

# SORRY DAY

## Sorry Day Saturday 26 May

Spirituality is the ultimate answer to reconciliation in Australia and everywhere else in the world. Loving ourselves, our families, our neighbours, our countrymen and every other living thing is the reason we are here on earth.

If we follow the ripple in the pond when a stone hits the water, we can easily see that that one little stone affects the entire pond. If the stone represents love, and it drops somewhere in our universe, that love will send its ripple throughout the entire universe. All the people, birds, animals, insects, plants, trees and rocks will in some way be affected by it. It is the same with anger and hate.

We must choose which ripples we wish to send into our universe.

*Bob Randall Songman*

### Important Dates 2018:

**Saturday 19 May** – School/Parish Mass – Year 4's leading

**Tuesday 22 May** – School Board Meeting – 7.00pm

**Wednesday 23 May** – Year 2's attending Parish Mass – 12.30pm

**Thursday 24 May** – Constable Care Incursion & Life link Free Dress Day

**Friday 1 June** – Year 4 First Holy Communion Retreat

**Monday 4 May** – WA Day Public Holiday

### From the Principals Desk

*Dear Parents and Members of our School Community*

Many thanks to parents, especially those mothers and grandmothers who were able to attend our Mothers' Day Prayer Service and morning tea last Friday morning. The Year One class led us beautifully throughout the service and the support they received from the Choir was inspirational. Also a big thanks to the P&F for setting up the Mothers' Day Stall and for those who assisted with this initiative. This was a tremendous success.

Congratulations to all students who completed NAPLAN testing this week. We know this can be a very stressful time for many students and staff therefore, I must commend the students on their great attitude, hard work and dedication towards doing their best. Well done!

**Sustainability:** One of St. Thomas' areas of focus, that was identified for our Annual School Improvement Plan (ASIP) for 2018, is introducing

**sustainable environmental practices** within the school and educating the students on how they can make a difference. At the Professional Learning (PL) day we had on Monday 30 April we discussed our approach, created an action plan and allocated tasks to each class. I have no doubt over the next few weeks you will hear more about this from your children. A copy of St. Thomas' Sustainability Action Plan has been included in this newsletter for your perusal.

**School/Parish Mass:** The next Parish/School Mass will take place this Saturday, 19 May, at 5.30pm. The Year Four class and Mrs. Sullivan are organising the Mass and sausage sizzle. Even though it is the Year Four Class organising this event, it would be wonderful to see the Church full with St Thomas' families.

**Visible Learning:** In 2018 we are continuing with the Visible Learning approach started at St. Thomas' last year. This approach is based on Professor John Hattie's research.

The main actions that have been implemented or that are in the early stages of implementation are: the use of **Learning Intentions** and **Success Criteria** within lessons. This will enable children to understand the focus of the lesson and what they need to do to achieve their goals. We have been trialing the use of these points in mathematics lessons. Many classes have taken this approach further and using them in other subject areas. The majority of our Specialist Teachers are also utilising these.

We will also be endeavouring to ensure we give **Effective Feedback** that will 'close the gap' in a child's learning, not close the gap between them and their peers necessarily, but ensure each child is making **continuous growth**. The feedback to the child will follow the format of 'Where am I now?', 'Where am I going?' and 'Where to from here?'. We understand that 'Effective Feedback' doubles the speed of learning.

We will also be working towards calculating our impact on student achievement by measuring the **Effect Size** of our teaching. This will continue to be measured using Pre and Post Tests in mathematics. This tool is less about how the children perform and more to do with teachers 'checking' to see if their teaching is effective. Are we teaching and having an impact on all our students?

Finally, we will be ensuring that our staff continue to be **Inspiring** and **Passionate** practitioners. Practitioners who set **high expectations** (effect size of 0.43), that have great **classroom management** (0.52), who **provide challenges** within their lessons (0.56), who develop wonderful, supportive **teacher-student relationships** (0.72), use **feedback effectively** (0.75), set in place purposeful **classroom discussions** (0.82) and who provide **clarity** (0.75) with their teaching. (Effect sizes above 0.40 are considered to affect student growth by more than one year).

**KINDY 2019:** We are currently taking applications for enrolments for four-year-old Kindergarten for **2019 and 2020**. Your child must be 4 years of age before June 30 2019 to be eligible for 2019 intake and 4 years of age before June 30 2020 for the 2020 grouping.

Please download forms from our school website for applications. Interviews will be taking place in Terms Two and Three. If you know of any families who may wish to send their child/children to St Thomas' please ensure you pass on this information.

