



NEWSLETTER

DATE: 8/12/2021
TERM: 4

Dear Parents and Carers,

I feel an incredible sense of gratitude and appreciation as I reflect on my second year as principal at St Thomas More Catholic Primary School. The school community has once again done a fantastic job overcoming all of the hurdles and challenges that were placed in front of us this year. For me, the celebrations and highlights have been many and varied and I am so grateful that I have been given this wonderful opportunity to lead this school community.

I have been truly thankful for the dedication and commitment of the parents at St Thomas More this year. Both during remote learning and when learning at school, the strong partnership between families and the school has made this year successful. Your efforts have had a major impact on your child's learning and achievements.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to Fr. Justin and our School Advisory Council who have been committed to the pursuit of excellence at St Thomas More Catholic Primary School and their combined pursuit of building a strong, faith filled, Catholic community. The support, advocacy and wisdom of our School Advisory Council members has been a real asset to our school and has made my job as Principal a pleasure.

I acknowledge and thank the fabulous St Thomas More staff who continually strive to provide challenging and stimulating learning opportunities for our students, in partnership with families. Each staff member has gone above and beyond again this year in so many ways. I have been truly blessed to work alongside such enthusiastic, passionate and professional colleagues.

I take this opportunity to thank our Year Six students for their many contributions to our school community. I wish them all the best for their move to their respective secondary schools and hope that their memories of St Thomas More will be fond and long lasting.

Finally, I would like to say how proud I am of all of our students and all that they have achieved this year. It has been a privilege to be entrusted with their care and education and to watch each one grow, not only academically but also in faith, love and resilience.



DONATIONS

The school has been overwhelmed with the generosity shown by families for the Christmas food appeal for St Vincent de Paul this year. We extended our sincere thanks for your generous donations which SVDP will use to assist families experiencing hardship. Donations are still being accepted up until Monday 13th December.



FAREWELLS

This year we farewell four staff members: Ms. Jenny Nykoluk, Mrs Jayne Mohr, Ms Laura Bruty and Mr Will Madden. **Jenny** is heading into a well-deserved retirement after many dedicated decades in education. We wish her all the best in her retirement; may she enjoy time pursuing her many interests and spending time with her children and grandchildren. **Jayne** has been appointed to the position of Deputy Principal – Learning Diversity Leader at St. Francis Xavier, Ballarat East from the beginning of 2022. **Laura** has now completed her tertiary education degree and has secured a classroom teacher position at Siena Catholic Primary School for next year. **Will** has also completed his tertiary education degree and will be heading to Bathurst Island in the Northern Territory next year. We thank each of these staff members, through their various roles, for their constant commitment to providing our students with the best learning opportunities possible and wish each of these four departing staff members ever blessing and all the best in their future endeavours.

PARENTS AND FRIENDS CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

The online tickets for the Christmas raffle are selling fast. Tickets can be purchased at <https://rafflelink.com.au/stmcpschristmas21> up until **9am on Tuesday 14th December**. All winners will be emailed and contacted in regards to collecting their prize. A big thank you for the generous donations from local companies that have ensured that our raffle is both very popular and successful.



GOING UP DAY FOR 2022 AND SCHOOL REPORTS

Students will have a “Going Up” session on Monday 13th December where they will meet their 2022 teacher and classmates. Your child’s Semester Two school report will also be available through the Parent Access Module (PAM) on this day from 3pm.

THANKSGIVING MASS AND YEAR 6 GRADUATION

Our End of Year Thanksgiving Mass will be held on **Tuesday 14th December** at 5pm at the St Patrick Cathedral, to which all families are most welcome and encouraged to attend. At this mass we will acknowledge our Year 6 graduating students, farewell Father Justin and departing staff while sharing a final celebration as a school community for 2021.

FINAL DAY FOR STUDENTS 2021

This year the final day for students will be **Thursday 16th December**. We have planned a picnic at the Victoria Park Playground, located on Sturt St near the corner of Russell St (directly opposite Loreto College) for the students, staff and families. Details regarding the picnic are contained within the excursion notice now available on PAM. Parents are asked to approve this excursion on PAM by Tuesday 14th December.

2022 FEE PAYMENT AGREEMENTS

A reminder please that families should have received, completed and returned their 2022 Fee Payment Agreement. If you are yet to do so, please return the form before the end of the school year. If you have any questions or queries please contact the office staff.

