

IF I RAISED MY CHILD AGAIN

..

If I had my child to raise all over again,
I would finger paint more and point the finger less.
I would do less correcting and more connecting.
I'd take my eyes off my watch and watch with my eyes.
I would care to know less and know to care more.
I'd take more hikes and fly more kites.
I'd stop playing serious, and seriously play.
I would run through more fields and gaze at more stars.
I'd do more hugging and less tugging.
I'd build self esteem first, and the house later.
I would be firm less often, and affirm much more.
I'd teach less about the love of power,
and more about the power of love.



(Source: Diane Loomans, Health Yourself, Sep 1997)

Important Dates:

Tuesday 20 February – School Board Meeting

Friday 23 February – Year 4 Excursion to Francis Burt Law Court

Saturday 24 February – School/Parish Mass – Year Five organising – 5.30pm

Monday 26 February – Friday 2 March – Year Six Camp – Dwellingup

From the Principals Desk

*Dear Parents and Members of our
School Community*

Absentee Routines and Procedures: The following information regarding Attendance is applicable for 2018: Children are required by law to attend school on school days. When children are absent, parents are required to notify the school by 9:00am. This may be done through phone call or email to administration admin@stthomas.wa.edu.au or the classroom teacher. If phoning administration to notify of an absence, upon return to school a written note or email is required giving reasons for the absence. Absentee notes/emails must include:

The name of the student

The class of the student

The reason for the absence

The full name of the parent or guardian at the end of the message

Signature (if written note)

If the school is not notified of an absence by 9:20am, the administration officer will contact parents via an SMS.

Classes begin at 8.45am each morning for all

children from Pre-Primary to Year 6. Children who arrive at school after 8.45am must be signed in at the front office by their **parent/guardian**. If you are collecting your child earlier than the 3pm finish they must be signed out at the front office prior to leaving the school grounds.

The school assumes duty of care for each student from the time recorded at the front office. Children in Pre-Primary and Kindergarten classes who arrive late for school are to be taken to the classroom by their accompanying adult.

Parent/Teacher Evening (Preprimary—Year 6): Thank you to all parents who attended last Tuesday's Parent/Teacher Information Meetings. Thanks also to the teacher for their preparation of the meetings and their ongoing commitment to the children in their classrooms.

Parish Children's Masses: Our first Parish Children's Mass of the year will be on Saturday 24 February, commencing at 5.30pm. The Year Five children and their families will oversee the preparing and cooking of the sausage sizzle and organising aspects of the mass.

Lenten Season: Thanks to Fr. Wayne, Mrs. Sullivan and the Year Four class for preparing a beautiful Ash Wednesday Mass yesterday. Father Wayne encouraged the students to not necessarily give up something for Lent but for the students to give something of themselves. He used examples of showing initiative to help others particularly their parents and carers. Father Wayne also asked of the students to “Love one another, Forgive one another and to Accept one another”.

Towards the end of the Mass a class representative collected their classes Project Compassion boxes. Caritas Australia’s Project Compassion is an annual fundraising and awareness-raising appeal, bringing thousands of Australians together in solidarity with the world’s poor to help end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity. All families will receive a small Project Compassion box. We ask that any loose change or donations you can make are placed into this box over the Lenten period and then at the school’s Stations of the Cross Paralyturgy on Tuesday 27 March they be returned to school so that we can present them to Father Wayne.

Year 6 Camp: We wish our Year Six students and the staff attending camp in a week and a half all the very best. I encourage them to attempt every

challenge on camp and use this time away as a class to gain the very best out of themselves and their peers. Camp runs from Monday 22 – Friday 26 February.

Advanced Notice: 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.

Save the Date: P&F’s Night on the Green: The traditional ‘Father’s 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. If Dad is away—please bring your father figure (grandpa, uncle or mum!) In line with St Thomas’ Code of Conduct, this is an alcohol-free event.

With regards and best wishes

Justin Tuohy
Principal

MAKERSPACE DONATIONS

We are currently seeking Makerspace donations of the following items...
If you have any of these lying around at home that you want to get rid of, please place in the donation tub outside the Makerspace Doors. Thanks!