**Public Holiday:** Please be aware that the school will be closed on Monday 4 June for WA Day Public Holiday.

*With regards and best wishes*

*Justin Tuohy*

Principal

## FLOWER ARRANGERS FOR CHURCH FLOWERS REQUIRED...

The Parish is looking for additional volunteers to join our flower arranging team to arrange Church flowers for the weekend Masses. You would only be rostered on 4-5 times per year. If you don't have any experience flower arranging but would like to have a go, we can roster you on with a partner. If you love flower arranging and would like to be part of this ministry, please phone Rossana Terpolilli, the Parish Secretary, on 9384 0598 during office hours (Tue, Wed, Fri 9.15am-2.45pm).

<p><u>Sustainability at St Thomas' Primary School</u></p> <p>Environmental Sustainability Plan The staff, students and community encourage the use of sustainability practices to create and maintain an environment that promotes and models sustainability. The school aims to promote sustainable actions to reduce, reuse, recycle rethink, repair and refuse.</p>	<p><u>Sustainable School Practices</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Battery and mobile phone collection for recycling</li> <li>• Separate landfill, recyclable and food waste for worm farm and compost through use of labelled bins in the school</li> <li>• Maintain and monitor the worm farm</li> <li>• Compost food items and green waste</li> <li>• Maintain school gardens and frog pond</li> <li>• Paper and cardboard recycling bins in all classrooms</li> <li>• Sustainability Square</li> <li>• Nude Food – once a week</li> <li>• Energy Audit (Lights, Water, % Flush, Aircon at 23 degrees and Report leaks.</li> <li>• Use of Solar Panels</li> <li>• Paper and Cardboard Recycling</li> <li>• Earth Hour</li> </ul>	<p><u>Term Initiatives</u></p> <p>Term 1 Synergy Incursion</p> <p>Term 2 Establishing a Green Team Allocation of Classroom Responsibilities Education at Gatherings and in Class Paper/Cardboard recycling Energy Audit Plans</p> <p>Term 3 Waste Wise Audit Remondis Correct Bins</p> <p>Term 4 Water Wise Incursion</p>
<p><u>Class Responsibilities</u></p> <p>ELC – Compost Garden</p> <p>Year 1 Ramp Gardens Bike ramp Compost</p> <p>Year 2 Worm Farm Balcony Balcony Garden</p> <p>Year 3 Book Swap Frog Pond Garden</p> <p>Year 4 Battery/Phone Recycle Bike Rack worm farm Bike Rack Garden</p> <p>Year 5 5/6 Garden Nude Food</p> <p>Year 6 Bike Rack Garden Clean Staffroom Garden Wax wraps and produce bags</p>	<p><u>Strategies</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a Green Team</li> <li>• Each class will be responsible for their particular Sustainable Schools task to make up the whole school initiative</li> <li>• A leadership group of children (The Green Team) will be trained to remind and update students on school processes. Weekly meetings.</li> <li>• Environmental Committee to meet Week 7 of each term.</li> <li>• PLM updates</li> <li>• Apply for Waste Wise grant</li> <li>• No car to school day</li> <li>• Professional Learning</li> <li>• Book Swap</li> <li>• Education and Signage</li> </ul>	<p><u>Incentives and Rewards</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Environmental Warriors will participate in the school waste survey and be trained in monitoring the collection bins</li> <li>• Sustainable School poster competition</li> <li>• Sustainable School Student certificate to be awarded at school assembly</li> <li>• Earth Day activities</li> <li>• An incursion from Keep Australia Beautiful Council</li> <li>• Thanks to parents and helpers through the school newsletter</li> </ul>
<p><u>Future Initiatives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grant Applications to Waste Wise</li> <li>• Swap Meet</li> <li>• Donations of stationery, books and sporting equipment</li> <li>• Community involvement</li> <li>• Letter Box drops</li> </ul>	<p><u>Incursions/Excursions</u></p> <p>Remids Water Corporation Synergy Earth Care</p>	<p><u>Evaluation and Update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environment Committee to meet Week 7 each Term</li> <li>• Review sustainability practices and adjusting/updating if required at PLM once a term</li> <li>• Report on ongoing sustainability activities and initiatives through the Sustainability Square in newsletter and Gatherings</li> <li>• Review of the Sustainability Aims and Goals in Term 1 and 4.</li> </ul>

## Religion News

### *The Feast of the Ascension*

#### **What is the Ascension?**

The Feast of the Ascension is celebrated forty days after Easter Sunday and recalls our Lord's exaltation by being taken gloriously up into heaven. After Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection, Scripture tells us, he was seen for forty days before he ascended into heaven to be "seated at the right hand of God the Father." After Jesus' ascension, the disciples awaited the promised Spirit in Jerusalem.

