



Grant me, O Lord my God,  
a mind to know you,  
a heart to seek you,  
wisdom to find you,  
conduct pleasing to you,  
faithful perseverance in waiting for you,  
and a hope of finally embracing you.

Amen.

### Important Dates 2018:

**Monday 5 March** – Labour Day Public Holiday

**Tuesday 6 March** – Pupil Free Day (Staff involved in Professional Learning – New Religious Education Units of Work)

**Wednesday 14 March** – Audit (School Education Audit conducted by CEO) Wednesday 14 March  
– Parish Mass – Year 6 attending

**Saturday 17 March** – Night on the Green – Dads' Sleep Out – School/Parish Mass (Year 6 preparing)

### From the Principals Desk

*Dear Parents and Members of our  
School Community*

**Canadian Study Tour & Conference:** I have been fortunate to have been chosen to attend a study tour to Canada from Wednesday 4 April to Friday 27 April. The purpose of the study tour is to visit system districts and schools in some of Canada's highest performing provinces, including Ontario and British Columbia. This opportunity will connect with Catholic Education Western Australia's work with educational leaders Michael Fullan, Lyn Sharratt, Judy Halbert and Linda Kaser. Participants will work with these educational leaders to further develop our educational leadership knowledge around an understanding of strong district and school coherence, agile leadership and effective school improvement.

The study tour also includes the uLead Conference (Banff, Alberta: 15 - 18 April 2018) which focuses on the theme Leading Schools - By Design which will provide every delegate with an opportunity to see a variety of models of innovative leadership in contemporary times. The study tour concludes in Toronto and includes visits to schools and workshops with international educational consultants.

This is a fantastic opportunity for me to continue to develop both leadership and educational expertise. The Catholic Education Office has asked Mr Ryan von

Bergheim to take on the role of Acting Principal in my absence which Ryan has accepted.

**Professional Learning:** Please be aware that next Tuesday 6 March is a Pupil Free Day. The staff of St. Thomas' will be undertaking Professional Learning (PL) regarding the new Religious Education Units of Work.

**School duty:** It has become apparent that some children are being dropped off or coming to school very early. Parents please be aware that a member of staff is on morning duty from 8.15am. Children should not be arriving at school before this time. We do understand that sometimes this is unavoidable due to work and other commitments but it should not be a regular occurrence. Parents/guardians of children who repeatedly arrive prior to 8:15 am will be contacted by the school and required to make alternative before school care arrangements for their children. Extend Before & After School Care is available on site.

**Testing in Term One:** As an integral part of our beginning year focus on Literacy & Numeracy at St Thomas' students in certain Early Childhood classes (PP - Year 2) are assessed to determine their literacy and numeracy levels. We do this at the start of every year to maintain accurate and informed teaching/ learning programs to identify and address students' needs.

Please find listed below some of the assessments that we are currently completing on Page 2.

**OLI:** A computer-based program known as On-Entry Learning Interview is used in Pre-Primary at the start of the school year. OLI is designed to determine each student's readiness for learning and to identify areas of each student's strengths and areas for development.

**Observational Surveys:** This is a package of assessments given to each student in Years 1, 2 and certain students in Year 3. The assessments are designed to determine the students' areas of strengths and those areas in need of development. The results enable the teachers and support staff to begin teaching each student at an appropriate level. The results of these assessments are analysed and interpreted. Then the findings and recommendations are given to the teachers for further consideration and implementation.

**Running Records / Maths Assessments:** Again, most students in Years 1 – 2 will be assessed using this process. The results enable the teacher to gain an understanding of appropriate starting points to target each student's point of need.

The staff at St. Thomas' meet each Tuesday after school - Professional Learning Meetings (PLM's). These meetings are structured as Junior/Senior Clusters or whole school to plan, monitor and assess learning journeys based on the results from the data and other testing (e.g. NAPLAN).

**Project Compassion:** Please continue to encourage your children to raise funds for Caritas Australia's Annual Project Compassion Appeal. Each family received a Project Compassion Box following the Ash Wednesday Mass. These will need to be returned to school on Friday 23 March so that these donations can be presented to the Parish community at the Stations of the Cross Service on Tuesday 27 March.

**Parish/School Mass:** Our second Parish/School Mass of the year will take place on Saturday evening the 17 March at 5.30pm. The Year Six class and Mr. von Bergheim are organising the Mass. A sausage sizzle, will be held after Mass on the school oval. This will be held in conjunction with the Dads' Sleep Out.