The P&F would like to run another Mothers Day stall again this year and is seeking assistance from a school parent to coordinate this hugely popular fundraiser.

If you have a flair for gifts and sales or are interested in helping raise funds for our kids please email:

StThomasPF@gmail.com

We look forward to hearing from you!

Parent/Teacher Information Evening: At Tuesday's Parent/Teacher Information Evening I highlighted our areas of focus for 2018 and well as outlining a few points for the year ahead. I have included that speech below. Please take the time to read it and if you have any questions please do not hesitate to speak to me.

In 2018, we will be having several foci for educational initiatives as well as school improvement.

The implementation of the schools Strategic Plan through the delivery of the Annual School Improvement Plan will focus our attention on our chosen initiatives: 1) implementing and embedding the Brightpath Writing Program at St. Thomas', 2) developing an Aboriginal Education Plan, 3) Continuing with our Sustainability and Environmental focus based on the Energy Audit conducted in 2017, 4) Improving student results in the Bishop's Religious Education Literacy Assessment and 5) implementing the new Religious Education Units of Work developed by the Catholic Education Office. We will also continue our Visible learning focus from 2017. This will include: pre and post testing to measure teacher effectiveness, the use of learning intentions and success criteria in the classroom and giving quality feedback to students so that they can improve their work standards.

Our educational areas will focus on numeracy in the Early Years, with extra attention being given to Writing in Years 3 - 6.

Spelling with the use of the Words Their Way programme will also continue to have an ongoing focus throughout the school.

During Week Seven of this term our school will undergo an Educational Audit. This Audit is carried out in Catholic School every five years and involves matters that included governance, curriculum, staff/student ratios, enrolment procedures, attendance, etc. The second part of the process is the Audit of our Early Childhood classrooms and programs. I believe that due to good management, excellent teaching and appropriate accountability regarding documentation that we should pass the Audit with flying colours.

We have again engaged the services of Mr. Paul Litherland an ex-police officer to run his Surf Online PD with the Year Five and Six students. This program delves into cyber safety and how children can protect themselves whilst using the Internet. And again, he will run the parent session in the evening for all parents in the school. If you were not able to attend the parent session in 2017 I highly recommend your attendance this year. It was engaging, scary and certainly eye-opening.

Regarding communication, it is extremely important to sustain open communication between parents and teachers. Parents are encouraged to notify your child's teacher of any concerns you may have about your child and to make an appointment at a mutually convenient time before or after school. The easiest way to make an appointment is either by email or through the front office. Please consider what is appropriate to be emailed and what needs to be discussed face to face? Speaking of emails, I need to reinforce that there is no expectation of any staff to be communicating via email or such during teaching time or after 6.00pm at night during the working week. Likewise, enquiries sent via email cannot always be answered or responded to immediately. My expectation is that some kind of response, even if it is preliminary pending further follow up/investigation, should be received within 24 hours of sending an initial enquiry. Our staff are very professional and service focused, but they also have many multi-faceted daily requests so I ask that you allow them time to address your queries professionally in a realistic timeframe.

In conclusion, I want to thank you the parents for your trust. Your trust in the school and staff that we will provide your children with the education they deserve. The trust which goes with passing on your most precious treasure each day and trusting we will care and look after them. As at home sometimes issues or accidents occur but I thank you for trusting in us that we will handle these situations the best way we can. Thank you for your time and your commitment to your children and St. Thomas' in a moment you can head off to your child's classroom.

Justin Tuohy
Principal

RELIGION

We celebrated Ash Wednesday Mass yesterday. This marks the start of Lent. Lent is the 40 days leading up to Easter, and is treated as a period of reflection, a time for fasting from food and festivities. The fasting period is to remember when Jesus went into the wilderness and fasted for 40 days despite being tempted.



For Children receiving a sacrament this year (Reconciliation, Eucharist or Confirmation) the Commitment masses will be held on the weekend of 17 & 18 March. Each child will be given a Commitment Card (given to them at school on 15 March). This needs to be filled out and brought to one of the masses (Sat 17 March—5.30pm, Sunday 18 March—7.30am, 9.30am, 5.30pm). Please put these dates in your diary. Please note attending the Commitment Mass is an essential part of the preparation for the sacrament, if you cannot attend over this weekend please contact Father Wayne to make alternative arrangements.

