



St Thomas the Apostle School

67 Central Road, Blackburn 3130

Phone: 9878 8268

office@stblackburn.catholic.edu.au

Newsletter Number 25 – 20 August 2020

Dates to note...

3/4 Incursion - 'Documenting the Voyage'
 WHOLE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY ONLINE @1.30PM
 WELLBEING DAY - NO REMOTE LEARNING
 3/4 Incursion - 'Documenting the Voyage'
 WHOLE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY ONLINE @1.30PM
 Father's Day
 WELLBEING DAY - NO REMOTE LEARNING
 Student Learning Conferences - TBC
 School Photo Day - NEW DATE
 Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation
 Year 5 and 6 Camp – Canberra
 Year Six Graduation - 5.30pm (TBC)
 End of Term Four - TBC

Tuesday 25 August
 Thursday 27 August
 Friday 28 August
 Tuesday 1 September
 Thursday 3 September
 Sunday 6 September
 Friday 11 September
 Wed 16 & Thurs 17 September
 18 November
 TBA
 Wednesday 9 December – Friday 11 December
 Monday 14 December
 Tuesday 15 December

CT HELPLINE during REMOTE LEARNING – 9998 6392
Monday – Friday from 8.30am-5.00pm

Dear Parents

This week, I share a poster with you which might assist in 'checking in' with how your child's remote learning is progressing. We can all have lapses in focus and attention to detail, however it is important to remember that this means of learning is important; we are not just filling in time. As such, the questions in the poster may be a good discussion starter for you.

How can we keep every day positive? We can ask ourselves . . . What did I learn? What did I share with others? Who was part of my life today? During the day, you could use some of the questions in this chart to 'check in' with your child. It is great to share some humour with those around you, even though so many things are tough. The simple things help to get us through.

You have made it through the fifth week of remote learning! And next week, there's a Wellbeing Day built into the program!

Something to look forward to!

15 growth mindset questions

What made you think hard today?	How will you challenge yourself today?	What can you learn from this experience or mistake?
What would you do differently next time to make things work better?	What else do you want to learn?	What strategy can you try?
Who can you ask for honest feedback?	Did you work as hard as you could have?	If it was too easy, how can you make it more challenging?
Did you hold yourself to high expectations or did you accept "good enough"?	Did you ask for help if you needed it?	What can you do to manage distractions?
Have you reviewed your work or logic for errors or flaws?	Are you proud of the end result? Why or why not?	What's the next challenge to tackle?

Tomorrow is **Fun Friday**, so everyone is to wear their favourite PJs and their socks/slippers. It's supposed to be a wet day and weekend, so you can feel a little comfy and warm all day! Please wear these to the 9.00am Google Meet.

CYBER SAFETY PARENT WEBINARS

A series of three webinars is available to you over the next two weeks. You can access these for two weeks after their release online. As such, you can watch them wherever and whenever you like! Cyber safety is such an important aspect of our world today and is a skill set we all need to revisit as technology changes and children grow older and want greater access. The updated flyer with the three links is included in the Newsletter. Please note the Gaming webinar has been released today.

FAMILY AND STAFF WELLBEING DAYS

During this longer period of remote learning, it is important that we stop and take a breath and a break from the daily requirements, and fill it with self care and a chance to do things to refill our wellbeing buckets! As such, we are declaring **Friday 28 August and Friday 11 September** as Wellbeing Days. No remote learning will be set or required on these days. There is much to be gained and learned in other ways!

ENROLMENT 2021

We are still open for enrolments for 2021, but are still unable to conduct tours, according to CEM advice. Parents can view the Virtual Tour, which is a wonderful taste of St Thomas' facilities until we are allowed to resume tours. If you have a child attending four year old kindergarten this year, please contact the Office as soon as possible, and Annie and Catriona will send you home an Enrolment Form.



2021 Prep Interviews have commenced online and they are great fun! I am able to see favourite toys, family members and the best part, meet our new students for 2021. They are very excited and keen to come to school!

We may not be able to offer some of our 'Come and See' sessions on site until Term Four, but we should be able to have a story time online this term, which will be great!

