



NEWSLETTER

No. 1 Date: 14/02/2020 Week 3 Term 1

Dear St Thomas Aquinas Families,

Welcome back to St Thomas Aquinas for 2020. It was wonderful to hear the excitement as the students returned to school last week, sharing stories of their holidays and experiencing great joy in seeing their peers and teachers.

We extend a warm welcome to 2020 Kindergarten children, our new students and their families who are joining our school community this year. A warm welcome also to our new staff, Mrs Blattman (PE Teacher), Mrs Dempsey (3D Class Teacher), Mrs Berrell, Mrs Carey, Mrs Chapple and Mrs Sakey (Teacher Aides) and Mr Hicks (IT Trainee).

Thank you to our wonderful teaching staff who have prepared for the school year during the school holidays to ensure that the students had a successful start to the new year.

I am very excited to join the St Thomas Aquinas community as the new Principal and I look forward to making meaningful connections with your children as I share their learning journey with them.

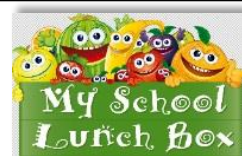
Until next time,

M. Hardy

Marina Hardy
Principal

My School Lunch Box

Our school does not have a canteen, however families can order healthy, fresh lunches in a convenient way online through <http://www.myschoollunchbox.com.au>



Mathematical Assessment Interviews (MAI)

Thank you to the parents for your assistance with the Mathematical Assessment Interviews that were held on our Staff Development Days in Week 1. Teachers will continue to administer these interviews over the coming days.

Work Being Completed at STA

At St Thomas Aquinas we are always monitoring the safety and wellbeing of our community whilst onsite. Catholic Education Office Diocese of Parramatta installed new gates at the front of the school. These gates are not fully operational as yet. We have identified some issues with the gates and have been working very closely with the company to rectify these issues as a matter of urgency. We apologise for any inconvenience during this time and hope that you will understand. We thank you for your patience.

Meet the Teacher – Week 4 Term 1

Our school believes it is vital that there is regular communication both formal and informal about your child's progress throughout the year. At this early point in our school year, you will be invited to meet with your child's classroom teacher to discuss the year ahead. This year Meet the Teacher Interviews for selected classes will be conducted during Week 4 (starting Monday 17 February). Further information was sent home to parents this week and an online booking facility has been made available. Remaining classes will be sent details for their meetings shortly.

Muffi Day for Bushfire Appeal – Friday 21 February

On Friday 21 February (Week 4) STA will be holding a muffi-day in support of those across Australia and in the local community affected by the recent bushfires. Students are invited to come to school dressed in muffi clothing and bring a gold coin/s to donate to St Vincent de Paul and CatholicCare for their much-needed support in the community. All funds raised will be used to help those in need through the provision of counselling, support and recovery programs and other practical assistance.

Please note that muffi clothes need to be appropriate to class and playground activities. Hats and closed-in shoes are essential. Thank you for your support of this worthwhile cause.



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a: 168 Hawkesbury Rd Springwood 2777 | p: 02 4723 3800 | f: 02 4723 3899

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

Communication with Teachers

St Thomas Aquinas recognises that email is a fast and convenient way to communicate with your child's teacher. As you can appreciate, teachers read their emails at various times throughout the school day. Further, that other than in the case of a genuine emergency, they are generally not expected to respond to emails from parents and students outside of normal working hours. Please keep in mind that if you send an email to a member of our staff outside of normal working hours, a reply may not be received until the following working day.

If you wish to contact your child's teacher, please continue to direct your emails to stthomas@parra.catholic.edu.au which will then be passed onto the relevant teacher, as per our usual practice. Some teachers may elect for you to email them directly and they will provide you with their email details.

2020 Weekly Class Activities

The information below was sent home with students recently. **Please note the following:**

- There may be minor changes made during the year.
- Parents will be notified of any changes to sports days.
- Students are to wear sports uniform* on their designated class sport day/s. (* Please see Uniform Expectations outlined below.)

Class	Italian	Library	Music	PE/Sport
KB	Thursday	Friday	Thursday	Tuesday and Thursday
KD	Thursday	Friday	Thursday	Tuesday and Thursday
1C	Tuesday	Friday	Tuesday	Tuesday and Friday
1S	Tuesday	Friday	Tuesday	Tuesday and Friday
2ED	Wednesday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Tuesday and Thursday
2F	Wednesday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Tuesday and Thursday
3D	Wednesday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Wednesday and Friday
3L	Wednesday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Wednesday and Friday
4C	Thursday	Wednesday	Thursday	Tuesday and Thursday
4CH	Thursday	Wednesday	Thursday	Tuesday and Thursday
4G	Thursday	Wednesday	Thursday	Tuesday and Thursday
5L	Wednesday	Thursday	Wednesday	Wednesday and Friday
5N	Wednesday	Thursday	Wednesday	Wednesday and Friday
5PR	Thursday	Thursday	Wednesday	Wednesday and Friday
6BN	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Tuesday and Friday
6C	Tuesday	Friday	Tuesday	Tuesday and Friday
6M	Tuesday	Wednesday	Tuesday	Tuesday and Friday

Sports Uniform Expectations

The school sports uniform is to be worn by your child only on the **two** designated sports days each week. **In order to maintain continuity of our own school sports uniform we are requesting that Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta (CEDP) garments not be worn on school sports days.** Therefore, polo shirts, jackets and hoodies acquired through CEDP sporting events may only be worn when students represent the school at Diocesan sports events or on designated mufti days. Thank you for your support in reinforcing these expectations with your child.

