Dear Lord
Bless all the fathers in the world.
Guide them to be good role models and loving to all their children.
Help them to be a father like You are.
Give them grace and patience and guide them in your loving ways.
Amen

Dads......we hope you had a wonderful Father’s Day.
May the Lord bless you with good health and abundant joy at this special time of year.

Dear Parents & Members of Our School Community

NAPLAN Online Trial: You may remember that I mentioned in an earlier newsletter that St. Thomas’ had been chosen to undertake a trial, testing the procedure and I.T. capabilities, which would enable schools to undertake NAPLAN Online from 2019. I am pleased to report that the trial was a success with only a few minor system glitches.

The Year 3 and 5 classes have now completed both an omnibus test (encompassing reading, spelling and mathematics) and a writing test. A concern of mine was how many words our students be able to type in comparison with the written test they had taken earlier in the year. The staff and I were pleasantly surprised with the volume of words typed in the 35 minute test session. The average word count for Year 3 was approximately 350 whilst the Year 5’s averaged 500. Both these statistics are very much in line with the standards set out in the West Australian Curriculum. It was also interesting to hear feedback from the vast majority of students expressing their view that the online version was their preferred mode of delivery. I will continue to keep you updated on information as it comes to hand.

Tournament of Minds: Congratulations to the two teams who represented St. Thomas’ at the Tournament of Minds Competition on Saturday at Edith Cowan University, Joondalup. The two teams consisted of: Harry Lucas, Euan Cowie, Genevieve Moody, Minerva Chaney, Felix Frichot, Austin Moltoni and Oscar Martella competing in the Maths/Engineering section and the Language/Literature team were: Abbey Mattingley, Matilda Newman, Sienna Howard, Amy Searle, Adrian Garbowski, Charlotte Moody and Ella Hogan. Each team participated in a ‘Long Term Challenge’ and a ‘Spontaneous Challenge’. A team of judges considered the merits of each team’s presentation in terms of effectiveness in solving a problem and the creativity and style of their presentations. Well done to both teams. You represented St Thomas’ with passion and flair. Thanks to Lisa Keatch and Lila Gibbs for their dedication and hard work in preparing the teams. The Language/Literature Team received an Encouragement Award for their Long Term Challenge whilst the Maths/Engineering Team has qualified for the State Final on Saturday 10 September. A superb performance. The whole of St. Thomas’ will be following and supporting your efforts. This is the second year in a row that St. Thomas’ has made the State Final and girls can be found further in the newsletter.

Interschool Athletics: St. Thomas’ will be participating in the annual Interschool Athletics Carnival on Monday 19 September. We wish the members of the team all the best and know they will represent the school with appropriate sportsmanship qualities and competitiveness.

I was most impressed with the sheer number of students who took part in our inaugural 800 metre Open running event. It was wonderful to see junior students competing against older students with such confidence and running out the race at the end of a busy day.

I announced at the carnival that special medallions would be presented to the children who came first, second and third in each of the Open Boys 800m and Open Girls 800m races. I was wondering if there is a family that has a long history and tradition with the school that would like to sponsor the medallions. This could be an ongoing sponsorship with a name attached or with the school that would like to sponsor the medallions. This could be an ongoing sponsorship with a name attached or with the standards set out in the West Australian Curriculum. It was also interesting to hear feedback from the vast majority of students expressing their view that the online version was their preferred mode of delivery. I will continue to keep you updated on information as it comes to hand.

P&F Meeting: Just a reminder that our next P&F meeting will be held on Tuesday 06 September at 7.00pm in the school hall —all welcome to attend.

Facton Cup: So far this term Forrest is leading the way with 329 points, followed closely in second place by Gittens on 314 points, third is Sheridan on 303 and just behind on 290 points is Curtis.

Year Two Assembly: Our next major assembly of the year will take place on Friday 16 September. The Year Two class will be showcasing their learning.

School/Parish Mass: The next Parish/School Mass will take place on Saturday, 17 September, at 5.30pm. The Year One class and Miss Pilling are organising the Mass and sausage sizzle.

