Harrison  
Charlotte Harrison  
Cameron Hickey  
Sebastian Hickey  
Charles Hicks  
Alexis Hodge  
Mikaela Horner  
Amity Houlihan  
Piper Jeffers  
Erin Kenn  
Jordan Kime  
Harry Kitching  
Ruby Lister  
Alex Lopez

Seth Loughton  
Brendan McMaster  
Macklin Miall  
Joshua Mitchell  
Ella North  
Patrick Payens

Samuel Power  
Alana Prior  
Eli Schroeder  
Jamie Sharp  
Hunter Stephenson  
Ruby Steward

Lola Whitsun-Jones  
Ruby Wilson  
Ethan Windeisen  
Tom Winderes  
Jesse Wronski  
Zachary Zalan-Pipe



## The National Day Against Bullying



# National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence

Friday 15 March 2019

The 9<sup>th</sup> National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence took place last week. The day provided an opportunity to come together with schools all over the country to say **NO to Bullying** in all its forms. Jesus shows us through his teachings and ministry how to respect others and act with compassion, kindness and forgiveness with all he encountered.

During our assembly on Friday students were able to communicate with their peers on the central messages of how to maintain healthy relationships free of bullying and violence. Our Assistant Principal, Genevieve Smith, reinforced this message with a personal story of bullying and the importance of being an active and conscious bystander.

To further promote the message of Bullying NO WAY at STA a logo competition was held. Almost 150 students submitted their designs. Congratulations to Ruby Steward (6H), Ella Mecham (2W) and Peter Hogan (3BN) who were judged the winners of this competition each receiving a movie voucher. All students received a special wrist band with the message **BULLYING NO WAY! TAKE A STAND TOGETHER!** This week each of our Grade 3-6 students will also be issued with special pocket cards that each contain important reminders for students on the theme of Anti Bullying.



*love one another*



## Wakakirri 2019

Wakakirri is Australia's largest performing arts event for schools with separate events for primary and secondary schools. Each year schools across Australia create Story Dances for Wakakirri that reflect students' thoughts, ideas and aspirations. These stories are performed in professional theatres in front of the official 'Wakakirri Panel' who are searching for 'Story of the Year'. St Thomas Aquinas will once again be participating in Wakakirri this year. Rehearsals have already commenced with quite a large troupe of boys and girls choosing to be involved. We wish our Waka teachers and troupe the very best as they commence their journey.

## School Music Lessons and Choirs

The school is proud to offer Music lessons to all students K-6 through a specialist Music teacher, Leigha Wills. Furthermore, students have the opportunity to be involved in choral singing either through the Junior Choir (Grades 2 & 3) or Senior Choir (Grades 4-6). Rehearsals for our choirs are conducted by Mrs Wills during scheduled lunch times. <https://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/k-10/learning-areas/creative-arts/creative-arts-k-6-syllabus>



## Captivate School Band Program

Currently we have over 100 students involved in learning a musical instrument through small group weekly tuition provided by CEDPs Captivate program. The school currently has five Band Tutors who teach at the school each week. Students in the Band program also experience being part of a band ensemble as they become more proficient with their chosen instrument. The school has recently purchased a number of new instruments that will become part of our school's ongoing permanent instrument collection.

## Italian – Languages Other Than English

For more than a decade our school has been able to offer Italian as an additional language taught by Mrs Jenni Wurf. Mrs Wurf is a tertiary qualified LOTE teacher with a great passion for all aspects of Italian language and culture. In the early years (K-2) weekly lessons emphasise the development of listening and speaking skills through vocabulary, stories, songs, rhymes and games. In this way the students begin to gain a sense of the sound and rhythm of the language. From middle primary school students begin to develop skills in reading and writing through a range of developmental activities. As well as a focus on language, a number of cultural experiences are included highlighting food, art, architecture and customs.



<https://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/k-10/learning-areas/languages/italian-k-10-syllabus>



## Physical Education

Another area of learning that is taught by a specialist teacher, Ann Gippel, is Physical Education. Each class has one timetabled lesson each week taught by the specialist teacher; the regular class teacher supplements this lesson on another day. As well as weekly lessons in Physical Education all students participate in regular Personal Development and Health lessons that are also part of this Key Learning Area. Students also have the opportunity to participate in a vast number of local and regional sporting events.

## Library

This is a focal point of the school coordinated by our Teacher/Librarian, Karen Bousfield. The Library is centrally situated in our school and supports student learning through the promotion of quality children's literature. The Library provides opportunities for students to borrow on a weekly basis, take part in book fairs and The NSW Premier's Reading Challenge. The Library is open for students during a number of lunch times per week. It provides a wonderful space to read, play chess, and talk about books and share stories.



## STACC'S ON! (ST THOMAS AQUINAS CODING CLUB IS ON!)



In Week 6 we launched the St Thomas Aquinas Coding Club (STACC) with an amazing turn out and great enthusiasm from over 200 students. The club will run during lunch time on different days for different grades. This week the students who wish to participate will bring home a permission note to be signed and returned to school. The club is open to anyone. If your son or daughter did not go to the launch, they can still join throughout the year by turning up to the club when it is announced at lunch time. The students will be working with Spheros, Ozobots, Scratch and other coding Apps.



## Early Years Assessment (EYA) - Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2

During Weeks 6 and 7 all students in Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 underwent mandatory EYA testing. This important part of school life provides vital information about your child's learning and enables teachers to tailor their teaching program to individual student needs and abilities.

