

NEWSLETTER

Week 11 Term 1 – 08/04/2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

On behalf of the staff of St Thomas Aquinas we would like to thank you for your wonderful support throughout Term 1. Although it may have been challenging for some families who needed to isolate themselves or who became unwell, it was lovely to be able to have a whole term of face-to-face learning. It was also exciting to be able to welcome families onsite for various events over the last few weeks.

Thank you to the students and staff for all their hard work throughout the term.

We wish you and your families a lovely holiday and an opportunity to spend time with family and friends during Easter.

We look forward to seeing you all return in Term 2.

Marina Hardy
Principal



Holy Week Celebrations at St Thomas Aquinas

Thank you to those who were able to join us and gather as a Catholic faith community in prayer for our Holy Week Liturgies throughout the week. It was lovely to see so many parents, grandparents and carers attend at various times.

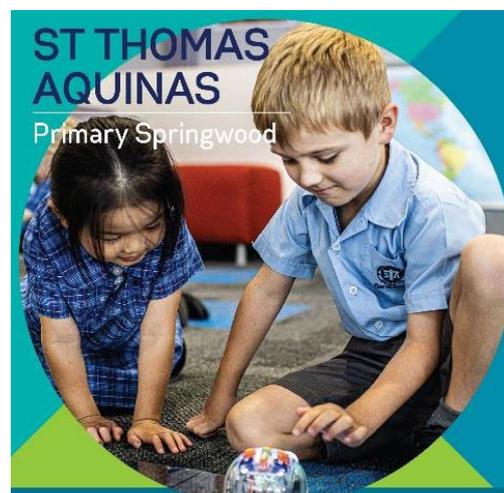
Kindergarten 2023 Enrolment

If you are enrolling your child into Kindergarten in 2023 or have a family friend who is interested in enrolling into St Thomas Aquinas, please contact the school office on (02) 4723 3800 for an Enrolment Pack as soon as possible.

Winter Uniform

Students are to wear their **full winter uniform** by **Monday 9 May, 2022 (Week 3 of Term 2)**.

As the weather may be warmer during Week 1 and Week 2, students are welcome to wear either their full summer uniform or full winter uniform.



**ST THOMAS
AQUINAS**
Primary Springwood

168 Hawkesbury Road, Springwood T 4723 3800 www.stspringwood.catholic.edu.au

**Enrolling Now for
Kindergarten 2023**

Scan QR code to register your interest



School Photos - Term 2 – Friday 6 May

This year we will have school photos on **Friday 6 May**. Students will wear their **full school SUMMER uniform**.



All orders are to be made ONLINE ONLY.

Step 1: Go to www.advancedlife.com.au on your computer, phone or tablet. Enter the code **5ZG LMC ZJ3** in the 'Order & Download' box. This will take you to the secure online site for our school.

Step 2: Click on 'Order Photos' and complete your details and choose your package, then follow the payment process. During this process you can place orders for additional children at your school and sibling photos. Payment via Visa, MasterCard, PayPal or Latitude Pay*.

*** NEW** -- **advancedlife now offers Latitude Pay!** To take advantage of Latitude Pay and split the cost of your order into 10 small easy payments, simply order your school photos online as usual, set up a Latitude Pay account in just a few clicks and pay no interest or fees when you pay according to your payment schedule; it's that easy.

We are aware that some families wish to pay using cash. If this is you, please contact the office to request an envelope which must be returned with the **EXACT** cash inside, on photo day. Cash Orders **CANNOT** be returned to the school after the day of photography.

Please note the following:

- **Sibling Photos - only for students attending St Thomas Aquinas.**
- **Online sibling photos MUST be ordered by Tuesday, 3 May 2022.**
- **A sibling photo will not be taken without an order.**
- **Late fees/additional charges will be applied for purchase of photos after photo day.**
- **Not For Publication Student Information:** Please ensure you have read the information on 'Not for Publication' on the information sheet and have contacted the school office.
- **All students will have an individual photo and class photo taken on the day.**
- **If you do not want your child to have a photo taken, please notify the school office.**

Contacting Your Child's Teacher and Other School Staff

At St Thomas Aquinas, we value our strong relationship with families and welcome opportunities to communicate with parents and carers. We also recognise that email is a fast and convenient way to contact your child's teacher or other school staff.

Although staff will read their emails at various times throughout the school day, they are generally not expected to respond to emails outside of normal working hours. In the case of emergency please contact the school office on StThomas@parra.catholic.edu.au or phone 4723 3800. Our caring team will return your call or respond to your email as soon as possible.

If your child's class teacher has communicated with you that they are happy to share with you their direct school email address, then please use this. If you wish to contact another staff member, please continue to send your emails to StThomas@parra.catholic.edu.au with the subject heading including 'For the attention of [insert name of contact]'. This will then be directed to your child's teacher or another relevant staff member. This helps us to have confidence that we are aware of any matters needing our attention as a team, and that you are connected to the person who can best help.