SCHOOL FEES

Thank you to those who have responded to our Fee statements being emailed out this week. I hope you noted the rebate of the Swimming program, with other aspects of the levies also likely to be rebated once there are further guidelines from the start of next term. If the Coronavirus has had an impact on your ability to pay your fees, please make contact with me to discuss this. Please make sure you set up your B-Pay payments as the school is not permitted to do regular credit card payments. If you wish to pay via credit card, you can call the school and we can accept your payment and send the receipt home to you.

ART WORKSHOPS

These three FREE Workshops are available to those who register, so please get in quickly. The first one begins tomorrow night.

https://eastland.qicgre.com/Promotions/2020/08/Cork-and-Canvas-Online-Workshops?mc_cid=1321435e5e&mc_eid=d8418346b2

TERM THREE LEADERS

Congratulations...

to the following students who began their leadership role this week –

Emma A, Kiara G, Eamon R, Sam H, Kaelan B, Sam D, Evie F, Maeve G, Miesha C, Joseph M, Isaac I, Cameron D and Lorena G

We look forward to you helping by leading Assembly each week!

PARENT VOLUNTEER APPLICATIONS AND INTERVIEWS

We are conducting Parent Volunteer Interviews with our Prep parents now so that you can be involved in school life once we return. If you are in another year level and haven't completed this volunteer process, but would like to be involved when we re-open, then you also need to apply. On the Application Form, you are required to provide the name/s of an employer or colleague for a referee check. Please email me for an Application. Interviews will be held via Google Meet and will be of ten minutes duration. Please complete this task now – there are still times available on Monday 24 August.

SECONDARY SCHOOL TRANSITION VISITS

The Catholic Secondary Schools are starting to send Transition Forms and make times to visit our school via video to learn about their new Year Seven students for 2021. Most schools have usually hold days/afternoons for their own assessments, and Orientation, this term or early in Term Four. This will be impacted due to COVID-19. Please check the communication from your child's secondary school.

SUPPORT FOR SCHOOL FAMILY BUSINESSES

We are very aware of parents in our community with their own businesses and would like to help you by offering to advertise your service in our Newsletter **FREE OF CHARGE** as you come out of the Coronavirus restrictions. This may assist in you gaining greater business locally, and from our families too, as the restrictions ease. Please send an ad or your business card details to office@stblackburn.catholic.edu.au We will happily offer this to get things moving for you again. *We are all in this together!*

STUDENT OF THE WEEK AWARDS

Each week, although we are not able to gather for Assembly, we will share some awards, noted by the classroom teachers. Congratulations to:

Prep BH – Ben L

Prep WH – Sebastian G

Year 1/2CL – Tahli-Jade R & Edward B

Year 1/2ER – Liam K

Year 1/2NR – Siena W-M & Lucian L

Year 3/4HP – Zac B

Year 3/4FV – Dante R

Year 3/4SC – Jack B & Carine A
Year 5/6CK – Ahi H & Noah S
Year 5/6MG – Maya R & Harry P
Maths – Estella S

Year 3/4BC – Gisele S & Ronan G
Year 5/6CS – Jerald B & Miesha C
Year 5/6PB – India O

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Best wishes to:

Kiara G (5/6CS), Tilly M (3/4SC),
Leia W (5/6MG), Alex F (5/6MG)
and Aliarne S (3/4HP).

We hope you all had a lovely day!

YEAR SEVEN APPLICATIONS 2022

ALL applications for Catholic Secondary Colleges have been allowed an extension due to the inability of tours. The closing date is now **Friday 9 October 2020**. If you have any queries regarding the completion of the form, please feel free to discuss them with me, or contact the Secondary College directly for assistance.

GOSPEL REFLECTION - TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Matt 16: 13-20)

*You are Peter, to you I will give the keys
of the kingdom of heaven.*

This week, the Gospel is about faith. During Jesus' ministry, there had been many theories about who he was - a prophet, a saint, the Messiah. When Jesus asked the disciples who they thought he was, Peter answered that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God. Recognising this faith in Peter, Jesus states that Peter will be the rock on which he will build his Church. Despite his human failings at times, Peter takes on this role after Jesus' ascension and leads the new Christian community.

*In who or what do we place our faith? What is as reliable as the
love of God?*

****Please remember that Fr Terry is providing Mass each Sunday via a video link on the Parish website / YouTube -**

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2IRivsb0k_ZGPF7dIKOZbw/videos?view_as=subscriber

Stay well, take care and God bless.

