

St Thomas' Primary School Claremont



A Catholic Co-Educational Primary School
Pre-Kindergarten to Year 6



Educating the Whole Child since 1908

ST THOMAS' PRIMARY SCHOOL

St Thomas' Primary School is part of a faith community centred on the life of Jesus, as expressed in our **Motto, 'TOGETHER IN CHRIST'**.

Our Vision is to '**Educate the Whole Child**' and empower learners as global citizens, to be curious, collaborative, creative and critical thinkers, inspired by Christ.



Our School Values are visible throughout the school and our students, staff and parents strive to live these out in their daily lives:

EXCELLENCE

INCLUSIVITY

TRUTH

COMPASSION

COMMUNITY

WELCOME TO ST THOMAS' SCHOOL

St Thomas' is a vibrant, single stream co-educational primary school catering for students from Pre-Kindergarten to Year 6. St Thomas' Primary School, Claremont, is a Catholic School established in 1908 by the Presentation Sisters. Our progressive culture reflects the spirit of the founding Sisters.

The school is part of a strong and nurturing community. It has an excellent reputation for providing a welcoming, involved and academically diverse environment for its students. The whole child is being nurtured at St Thomas', not only through the Religious Education and strong academic programs, but also through extra curricular programs where all talents are valued.



At St Thomas' School, in addition to our strong academic program, we offer:

- A Religious Education Program where prayer and liturgy provide a central focus for our Catholic community.
- A 1:1 iPad Program for Years 3 – 6
- An Enrichment Program for academically gifted and talented children in Years 4 -6.
- Mandarin lessons from Years 3 – 6.
- Specialist lessons in Science, Visual Arts, Drama, Music & Physical Education.
- Instrumental lessons provided by external providers for piano, voice, and drums.
- Extra curricular clubs – Coding, Chess, Drama, e-Sports & Mini Vinnies.



PERFORMING ARTS

The Performing Arts Program at St Thomas explores the wonderful world of Music and Drama, providing students with skills and confidence to explore their creativity, test their limits and grow. Performing Arts classes are held every week for all year levels with additional opportunities on offer for those students wishing to extend their skills in Music and Drama beyond the classroom.

The classroom Music Program creates opportunities for students to sample a range of instruments and styles of music with an emphasis on music creation. The early years focus on singing and percussion, Years 2-3 xylophone and body percussion, years 4-5 recorder and year 6 ukulele and junkyard drumming. Students are also introduced to creating digital music using GarageBand and Launch Pad.

Students interested in expanding their music skills further are able to join the Choir in years 4-6. The choir learn a wide range of songs and perform at several events during the year including school and sacramental masses, and the annual Performing Arts Festival for Catholic Schools and Colleges. St Thomas also offers the opportunity to learn an instrument through a shared group or one to one lesson provided during school time by expert instrumental tutors.

The St Thomas Drama Program invites students to explore the elements of Drama through improvised, devised, and scripted performance, experiencing the roles of the performer and the audience. Through drama games and role play our early years students discover the use of movement and voice to create drama whilst developing an awareness of the role an audience. Years 1-2 explore and experiment with the elements of drama as a means of communicating ideas through creation of narratives through puppets and short plays. Years 3-6 continue this journey of developing and refining their use of the elements of drama to create dramatic meaning through devised and scripted group performance. Year 5 and 6 students have the opportunity to join the St Thomas after school Drama Club. This offers students additional performance opportunities culminating in Drama Showcase performances and entries in the Speech and Drama section of the Catholic Performing Arts Festival.



LITERACY

St Thomas' recognises literacy as an essential skill for students in becoming successful learners. Literacy is a foundation for success in all learning areas. It involves listening to, reading, viewing, speaking, writing, using and modifying language, for different purposes in a range of contexts. St Thomas have a timetabled Literacy Dedicated Time of ninety minutes each day in all classes. This time is structured to enable teaching and learning to occur at a whole class, small group and individual level, ensuring that the differing learning needs of students are catered for. Our Literacy strategy is based on the WA Curriculum, the Literacy Strategy of Catholic Education of WA as well as incorporating The Early Years Learning Framework.