Thank you so much for your assistance and understanding.

Clothing Pool

Now that restrictions have eased and parents are permitted back on site, we would like to advise you of the procedures for the Clothing Pool and try-on sample uniforms. The Clothing Pool will be open **Monday, Wednesday, and Friday** between **8.30-9.00am** and **3.25-3.50pm**. Please sign-in at the office upon arrival at the school. All selections of 2nd hand items may be purchased via the Qkr! App. All **new items** must be ordered online via www.theschoollocker.com.au

We are seeking volunteers who would be able to offer approximately 1.5 hours per week to assist with keeping the Clothing Pool tidy - putting away clothing donations and sorting out the lost property bin, returning items to their owners. If you would like to help, please email the school at stthomas@parra.catholic.edu.au. Any assistance is much appreciated.

Sports News

There has been a lot of activity involving our students at STA over the last few weeks.



Isla Croyston went to Wollongong two weeks ago and achieved some memorable results indeed! Isla was selected to represent the MacKillop Tennis team held in Rockdale. This is such a mighty achievement for Isla.

Darcy Ryan attended the MacKillop AFL Trials in Wagga Wagga on 25 March after being selected to represent the Parramatta Diocesan AFL team. A big congratulations to Darcy given that he is in Year 5 and can try again next year with even more experience leading into the event. Well done.



Madeline Blacklock attended the trials for the Metropolitan West PSSA All Schools AFL team on 6 April at Seven Hills. The team is yet to be announced but we are full of confidence for Madeline and have our fingers crossed.

A number of Year 6 girls trialled for the touch football Diocesan team in Yass on Friday 18 March. **Mackenzie Seymour, Bella Ticehurst, Chloe Blattman and Florence Rooney** played exceptionally well on the day with Mackenzie, Bella and Chloe making it as far as the possible and probables on the day. Great effort girls.



The following students made it to the final selection phase for the Parramatta Diocesan teams. **Hugo Koutsonikolis and Emilie Dempsey** participated in their final selection trial on Thursday 31 March, which was a great achievement as trial numbers were extensive. A big congratulations goes to Emilie who was selected into the Parramatta Diocesan team and she will now represent CEDP at the MacKillop trial held in Goulburn on Friday 27 May 2022. We wish Emilie the best of luck!



Next, we have the netball trials. **Chloe Blattman, Florence Rooney, Charlotte Priest, Annabelle Priest, Erin Kenn and Paige Miles** all made it to the second phase of selection for the Parramatta Diocesan team which took place at Windsor on Friday 1 April. Chloe, Erin and Paige all were selected for the 2022 Parramatta Diocesan Netball Team and will represent CEDP at the MacKillop trials in Canberra on Friday 6 May, 2022. It was a wonderful effort by all of the girls. I was lucky enough to watch the trials and saw first-hand how you all played with great determination and skill.



And last but not least we have **Hamish Wills of Year 6** who also made it into the CEDP Rugby League team and will be trialling in Canberra on 6 May.



Swimming News

Firstly, well done to all of our STA swimmers that made it to the Diocesan Carnival at Blacktown on Friday 11 March. We then had one student making it through to the following carnival and I'm proud to share that it was **Beau Gardiner** of Year 4. Beau swam in the NSW CPCS Swimming Championships that was held at Homebush on 22 March and managed to come 13th overall in his 50m breaststroke event and achieved yet another personal best time! This is an outstanding achievement Beau, and one that your friends at STA are very proud of for you. Well done indeed!

SPORTS NEWS – Cont'd

Cross Country

Recently the heavens smiled upon us and eased the rain so that we could complete our school Cross Country. Those eligible Year 2 students right through to Year 6 students ran for the first time across the road at The Grotto belonging to St Columba's. I am pleased to say that this venue was the perfect location to accommodate all of these students and the event ran quite seamlessly with the assistance of wonderful staff and our parent helpers despite earlier rainfall. A big thank you goes out to these parents for giving up their time. There were also some great achievements that took place on the day with many of our students showing their will to exceed their personal best which was encouraging to witness.



Our **top six place winners** in each age group will compete in the Parramatta Diocesan Carnival on Tuesday 3 May at the Sydney Motor Sport Park at Eastern Creek. We wish all of these students the very best of luck on the day and look forward to hearing about their results.



In the afternoon our younger year groups ran a mini course in preparation for the Cross Country in years to come and it was delightful to see so many parents finally able to join us here at STA. Year 1 and Year 2 were cheered on by our Year 6 students who were also able to run with their buddies from Kindergarten.