#### **Reflections to ponder:**

- Jesus is Lord in heaven, but he is also Lord in our hearts.
- We do not have to be afraid of dying because Jesus has gone ahead to prepare a place for us in heaven with those who love God.
- We know and feel real things we cannot see, like our parents' and friends' love.
- The disciples needed to say goodbye to Jesus, and as Jesus left them, they turned closer to each other, to learn more about Jesus and to let others know about the Jesus who awaits them in heaven.

*Please join us for the Saturday Parish Mass at 5.30pm this Saturday being led by the Year 4 students.*

*Mrs Sullivan*



## ***Wear your PJ's for Lifelink***



Next Thursday 24 May we will be having our fundraiser for Lifelink. For a gold coin donation children will be able to wear their favourite PJ's to school. The day will involve buddy activities, Constable Care incursions and a whole school photo. For children that have sport lessons on that day please ensure they wear/bring appropriate footwear to participate in lessons. All proceeds will go towards Lifelink agencies in Perth. (Information can be found below).



**LifeLink**<sup>®</sup>  
Catholic Caring Agencies

**"Together, we WILL make a difference"**

The **LifeLink** organisation was established by the Archdiocese of Perth in 1994 to provide for the ongoing financial and promotional support of agencies established or assisted by the Church. LifeLink's agencies deliver **professional services & caring support** to thousands of people in need throughout Western Australia each year. The work of LifeLink is indeed a positive demonstration of: **Faith in Action.**

**Last year, LifeLink funded agencies reached out to help over 34,000 Western Australian families & individuals in need, delivering more than \$54 million in caring services and professional programmes throughout WA.**

## **Schoolbags for Jesus**

**This project (formally shoeboxes) for Jesus aims to enable children in the Phillipines, Kenya, Vietnam, Myanmar and India to receive an education and break the cycle of poverty. The Mini Vinnies of St Thomas' are coordinating this project over Terms 2 & 3. If you can donate any of the following it will be very much appreciated (new or in very good condition). Donation Tubs will be placed in the Library on the shelf under the windows.**

**Small toy, shirt or cap, 48 page exercise books, pencils, sharpener, erasers, black pens, blue pens, crayons/colour pencils, ruler, stickers, storybook.**

**Please see Flyer at the end of the newsletter for more information.**

## Materials Needed for the Art Show

With planning in full swing for this year's Art Show we ask all parents and friends of St Thomas to please start collecting!

Our aim is for the children to create their art works from sustainable materials.

We are looking for things that are recycled, upcycled, reclaimed, salvaged or lurking in the back of the cupboard and no longer needed!

Media sites such as 'Facebook – Buy Nothing' or Gumtree are great to make a request or keep an eye out for needed materials.

Please deliver all donated materials to the classroom or designated tub outside the library.

Thank you for your support with making the Art Show environmentally sustainable and a cost-effective event.

Storage boxes or plastic tubs

Plastic lids

Wooden beads

Twine/string

Recycled paper – mainly white

Coloured tissue paper

Old blender – not essential

Fabric – any colour and size

Straws – sustainably sourced

Different coloured masking tape (painters tape)

AA batteries

Coloured sand

A3 paper

Cardboard boxes

Tins

Rubber bands

Cardboard rolls

Old kitchen utensils

Patterned paper

Glitter



# SUSTAINABILITY

## SQUARE

Starting this Term at St Thomas' there will be a school wide focus on sustainability. The 'Green Team' met on Wednesday for the first time to discuss some exciting initiatives for ways we can reduce our environmental impact at St Thomas'.

One way we can reduce the amount of waste and plastics we produce is by making sure there are no disposable plastics or packaging in our lunch boxes. Starting next week we would like the St Thomas' community to get on board with 'Nude Food' Tuesdays. This means bringing non-packaged foods and using non-disposable containers instead of disposable products such as glad-wrap or foil. The Year 4 students are also using any organic food scraps for compost, so nothing will be going to waste!

Below is one of the posters created by the Year 5 students to promote Nude Food Tuesdays. Thank you in advance for your support.

*Miss Chelsea Hubbard*





***Dad's in the kitchen!***

Thank you to our wonderful dad's who helped make our Mothers Day morning tea so special.

A big thank you also to Melissa Trend & her team of volunteers who produced the wonderful Mothers Day stall. We are sure there were some very spoilt St Thomas' mums this Mother's Day!