Angela Lacey

PRINCIPAL

ON-DEMAND PARENT WEBINARS

Knowledge is power!

WEBINAR TOPIC 1: Plan, Prevent, Protect



The Cyber Safety Project Team will share insights and practical resources to help support and manage online child safety in the home. Introducing parents to a simple methodology; PLAN for the use of technology at home, PREVENT unsafe encounters and PROTECT children who connect, learn and play online.



Available for 14 days from: Wednesday 5th August 2020



www.cybersafetyproject.com.au/sttawebinar1

WEBINAR TOPIC 2: Keeping Kids Safe on Social Media



Whilst it is impossible to know the ins and outs of every single social media platform, there are commonalities across social platforms today. Knowledge is power so we will discuss trending platforms such as Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok and Houseparty and provide practical tips that can be immediately implemented to keep kids safe.

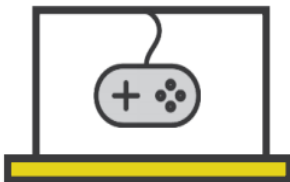


Available for 14 days from: Wednesday 12th August 2020



www.cybersafetyproject.com.au/sttawebinar2

WEBINAR TOPIC 3: Keeping Kids Safe who Game



Gaming today is social. It's where young people go to play, connect and communicate with their friends. This webinar will uncover the appeal of gaming, expose the ways game developers encourage young people to regularly play and provide practical tips for helping to manage screen time and the development of self-regulation skills in young gamers.



Available for 14 days from: Wednesday 19th August 2020



www.cybersafetyproject.com.au/sttawebinar3



PLAYGROUP – CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

PARENTS' AND FRIENDS NEWS

SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB – VIRTUAL BOOK CLUB NEWS



Dear All, due to current restrictions, we are doing Book Club Issue 6 a little differently. You will be able to access the Book Club catalogue online and **Issue 6** is now available at

www.scholastic.com.au/book-club/book-club-parents/

You will still be able to place your order via: scholastic.com.au/LOOP

Delivery

We are able to receive your orders back to our school, but won't be able to distribute them until restrictions ease so you have two delivery options:

- 1) Have the books delivered to the school as usual and wait for restrictions to ease to receive your books (no delivery charge)
- 2) Have books delivered direct to your home for a fee of \$5.99.

Your last chance to order books from Issue 6 is Friday 4th September 2020.

If you have any queries, please send me an email: blkenafacke@hotmail.com

Thank you, Bernie Kenafacke

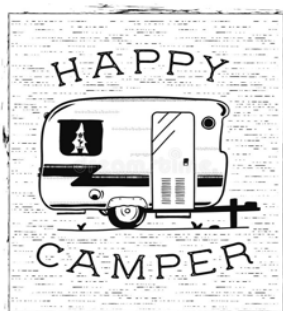
CARING GROUP

Many of you are aware of the fabulous work of the St Thomas' Caring Group in times of need. This has been a group who has provided meals for those experiencing illness, bereavement, or new babies. If you are in need, you are encouraged to reach out to this group for help - meals, shopping being delivered to your door, a friendly chat on the phone. It is one easy and helpful way we can look out for others.

ST THOMAS' FAMILY WEEKEND

ST THOMAS' FAMILY WEEKEND

CANCELLED



Due to the unpredictable nature of 2020 we've decided to cancel the family weekend away this year.

We look forward to welcoming it back in a better year, also known as 2021!!!

ENTERTAINMENT BOOK

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS – AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE!



With social distancing in place, we are all keen to support local businesses. With an Entertainment Book you can do so while also making some savings!

This year, The Entertainment Group have gone digital to make it easier for you to have access to your golden book of savings wherever you are through your Apple iPhone or Android smartphone. A number







of benefits are shown below including the use of the new online book being more environmentally friendly than the traditional paper version. A digital book means it will be available shortly after purchase directly on your phone. No waiting for book delivery or scheduling time to collect it from the school office!

A great benefit now with this new digital format is that you can buy the book whenever you like and it is valid for 12 months from date of purchase. In addition, you can **currently receive 2 bonus months** if you buy a standard subscription (see below and the Entertainment Website for details).