The testing is done on an individual basis and can take up to 1 hour per student depending on the age and abilities of the child. The testing needs to be done by the class teacher. EYA provides the teacher with invaluable information.

Although we have an amazing bank of casual teachers at STA that follow the teacher's written program, we understand the impact this can have on the continuity of teaching staff for the class. We thank you for your patience and support during this time and now that the testing period is over, it is back to business as usual!

## 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 3

Eli Borg	Emily Daw	Nicholas Lucre-Ivancic	Alex Renneberg
Nathan Broadhead	Benjamin Devitt	Joseph Mahns	Ruby Roberts
Kian Brown	Indyana Duffy	Luke Malone	Isabella Smith
Madeline Buchanan	Peter Godsell	Ryan May	Hunter Stephenson
Caleb Byrnes	Mikaela Horner	Madison Moore	Brooke Thomas
Olivia Byrnes	Amity Houlihan	Lachlan Newport	Caitlin Vears
Ashton Cooper	Harvey Jones	Jacob Palmer	Grace Wardle
Owen Croft	Kiara Kanigowski	Patrick Payens	Mieke Watson
Sienna Curley	Archie Lamont	Annabelle Priest	Tom Withers
Evelyn Dacey	Taj Leathers		

### Week 4

Carys Beaton	Harry Fitzgerald	Thomas Larkin	Erin Phelan
Gemma Boersma	Thomas Grodzicki	Emily Leehy	Abigail Power
Zoe Cini	Emily Hall	Mollie Malone	Charlotte Priest
Luke Clunes	Jeremy Harris	Finn McCaffery	Jose Ramires
Mia Cooper	Benjamin Harrison	Ryan Mills	Tyson Ramires
Ashton Danks	Amelie Hucknall	Poppy Milroy	Isaac Reid
Kyle Delfsma	Jessica Kennedy	Caitlin Murphy	Lachlan Steadman
Cooper Donohue	Alex Kerkham	Jettt Murtikos	Arabella Stewart-Rowley
Joshua Duck	Jordan Kime	Grace O'Brien	Mia Wade-Ferrell
Victor Etherington	Harry Kitching	Michael Papatotiriou	Andrew Young

### Week 5

Ryan Andrews	Lucy Chapman	Alexis Hodge	Milly Okladnikov
Ryder Astle	Ashton Cooper	Keira Holdsworth	Luke Pospischil
Montana Barry	Cooper Daniel	Ella Hoppe	Abigail Richards
Lily Boersma	Anthony Daw	Piper Jeffers	Patrick Seymour
Esme Brennan	Stella Dean	William Jones	Gabriel Tuckey
Michael Broadhead	Penelope Edmonds	Erin Kenn	William Valentini
Thomas Brosnan	Niamh Fagan	Oscar Kirton	Isabel Van Meeuwen
Kael Brown	Isabella Faithful	Maisie Lamont	Tristan Wade-Ferrell
Lucas Brown	Beau Gardiner	Annalise Lia	Tia White
Antoinette Caristo	April Harper	Alex Lopez	Ruby Wilson
Deanna Caristo	Emma Harrison	Lexie Mackay	

### Week 6

Myles Albury	Emma Davies	Jessie Hicks	Angelika Okladnikov
Eden Batcock	Erin DeBono	Liam Hicks	Sophie O'Neill
Tyler Bateman	Emilie Dempsey	Mariella Hill	James Rafter
Lily Boersma	Jessie Diekmann	Ava Huxley	Ari-Kai Rawlings
Bonnie Butler	Baxter Ellem	Benjamin Kerkham	Casey Ryan
Dylan Cantwell	Katelyn Ellis	Lilia Lopes	Grace Ryan
Edward Carr	Audrey Godsell	Vanessa Maloney	Cooper Sams
Ben Cassidy	Myles Golby	Poppy Milroy	Jamie Sharp
Xavier Curley	Jessica Gomez	Gela Moss	Emily Stewart-Rowley
Ella Danks	Michael Graham	Ella North	Baiden Tom
Chase Davidsen	Lila Hagelburg		

### Week 7

Alina Ascencio	Dominique Dewhurst	Poppy Jenkins	Luke Redmond
Oliver Ashtyn-Smith	Max Friedland-Jaccoud	Ellie Kermod	Alex Renneberg
Harley Baker	Harry Ghata	Abigail Larkin	Owen Riddell
Annabell Barr	Kate Giannakis	Lachlan McAlpine	Noah Simmons
Lillian Borg	Ziggy Green	Macklin Miall	Oscar Smith
Samantha Bourke	Thomas Harris	Taya Moore	Amelia Steadman
Skye Boyden	Peter Hogan	Tess Morris	Helena Sypka
Tyler Chapple	Jed Holmes	Keval Naidoo	Ava Tallon
Bentley Colburn	Jack Hopper	Michael Papatotiriou	Spencer Thomas
Alfie Cook	Sienna Hughes	Zoe Papatotiriou	Amy Withers
Cameron Dempsey	Emir Hussein	Alexander Papagianis	Billy Wright

## Acknowledging Student Generosity

Congratulations to Evelyn Iles in 2D for her generosity in donating her hair to the children's charity, Variety, late last year. Evelyn was featured earlier this year on the charity's webpage with the following caption: "Evelyn is 7 years old and has been growing her hair for 3 years. A friend of the family donated her hair a few years ago and Evelyn was inspired to do the same, she was 4 at the time, and has been growing it ever since." Well done, Evelyn!