### Urgently Needed



Cardboard packing boxes  
And/or plastic tubs

To help store all the Children's prize artworks in preparation for this years Art Show.

Please deliver to the front office



### Can you help?



The Art Show team need to source the following (preferably recycled) Building materials for a large artwork we hope to created for the up coming Art Show.

Chicken wire - 10-15 meters, or whatever we can get!

Reinforcing (Rio) steel rods -

Approx 4 x 3m lengths and other variable lengths (approx 6 meters)

**The more oxidised the better!**



Please contact Simon Branchi 0408922990 or Nat Bogoiias 0407040598 for further details.

## RUNNER'S CLUB TRAINING



Has commenced with large numbers! Well done to everyone who has come along and thanks to the staff and parents who are assisting with training and transporting students back to school.

Two sessions are on offer.

▷ **Thursday mornings** meet at Rowe Park by 7:45am.

Parents are required to help supervise and walk students back to school.

▷ **Friday lunchtimes** — first 10 minutes of lunch.

A note has gone home today in regards to the Faction Cross Country Carnival.

## Upcoming Events

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> June** – St Thomas Faction Cross Country Carnival

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> June** – Winter Lightning Carnival

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> June** – Interschool Cross Country Carnival

***Sharon Seaman***

Physical Education Teacher

## SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB CATALOGUE (*Orders due by 11pm FRI 18 MAY*)

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.

## CHORAL SPEAKING CLUB

A date for your diary: Please note that there will be no Choral Speaking Club on Tuesday 12 June 2018 as I will be away at a conference.

## WRITING COMPETITIONS

Students can check the noticeboard in the library for information about upcoming writing competitions. If your child is entering the Make Your Own Storybook Competition, entries are due back at our school library by Wednesday 6 June! We've already had some fantastic entries in from talented St Thomas' students.

***Rebecca Newman***  
Library



## ***SORTING OUT SIBLING SQUABBLES***

If your kids constantly fight with each other, then don't despair. All that emotional energy isn't going to waste. According to a recent study sibling fighting teaches kids important conflict resolution skills. In fact, parents who stop their children from arguing may well be depriving them of important learning opportunities.

Researcher Laurie Kramer from the University of Illinois in the US found that kids who learned how to argue with their siblings had more advanced emotional development.

Anecdotally, it seems that sibling fighting is one of the biggest impediments to parents enjoying family life. Many parents tell me that if their children stopped bickering their lives would improve dramatically.

Many parents also worry that their children who fight with each other will not get along as adults. The evidence doesn't support this view. The test for strong families is more about the willingness for kids to pull together when the chips are down, than the frequency of the squabbling.

Healthy families know how to fight well. When parents take an active approach to helping their children resolve their fights, they are teaching them a valuable life skill as well as reducing the incidence of fighting over the long term. Here are five practical strategies to use:

**Model positive conflict resolution skills.** Kids wear L plates when it comes to solving disputes. Some kids will yell, get abusive or even get physical when they are settling disputes. Show them better ways of sorting out problems by talking things through with your spouse, other adults and with children. Let kids see you give way to others rather than continually standing your ground. Let them witness respected adults compromising and apologising when you have said something upsetting to your partner or your children. Modelling not only shows the way but gives permission for children and young people to do the same.

**Focus on emotions.** It is easy to brush kids aside when they are genuinely upset by the actions or words of a sibling. When kids come to you for help, say something like: *"Yep, it would make me mad too if someone said that to me."* Usually someone's feelings get hurt when siblings argue so make sure you recognise their emotions without taking sides. This focus on feelings helps kids develop emotional literacy and promotes empathy.

**Explain why siblings may have behaved the way they do.** Kids are faulty observers and only see one side during disputes. It's the job of parents to round out the picture, and help kids see that there are two sides to any dispute. Ask questions like, *"What do you think she meant by that?"*

**Coach them on sorting out disputes.** Kids need the chance to sort their conflict out themselves, but sometimes they need some coaching. Kids often invite their parents to take sides, which is usually counter-productive. Rather than trying to sort out who started an argument, focus on possible solutions. Give them suggestions such as taking turns, giving way, bargaining, swapping or even walking away.

**Encourage them to restore their relationships.** Kids often get over disputes far quicker than adults. They can be squabbling one minute and cuddling up the next, so it gets tricky intervening sometimes. However, there are times when you need to encourage a child to mend bridges with an aggrieved sibling. This can mean kids have to swallow their pride, admit that they may be wrong, make an apology or make some sort of restitution such as doing a special favour. This type of restoration means kids must take responsibility for their behaviours and is a sign of growing maturity.