**Year Six Camp:** I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr von Bergheim for organising a sensational week long camp for our Year Six students. I know they all having a wonderful time and thoroughly enjoying themselves, whilst participating enthusiastically and undertaking all the activities. Thanks also to Mrs. Valentine, Mrs. Keatch and Miss Hubbard for giving their time so readily for the students and the school.

**Save the Date:** P&F's Night on the Green: The traditional 'Dads' Sleep Out' will take place on Saturday 17 March (Week Seven Term One). Please place this date on your calendar as it is an evening that Dad's and children both look forward to.

**School Fees:** Shortly you will be receiving your annual school fees and booklist invoices by mail. St. Thomas' relies on its families to make their school fee payments in a timely manner to allow it to meet its own financial obligations. As previously notified, our BPAY details have been changed to: **280396**. Please ensure you update your records.

St. Thomas' has a long, proud history of assisting families who are experiencing financial hardship. We understand that many members of our school community are presently experiencing challenging times, brought on by the downturn in the economic climate. Those experiencing financial hardship are encouraged to contact the office in order that we may be able to assist you.

Please feel free to contact Leanne or myself if we can be of assistance.

*With regards and best wishes*

*Justin Tuohy*

Principal



Free Meningococcal ACWY vaccine for 1-4 year olds was announced at the end of January 2018. The vaccine is time-limited until the end of 2018 for children 1-4 years. It will then go on to the schedule for 12 month olds. More information is available from:

<http://www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/News/Free-meningococcal-vaccine-for-1-to-4-year-olds>

## Uniform Shop News

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2.30 – 3.15pm

Sale of **second hand** items.

Please note we will **not** be able to supply new items at this time.

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 8.15am – 9.00am

Uniform Shop Opening



A reminder that winter uniform is worn in terms 2 and 3. The jumper is a compulsory uniform item. Outdoor jackets are optional and are only to be worn outdoors.

We encourage all families to use the online ordering system when possible - [quickcliq.com.au](http://quickcliq.com.au). Order forms are available from the front office if required.

## CURRICULUM CORNER *The Importance of Oral Language Development*

Oral language encompasses two components, expressive and receptive language. Expressive language (speaking) is the use of words and non-verbal processes to share meaning with others. Receptive language (listening) is the process of understanding what has been expressed. Listening can occur by taking note of pitch, tone, stress, and use of gesture to understand a speaker's meaning.

Research suggests that oral language is the foundation for the development for literacy skills and is considered to be a strong indicator of later reading, writing, and overall academic achievement. Until children learn to read they learn most of what they know by hearing other people talk. Engaging in stimulating talk is the way young children can expand their own language skills – learning words, putting sentences together and practicing the 'rules of talk'.



Speaking and listening are academic, social and life skills that are valued in school and the world. High quality classroom talk is a key factor in improving student engagement and outcomes. There is a reciprocal relationship with oral language and writing – if students don't speak the words, they will not be writing them.

Emergent literacy is what young people come to understand about reading and writing, often well before they can read and write and one of the key influences is their oral language facility. As students start to learn to read and write they draw on knowledge of oral language. Teaching practices that support oral language development include (but are not limited to) educators scaffolding student learning, responsiveness to student needs, face-to-face interactions, intentional teaching, monitoring student development, considerate design of the visual learning environment and collaborative, purposeful play-based learning.

Bayetto, A. (2015). Oral Language. Australian Primary Principals Association.

Johns, K. (2011). Talk it up – oral language skills in the early years. Educating Young Children – Learning and Teaching in the Early Childhood Years.

*Karen Jones*

## Religion News

I have been so impressed by the efforts of the children (and their parents!) who have given up their time to raise money for Project Compassion.

These children made their own Lemonade stands and together raised over \$250, an amazing effort!! This is social justice in action!



Tom and Jacob Jones

Natasha & Nicolle Escaff

Ruby Bogias and Lily Gavranic

In Nat Bogias words..



*"I am extremely proud of each kid as they invited people to buy their lemonade and explained the reason behind Project Compassion. Most people were very impressed with how they conducted themselves. Proud mummy/daddy moments for us all."*

As a school we are so proud too! These children are out in the community displaying all the St Thomas' school values of – Inclusivity, Excellence, Truth, Compassion and Community.

For those children receiving a sacrament this year the Commitment masses are 17 & 18 March. Attending the Commitment Mass is part of the preparation for receiving the Sacrament. The mass times are Saturday 17 March at 5.30pm and Sunday 18 March at 7.30am, 9.30am or 6.30pm.

The Saturday night mass at 5.30pm is being led by the Year 6 students and is followed by a Sausage Sizzle. All families are encouraged to attend.