Students with Mobile Phones

On some occasions, students may need to bring a mobile phone to and from school, to contact their family in an emergency whilst travelling. If your child needs to bring a phone, they must **switch the phone off on arrival and hand it to the class teacher.** Mobile phones will be kept in a tub and then returned to the students at the end of the day. **Students are not to use mobile phones whilst at school.**

Technology Code of Conduct

Students and parents will be asked to sign a Code of Conduct for the use of technology at school. These letters will be sent out in the coming weeks. We ask that you go through the Code of Conduct with your children and both sign and return the tear-off form at the back. This document outlines the procedures teachers will follow in the event of technology being used inappropriately while at school.

St Columba's Catholic College – Year 7, 2021 Information Evening - Tuesday 25 February, 2020

Bookings are not required; upon arrival please register at the College Library.

Session 1:

- 3.15pm - Register for tour
- 3.30pm – 4.00pm: Address by the College Principal
- 4.00pm - 5.00pm - Tour of facilities

Session 2:

- 5.15pm - Register for Tour
- 5.30pm – 6.00pm: Address by the College Principal
- 6.00pm - 7.00pm - Tour of facilities

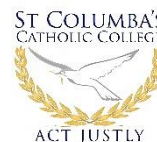
Tours will **begin at 4.00pm and 6.00pm sharp** to enable visitors to view all the College facilities.

Prospectus and enrolment applications will be available on the night.

Enquiries: Mrs Sandra O'Brien (Enrolment Secretary) **(02) 4754 8907.**

St Columba's Catholic College - 168 Hawkesbury Road, Springwood 2777. Phone: (02) 4754 8900

Email: stcolumbas@parra.catholic.edu.au Web: www.stcolumbasspringwod.catholic.edu.au



Sickness and Absenteeism

Whilst it is important for students to be at school consistently families should use common sense in not sending students to school if they are feeling unwell or infectious where cross infection is a risk.

Census Day – Friday 14 February

It is mandatory that parents advise the school in writing if their child is absent any day throughout the school year. If your child is absent on Friday 14 February, please email the school as soon as possible simply advising your child's name, class and the reason for their absence.



2020 School Swimming Carnival

Congratulations to all the students who participated in our recent school Swimming Carnival, especially those who joined in for their first time. Every student showed great enthusiasm while achieving their personal best. It was wonderful to see the students encouraging each other in all the events throughout the day. Special thank you to our wonderful parent helpers and our staff for all their hard work in organising and assisting with this event. It was certainly a tremendous team effort!

Volunteering at School

All parents/volunteers who wish to offer assistance in the school or other school related activity must ensure that they complete the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta Child Protection for Volunteers (Building Safe Communities) training module. This training is required **every two years** and is done online. The module may be accessed via the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta website at: <https://www.parra.catholic.edu.au/About-Us/Building-Child-Safe-Communities>. From the Our Schools drop-down select *Parents as Partners*, then select *Building Child Safe Communities*. Click on *Volunteer and Contractor Training*. Scroll down to *Volunteers* and click on *Training Module* and follow the instructions.

Staying in the Loop

SkoolBag

This year we will continue to use the **SkoolBag** as our main form of communication. SkoolBag allows us to notify families directly through the app. School news, excursion notes, information about upcoming events and general reminders will be communicated directly to families via SkoolBag. If you have not downloaded our SkoolBag app we strongly encourage you to do so as soon as possible.

Please also ensure that you sign up to the grade or grades that your children are part of this year. This can be done within the app and allows us to personalise the information that we send out as throughout the year some messages will only need to be sent to particular grades.

How to Install SkoolBag

For iPhone and iPad users: Go to the Apple App Store, search for "SkoolBag" and download the free SkoolBag app. After opening the app, add your school(s) and you're ready to go!

For Google Android Users: Go to the Google Play Store, search for "SkoolBag" and download the free SkoolBag app. After opening the app, add your school(s) and you're ready to go!



Facebook

We will continue to use our **St Thomas Aquinas Celebrates Facebook** page and school website to share and celebrate the great learning and achievements with our school community. Go to <https://m.facebook.com> and follow the prompts to log in or create a new account. Search for the St Thomas Aquinas Celebrates page, then *like* and *share* our page.