## AFL Round Robin Competition – STA Teams Fly High

Last Thursday three teams from STA competed in a junior AFL competition at Summerhayes Park Winmalee. STA were one of seven schools from across the Mountains who participated. Players from the GWS Giants were also on hand to inspire the talented young players going through their paces.



All STA students participated exceptionally well in their respective teams and showed excellent sportsmanship and conduct throughout the day. Two of our three teams won their final, with the remaining team achieving a most deserved third place on the day. Thank you Ann Gippel (Coach/Manager), Tanya Graham, who assisted with supervision, and the many parents who attended on the day.

## NAPLAN 2019 - Year 3 & 5

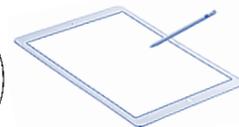
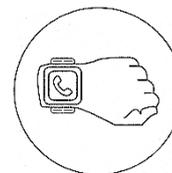
This year's NAPLAN will be completed online for all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. The only component of NAPLAN that will not be completed online is the **Year 3 Writing Task**, which will remain as a pencil and paper test for this year only. The Catholic Education Office - Parramatta (CEDP) and all teachers at St Thomas Aquinas have been working to ensure a smooth transition to this method of testing and CEDP has provided a comprehensive guide for parents. The following link to this site has invaluable information for all parents and carers when it comes this year's NAPLAN. Please take the time to go through it and contact us if you have any questions. A fact sheet for this year's NAPLAN is included in this newsletter and answers a lot of frequently asked questions. <https://sites.google.com/parra.catholic.edu.au/2019-cedp-naplan-online/information-for-parents>

A letter will be going home this week that outlines the process and requirements for NAPLAN this year. In the week starting 25 March, all students in Years 3 and 5 will sit a "Practice Test" that will ensure that they understand how to log-in, use the different tools and answer the different types of questions. You can help by encouraging your children to access the "Public Demonstration Site" (<https://www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/public-demonstration-site>) and practice a test for their grade. The practice test that will be completed on 25 March is different to the tests on the Public Demonstration Site. We also ask that all students have **their own pair of earbuds/headphones** for both the practice test on 25 March and the actual test in May.



### Student's Personal Technology at STA

STA is asking that all students please give their personal digital technology devices to their classroom teacher at the beginning of the day. The devices will be returned at home time. This policy is in-line with other primary schools in the Diocese and is in place to ensure that students are not contacting other people in school time (including family members) or accessing inappropriate sites and Apps. It also protects students' expensive belongings against theft.



Items to be handed in include: phones, iPads, computers and smart watches that have cellular capabilities and connect to the WIFI. (This does not include fit bits.) Thank you for supporting us with this important policy.

## Communication Between School and Home

Parents and community members play an important role in their child's education. A strong partnership between parents as first educators of their children, and the school enriches the child's learning experience immeasurably. There are a variety of formal and informal opportunities for parents to be informed about their child's progress and to communicate effectively with the school.



### Student Learning Reports

All schools in the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta (CEDP) provide parents with written reports on their child's learning achievement and effort, twice a year. These Student Reports are issued at the conclusion of Semester 1 (end of Term 2) and the end of Semester 2 (Term 4). The Student Learning Reports are supplemented by meetings (planned and by request) to discuss student learning progress.

### Parent-Teacher Meetings

Parent-Teacher meetings are scheduled at the start of each year for the purpose of sharing student learning information. There are also further opportunities to meet, such as Family Learning Conferences at the beginning of Term 3 to discuss student progress and goal set for Semester 2. Parent-Teacher Meetings include:

- **Meet-the-Teacher Meeting:** Beginning of Term 1
- **Family Learning Conferences:** Beginning of Term 3
- **Parent/Teacher Meetings:** Requested by either parents or teachers (throughout the year)
- **Personal Plan Meetings (PP Meetings):** Collaborative meetings between parents, teachers and the Learning Support Team to goal set and map out a personal learning plan for students with specific needs.

### Annual School Report

All schools publish an annual report on the school's website: <http://www.staspringwood.catholic.edu.au/> by 30 June each year for the previous year. The Annual School Report can also be found on the CEDP website: <http://www.parra.catholic.edu.au>

### Newsletters

Regular newsletters and Updates are published (digitally) to inform parents, caregivers and the community about school activities, developments and initiatives. Parents and community members are able to subscribe to the fortnightly newsletter via the school website: <http://www.staspringwood.catholic.edu.au/>

(Continued over page.)

*love one another*

## Communication cont'd

### Letters & Notices

Our school often communicates about specific issues by way of a letter or notice.

### Email and Phone calls

Parents are able to communicate with the school via email: [stthomas@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:stthomas@parra.catholic.edu.au) or via telephone by calling (02) 4723 3800. Many teachers also communicate with parents via the Edmodo platform or email.

### Appointments

Parents are encouraged to meet with any staff member at a mutually convenient time to discuss issues and concerns. Please call the school office to schedule such appointments. Please keep in mind that the School Leadership Team meetings occur on Mondays 3.30pm - 5pm; Staff Meetings (Professional Learning Meetings) occur on Tuesdays 3.40pm-5pm; Staff Prayer occur on Thursdays 8.35am-9am.

### Facebook

St Thomas Aquinas Primary School Springwood hosts a Facebook page which seeks to celebrate the vast variety of learning opportunities occurring at our school and student achievements. To like our Facebook page, visit **St Thomas Aquinas Celebrates**.