As per last year, you can purchase your Entertainment book by clicking on the link below which is the link that provides our school with fundraising for each book sold. Buy now and start making the most of the offers during the upcoming holidays:

<https://www.entertainment.com.au/orderbooks/18758g6>

Why you'll love your Digital Membership

 12 months of savings <small>Always get a full year no matter when you purchase</small>	 User-friendly <small>Instantly search offers near your exact location</small>
 Environmentally sustainable <small>With no wasted paper from unused vouchers</small>	 New offers added automatically <small>No more waiting for the next print run</small>
 Lightweight and convenient <small>Easily carry everywhere you go</small>	 Year-round fundraising <small>Endless opportunity to support good causes</small>

SCHOOL TRADER

The St Thomas the Apostle “School Trader” enables businesses to advertise their goods / services to around 200 families in the St 'Thomas' school community. The School Trader is prepared weekly and distributed to parents via the same email containing the weekly school newsletter. It is co-ordinated by the staff at our school reception desk. It does not include advertising for second hand goods or other items typically sold through Gumtree, Facebook, eBay and other websites.

Fees: Full page: \$50; Half page: \$25 - Format: Adobe PDF

Payment: EFT to St Thomas the Apostle Parents' & Friends bank account

BSB 083 347 Account 681 409 353 with reference: “Trader – CompanyName”

Submission dates: Payment and artwork must be received on the Friday of the week before the next newsletter. Contact: All artwork can be sent to

office@stblackburn.catholic.edu.au

TOYWORLD SCHOOL BENEFIT

4% will be donated in free products from parents purchasing from Toyworld at Forest Hill and nominating our school as the beneficiary.

Also, parents receive a 10% discount all year after you have accumulated \$100.00 of spending in store, excluding sale items. Please be aware of this when shopping at Forest Hill.

PARISH NEWS

ST THOMAS' YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Youth Groups - Zoom Sessions

Older Youth in Secondary Schools (Years 7 and up) August 23@5pm

We are conducting fortnightly Zoom sessions for all older secondary school children. Join us to engage in discussion groups, fun games, guest speakers and some faith added in as well. Our next session will be on August 23rd from 5pm to 6pm.

Please email caren.garlick@cam.org.au to register and receive the link.

Younger Youth in Primary Schools (Years 3 to 6) - August 30@5pm

Thanks to those that came along to this. We are looking forward to more games and trying out the suggestions given so come along and join in. Our next session will be on August 30th from 5pm to 6pm. This is open to all children from Grade 3 to 6. Join us to engage in some activities, fun games and some faith added in as well.

Please email caren.garlick@cam.org.au to register and receive the link.

Caren Garlick - Youth Ministry - St Thomas the Apostle Parish

COMMUNITY NEWS

EMMAUS COLLEGE: VIRTUAL INFORMATION SESSION

The College is offering 'Virtual Information Sessions' on Monday 24th August, 2020 for the following times: 6.00pm; 7.00pm & 8.00pm Limited places available for each session....so book NOW! Email: www.emmaus.vic.edu.au Telephone: 9845 3211



Catholic Education Melbourne **today**

SCAN ME

Latest Edition out now
<https://bit.ly/33iWxVF>

TERM 3, 2020

SCHOOL TRANSITIONS

LEARNING ITALIAN

THE LETTER PROJECT

DOING YOUR BEST IN VCAL AND VCE

AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE



Retail Operations Update

IN LIGHT OF RECENT COVID-19 DEVELOPMENTS, WE WILL BE ADJUSTING OUR RETAIL STORE TRADING HOURS FROM MONDAY, JULY 20.

Tuesday - Friday 10am - 5pm
Saturday 10am - 1pm

****NOTE: SUNBURY STORE // WED, THUR, FRI 10AM - 4PM & SATURDAY 10AM - 1PM**
KINGSFORD STORE // WED, THUR, FRI 10AM - 5PM & SATURDAY 10AM - 1PM

OUR ONLINE STORE REMAINS FULLY OPERATIONAL AND IS PROCESSING ORDERS AS USUAL AT WWW.PSW.COM.AU



The BEARDED BEE

LOCAL HONEY FOR LOCAL FAMILIES

Order now with the promocode **STTHOMAS** to collect your honey from the school office.

Local delivery available

Find out more about The Bearded Bee at: www.thebeardedbee.com.au