Our First School/Parish Mass is 17 March led by the Year 5 class. As this coincides with our Commitment Masses this makes an ideal time to join with our school community.



Project Compassion

Students will have brought home this week a Project Compassion box. We ask that any loose change or donations you can make are placed into the box over the Lenten period. These will be due back at school in Week Nine prior to Good Friday. We are very grateful for your support of such a worthwhile cause.

You will be empowering young people to build a just future for themselves, their families and their communities. A just future starts with your support! You can also donate by phoning 1800 024 413 or visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion.



*Wishing you a blessed week
Mrs Sullivan*



Project Compassion First Week of Lent



Janaki is a young entrepreneur from Nepal, who has turned her life around. Growing up in a world of poverty and disadvantage, coupled with a forced marriage at the age of twelve, she was in a very vulnerable position. Even more so when her husband died just two years into their marriage. With the help of a Caritas Australia supported program she is now running her own successful sewing business and has become an inspirational community leader.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2018 and empower vulnerable young people like Janaki in Nepal to build a just future for themselves, their families and their communities.

CURRICULM CORNER

Children begin to develop numeracy skills from a very early age. You can introduce maths skills and ideas into everyday activities with your child to help build early numeracy.

Numeracy is the ability to apply maths concepts in all areas of life.

Numeracy skills involve understanding numbers, counting, solving number problems, measuring, sorting, noticing patterns, adding and subtracting numbers and so on.

We all need numeracy and maths skills to do everyday things like: solve problems – for example, which brand and size of tinned beans is the cheapest, understand patterns – for example, what number would the next house in this street be?

Children start learning numeracy skills from the time they're born. This learning happens through everyday play and activities – for example, when you encourage your child to: count fingers, toes and recognise numbers on objects

As your child gets older, he learns more numeracy and maths skills, including size and measurement – for example, when he starts to: help set the table, fill a water bottle, divide food into equal shares, compare things, use words to describe where things are – 'over', 'under' and 'next to'.

When you talk with your child about maths concepts in your everyday activities, it helps him/her understand how and why maths is useful. For example, this happens when you point out big and small (size), high and low (height), heavy and light (weight), fast and slow (speed), close and far (distance), first, second and last (order).

Raising children.com

Kate Byrne

SPORT NEWS

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

If you would like to participate in swimming training children 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

Interschool Swimming Carnival – Monday 9th April



Sharon Seaman

Physical Education Teacher

Community Spirit alive & well at St Thomas'



This week Chloe in Year 4 was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation from the WA Police Force. The inscription read:

For displaying great community spirit and the courage to help a person in need.

Chloe, who's first language is Chinese assisted school staff and Fr Wayne when a lady, who was visiting from China and had only been in Perth a few days was found lost.

Chloe's class were able to share in the event when the police arrived in their NAIDOC decorated police car. The police officers explained to the class how it helps everyone when people are willing to assist.

The Community Newspaper group also came to share the event. Congratulations Chloe!

Our new Biller Code is: 280396 Your Reference number remains unchanged.

You will receive your 2018 school fees invoice by the end of February. Please ensure you update your records to avoid any confusion.

Leanne Hancock
Finance Officer

SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB CATALOGUE

Orders due by 11pm FRIDAY 16 FEBRUARY

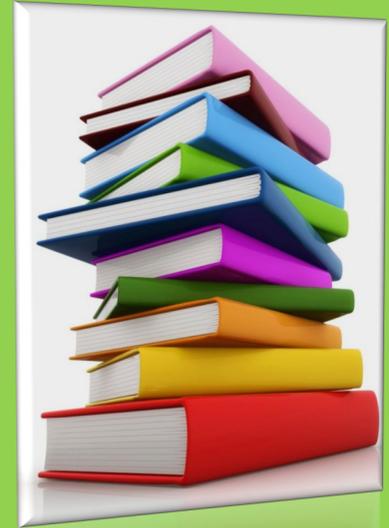
Students from Kindy to Year 6 brought home a Scholastic book club catalogue last week. Our school library earns 20% from every item ordered.

Please note that orders are online only (Scholastic calls this LOOP) and payment is with a credit card. (NB: No payments by cash or cheque.)