### Student Absences

Parents are requested to communicate with the class teacher after any period of a student's absence **in writing**. These notes are retained to validate attendance via the class electronic roll.

### Skoolbag App

The Skoolbag mobile application allows parents to access information about their child and receive timely push messages directly from the school. The Skoolbag mobile app can be downloaded from the Apple Store for iPhone users or from the Google Play Store for Android users or go to [www.skoolbag.com.au](http://www.skoolbag.com.au).

### School Website

The school website contains important information about the school: <http://www.stspringwood.catholic.edu.au/>. Parents and carers can remain "In the Loop" with latest news, school calendar, newsletters, Parent Handbook and galleries on this site.

### TIMS (Text Messaging System) – Telstra Integrated Messaging System

The school uses the TIMS messaging system to directly SMS parents and carers in the event of a bushfire, school lockdown or critical incident.

### Message from Finance

Just to remind everyone, the \$10.00 fee that is charged for students to attend a Gala/Zone Sports day is to cover the team entry fee and to subsidise the teacher to attend and supervise the students. Please send money along with the signed permission note in a sealed envelope. **Cheree Brown, Finance Secretary**

### School Banking Day is Tuesday

Remember, **Tuesday** is School Banking day and students should bring in their weekly deposit. For every deposit made at school, students will receive a silver Dollarmites token. Once students have individually collected 10 tokens they can redeem them for an exclusive School Banking reward item in recognition of their regular savings habits.

If you would like to know more about School Banking, please ask for a 2019 School Banking Program information pack from the school office or visit [www.commbank.com.au/schoolbanking](http://www.commbank.com.au/schoolbanking)



### Clothing Pool

Thank you to our wonderful volunteers who run our STA Clothing Pool. We are now able to open the Clothing Pool 3 times a week: **Tuesdays 9.00-9.30am, Wednesdays 3.00-3.30pm and Fridays 9.00-9.30am**. We currently have an abundance of stock due to recent donations. So, if you are looking for uniform items for this term or in readiness for our **change over to winter uniform next term**, come on in and have a look! Our gratitude also goes to those who've generously donated items for sale.

### Summer to Winter Uniform Changeover

A reminder to families that students are to wear **Winter Uniform** when school resumes for **Term 2**. Students wear Winter Uniform for both 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.

### School Photos – Term 2 (Save the date!)

School Photo day for St Thomas Aquinas will be on **Monday 13 May, 2019**. School Photo envelopes will be given out to students during the first week of Term 2. A reminder that on photo day all students are to wear full winter school uniform.

### Bushfire Readiness Workshop for Women at STA

The Winmalee Neighbourhood Centre in conjunction with the Rural Fire Service will be providing an opportunity specifically for Women to be involved in a FREE Bush Fire Awareness Workshop.

The Workshop will take place on **Thursday 28 March (9am-3pm) & Friday 29 March (9am-12noon) at St Thomas Aquinas Primary School Springwood**. Lunch will be provided and childcare will be available at no cost. Please read the brochure in this newsletter if you are interested. For further information or to register for the free Workshops please phone **The Winmalee Neighbourhood Centre on 02 4754 4050**

## Enrolments 2020 – Learning Tours of the School

Enrolments for Kindergarten through to Year 6 for 2020 are now open. The school will be hosting learning tours for families each **Tuesday and Thursday (9.30am & 2.30pm) from Tuesday 1 April through to Thursday 30 May** (excluding school holidays).

The format of these tours involves a guided walk through the school, focussed on learning. The tours provide a wonderful opportunity for families to view students and teachers involved in a wide range of learning experiences. Families wishing to take part in a Learning Tour need to sign in at the school office on the day. **See brochure below for further information.**

No child will be denied enrolment because of a family's inability to pay fees.

# ST THOMAS AQUINAS PRIMARY SPRINGWOOD

WE CELEBRATE THE UNIQUENESS OF EACH CHILD & PREPARE THEM FOR TOMORROW'S WORLD.

## OPEN DAYS AND TOURS (TOUR TIMES 9.30am - 10.30am & 2.30pm - 3.15pm)

Monday 1 April & Thursday 4 April

Monday 6 May & Thursday 9 May

Monday 8 April & Thursday 11 April

Monday 13 May & Thursday 16 May

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Monday 20 May & Thursday 23 May

Monday 29 April & Thursday 2 May

Monday 27 May & Thursday 30 May

## Enrolling now for 2020

For more information or to book a school learning tour please call 47233800 or email [stthomas@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:stthomas@parra.catholic.edu.au)



St Thomas Aquinas Primary 168 Hawkesbury Road Springwood  
P: 4723 3800 [www.staspringwood.catholic.edu.au](http://www.staspringwood.catholic.edu.au)

No child will be refused enrolment because of a family's inability to pay fees

## St Thomas Aquinas Celebrates Facebook Page

Our *St Thomas Aquinas Celebrates* Facebook page, launched late last year, is primarily an opportunity to celebrate outstanding learning at STA. We aim to feature learning in classrooms, prayer experiences, liturgies, incursions, excursions as well as special whole-school events. Families are encouraged to *like* and *share* our page and enjoy snapshots of our busy days here at school.

Our Facebook page is a one-way form of communication. Regular communication via our school office and website will remain our main contact avenues. All our communications are sent via the Skoolbag app and class notices. Our core business remains the learning and welfare of your children. Your positive interaction with our page will support our work here at school.