STMCPs STAFFING 2022

Principal:	Mr Simon Duffy
Deputy Principal:	Mrs Trish Caldwell
Religious Education Leader:	Mrs Dympna Turner
Literacy Leader F-2 Reading:	
Recovery teacher:	Mrs Jean Crafter
Learning & Teaching Leader & 3-6 Literacy Leader:	Mrs Jo Wheelahan
Learning Diversity Leaders:	Mrs Dympna Turner and Mrs Kelly McMahon
Administration staff:	Mrs Fran Dunn, Mrs Renee Whitefield, Mrs Donna Simpson, Mrs Olivia Burge
Classroom teachers 2022	
Foundation:	Mrs Sarah Gannon, Mrs Nicole Cudia, Ms Brooke Keighrey
Year 1/2:	Mrs Natasha Munro, Mr Mark Woodhart, Mrs Nicole Brightly/Mrs Kylie Blachon, Mrs Tania Hoffmann, Mrs Melinda Turkenburg/ Mrs Jo Wheelahan,
Year 3/4:	Mrs Jenna Hoyle, Ms Tayla Hobbs, Ms Jenny Bird, Ms Brigid Brady, Mrs Genevieve Hawkes/ Mr Jeremy Beggs
Year 5/6:	Mrs Michelle Gittings, Mr David Richardson, Mrs Sue Larkin, Mrs Kath Davis, Mrs Lisa Baker/Mrs Lauren Larkin
Specialist Teachers 2022	
Health & Physical Education:	Mrs Melissa Willey
Music:	Mr Jeremy Beggs
Visual Arts:	Mrs Pauline Doran
Languages (Japanese):	Denise Buttler
Learning support Officers:	Mrs Amanda Barham, Mrs Imma Edwards, Mrs Rebecca Findlay, Mr Craig Buesnel, Mrs Donna Heys, Mrs Olivia Burge, Mrs Angela Pearson, Mrs Paula Miles, Mr Shaun Hon, Mrs Tanya Archbold, Ms Bethany Edwards, Mrs Ange Speechley, Ms Elle Hammill, Ms Talee Hare and Ms Sarah Calleija.
Pastoral Care worker:	Mrs Suzanne Beaver
Library Management:	Mrs Tanya Archbold
Maintenance & Gardens:	Mr Phil Dunn

As this is the final newsletter for 2021, may God bless you all and keep you safe this Christmas season. We look forward to seeing you and partnering with you all next year.



Mr. Simon Duffy,
Principal

Term 4 Calendar, 2021

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
10 Dec	6	7	8 Year 6 Excursion to Adventure Park, Geelong	9 Lacrosse Tournament Yrs ¼ WSP – Nativity led by Yr 1/2 classes	10 Foundation Excursion to Sovereign Hill Tennis Coaching -Yrs ¼ Lacrosse Tournament Yrs 5/6
11 Dec	13` 'Going up Session' for F-Yr 5 students REPORTS RELEASED TO PARENTS via PAM	14 End of Year Thanksgiving Mass and Year 6 Graduation 5pm at St Patrick's Cathedral	15	16 Student's last day 2021 Picnic Day at Victoria Park 10:30-2:00pm School officially concludes at 2.30pm	17 Staff Day

Term 1 Calendar, 2022

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 Jan	24 School holidays	24 School holidays	26 Australia Day Holiday	27 School holidays	28 Staff resume
2 Jan/Feb	31 Student resume school P and F Morning tea 9am	1	2 No classes for Foundation students	3 Foundation Parent reading information 9-10.30am and repeated 6-7 pm	4
3 Feb	7 Parent/Teacher meeting 2.30 – 5pm	8 Parent/Teacher meeting 2.30 – 5pm	9 No classes for Foundation students	10	11
4 Feb	14 Parent Information Night 5.30-7:00pm	15	16 No classes for Foundation students	17	18
5 Feb	21 SAC Meeting 5:00pm	22	23 No classes for Foundation students	24	25 School closure day
6 March	28	1 Shrove Tuesday	2 Ash Wednesday No classes for Foundation students	3	4
7 March	7	8 School Photo Day	9	10	11
8 March	14 Public Holiday Labour Day	15 School Closure day	16	17	18
9 March	21 Classroom Helper training session 9-11am (Part 1)	22	23 Year 5/6 Camp	24 Year 5/6 Camp	25 Year 5/6 Camp
10 March/ April	28 Classroom Helper training session 9-11am (Part 2)	29	30	31	1
11 April	4	5	6	7 Stations of the Cross Liturgy-2:45pm	8 Sports day Last day of Term 1 2.30pm finish