“Students become literate as they develop the knowledge, skills and dispositions to interpret and use language confidently for learning and communicating and for participating effectively in society”.

ACARA



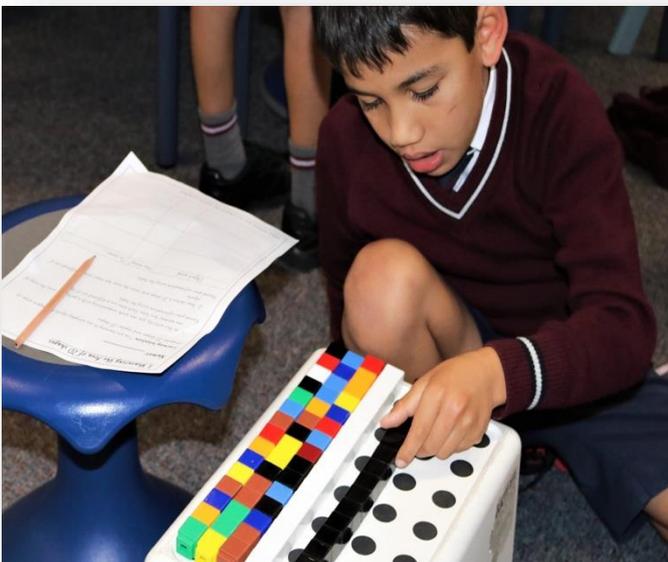
NUMERACY

At St Thomas' our aim is to ensure all children from Pre-Kindergarten to Year Six reach their potential in numeracy. Our programs are based on the WA Curriculum, the Numeracy Strategy of the Catholic Education Office of WA, and the Early Years Learning Framework. Numeracy Dedicated Time is a block of time, usually fifty minutes each day dedicated to numeracy teaching and learning. This time is structured allowing the teacher to work at a whole class, small group and individual level, enabling the teacher to meet the needs of the differing levels of student achievement within each class. Explicit teaching is integral to this curriculum area. During this time we aim to:

- Engage students in rich and meaningful mathematics involving concrete materials and hands on learning experiences.
- Make maths real-life and linked to student experiences.
- Allow students to take risks and make errors.
- Develop maths-specific language.
- Develop a multitude of problem solving skills.

“Mathematics is, in its way, the poetry of logical ideas.”

– Albert Einstein



EVANGELISATION

At St Thomas' Primary School EVANGELISATION is primarily expressed through our presence as part of a faith community centred the life of Jesus and expressed in our motto
“TOGETHER IN CHRIST.”

We demonstrate and give witness through the integration faith and life in a faith-centred, family-oriented learning environment where students, their families and staff have the opportunity to express their Catholic faith commitment through their relationships with each other and the Church.

“To offer evangelisation, the Catholic school needs to teach students to integrate faith, culture and life.”

Bishops Mandate pp 20



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education seeks to develop the religious literacy of students in light of the Catholic Christian tradition, so that they might participate critically and authentically in contemporary culture. Students become religiously literate as they develop the knowledge, skills and dispositions to interpret and use language confidently in and for faith contexts and the wider society.

Religious Education at St Thomas' School comprises two distinct but complementary dimensions – teaching religion as curriculum area and developing the religious dimension of the school by nurturing the religious, spiritual and faith of our students.



“Education that seeks to promote integrated personal development relates curriculum content to students’ real life situations.”

Bishops Mandate PP66

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

The warm and inviting learning environments in the Early Years at St Thomas' are intentionally designed for a contemporary, collaborative and creative approach to learning, which embraces and celebrates the uniqueness of each child. The children are immersed in nature play and are encouraged to respect and engage with the natural environment through environmentally sustainable practices.

Through purposeful play experiences, the children develop a strong foundation of language, literacy and numeracy. The children are encouraged to wonder, discover and explore their world through meaningful S.T.E.M. inquiry experiences. The educators provide opportunities that inspire the child's natural curiosity and enhance their cognitive, social, emotional and physical development. The learning in the early years is underpinned by the Early Years Learning Framework and Western Australian Curriculum, creating imaginative, confident and motivated learners.



