

## NEWSLETTER

Week 8 Term 1 – 16/03/2022

### Give Lent 100%



Lent is not about doing something for 40 days and feeling pleased with my effort at the end. It is about a period of transformation. Am I the same person I was last Lent? Will I be the same person, with the same failings after Lent? Or will I have worked on a part of me that I need to be better, so that every Lent is an opportunity for me to focus on my personal, and spiritual growth. How can I be closer to God?

How can I be more the person God made me to be? Good works are a start: generously giving to Project Compassion, remembering those who have been impacted by COVID-19 or who have experienced the recent floods. I also need to care for my soul; am I kinder, less judgmental, more forgiving, more generous with my time, am I present to my God and others, or am I a slave to a screen and social media? Am I more concerned with my public image than the image I see in the mirror of my soul?

Let's use this Lent to grow as people and take our better selves into the Joy of Easter.

### Kindergarten 2023 Enrolment

#### Open Day for 2023

Recently we welcomed many new families and siblings to our 2023 Enrolment Open Days. The tours showcased some of the learning opportunities of our students at St Thomas Aquinas, including Year 6 Bucket Drumming, Sports lessons, Kindergarten engaged in Literacy and Numeracy tasks as well as Year 5 and 6 students demonstrating their coding and digital technology skills.



**ST THOMAS  
AQUINAS**

Primary Springwood

#### OPEN DAYS

9 March 9:30am-10:30am

9 March 12:00pm-1:00pm

10 March 9:30am-10:30am

Congratulations to our Student Representative Council (SRC) and Year 6 leaders who welcomed our visitors and shared their experiences at STA. The students were outstanding, demonstrating their leadership skills.

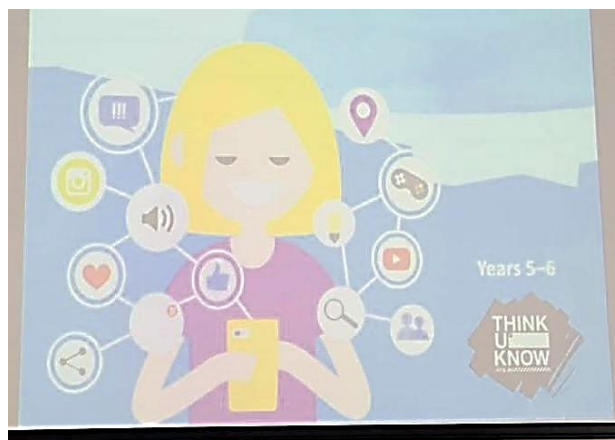
If you are enrolling your child into Kindergarten in 2023 or have a family friend who is interested in enrolling into St Thomas Aquinas, please contact the school office on (02) 4723 3800 for an Enrolment Pack as soon as possible.



## Cyber Safety Talk

On Monday, a police officer came into our school and gave us some top tips that I didn't know about for online safety. When we are taking photos or posting photos make sure that we do not have your school emblem in the photo because this way anyone online knows where you go to school and roughly where you live.

When she came for the incursion she told us about how the average gamers in Australia are 33 year old males, this means that when you are playing an online game, you don't really know who you are playing against. You could be playing against an 11 year old, a 4 year old, a 33 year old, even someone who is 74. I learnt not to give any information about myself to anyone online, including my name, address, school, age and other.



The Police Officer taught us that most games require you to have usernames and passwords. I learnt that when you are making a username make sure to have a smart one which means to not share any personal information through my username, so that no one online can identify who I am except my friends who I have met in real life and not just online. I learnt that it is best to choose a game mode of single player so that it is just me or multiplayer with friends I know, and if anyone asks me questions not about the game, to not answer. I also learnt that when someone makes me uncomfortable online or any problem I have to tell a trusted adult or call the Kids Help Line.

Some other great things I learnt were when you post something on social media, even if you delete it, the coding is still in the app, and people can screenshot it. I learnt how fast an image can travel through people's messages and that you must ask permission to send someone a photo of them that they have sent me. I learnt how to be safe and secure on the internet so that I can still learn and play safely, with myself or close friends that I have met in real life and confirmed it was them. **By Kate Giannakis Year 5 Student**



## St Patrick's Day – TOMORROW! Thursday 17 March



Tomorrow, **Thursday 17 March**, we will be having a fun **"Wearing Green Day"** for St Patrick's Day and to raise money for St Vincent de Paul Flood Appeal. Families are invited to donate to our flood appeal via our Qkr! App, to help people in NSW who have suffered so badly during these recent weeks.