We understand that parents are mindful of their children's social media footprint. Whilst images will feature large and small groups or individual students, it is our policy generally to not name students on posts. In the event of a significant celebration of an individual achievement parental permission will be sought to name the student/s. For example, "Monica Street wins major Athletics Award". Whilst we cannot guarantee your child will not appear in large class or school photos (eg school assemblies), if you prefer your child **not** to be **featured** in Facebook posts please complete the "**Opt Out**" form available from the office and return it to the school as soon as possible.

## Consent Policy for Enrolled Students

If parents/carers wish to change consent for raffle tickets to be sent home or for the use of students' image and/or works, please notify the school in writing or request a new consent form. **Change of consent will not be retrospective e.g. already published photos and works published before change of consent will not be taken down/destroyed, although if safety concerns are notified all reasonable efforts will be made to remove any published information.**

*love one another*

## Book Club

Book Club (Issue 2) was recently given out to the students and **orders are NOW DUE to be returned or finalised online**. Please check that order forms are filled out correctly including both the child's name and class. [Credit card payments must be made online via the Loop](#).



## Attendance and Student Leave

### Class Roll Requirements - Record of Attendance

All parents are to ensure their children arrive at school **by 9.05am** each school day. The Class Roll must always be electronically marked accurately to record daily attendances. Teachers are obliged by law to record this information if, when, and the reason a student attends school for only part of a day or if they are absent.

This means that if your child arrives late for school or leaves early, then a record of such must be made. A note for the class teacher is also required. If your child is absent from school for any reason, a note to the class teacher stating the reason for absence and the date/s, must be sent on his/her return. These notes should be received within 7 days or the absence is recorded as unjustified.

### Extended Leave of Absence

Notification needs to be given in writing to the Principal for leave of 1-4 days. Leave in excess of 5 school days must be processed and approved by the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta (CEDP). Application forms are available at the School Office.



### Leukaemia Foundation World's Greatest Shave

Next week **Mikayla Mercieca, in Year 6 (6H)**, will shave her hair for this very worthy cause. You can support her by using the link to sponsor her shave. Alternatively, you can make a gold coin donation when she takes her donation tin around to the classes on Thursday morning.

Let's get behind this brave young lady as she tries to make a difference for a cause she is obviously passionate about.



<https://secure.leukaemiafoundation.org.au/registant/FundraisingPage.aspx?RegistrationID=742126>

### Do you live alone or have responsibility of young dependents, elderly relatives or neighbours?

Research, and our experiences from October 2013, show that many women were home alone or with young children and often didn't know what to do. In some cases found themselves in very dangerous situations.

### Have you recently moved to the Mountains?

Since the 2013 Bushfires, a large number of new residents have moved into the area and many are unaware of their bushfire risk and unsure how to act in the event of a bushfire.

### What is the aim of a Women Skilled & Ready workshop?

Women Skilled & Ready Program aims will provide a safe, non-threatening environment in which women can learn new knowledge and skills to help protect their families in the event of a bushfire.

### What new skills will I learn if I attend?

On completion of the program, women will be better able to develop a bush fire survival plan, identify their bushfire vulnerability and have an opportunity to start a pump and use a fire hose. By the end of the workshop, they should feel confident to make better decisions about their own and their family's safety, including their ability to leave early or stay safe if they are unable to evacuate.

### When is the next workshop?

On 28th March 9 am - 3 pm and 29th March 9 am - 12 pm,  
at St Thomas Aquinas School, Hawkesbury Road, Springwood  
Lunch and childcare provided at no cost

To book or get more information phone 47544050

## Women Skilled & Ready

### An innovative Bush Fire Awareness, Safety and Skills Program for Women

This community program is a partnership between Winmalee Neighbourhood Centre and Winmalee Rural Fire Brigade with the support of a number of local community organisations and groups. RFS Blue Mountains supports this initiative.

Funded under the joint State and Commonwealth Natural Disaster Resilience program. "The views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of the New South Wales government, unless the views expressed in the Project Materials have been publicly supported by the Government or a government agency."



# St Thomas Aquinas School Sport Selection Guidelines

## (Revised 2019)

Representing our school provides an opportunity for talented and enthusiastic athletes, who are proficient in the fundamental skills related to their chosen sport, to extend their skills and compete against similarly skilled students from other schools. Representing the school is a privilege and students who represent the school have the responsibility to compete at all times in a manner that demonstrates good sportsmanship and exemplary behaviour.

### Selection of School Teams

Students will have the opportunity to trial for relevant school teams. The Team Coach/Manager (and where possible at least one other selector) should select teams. This other selector may be another teacher who is qualified or experienced in that sport.

### Trialling of Teams

At least one trial will be conducted before selecting the team, although two trials are preferable if time permits. This will allow all students to be given an equal opportunity to exhibit their ability and natural athleticism before the team is finally selected.

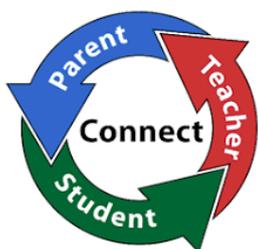
### Selection Criteria

The criteria for selection includes:

- **Student ability and natural athleticism:** Students need to demonstrate an ability or natural athleticism in the sport being trialled.
- **Behaviour at school, sport and on other school activities:** The behaviour of students at school both in the classroom and on the playground as well as at school activities and excursions will be considered before selecting teams. If the student has regularly displayed inappropriate behaviour they may be excluded from trialling and representing the school at sport. Decisions in such circumstances will be made in consultation with the Principal/Assistant Principal.
- **Attitude and sportsmanship:** Students need to display a positive attitude and good sportsmanship towards others, they will display inclusivity and be respectful of other team members as well as coaches and referees.
- **Commitment and reliability:** Students need to commit to the team for which they trial. This includes attendance at any scheduled training session and team meetings.
- **Previous playing experience:** Previous playing experience of the student while representing the school will be considered when selecting the teams.
- **Extenuating circumstances:** If a student is unable to trial for a sport due to illness, injury or school absence it will be at the discretion of the coach and the Principal/Assistant Principal, who will confer and a decision will be made as to whether this student would be eligible to play in the team.