Children without siblings can learn conflict resolution skills by spending time with other peers and friends, and having parents who are willing to argue with them without coming on too strong or laying down the law.

Conflict and siblings tend to go together like bread and butter. While sibling squabbles can be annoying, they also offer parents great opportunities to help kids to handle conflict effectively, which is a great life skill.

***BY MICHAEL GROSE***

# Extend After School Care at St Thomas' Primary School



## Fortnightly Recap

Hello everyone!

We have enjoyed lots of craft, science and cooking activities during the past two weeks. We have made some special art crafts for the Mother's day theme of the week such as, "Yarn wrapped Heart", "Folding Craft Stick Mother's Day Card", "Paper Tulip in a Heart card", "Bracelet and Necklace" making for mum, "Mother's Day Flip Flap card" and "Tissue paper Flower making". We made a delicious "Chocolate Brownies" for our cooking activity. It was fun! Children were so happy and proud of themselves. But the most favourite activity of the week was "Decorating the Candle Holder". Everybody showed their creativity in designing and decorating the scented candle to make it really special for mum. We also visited the beautiful garden of year 2 last week and started composting our food scraps there. Thank you for allowing us to contribute in helping the environment.

## Our Extend Superstars are:



**Caleb Rowe** for being creative in making toys using the recycled materials and for sharing them to others

**Lauren Shirley** for helping our new friend feel welcome in Extend After School Care

*Well done Caleb and Lauren!*

## What's on next week?

**Monday 21 May** Magic Milk Colour Explosion and Stick Puppets

**Tuesday 22 May** Jelly Fish Sun Catcher and Jewellery Making

**Wednesday 23 May** Fizzing Fairy Potions and Cute and Easy Origami for Kids *Visit from Claremont Community Hub and Library* -Talk about Library Information Week

**Thursday 24 May** Cooking: Honey Joys and Picnic Day

**Friday 25 May** Sponge Painting and Chair Relay Race outside

Have a wonderful week!

**Liezel Menguito**

**Extend Service Coordinator**

**Email:** [stthomasclaremont@extend.com.au](mailto:stthomasclaremont@extend.com.au)

**Phone:** 0430598293

**Service hours:**

**Before School Care:** (7:00am- 9:00am)

**After School Care:** (2:15pm - 6:00 pm)

**Customer service & booking enquiries:**

1300 366 437

**PARENT PORTAL:** [www.lookedafter.com](http://www.lookedafter.com)

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Find your local Extend Squad: [extend.com.au](http://extend.com.au)



# SCHOOLBAGS FOR JESUS

A CHARITY PROJECT BY BUCKETS FOR JESUS

Now in its fifth year, Schoolbags (previously Shoeboxes) For Jesus aims to enable children in the Philippines, Kenya, Vietnam, Myanmar and India to receive an education and break the cycle of poverty.

Each bag will have essentials such as pens, pencils and an exercise book so that each child will be able to go to school for the year.

Buckets For Jesus (BFJ) firmly believe in "not just providing the fish, but teaching the people how to fish for themselves". We firmly believe that education is the surest way to not only empower individuals but also raise their families out of poverty.

The 2015 and 2016 Schoolbags For Jesus projects were a major success, as over 8,000 children were blessed with school supplies for a year thanks to the generosity of schools, parishes, organizations, youth groups and individuals.

Apart from blessing thousands of needy children from the Philippines, last year we started sending Schoolbags to orphanages in Kenya, Vietnam and Myanmar, and this year, we plan to start sending to India.

BFJ is a not for profit mission body who personally visit and distribute 'buckets' or gifts containing basic necessities such as food, clothes, hygiene supplies, education and spiritual material to the poorest of the poor in the Philippines.

For more information: [www.bucketsforjesus.org](http://www.bucketsforjesus.org)

## WHAT IS NEEDED: DRAWSTRING BAG PROVIDED

- 1 x SMALL TOY
- 1 x SHIRT OR CAP
- 2 x 48 PAGE NOTEBOOKS
- 4 x PENCILS
- 1 x SHARPENER
- 2x ERASERS
- 2 x BLACK PENS
- 2 x BLUE PENS
- 1 x CRAYONS/COLOR PENCILS
- 1 x RULER
- 1 x SET OF STICKERS
- 1 x KIDS STORY BOOK

## COLLECTION TILL 27th October 2017

T: 08 9228 9086

M: 0438 885 748

E: [bucketsforjesus@gmail.com](mailto:bucketsforjesus@gmail.com)