Students may wear **all green** (no coloured hair spray) and must wear their sports shoes.

During this time of **Lent**, we are also encouraging students to contribute to their class Project Compassion boxes with coins for Caritas Australia.

## Project Compassion

As we enter Holy Week, we continue to reflect on the lives of people vulnerable to extreme poverty and injustice and how we can respond through supporting Caritas Australia's Project Compassion appeal.

**We will have a special day on Friday 7th April**, students will wear Yellow/Orange/White top with Sports shorts and shoes. Students are encouraged to bring **GOLD coins** to put in their class Project Compassion boxes.

Your generosity is the pebble that allows Caritas Australia to create the ripples that will improve the livelihoods of vulnerable communities, supporting them to flourish and create opportunities for future generations to live to their full potential and thrive.

Thank you!

**If families would like their own Project Compassion box, please contact the school office. Please return all Project Compassion boxes and envelopes to the school office by Friday 27 May or donate online via the Caritas website at [lent.caritas.org.au](http://lent.caritas.org.au)**

## Holy Week

We will finish this term with the celebrations of Holy Week, the most significant time of our church year. At STA we celebrate Holy Week in a very special way, each day throughout the week, each grade takes the responsibility of leading the school in a liturgy or ritual.

**Parents and families are very welcome to join us for any of the times listed below.**



## Holy Week

Date and Time	Liturgy or Ritual	Location	Costume
<i>Monday 4th April 12:30pm</i>	Palm Sunday - <b>Kindergarten</b> and <b>Year 1</b>	COLA (outside of the Hall)	Kinder/Year 1 Students <b>Green or Red top</b> with Sports Shorts and Shoes
<i>Tuesday 5th April 12:30pm</i>	Last Supper - <b>Year 3</b> and <b>Year 4</b>	COLA (outside of the Hall)	Year 3/4 Students <b>White top</b> with Sports shorts and shoes
<i>Wednesday 6th April 9:30am</i>	Garden of Gethsemane - <b>Year 2*</b>	Music Room	N/A
<i>Wednesday 6th April 2:30pm</i>	Stations of the Cross - <b>Year 5</b>	Iron Bark Grove (meet at school gate)	Year 5 Students wear <b>Black top</b> with Sports shorts and shoes
<i>Thursday 7th April 12:30pm</i>	Passion of Our Lord - <b>Year 6</b>	Three Trees (grass area beyond hall)	Year 6 Students wear <b>Black top</b> with Sports shorts and shoes
<i>Friday 7th April 12:30pm</i>	Resurrection - <b>Year 2</b> and <b>Faith in Action Team</b>	Hall	ALL Students wear <b>Yellow/Orange/White top</b> with Sports shorts and shoes

\* Year 2 Students prepare the Garden of Gethsemane, however they will not appear in person until the Resurrection Liturgy on Friday.

## Winter Uniform

Students are to wear their **full winter uniform** by **Monday 9 May, 2022 (Week 3)**. As the weather may be warmer during Week 1 and Week 2 (Term 2) students are welcome to wear either their full summer uniform or full winter uniform.

## School Photos - Term 2

This year we will have school photos on **Friday 6 May**. Students will wear their **full school SUMMER uniform**. Further information and ordering details will be sent home shortly.



## School Fees

School Fees for Term One are now due. To avoid the Catholic Education Office sending out any reminders can you please finalise this instalment as soon as possible.

If you are having difficulties paying the school fees please do not hesitate to contact the school to organise a payment arrangement or to discuss the options that are available to you. **Cheree Brown, Senior Finance Secretary**

## NAPLAN 2022 - Parent and Carers Information

NAPLAN is a point-in-time assessment that assesses students literacy and numeracy skills in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. The tests are constructed to give students an opportunity to demonstrate skills they have learnt over time through the school curriculum. It also allows parents or carers to see how their child is progressing in literacy and numeracy against the national standard and compared with their peers throughout Australia. At the classroom level, NAPLAN provides additional information to support teachers' professional judgement about student progress.

The tests have been moved from paper to online, except for the Year 3 writing test. In order to prepare the students for NAPLAN, teachers will ensure that students are familiar with the test formats and will provide appropriate support and guidance. Being an online format, **we ask that all students have working headphones by next week as they will need these to complete the tests.**

Attached\* is further information explaining NAPLAN, outlining the timeline and ways parents or carers can support their child in the lead up to NAPLAN. CEDP schools practice window will be between 21 and 25 March 2022 (Week 9). The NAPLAN online test window starts on Tuesday 10 May and finishes on Friday 20 May 2022 (Term 2 Week 3).