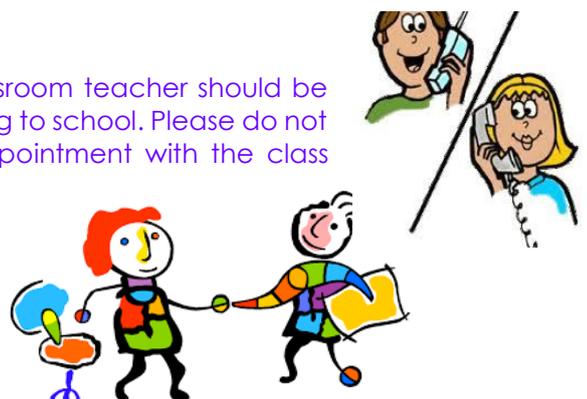
### Conflict of Interest

An additional independent selector from the school leadership team will be included in the selection process in the event of a possible or perceived conflict of interest. In such circumstances consultation with the Principal/Assistant Principal will also be necessary prior to final team selection.



### A Reminder to All Parents

Just a quick reminder that your child's classroom teacher should be the first point of contact for any issues relating to school. Please do not hesitate to ring the office to make an appointment with the class teacher or send a note in with your child for the teacher to phone you. The teacher will do his/her best to contact you after class to organise a suitable time.



## Parish, School and Community Bulletin Notices

### SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT – 17 MARCH 2019

Tati lives in the remote forest of Indonesia. She is a mother of three who was earning an income working in a local rubber plantation. Since taking part in eco-tourism training with Caritas Australia and its partners, Tati can now afford to send her children to school. With new hope and commitment Tati aspires to a future free from poverty for her family.

**Please donate to Project Compassion 2019 and help lift communities in Indonesia out of poverty, and give them hope to protect our common home. Lives change when we all give 100%.** You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting [www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion) or phoning 1800 024 413.

### THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT – 24 MARCH 2019

Peter is thrilled to now have clean water on tap at his boarding school. Long walks to unsafe water sources were tiring for Peter, who is living with a disability. With more free time and fewer illnesses caused by dirty water, Peter can fulfil his hope of focusing on his studies, providing him with brighter future

**Please donate to Project Compassion 2019 and help young people with disabilities gain access to clean water in the Solomon Islands, providing hope for a brighter future. Lives change when we all give 100%!** You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting [www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion) or phoning 1800 024 413.

### FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT – 31 MARCH 2019

Michaela is a 21-year-old trainee at Purple House, a dialysis centre in the Central Desert for people suffering from kidney disease. With the support of Caritas partners, Michaela is helping to build a social enterprise, a connection to culture and a new outlook for the chronically ill.

**Please donate to Project Compassion 2019 and help provide essential health care, employment and training for First Australians like Michaela. Lives change when we all give 100%.** You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting [www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion) or phoning 1800 024 413.

### FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT – 7 APRIL 2019

Salma featured in Project Compassion 2013. At the time she was pregnant with her first child, sick and terribly frightened. In distress, she sought the help of a midwife trained by Caritas' Safe Motherhood Program. Six years on, she's now a healthy mother of two strong, happy children. Salma is committed to giving her children the education they need to provide them with the future she hoped for.

**Please donate to Project Compassion 2019 and help reduce infant mortality rates in countries like Bangladesh and provide hope to pregnant women in remote communities for happy and healthy families. Lives change when we all give 100%.** You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting [www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion) or phoning 1800 024 413.

### SIXTH SUNDAY OF LENT – 14 APRIL 2019

Living with a disability was challenging for Nguyet. Since featuring in Project Compassion 2017 Nguyet has successfully built her own business, a dream that has become a reality with the support of Caritas Australia. Nguyet has become independent, an important member of her community and has great hope for her future.

**Please donate to Project Compassion 2019 and give children living with disabilities in Vietnam the opportunity for an education and inclusion in their community. Lives change when we all give 100%.** You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting [www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion) or phoning 1800 024 413.

### EASTER SUNDAY – 21 APRIL 2019

#### Happy Easter from all at Caritas Australia!

Thank you for supporting us this year as we showcase the many ways we work around the world with our local partners to offer hope to people most vulnerable to extreme poverty and injustice. Caritas is working with communities providing hope for a just and fair world for all generations, backgrounds, cultures and communities, who are part of one human family. You are empowering communities to break free from the cycle of poverty whilst ensuring they are the architects of their own development. **Lives change when we all give 100%. Thank you for supporting Caritas Australia's Project Compassion 2019 Lenten appeal.** [www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion) #projectcompassion 1800 024 413

#### THANK YOU

Caritas Australia would like to **THANK YOU** for supporting Project Compassion 2019. If you still have your Project Compassion box or set of envelopes at home, please bring them back next week or visit [www.caritas.org.au](http://www.caritas.org.au) to make your donation online. Through your generosity you are helping to empower communities with hope and helping those in great need shape a better future for themselves, their families and their communities. **Lives change when we all give 100%.** [www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion) #projectcompassion 1800 024 413



# NAPLAN Online – information for parents and carers



2019

## Why do students do NAPLAN?

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) assesses literacy and numeracy skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life. Students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 participate in the annual NAPLAN tests in reading, writing, conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy.