PROJECT COMPASSION  
Second Week of Lent



Rattanak in Cambodia contracted polio as a child and also became deaf. The Deaf Development Program, supported by Caritas Australia, helped him become a barber and he is now supporting himself, his wife and baby.

**Please donate to Project Compassion 2018 and help deaf youth in Cambodia to build a just future, and live in communities that uphold everyone's dignity.**

**A just Future starts with your support!** You can donate through Project Compassion boxes/envelopes, visit [www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion) or phone 1800 024 413.



**Swimming Training** is on Thursday and Friday mornings at Claremont Pools for years 3-6. Thursday morning 7.45am – 8.15am & Friday mornings 7.30am – 8.15am

Can parents please ensure students are picked up **no later than 8.30am** as staff have classes to teach.

If you would like to participate in swimming training they need to have completed stage 6 from the Department of Education Swimming Program and parents must sign a permission slip.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Year 5 & 6 Tennis and Cricket Carnival** – Wednesday 28th March

**St Thomas' Swimming Carnival** – Thursday 29th March – Notes have gone home and they are to be returned by Friday 2 March. We require a number of parent helpers on the day. If you are able to assist with the running of the carnival can you indicate on the form please.

**Interschool Swimming Carnival** – Monday 9 April – If parents are able to assist with the running of this carnival please contact Sharon Seaman via email on [Sharon.seaman@cewa.edu.au](mailto:Sharon.seaman@cewa.edu.au).

## SPORTING COMMUNITIES

AFL Football – If you would like to child to participate in AFL football for Claremont Junior Football Club contact [www.claremontjuniorfc.com.au](http://www.claremontjuniorfc.com.au)

Kids TRYAthlon – Sunday 25th March

WAMC Kids Marathon – Sunday 17th June

Please see more information regarding these events on the last page of this newsletter.

*Sharon Seaman*  
*Physical Education Teacher*

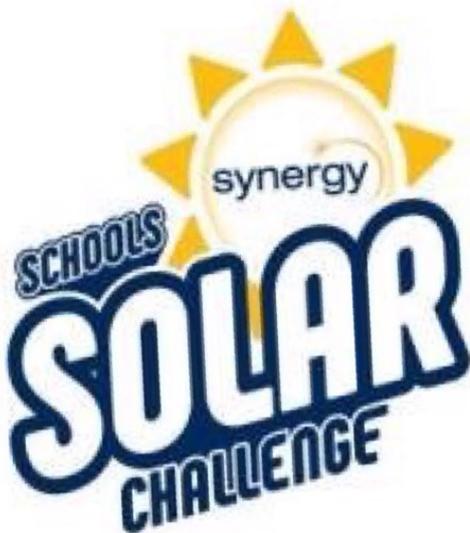




**The Year 6 E-Challenge class are busy designing solar cars. A team of 4 will be selected to represent the school in the Synergy Solar Car Challenge in April.**



**Lisa Keatch**



## Extend After School Care at St Thomas' Primary School

Due to Pupil Free Days - Extend is not be operating on either Tuesday 6 March or Tuesday 3 April.



### Fortnightly Recap

We have had heaps of fun activities last week such as Rainbow Q-tip art, Paper Collage, Picture Frame making, Cardboard Tube Butterfly, French Knitting and colorful Peacock Heart. We also had outdoor activities which the children really enjoyed like Bubble Snakes, Red Light- Green Light and All Paired- Up. The Cheesy Vegemite Pastry Twists for an afternoon tea was a hit, children just loved it.

Liezel, Service Coordinator and the Extend Team

### Our Extend Superstars are:

Rebecca Wijeyagoonewardena for always being active during mat sessions and cheerfully sharing her great experiences in the group.

Lily Gavranic for always showing initiative to help others especially the little ones.

### What's on next week?

**Monday 05 March**

*Labour Day*

**Tuesday 06 March**

*Pupil Free Day*

**Wednesday 07 March**

Giraffe Finger Puppet craft and dinosaur crafts (origami Pterodactyl, T-Rex paper plates)

**Thursday 08 March**

Lady Bug Paper Plate and Animal Yoga for kids (different animal poses )

**Friday 09 March**

Fork Lion painting and Animal masks making

**PARENT PORTAL: [extend.com.au](http://extend.com.au)**



St Mary's School Northampton  
cordially invite you to attend our  
**150th Anniversary Celebration and Reunion**  
Saturday, 14th April 2018

- 01:00 Mass
- 02:30 Blessing and Unveiling of Commemorative Wall & Burying of Time Capsule
- 03:00 Afternoon Tea, Opening of Classrooms, Memorabilia Displays & Register Signing
- 05:00 School Closes
- 05:30 Drinks at Northampton Community Centre
- 06:00 Dinner at Northampton Community Centre

**Dinner Tickets \$30 per person**  
These tickets need to be purchased and paid for at time of booking. Numbers are limited. Licensed bar on the night.