If you wish to order an item, please follow the instructions on the back page of your child's catalogue.

Late orders cannot be accepted. (But there will be a new catalogue sent home each term!) Purchases will be delivered to school, and then sent home with your child.

Happy reading!



CHORAL SPEAKING CLUB - YEAR 3 to 6

It's back! Interested children in years 3 to 6 are invited to join the St Thomas' Choral Speaking Club.

No experience is required, but as this is a team activity students will need to commit to arriving on time every Tuesday. This term we will be exploring and performing traditional and modern poetry ... and having fun!



When: Every Tuesday at 8am sharp (please be on time) for 35 mins.

Where: St Thomas' school library (enter through the school reception)

Permission forms are available from Julie Wray at the front office.

**Rebecca Newman
Library**

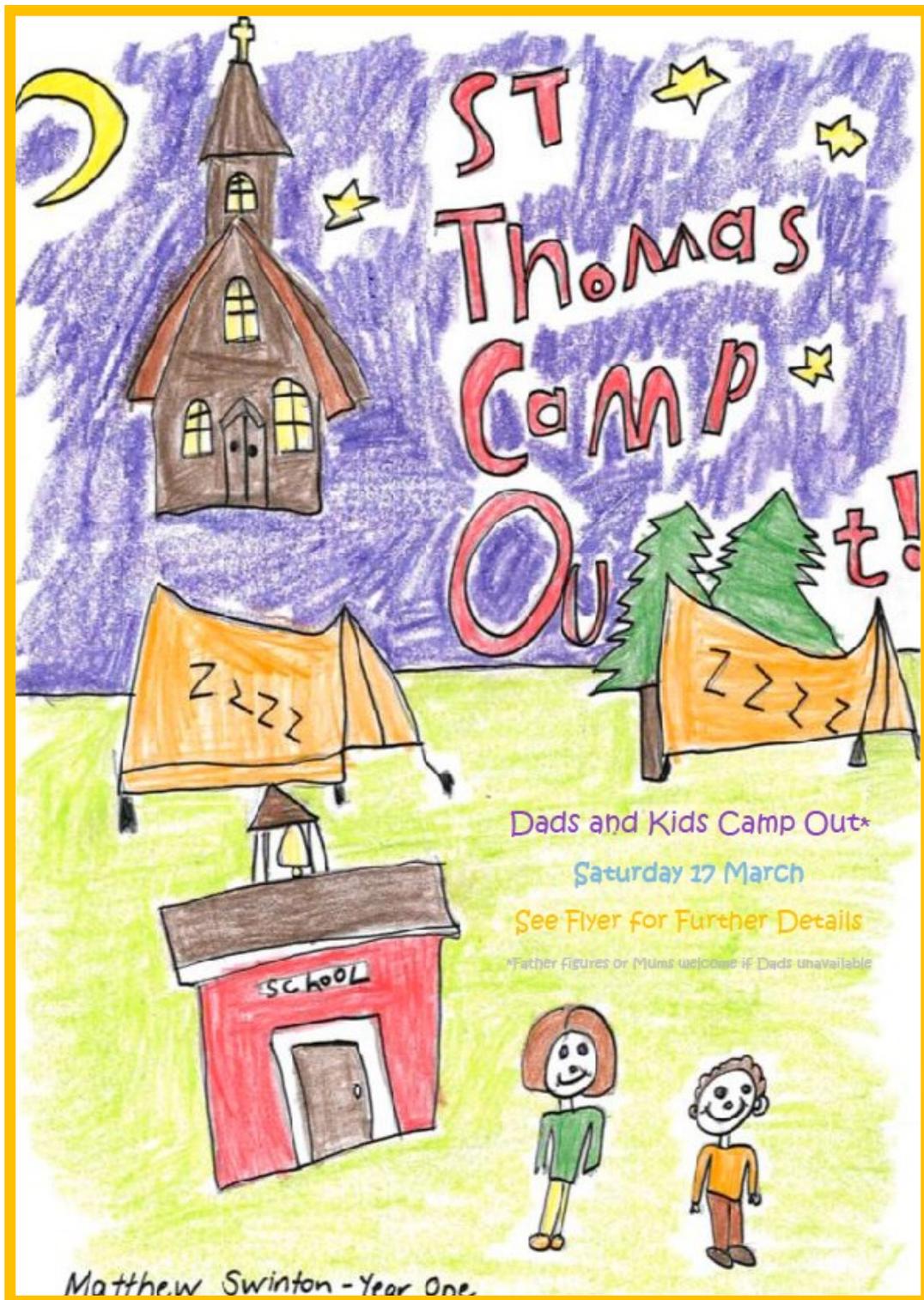


Iona is proud to offer

**Academic, Music &
Indigenous Scholarships
for Years 7 and 10, 2019**

For further information please go to
www.iona.wa.edu.au/scholarships

Applications close
Saturday 24 February 2018



SPORTS FOR SCHOOLS



Coles Sports for Schools is back to help Aussie kids stay fit and healthy.

Every \$10 spent at Coles during the program, will earn a Coles Sports for Schools voucher. The more vouchers our school collects, the more sports gear we will receive. Our children really enjoy playing with sports equipment at recess and lunch so please support this program. Please bring the vouchers into school and place in the box in the front office or next to the Library. Thank you !

Extend Before and After School Care at
St Thomas' Primary School

Fortnightly Recap

Over the past two weeks, children had lots of fun making dreamcatcher, Yarn Balls, Paper Ninja Star, 3D balloon, Bracelet and Necklace. We also made Binoculars and Paper Hand Puppet which becoming the most popular. We had banana cake and love heart fruit Kebab and tasty heart sandwiches for our cooking activity. Woven heart, card roll heart stamp, origami love heart are some of the art craft we made for the valentine week. We had scavenger hunt and tag games as well. Looking forward for more fun activities this term.

Liezel, Service Coordinator and the Extend Team



Our Extend Superstars are:

Genevieve Hagemann for being kind and helpful