The assessment provides parents and schools with an understanding of how individual students are performing at the time of the tests. NAPLAN is just one aspect of a school's assessment and reporting process - it does not replace ongoing assessments made by teachers about student performance.

NAPLAN also provides schools, education authorities and governments with information about how education programs are working and whether young Australians are meeting important educational outcomes in literacy and numeracy.

## What is assessed?

NAPLAN assesses literacy and numeracy skills that students are learning through their regular school curriculum. All government and non-government education authorities have contributed to the development of NAPLAN materials.

In 2019 most students across Australia will sit NAPLAN online.

Feedback in the first year of NAPLAN Online showed that students engaged well with online assessments. One of the main benefits of NAPLAN Online is tailored (or adaptive) testing, where the test automatically adapts to a student's test performance. The test presents questions of higher or lower complexity, depending on a student's performance.

Tailored (or adaptive) testing is designed to assess a wider range of student abilities and to measure student achievement more precisely. Your child should not be concerned if they find questions more challenging than usual; they may be taking a more complex test pathway. A student's overall NAPLAN score is based on the number and complexity of questions they answer correctly.

NAPLAN Online is not a test of keyboard skills.

There are variations in how fast and well a student can type – just as there are variations in how fast and well a student can write by hand. Year 3 students will complete the writing test on paper.

To get an idea of what the online assessment looks like, visit the public demonstration site at [nap.edu.au](http://nap.edu.au)

## How can I help my child prepare?

Help your child prepare by reassuring them that NAPLAN is just one part of their school program, and by reminding them on the day to simply try their best. Teachers will ensure students are familiar with the types of questions in the tests and will provide appropriate support and guidance. Ensuring students are familiar with using devices, typing on them and navigating through programs are a part of student learning and a requirement of the Australian Curriculum from the first year at school.

ACARA does not recommend excessive preparation for NAPLAN or the use of coaching providers. NAPLAN is about assessing learning progress in literacy and numeracy.

## Will my child sit NAPLAN on paper or online?

In 2019, your child will sit the NAPLAN online tests. However, children in some other schools across Australia will sit the NAPLAN paper tests this year. Federal, state and territory education ministers have agreed that all schools will move online by 2020. State and territory education authorities will determine when their schools move online.

As students are assessed on the same literacy and numeracy curriculum content, regardless of whether they complete the test online or on paper, results for both formats can be reported on the same NAPLAN assessment scale. To find out more about NAPLAN Online, visit [nap.edu.au](http://nap.edu.au)

## Participation In NAPLAN

All students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 are expected to participate in the annual NAPLAN assessment.

Students with disability may qualify for adjustments that reflect the support normally provided for classroom assessments. You should first discuss the use of any disability adjustments for your child with your child's teacher.

A formal exemption may be granted for a student with disability that severely limits their capacity to participate in the assessment, or for a student who has recently arrived in Australia and has a non-English speaking background.

Your school principal and your local test administration authority can give you more information on NAPLAN Online disability adjustments or the process required to gain a formal exemption.

## NAPLAN Online 2019 timetable

The assessment window for NAPLAN Online is extended from three days provided for the paper test to nine days. This is to give schools more flexibility in scheduling and accommodate schools that may have fewer devices. The NAPLAN Online assessment window starts on Tuesday 14 May and finishes on Friday 24 May 2019.

The online tests must be taken in the following order:

Test	Duration	Order	Details
Writing	Year 3: 40 min. Year 5: 40 min. Year 7: 40 min. Year 9: 40 min.	To be completed in the first two days	Year 3 students do a paper-based writing test on day one only
Reading	Year 3: 45 min. Year 5: 50 min. Year 7: 65 min. Year 9: 65 min.	To be completed after the writing test	Students read a range of informative, imaginative and persuasive texts
Conventions of language	Year 3: 45 min. Year 5: 45 min. Year 7: 45 min. Year 9: 45 min.	To be completed after the reading test	This test includes spelling, grammar and punctuation
Numeracy	Year 3: 45 min. Year 5: 50 min. Year 7: 65 min. Year 9: 65 min.	To be completed after the conventions of language test	This test includes number and algebra; measurement and geometry; and statistics and probability

## What if my child is absent from school on assessment days?

Where possible, schools may arrange for individual students who are absent at the time of testing to complete missed tests at another time during the school's test schedule. Individual students are not permitted to sit NAPLAN online tests after Friday 24 May 2019.

## How is my child's performance measured?

Individual student performance is shown on a national achievement scale for each assessment. A result at the national minimum standard indicates that the student has demonstrated the basic literacy and numeracy skills needed to participate fully in that year level.

A NAPLAN individual student report will be issued by your child's school later in the year. If you do not receive a report, you should contact your child's school.