**Commemorative Book \$25**  
(100 pages of history & photos)  
If you would like one, please pre-order so we know how many to print. Thank you.

An online booking facility is available through Ticketebo where we require you to fill in the appropriate boxes e.g. purchase of Dinner Ticket, purchase of Commemorative Book. If you will be at the Mass, so we know how many seats we need, and if you will be having Afternoon Tea, no charge but number required for catering. If you are unable to access this facility please contact the school by phone or email.

**RSVP 26th March 2018**

Any Queries:  
\*Email: [marcee.hasleby@cewa.edu.au](mailto:marcee.hasleby@cewa.edu.au)  
\*Phone: School Office 08 9934 1112  
\*Updates on our Facebook Page:  
St Mary's School Northampton 150th Celebration

Tickets and Commemorative Book to be purchased through:  
\*admin@smsn.wa.edu.au  
\*Ticketebo  
<http://www.ticketebo.com.au/stmarv150>

## Floorball

Do you have any small Floorball sticks that are no longer in use? Would you consider selling them to some of the Year One families whose children have just started the sport? If so please contact Nat at: [natalie.bogoiias@gmail.com](mailto:natalie.bogoiias@gmail.com)



**Thanks to Netina  
Prichard, Virginia  
Gamble and the  
Fabulous Fours for  
sprucing up our  
sustainable garden.**

**L. Keatch**



# Understanding Stepfamily Relationships

*Are you...* a member of a stepfamily, or blended family?  
*Do you...* want to strengthen the stepfamily relationships you possess, and learn to better discipline and understand the needs of children?  
*If so...* this weekend course is for you!

We, at Relationships Australia, appreciate that stepfamilies and blended families operate in a different way to intact biological families. The dynamic of a stepfamily is more complex and there is a need for special understanding and management from biological parents and step-parents working together, for healthy stepfamily growth to happen.

**This weekend course will explore:**

- the proven strategies deemed helpful and unhelpful for stepfamilies;
- how to manage discipline and understand the needs of children; and
- how to best grow a strong and loving couple relationship;
- Having an opportunity to address particular issues within the group.

**Where:** Relationships Australia West Leederville – 22 Southport Street, West Leederville  
**When:** Friday 16, Saturday 17 & Sunday 18 March 2018  
**Times:** Fri 6:30pm – 9:00pm, Sat 1:00pm – 5:30pm, Sun 10:00am – 1:00pm  
**Fee:** \$75.00 per person / \$120.00 per couple

Places are limited - please contact (08) 6164 0200 to register today!  
 For more detail about our courses and seminars, click [here](http://here) or visit [www.relationships.org.au](http://www.relationships.org.au)

**It would be great to see you!**

# play afl

register to play for  
**Claremont JFC**  
 at play.afl

**Don Harley**  
 0420 739 115  
 president@claremontjfc@gmail.com  
 www.claremontjuniorfc.com.au

Boys and Girls football available

**AFL** #WAFOOTY

# SCHOOL HOLIDAY FOOTBALL CLINICS

Coaching and mentoring by local WAFL players, Women's League Players and WA Football Coaches

Boys and Girls programs available  
 Age Groups: Pre-Primary – Year 6  
 Clinics conducted at the West Perth Football Club, Subiaco Football Club and Claremont Football Clubs

For more information register here:  
 West Perth Clinics: [www.falconstristric.com.au](http://www.falconstristric.com.au)  
 Subiaco Clinics: [www.kingsdistrict.com.au](http://www.kingsdistrict.com.au)  
 Claremont Clinics: [www.tigerstristric.com.au](http://www.tigerstristric.com.au)

## FOOTY FUNDAMENTALS

Footy Fundamentals class to prepare our kids for the future. Footy Fundamentals is a carefully planned and structured foundation AFL program for boys and girls (2-5 years), while encouraging your active toddlers to develop their fundamental movement skills in an AFL environment, using AFL equipment. Active parent involvement is required in all of our foundation AFL programs.

Footy Fundamentals • 9580 5811 • [www.footyfundamentals.com.au](http://www.footyfundamentals.com.au) • [mhobbs@wafu.com.au](mailto:mhobbs@wafu.com.au)

# Give it a try!

For 20 years Weet-Bix has been inspiring Aussie Kids to live happier, healthier and more active lives.