“The goal of early childhood education is to activate the child’s own natural desire to learn.”

Maria Montessori



E-CHALLENGE

St Thomas' students have opportunities to discover and perform to their potential. The aim of the E-Challenge Program is to identify and maximise the learning outcomes of the Gifted and Talented students in our care. The program has been named E-Challenge to incorporate both enrichment and extension in challenging ways.

These enrichment and extension classes incorporate an array of modules with an emphasis on higher order thinking. The diverse, challenging and differentiated program enables the students to progress beyond standard curriculum requirements to take risks and build knowledge and skills in a safe, flexible context.

Enrichment and extension of literacy and numeracy throughout the school from Years Four–Six is integral in the classroom program and runs in conjunction with the E-Challenge Program.



*“The important thing is not to stop questioning.
Curiosity has its own reason for existence”.*

Albert Einstein

1:1 iPad PROGRAM

At St Thomas' we have a 1:1 iPad Program operating in Years 3-6. For these classes, iPads are part of the booklist. From Pre-Primary to Year 2, each classroom has a bank of shared iPads.

We believe the iPad is an important tool to support our classroom teaching and learning programs. We integrate the iPads across all learning areas in order to enhance and ultimately, redefine and transform, students' learning experiences.

Our teachers have a wide range of experience teaching in 1:1 iPad classrooms and we are very proud of the outstanding, and widely-recognised, high quality iPad program at St Thomas'.

The school regularly hosts visitors from schools across Western Australia who are wanting to learn more about exemplary practise when teaching with iPads.



“Education is the most powerful weapon that we can use to change the world”.

Nelson Mandela

FLEXIBLE LEARNING SPACES

At St Thomas' we have established ourselves as leaders in the utilisation of flexible and contemporary learning spaces to enhance and transform student learning, creating collaborative learning spaces where students are able to develop their creativity.

Classrooms have been re-designed to cater for all students in order to most effectively assist them to achieve their full potential when learning within the classroom.

Throughout St Thomas', our classrooms have been established with the contemporary vision of catering for the wide range of student learning styles that exist in the 21st century classrooms of today. All of our classrooms have spaces for:

- Working standing up
- Small, large group and whole class
- Pair work
- Floor work – open space
- Independent work
- Brainstorming (whiteboard surfaces)
- Different levels – coffee tables, cushions, stools, etc.
- Use of ICT
- Discussions



“Flexible learning spaces allow children to easily pair up, work in small groups or a whole class.”



MAKERSPACE

A makerspace is a collaborative and creative learning space where people gather to share resources and knowledge, work on projects, network and build. It is a place for Tinkering, collaborative learning, play, conversations for learning, intergenerational learning, experimentation, inquiry, the act of creation, and problem solving.

Our St Thomas' Makerspace fosters a culture of creating, play, exploration and problem solving at St Thomas'.

“The library of the future, whether the physical space or it’s digital resources, can be the place where you put things together, make something new, meet new people, and share what you and others bring to the table. It’s peer-to-peer, hands-on, community-based and creation-focused.” - Miguel Figueroa



“Creativity is intelligence having fun”. Albert Einstein

ROBOTICS

At St Thomas', we have an extensive Robotics Program from Pre Primary to Year 6. As a future-focused school, it is important for us to be able to provide our students the opportunities to develop the programming and coding skills that will set them up for their future. The Western Australian Curriculum has a strong focus on Digital Technologies and our emphasis on Robotics throughout the school is one of the main ways we address this curriculum area.

Throughout the school we have the following Robotics resources that are utilised each year as part of the digital technologies curriculum:

Year 1 - BeeBots

Year 2 - Lego WeDo 2.0

Year 3 - OzoBots

Year 4 - Spheros

Year 5 - Microbits

Year 6 - Lego EV3 Mindstorms

We also have programmable drones that are utilised by our upper primary students during the year as part of specialist and extension programs.