Lauren Shirley for being creative and for always sharing her brilliant activity ideas to the service

What's on next week?

Monday 19 February-French Knitting

Tuesday 20 February-Paper Collage

Wednesday 21 February-Cheesy Vegemite pastry twists

Thursday 22 February-Bubble Snakes

Friday 23 February-Rainbow Q-tip Art

PARENT PORTAL:extend.com.au



St Thomas Minkey / Hockey Teams 2018 season

Attention all Pre-Primary, Year 1, 2, 3, & 4 children & parents

Let's get our St Thomas' children together to play Minkey/Hockey with the Westside Wolves at College Park

If your child is keen to play:

1. email Jan O'Brien (St Thomas Minkey Co-ordinator) jan@theloungeroom.com name of your child & year
2. register your child with Westside Wolves www.wolves.org.au/registration
3. encourage your class mates to join you for lots of fun on Sat mornings
4. further info contact Jan O'Brien or go to the Wolves website www.wolves.org.au/registration

SPORTS **HOCKEY** SPORTS **NETBALL** SPORTS **FLOORBALL** SPORTS **JOEY SOCCER**



All these sports have a long history with St Thomas'.

HOW?

These external sporting programmes available to primary school children are made possible by parents who liaise with the local clubs to coordinate school teams.

They are parent run activities that sit within the St Thomas' community. However, without the parents these groups don't function.

Thank you to Alex Gavranic for taking on Netball co-ordination for the whole school this year. alex.g@westnet.com.au.

Thank you to the individual parents who have taken on the role of class team managers for the floorball teams. I hope we can get similar response to the Joey soccer programme.

Hockey does not currently have a parent co-ordinator (Anyone? Anyone?) so in light of this, parents can sign their children up individually through the YMCC club: <https://form.jotform.co/80014636898868>

USEFUL INFORMATION

Hockey (minkey for junior teams), can be organised through many clubs however St Thomas' has typically gone through the local Westside Wolves. jan@theloungeroom.com

Netball, run out of the Matthews Netball centre on Selby Street in Wembley. Catering for children in Year 3 through to Year 6.

Floorball, run out of Revolution sports in Lemnos avenue Shenton Park. Begins in Year 1 through to Year 6.

Joey Soccer is run out of College Park. You can start Joey soccer as early as Pre-Primary through to Year 3.