## Perth 25 March

Enter now: [tryathlon.com.au](http://tryathlon.com.au)

WEET-BIX Kids TRYATHLON 20 YEARS ALUMNI

# WAMC Kids Marathon

SUNDAY 17 JUNE 2018

**WAMC Kids Marathon**

The West Australian Marathon Club joined the national Kids Marathon Series in 2006. It has been a great success and we are looking forward to the Perth Kids Marathon continuing to grow bigger and bigger each year. It has a unique format that allows kids, kindergarten through high school to run a marathon... one kilometre at a time. It will be held in conjunction with the annual Perth Marathon on Sunday 17 June, 2018. All children are encouraged to commence a training program in April/May/June and start logging their kilometres. The aim is to run the final 40km of the marathon distance over a number of weeks in the child's own time, then on marathon day complete the final 2.10km at the 2017 Perth Marathon. This is a great opportunity for children of school age to start an exercise program that will continue over a number of weeks and culminate in the completion of a "marathon".

**How to Run Your Marathon**

There is a safe place to run. Walk or run alone in the 8 weeks leading up to 17 June. Use the training schedule to help plan your runs. Come to the Perth Marathon on Sunday 17 June 2018 to run the final 2.10km of your marathon. "FINISHING IS WINNING..... WINNING IS FINISHING"

**Training Schedule**

If you can only run a little, keep trying. If you run more than a kilometre a day, great! If you play a lot of sport when you run a KI, this may be okay. Just remember to space your workouts so you are prepared to run the final distance on marathon day. Early completion of the program is not recommended. The schedule below leaves Saturdays and Sundays available for extra play days or to give you a rest day. It is important to keep track of your progress toward your goal. As you complete each kilometre mark it off on your kilometre Countdown Chart. This is only a recommended schedule and you may choose to start your "marathon" earlier or later than the dates above... just don't try to do too much too close to marathon day!

Every Monday to Friday run 5km a day + 5km a week.  
 Commencing Monday 23 April.  
 Final run before the big day Friday 15 June.  
 TOTAL: 40 kilometres

**Register now at [www.wamc.org.au](http://www.wamc.org.au)**

**On Marathon Day**

**Where:** Start/finish at Burnwood Water Sports Centre located at 1 Cornfield Drive, Burnwood.  
**Where it starts:** Sunday 17 June 2018.  
**Distance:** Last 2.10km of your marathon.  
**Eligibility:** All school age children are encouraged to participate. The maximum age is 18.  
**Entry:** One entry per parent, to be completed by the parent.  
**Fee:** \$10  
**Entries close:** Friday 18 May 2018.  
**No refunds:** Entry fee is non-refundable and entries are non-transferable.  
**Race Pack Collection:** Available for collection at Burnwood Water Sports Centre between 10:00pm on Saturday 16 June and on race morning from 7am. Your race pack will include a bib number which must be worn on race day and your free participant's shirt.  
**Rewards:** All finishers will receive a medal and a finisher's certificate. As participants must complete their race on race day to receive their medal, make up distances and/or alternate race dates will not be recognised.  
**Post-race:** After the completion of the marathon, participants will be served breakfast at the finish line while they await the arrival of the first finishers in the Perth Marathon.  
**Souvenir photographs:** Marathon Photos will attempt to capture every finisher in the Kids Marathon at the finish line. These photographs will be available on the website [www.marathon-photos.com.au](http://www.marathon-photos.com.au) shortly after the event.

**Additional Information**

All school age children are encouraged to participate. The maximum age is 18. All finishers will receive a medal and a finisher's certificate. All participants must complete their race on race day to receive their medal. Make up distances and/or alternate race dates will not be recognised.

**Event Manager**  
 WEST AUSTRALIAN MARATHON CLUB  
 PO Box 104, Burnwood  
 WA 6100  
 Telephone: 9475 4823  
 Email: [wamc@wamc.org.au](mailto:wamc@wamc.org.au)  
 Web: [www.wamc.org.au](http://www.wamc.org.au)

**ENTRIES CLOSE FRIDAY 18 MAY 2018**

The entry closure is designed to have enough medals and certificates to participants and complete the system within a comfortable period of time without having to do an 40km into an unrealistic short time.

## Presentation for Parents with Paul Collard and Paul Gorman How can we help our children do well in school?

The latest education research suggests that a child's progress is improved when the core school curriculum is taught through enough engaging and entertaining activities. Join us for this special evening of talks on creative education with Paul Collard and Paul Gorman. Bookings: [link](http://link)

Date: Monday, 19 March 2018

Venue: Scotch College

Time: 6.30pm to 7.30pm

Enquiries: Katie Hobbs on 9440 6656