“The best way to predict the future is to invent it!” Alan Kay

SCIENCE

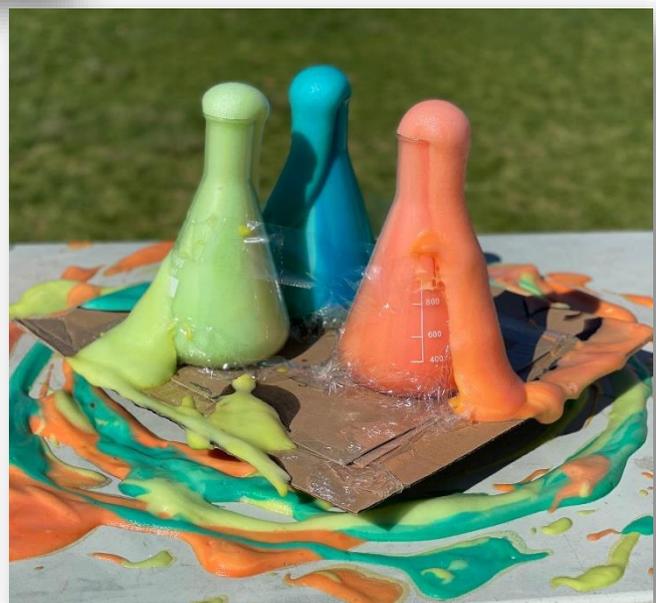
Science at St Thomas' provides opportunities for our students to be able to expand their curiosity, explore, ask questions and speculate through student engagement, science inquiry and investigations. Our whole school program aims to develop an understanding of important science concepts, processes and practices.

We foster an interest in science and its application to our lives. Our students are encouraged to think and act in scientific ways and understand the impact of science on our society. We give our students opportunities to become critical and creative thinkers.



“What we know is a drop, what we don’t know is an ocean.”
Isaac Newton

“For every action there is an equal and opposite reaction.” *Isaac Newton*



MUSIC

Music at St Thomas' is inclusive and engaging, developing in students a love and appreciation of music. Lessons are conducted in a happy, safe and welcoming environment for students to learn, grow, co-operate and collaborate.

Our students build an understanding of the elements of music, developing performance, composition, theory and music analysis skills that enrich their lives.

Students from years 4, 5 and 6 are given the opportunity to be a part of the school choir. The choir learn a wide range of songs and perform at several events during the year including school and sacramental masses and the annual Performing Arts Festival for Catholic Schools and Colleges. They also entertain residents in aged care with a Christmas repertoire.



“Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and life to everything.”

Plato



VISUAL ARTS

Our Visual Arts Program assists children to develop creative and critical thinking. They are provided with opportunities to expand their aesthetic knowledge and understanding of art practices through making and creating rich and imaginative art works.

The children's art works are valued and shared with each other and the wider community through school art exhibitions, art competitions and publications.

The Art Program allows children to have a better understanding of Visual Art through the ages, including traditional and contemporary Aboriginal art. They are given opportunities to engage with, and view, local artists at work.

There is a strong focus on recyclable and sustainable practices whilst engaging in creative and innovative works.



“Art is not what you see, but what you make others see.”
Edgar Degas



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Students participate in a Health and Physical Education program that is delivered by a specialist teacher. In the early years of schooling, a focus is placed on the development of fundamental movement skills and a perceptual movement program. Whilst in the upper years this changes, applying movement and strategies within game situations.

The overarching goal of our program is to engage students and allow them to achieve success and enjoyment, in order to promote a healthy, active lifestyle.

Faction Houses

There are three faction houses: Forrest (Blue), Gittens (Green) and Sheridan (Gold). Students from family groups will be placed in the same faction. Teachers are also assigned to a faction.

Carnivals

Students have the opportunity to participate in all Inter-house carnivals: Swimming, Cross Country and Athletics. High achievers in these competitions will be selected to represent the school at Interschool carnivals against other single stream Catholic primary schools in our region.



“The expert in anything was once a beginner.”
Helen Hayes

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