



# St Thomas the Apostle School

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## Newsletter Number 26 – 27 August 2020

### Dates to note...

#### 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

**END OF TERM THREE**

**TERM FOUR BEGINS**

School Photo Day - NEW DATE

Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation

Year 5 and 6 Camp – Canberra Wednesday 9 December – Friday 11 December

Year Six Graduation - 5.30pm (TBC)

End of Term Four - TBC

#### Friday 28 August

Tuesday 1 September

Thursday 3 September

Sunday 6 September

Friday 11 September

Thursday 17 September

Friday 18 September

Monday 5 October

Wednesday 18 November

TBA

Monday 14 December

Tuesday 15 December

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

Dear Parents

I know many of you are looking forward to tomorrow as a complete break from remote learning. It is a Wellbeing Day! We have deliberately NOT structured this day for you or provided anything, as we feel each family needs to work out what they need / want to do to refresh their energy levels for the remaining weeks ahead. *Be KIND to yourselves!*

You would also have heard the announcement that was made suggesting a return to school in Term Four. This is what we all want to hear, but we need to wait patiently for the full plan to be communicated after the 13 September conclusion of the State of Disaster. *Our spirits hope that this will occur!*

*So how will recharge your batteries tomorrow?*

Your family might like to enter the 'Bake Off Challenge'! Cook something together and take a photo to share with Chef Bowman (Fr Terry), who will judge the creations next week. Send it to me for the Newsletter please.



*Perhaps you might...* Sleep in, have a leisurely breakfast instead of a rushed one, wear pyjamas for the day, have a morning and an afternoon walk, do some gardening or anything outdoors, read, dance, play, imagine, create a surprise for someone's special day (Father's Day), write someone a letter. Whatever you do, relax your mind and body.

You have made it through the sixth week of remote learning! Well done!  
With a sunny weekend ahead, try some of Leunig's therapy!



## **CYBER SAFETY PARENT WEBINAR**

**Last chance!** The Gaming webinar was released last week, so there's less than a week of availability remaining. 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 flyer contains the link.

## **FAMILY AND STAFF WELLBEING DAYS**

During this term 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! **Friday 28 August and Friday 11 September** are Wellbeing Days. No remote learning will be set or required on these days. There is much to be gained and learned in other ways!

## **NEW SRC REPS**

Congratulations to the following students who will represent their class at meetings with Mr Kavanagh:

Prep BH – Ned W & Georgia O'D  
Year 1/2CL – Liam F & Sophia F  
Year 1/2NR – Sophia G & Gideon Z  
Year 3/4HP – Amelia O'H & Tommy G  
Year 3/4SC – Adeline R & James G  
Year 5/6CS – Harry R & Chelsea T  
Year 5/6MG – Noah DeL & Leia W

Prep WH – Sophie F & Anthony P  
Year 1/2ER – Alice MCG & Liam K  
Year 3/4FV – Ella K & Jacob M  
Year 3/4BC – Ronan G & Jacinta B  
Year 5/6CK – Tilly P & Kaelan B  
Year 5/6PB – Samantha O'D & Christos P

## **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.



The 2021 Prep Interviews were great fun! The children are looking forward to coming to school! We may not be able to offer some of our 'Come and See' sessions on site, but we should be able to have a story time online this term, which will be great!

## **PREP 2021**

To communicate the essential information and share time together with our new Prep 2021 families, the following dates have been booked. These are subject to any changes in COVID-19 Regulations. The dates and special activities are as follows:

**Library Session One - Tuesday 8 September at 2.30pm.** Parents will be sent a link.  
**Library Session Two - Wednesday 16 September at 9.00am.** Parents will be sent a link.

## **Dates to note in Term Four:**

Parent Information Session	Tuesday 10 November	7.15pm-9.00pm
Orientation Session One	Friday 20 November	9.00am-10.30am
Orientation Session Two	Wednesday 25 November	9.00am-10.30am
Prep and Year Five Mass	Sunday 29 November	5.00pm

## **STUDENT LEARNING CONFERENCES**

We have decided to hold our Term Three Student Learning Conferences over one day - Thursday 17 September from 9.30am-6.00pm. Remote Learning will occur on this day, but teachers will not hold Focus Groups. They will take the roll at the Morning Google Meet, then conduct conferences across the day with you and your child. These Meets will be of 15 minutes duration. The flyer containing the Booking Information will be sent home next week.

## **CONGRATULATIONS XAVIER!**

A wonderful weekend for the O'Neil and St Thomas community on Sunday when Xavier O'Neil (Class of 2012) made his AFL debut with the West Coast Eagles.

Drafted from the Oakleigh Chargers and Blackburn Football clubs, Xavier collected 10 possession and kicked a great goal in the win against GWS.

The O'Neil family has been an active family at St T's family over the years with Tess, Bridie, and Seamus all coming through our school and mum Kathryn who looked after our beautiful Veggie garden!

**Congratulations Xavier from all at St Thomas'!**



## **SUNSMART REQUIREMENTS - HATS**

As per the Sunsmart guidelines, children MUST wear their hats when outside, from 1st September – 30th April. Please ensure you locate your child's hat NOW or order a new one from PSW.