Catholic Out of School Hours Care (COSHHC)

The new STA before and after school care facility has now commenced and is held each school morning and afternoon in our school hall. Staffing, licencing and compliance of the centre is facilitated by CEDP in collaboration with our school. The STA COSHC is only available for students currently enrolled at St Thomas Aquinas School. Enrolment for COSHC is handled directly between families and the COSHC centre management. **All enquiries are to be directed to the phone number and/or email address below, not to school staff.** Families wishing to enrol their child/ren in or enquire about COSHC can phone **Kelly Travis**, STA COSHC Manager, on **0400 253 528** or email to coshcstthomasspringwood@parra.catholic.edu.au. Enrolment is **done online**. For an enrolment form please click on the link provided here. Please note that the enrolment period may take 10 days prior to your child commencing.



2020 COSHC
Enrolment Form V6.1

Book Club

Book Club (Issue 1 for 2020) was recently given out to the students and **orders are due to be returned or finalised online NO LATER THAN Monday 17 February**. 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.



St Thomas Aquinas School Enrolment Open Day – Wednesday 25 March

The school will be hosting an
Open Day for interested families considering enrolment
on Wednesday 25 March.

Tours of the school will be held **9.30am – 11.00am** and **2.00pm – 3.00pm**.

Enrolment packs will be available on the day.

For enquiries please phone the school on (02) 4723 3800.

Email: StThomas@parra.catholic.edu.au

Web: www.staspringwood.catholic.edu.au

All welcome!

School Fees

The First Instalment invoices are due to be issued on 18 February. **Fees will be due on or before Wednesday 18 March.** Flexible Payment Plans (FPP) are offered as an alternative payment option for your School Fees. If you would like to accept this offer our preferred method is to go to <https://www.parra.catholic.edu.au/fpp> and arrange a direct debit from a nominated bank account or debit/credit card. A Direct Debit Request Form will be included should you not have access to a computer and should be lodged with CEDP before 6 March. Please be advised that unless alternative arrangements have been made regarding the payment of your account it will be assumed that full payment will be made on or before the due date. Outstanding accounts will be forwarded to the Catholic Education Office for collection. If you are having difficulties with the payment of your school fees, you are encouraged to contact the school office to arrange an appointment with either myself or the Principal to discuss your options. **Cheree Brown, School Finance Secretary**

Clothing Pool – Helpers Welcome

Our Clothing Pool currently operates subject to parent availability thanks to the generosity of parent volunteers. **We are seeking volunteers to assist with the running of the Clothing Pool for half an hour on either Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday morning from 9.00am or afternoon from 3.00pm.** If you are able to assist, your help would be very much appreciated. Operating the Clothing Pool involves assisting parents with their selections, dealing with clothing donations and tidying and arranging the stock in the Clothing Pool cupboard ready for sale. All sales are dealt with at the Office.

If you would like to help, please contact the **school Office on 4723 3800**. If you are not able to help on a regular basis perhaps you may consider being on a back-up list to relieve when others are not available. If so, please contact the Office. We thank you for your consideration.

DIARY DATES

2020	Monday 17 February	3.30pm-8.00pm Meet-the-Teacher for 2ED, 3L, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6
TERM 1	18	Nepean Zone Swimming Carnival – selected students 3.30pm-6.00pm Meet-the-Teacher for 2ED, 3L, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 7.00pm Parish Reconciliation Program 2 nd Parent Meeting in STA Church
	Week 4	
	19	8.30am Staff Briefing 9.20am Parish Mass – Years 1 & 2 attending
	20	8.30am Staff Prayer
	21	2.30pm School Assembly – NEW TIME!
Week 5	Monday 24 February	3.40pm Leadership Meeting
	25	3.40pm Staff Meeting 7.00pm St Columba's Year 7 2020 Information Evening
	26	12.30pm Ash Wednesday Mass
	27	8.30am Staff Prayer
	28	NO ASSEMBLY – held fortnightly now instead of weekly.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

DRAWING CLASSES with Vanessa Joret: New beginners classes starting up for kids (Mon 4pm) and adults (Wed 7pm). This course teaches the skills and techniques needed for those who want to develop their ability to create beautiful drawings. Absolute beginners welcome. Learn pastel, charcoal, graphite, watercolour pencil and more, all art materials supplied, small classes (max 8 students), friendly and supportive. Minimum age 8 yrs. For more info call or txt Vanessa on **0409 516 615** and/or see www.vanessajoret.com.au.

Sent Home Recently:

- Lifted Live Notes - selected students (*orange & yellow*)
- Meet the Teacher Note for 2ED, 3L, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 (*pink*)
- Nepean Zone Swimming Carnival Permission Note – selected students
- Student Guidelines for Responsible Use of ICT Note – selected classes
- 2020 Weekly Activities Schedule (*salmon*)
- Year 1 Information Note (*pink*)
- Year 1 Home Readers Note (*blue*)
- Facebook Opt Out Note (*green*)

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