Our top three winners from each age group are as follows:

RESULTS

Girls Cross Country	First Place	Second Place	Third Place
8/9 Years	Olivia Morgan	Indyana Duffy	Sienna Verriere
10 Years	Poppy Jenkins	Claire Thomas	Anna Mann
11 Years	Sofia Mangan	Violet Baker	Lila Hagelburg
12/13 Years	Chloe Blattman	Jessica Sharp	Elizabeth Mulhall



Boys Cross Country	First Place	Second Place	Third Place
8/9 Years	Cooper Daniel	Lennix McSpadden	Romeo Siciliano
10 Years	Jack Blattman	Beau Gardiner	Wolfgang Hummel
11 Years	Ryder Lopez	Xavier Curley	Levi Friedland-Jaccoud
12/13 Years	Hugo Koutsonikolis	Thomas Jenkins	Liam Costigan



SPORTS NEWS – Cont’d

Recently Eli Schroeder of Year 6 was the sole representative for St Thomas Aquinas at the **Australian Mountain Bike Interschools** which took place at Thredbo.

He took part in five events over 4 days of competition and managed to achieve a top 5 placing in all of the 5 events and even managed a first place in the “Pump Track Challenge”. These great results led Eli to place 2nd out of 120 riders in the overall championship for his division. Congratulations Eli! What is also amazing is that even as a school with only one representative rider, Eli was able to place **STA 32nd out of the 204 schools which competed**. Many of which had over 5 riders and some with as many as 70 riders!

We wish Eli well as he continues to compete in competitions in Brisbane next week and all staff and students alike at St Thomas Aquinas are thrilled for Eli and wish him every success as he continues to race in his up-and-coming events.



Basketball

Coach Katrina has brought her *Aussie Hoops* basketball program to Years 1 to 4 this term. Students have enjoyed learning the basics skills of catching, throwing, dribbling defensively and shooting which they have managed to improve on each week. The weather didn’t keep the smiles away and the students continued to look forward to developing their skills each lesson.



Gala Days

Gala Days begin next term. The sports on offer are soccer, touch football, netball and basketball. We look forward to as many students being involved as possible however, it will depend on the number of teams that we are able to enter. Students involved will be traveling to different venues throughout the year and will be representing the school to verse other Catholic schools. Stay tuned for further information on teams and dates.

Important Sporting Dates

Diocesan Cross Country	Tuesday 3rd May
School Athletics Carnival	Tuesday 7 th June
Stage 2 Boys & Girls Soccer	Tuesday 21st June
Stage 3 Boys Soccer	Wednesday 29th June
Stage 3 Girls Soccer	Friday 22nd July
Netball Gala Day	Wednesday 31st August
Stage 2 Touch	Friday 16th September
Stage 3 Touch	Friday 23rd of September
Stage 2 & 3 Basketball	Wednesday 2nd November

Simone Blattman
PE Teacher

Write4fun Student Writing Competition is - NOW OPEN!!

 If you enjoy writing and would like to see your work published, this is for you!

The Write4Fun 2022 Schools Poetry & Short Story 'National Treasures' Writing Competition is now open to students from all grades.

Students are invited to enter their 16-line poems OR 500-word short stories and battle it out for the great cash and prizes on offer. There is no theme. You can write about anything you like ... ANY TOPIC and in ANY STYLE!

ENTERING IS EASY AND FREE!

SIMPLY SUBMIT WRITING ENTRIES VIA **ONE** OF THE METHODS BELOW:



 <p>Enter via: write4fun.net</p> <p>Online</p>	 <p>POST</p> <p>Write4fun PO Box 2734 NERANG DC QLD 4211</p>	 <p>enter@write4fun.net</p> <p>email: enter@write4fun.net</p>
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OR you can post OR email entries with an entry form.

Download an [entry form](https://www.write4fun.net/competitions/71) here <https://www.write4fun.net/competitions/71>.

1 Entries close **Saturday 30 April 2022**.

Further details on competition can be found here [→ https://www.write4fun.net/competitions/71](https://www.write4fun.net/competitions/71)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<p>2022 TERM 1 Week 11</p>	<p>Friday 8 April</p>	<p>Last Day of Term 1</p>
<p align="center">-- SCHOOL HOLIDAYS --</p>		
<p>TERM 2 Week 1</p>	<p>Monday 25 April</p>	<p>ANZAC DAY – PUBLIC HOLIDAY</p>
	<p>Tuesday 26 April</p>	<p>Students return to school</p>
	<p>Friday 29 April</p>	<p>1.00pm Whole School Assembly in Hall</p>
<p>Week 2</p>	<p>Friday 6 May</p>	<p>School photos - Summer Uniform</p>
<p>Week 3</p>	<p>Monday 9 May</p>	<p>Students to wear Winter Uniform</p>
	<p>Tuesday 10 May</p>	<p>NAPLAN Online testing for Years 3 and 5</p>
	<p>Wednesday 11 May</p>	<p>Year 6 Camp NAPLAN Online testing for Years 3 and 5</p>
	<p>Thursday 12 May</p>	<p>Year 6 Camp NAPLAN Online testing for Years 3 and 5</p>
	<p>Friday 13 May</p>	<p>Year 6 Camp</p>