Please read over the attached information and if you have any questions, feel free to contact your child's teacher.

## Sport News

### Swimming

Congratulations to all of our STA swimmers who swam like super fish at the Parramatta Diocesan Carnival at Blacktown on Friday 11 March. The sun was finally shining down on everyone as they banded together and achieved some great results. This was seen in the boys and girls relay events and in each of their individual races, they swam their hearts out. A huge congratulations goes out to Beau Gardener of Year 4 who came 4th in his breaststroke event, managing to shave off an extra four seconds to achieve a new personal best! Thank you once again to our parents who were able to come and support their children and we wish Beau every success when he competes next Tuesday at the NSWCPs Swimming Championships at Homebush. Such a wonderful achievement. Well done!



## SPORTS NEWS – Cont'd

### Basketball

Our first week of basketball with Coach Kat from Aussie Hoops went ahead with some blue skies overhead which was heartwarming to see by all of our students and staff alike! Take a look at these photos of our students engaging in skill development. As these sessions continue they will also learn the best ways to enhance their individual ability in basketball.



### Touch Trials

The MacKillop touch football Trials will take place at Yass this Friday. We wish Bella Ticehurst, Florence Rooney, Chloe Blattman and Mackenzie Seymour of Year 6 every success when they compete.

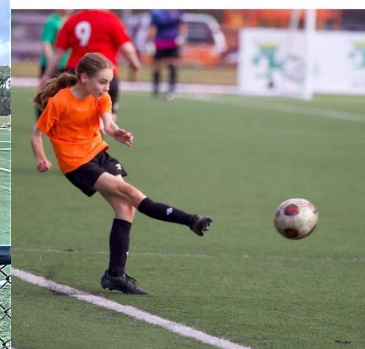
### Tennis Trials

Good luck to Isla Croyston who will be competing this Thursday at the MacKillop trials held in Wollongong.



### Football Trials

Students trialed for the Parramatta Diocesan Football team yesterday at Kellyville and we're proud to announce that both Emilie Dempsey and Hugo Koutsonikolis of Year 6 made the final round, with the full team to be announced at the following session. We congratulate both of these **students on their fantastic efforts.**



### Gala Days

Tryouts for many different sports will be taking place very soon, so if you are in Years 3 to 6, stay tuned as there may be a sport that you might like to try to represent St Thomas Aquinas at in the terms ahead.

## 2022 School Cross Country

Our school Cross Country will take place at school for all years in **Week 9, Friday 25 March**. Hopefully the ground will be dry enough by then for all of our students to get involved if possible. All of our new students will find out their house colours next week. All students are invited to wear their HOUSE-coloured t-shirt in addition to their sport uniform or their full sport uniform. As this will be our first whole school event, we are very happy and excited to extend an invitation to our parents and carers! If you wish to be a parent helper for the whole day, there are a few spots available so if you can help out on the day, please ring our office or send an email for the attention of Mrs Blattman. Students placed 1st to 6th in ages 8/9, 10, 11 and 12/13yrs, provided they meet the qualifying times, will represent our school at the Diocesan Cross Country Carnival to be held at Eastern Creek on Tuesday 3 May, 2022. More details to follow soon outlining the running of the day. Here's a few photos of some students training in the sunshine!



## Driveway Repairs

Due to recent rains causing potholes in our driveway, we have organised for repair work to be done as soon as possible. We thank you for your patience and understanding.



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<b>2022</b> <b>TERM 1</b> Week 8	Thursday 17 March (TOMORROW)	St Patrick's Day - <b>Students wear green</b>
	Week 9	Friday 25 March School Cross Country
	Week 11	Friday 8 April Last Day of Term 1
<b>-- SCHOOL HOLIDAYS --</b>		
<b>TERM 2</b> Week 1	Monday 25 April	<b>ANZAC DAY – PUBLIC HOLIDAY</b>
	Tuesday 26 April	K - 6 students return to school
Week 2	Friday 6 May	School photos - <b>Summer</b> Uniform
Week 3	Monday 9 May	Students to wear Winter Uniform
	Tuesday 10 May	NAPLAN Online testing commences

\* See separate attachment: 2022 naplan-information-brochure-for-parents-and-carers