## **SCHOOL FEES**

Thank you to those who have paid your fees. I am sure 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 FREE Workshops are available to those who register, so please get in quickly.

[https://eastland.qicgre.com/Promotions/2020/08/Cork-and-Canvas-Online-Workshops?mc\\_cid=1321435e5e&mc\\_eid=d8418346b2](https://eastland.qicgre.com/Promotions/2020/08/Cork-and-Canvas-Online-Workshops?mc_cid=1321435e5e&mc_eid=d8418346b2)



## **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 require ten minutes of your time.

## **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 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](mailto: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 – Hunter S**

**Year 1/2CL - Natalie B & Vivian N**

**Year 1/2NR - Connor R & Kaylee M**

**Year 3/4HP - Jed B & Nathan W**

**Year 3/4SC – Tilly M**

**Year 5/6CK – Meg L & Tilly P**

**Year 5/6MG – Maya L & Alexander G**

**Maths – Isla H**

**Prep WH – Jaiden K & Gabrielle LoP**

**Year 1/2ER – Luella P**

**Year 3/4FV – Jake I**

**Year 3/4BC – Zara K & Rachel B**

**Year 5/6CS – Therese C & Chelsea T**

**Year 5/6PB – Maeve G**

## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**



Best wishes to:

*Vivien S (1/2CL), Charlie C (3/4SC), Annabelle L (3/4SC), Arielle A (1/2CL), Lorena G (5/6PB), Jerald B (5/6CS) and Ada K (1/2NR).*

*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 - 22nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Matt 16: 21-27)**

*Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself.*

This week in the gospel, Jesus foretells of his death and resurrection. The disciples can't fully grasp why it is that Jesus would 'allow' this to happen. They don't understand the greater mission.

*The passage then leads in to a description of the challenge of discipleship. To be a follower of Jesus means to 'deny' oneself, take up one's cross and follow Jesus. In the context of this passage, to 'deny' oneself means to not be concerned about 'I' but to be concerned about 'You' - to put others before self. To be a follower of Jesus means to be selfless, not self-centred. In the ultimate example of this, Jesus tells his disciples that whoever wishes to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for Jesus' sake will find it. To 'save' your life is to hold back from giving yourself fully to the message of Jesus - to be 'half-hearted' in your faith. But to 'lose' yourself in the message of Jesus is to fully give yourself over to living the reign of God and through 'losing' yourself in this way, Jesus tells us, is how to truly find life. (Greg Sunter, Liturgy Help)*

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

**[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2lRivsb0k\\_ZGPF7dIKOZbw/videos?view\\_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2lRivsb0k_ZGPF7dIKOZbw/videos?view_as=subscriber)**

*Stay well, take care and God bless.*

***Angela Lacey***

**PRINCIPAL**



### **GARDEN NEWS**

If anyone would like some worm juice fertiliser from the school garden, bring a container to the garden gate (an excuse for your hourly walk!) with your name & mobile on it. I'll then text you when I've filled it up, and will leave outside the garden gate. Also, don't forget my blog with lots of school recipes on it which I'm adding to each week. Eatcookteach.online  
Keep safe, Trinity

## 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](http://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.

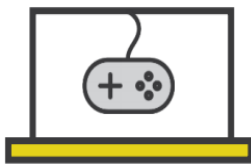


Available for 14 days from: Wednesday 12th August 2020



[www.cybersafetyproject.com.au/sttawebinar2](http://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](http://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/](http://www.scholastic.com.au/book-club/book-club-parents/)

You will still be able to place your order via: [scholastic.com.au/LOOP](http://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](mailto: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

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### 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

 <b>12 months of savings</b> <small>Always get a full year no matter when you purchase</small>	 <b>User-friendly</b> <small>Instantly search offers near your exact location</small>
 <b>Environmentally sustainable</b> <small>With no wasted paper from unused vouchers</small>	 <b>New offers added automatically</b> <small>No more waiting for the next print run</small>
 <b>Lightweight and convenient</b> <small>Easily carry everywhere you go</small>	 <b>Year-round fundraising</b> <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](mailto: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) September 20th @ 5pm  
Extending the invitation to all older secondary school children. Join us to engage in discussion groups, fun games, guest speakers and some faith added in as well.

Sessions are on a Sunday from 5 to 6pm.

Please email [caren.garlick@cam.org.au](mailto:caren.garlick@cam.org.au) to register and receive the link.

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

We are looking forward to meeting everyone again this Sunday for more games and trying out the suggestions given so come along and join us this Sunday 30th August, 5pm. This is open to all children from Year 3 to 6. Please

email [caren.garlick@cam.org.au](mailto:caren.garlick@cam.org.au) to register and receive the link.

#### Children's Liturgy

Gospel reflections for all children, with activities to engage in, are on our Parish Website. I invite you to spend some time with your child or as a family in

reflection. Please visit our website - <https://stthomastheapostle.org.au/childrens-liturgy/>

If you do have any questions, please send me an email. Take Care and Stay Safe.

Caren Garlick - Youth Ministry - St Thomas the Apostle Parish

## COMMUNITY NEWS

Catholic Education  
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](http://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](http://www.thebeardedbee.com.au)