## How are NAPLAN results used?

- Students and parents may use individual results to discuss progress with teachers.
- Teachers use results to better identify students who would benefit from greater challenges or extra support.
- Schools use results to identify strengths and areas to improve in teaching programs, and to set goals in literacy and numeracy.
- School systems use results to review programs and support offered to schools.
- The community can see average school NAPLAN results at [myschool.edu.au](http://myschool.edu.au)

## Where can I get more information?

For more information about NAPLAN:

- contact your child's school
- contact your local test administration authority at [nap.edu.au/TAA](http://nap.edu.au/TAA)
- visit [nap.edu.au](http://nap.edu.au)

For information about how personal information for NAPLAN is handled by ACARA, visit [nap.edu.au/naplanprivacy](http://nap.edu.au/naplanprivacy)

## DIARY DATES

<b>2019 TERM 1 Week 8</b>	<b>Friday 22 March</b>	12.35pm Assembly
<b>Week 9</b>	<b>Monday 25 March</b>	3.40pm Leadership Meeting
	<b>26</b>	3.40pm Staff Meeting
	<b>27</b>	8.30am Staff Briefing Year 3 Springwood History Walk Excursion 9.30am Parish Mass – Year 5 attending
	<b>28</b>	8.30am Staff Prayer 9am – 3pm Women’s Bushfire Awareness Workshop
	<b>29</b>	9am – 12pm Women’s Bushfire Awareness Workshop 12.35pm Assembly – 5N presenting
<b>Week 10</b>	<b>Monday 1 April</b>	3.40pm Leadership Meeting
	<b>2</b>	<b>School Cross Country Carnival – Grades 2-6</b> 3.40pm Staff Meeting
	<b>3</b>	8.30am Staff Briefing 9.30am Parish Mass – Kinder & Year 6 attending
	<b>4</b>	8.30am Staff Prayer
	<b>5</b>	12.35pm Assembly – 6M presenting
<b>Week 11</b>	<b>Monday 8 April</b>	<b>STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY – Pupil Free</b>
	<b>9</b>	<b>12.35pm Palm Sunday Liturgy led by Kinder, Year 1 &amp; Year 2</b> 3.40pm Staff Meeting
	<b>10</b>	8.30am Staff Briefing <b>12.30pm Holy Thursday Liturgy led by Year 3 &amp; Year 4</b>
	<b>11</b>	8.30am Staff Prayer <b>9.30am-12.30pm Stations of the Cross led by Year 5</b>
	<b>12</b>	<b>12.35pm Good Friday Liturgy led by Year 6</b> <b>TERM 1 CONCLUDES</b>

## COMMUNITY NOTICES

**Drawing Classes with Vanessa Joret, Registered Creative Kids Provider:** For kids who love drawing and want to learn the skills they need to develop their ability and create beautiful artwork. We draw animals, castles, dragons, landscape, portraiture and much more. We use pastel, pencil, charcoal and watercolour pencil. All art materials provided. Classes held at Woodford from 4.00-5.30pm. \$202 for 8 weeks (incl A3 art portfolio). Use your \$100 Creative Kids Voucher. Minimum age 8 years. For more information **phone Vanessa on 0409 516 615** or see website: [www.vanessajoret.com.au](http://www.vanessajoret.com.au)

**Creating Links NDIS Provider:** Creating links is a registered NDIS provider operating in Faulconbridge since March 2017. We provide participants who want to get out in the community, undertake meaningful activities, work towards a goal and engage in recreational activities the following: Support Coordination, Plan Management, 1:1 Support. Creating Links staff work closely with you to help you have more control and choice over how, when and where your supports are provided, and give you the certainty you will receive the support you need over your lifetime. Please contact our Faulconbridge office for referrals and general enquiries. **Ph: 02 4751 7504, F: 4751 7599, M: 0481 289 575. Located at 3/575 Great Western Highway, Faulconbridge, NSW 2776.**

**Springwood Neighbourhood Centre Cooperative Ltd Presents - "Becoming a Calmer and Happier Mum":** Spend a relaxing morning with Wendy Gilroy at Room 1, The Hub, 104-106 Macquarie Road, Springwood as she delivers her popular talk, "Becoming a Calmer and Happier Mum" on **Saturday 23 March, 2019 at 11.00am (registration from 10.30am). Cost: \$25.00 per person.** For payment details contact [events@sncc.org.au](mailto:events@sncc.org.au). Limited seating. Register online via [www.sncc.org.au](http://www.sncc.org.au) or in person at The Hub.

**Stormer Music – Student Music Lessons:** Stormer Music provides personalised music lessons to students of all ages, styles and abilities. They also offer recording and performance opportunities, artist development workshops, a groups program and more. NSW government's Creative Kids \$100 rebate may apply for lessons. There are 3 studios - **Blaxland, Parramatta and Penrith.** For enquiries and further information **phone 02 9188 4325** or go to [info@stormermusic.com.au](mailto:info@stormermusic.com.au) or [www.stormermusic.com.au](http://www.stormermusic.com.au)

### Sent Home Recently

- SRC Induction Invitation Letter – selected students
- Meet the Teacher Note for Kindergarten (*lemon*)
- School Dental Program Consent Form (*orange*) – selected students
- AFL Gala Day Permission Note – selected students
- AFL Gala Day Change of Venue Note – selected students
- Year 3 History Walk Excursion Note (*salmon*)
- Bushfire Awareness Workshop for Women Flyer
- Gospel Reading Notes for Year 4 (*salmon*)
- Year 6 Commemorative Shirt Note
- Gospel Reading Note for Year 1 & 2 (*green*)
- Mass Postponement Note to Year 2
- Gospel Reading Note for Year 3 (*blue*)
- Staff Development Day Note (*gold*)
- Premier's Reading Challenge Note (*green*)
- Impetigo Note (*pink*)
- K-2 Mathematical Research Project Note

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