NAPLAN: The 2016 NAPLAN test results have been sent home today to parents/guardians of children in Year 3 and 5. On the whole the results are extremely pleasing with an average of 95% of all children in Year 3 and 5 above the National Minimum Standard in all strands of Literacy and Numeracy. Although these results are only a snapshot of learning the children have undertaken, they are nonetheless an important tool at a school level. As a school we use the detailed data we receive from NAPLAN to inform the focus of our School Improvement Plan for the following year and beyond. Our Plan involves redefining our goals and constantly improving our teaching practices ensuring that we get the best out the students in our care. The staff look forward to addressing the focus areas identified as part of our professional journey as educators.

Athletics Carnival: We were blessed with magnificent weather for the St. Thomas’ Athletics Carnival last Thursday and enjoyed a fantastic day with many pleasing results. A huge thank you to everyone involved, especially Miss Kerse for her preparation and organisation of the day. Congratulations to all winners, especially Gittens for taking out this year’s shield. (A list of champion boys and girls can be found further in the newsletter).

With regards and best wishes
Justin Tierney
Principal
Given we have just finished book week and our book parade (which was great fun!), it seems a perfect time to look at the importance of READING, specifically reading for pleasure.

Reading for pleasure can also be referred to as voluntary reading, leisure reading, or recreational reading. There is much research that highlights the importance of children reading for pleasure. Along with educational benefits, it has been found that reading for pleasure has a positive impact on:

- reading attainment and writing ability
- text comprehension and grammar
- breadth of vocabulary
- positive reading attitudes
- self-confidence as a reader
- pleasure in reading in later life
- general knowledge
- understanding of other cultures
- community participation
- insight into human nature and decision-making

Not surprisingly, international research strongly suggests that frequent reading for enjoyment correlates with increases in reading achievement. St Thomas’ recommends (as laid out in our Homework Policy) that reading for pleasure takes place for anywhere between 10-30 minutes each night. If you need help with some books for your child (perhaps they are a reluctant reader at home) why not pop into the Library on a Tuesday and ask our wonderful librarian, Mrs Newman, for some recommendations!

Happy reading!

Ryan von Bergheim
Last Sunday 28 August, the Catholic Church celebrated Migrant and Refugee Sunday. The ongoing challenges associated with migration have certainly been at the heart of our public discourse in recent times. Pope Francis (2016) contends that Catholics need to embrace the opportunity that movement of people brings. He says: “At this moment in human history, marked by great movements of migration, identity is not a secondary issue. Those who migrate are forced to change some of their most distinctive characteristics and, whether they like or not, even those who welcome them are also forced to change. How can we experience these changes not as obstacles to genuine development, rather as opportunities for genuine human, social and spiritual growth, a growth which respects and promotes those values which make us ever more humane and help us to live a balanced relationship with God, others and creation?”

Welcome the stranger

Jesus identifies Himself as a stranger to be welcomed (Matthew 25:35). The Catholic Church teaches that Christ has in some way united himself to every person, whether or not one is aware of this. Christ will consider done to himself the kind of treatment that is reserved to any human person, in particular, to the least among them, the stranger. While the gospel compels us to welcome strangers it also presents the opportunity to practice the commandment to love God “with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind and all your strength” and to love the other “as you love yourself” Mark 12:29-31. Pope John Paul II invites us to an ever deeper awareness of the mission of the Catholic Church to see Christ in every brother and sister in need, to proclaim and defend the dignity of every migrant, every displaced person and every refugee. In this way, assistance given will not be considered alms from the goodness of our heart, but an act of justice due to them”

I was a stranger and you welcomed me
(Matthew 25:35)

How can you welcome a stranger this week?

Have a blessed week
Nicky Sullivan
LIBRARY WINNERS (RETURN THOSE BOOKS!)

Every Tuesday there is a draw held in the library and all students who have returned books during the previous week are automatically entered. Two winners are drawn every week and receive a faction token and a bookmark.

Last week's winners were: 1. Lily W (Year 1) and Lily G (Year 2)
This week's winners were: 1. Spencer (Year 3) and Amy (Year 5)

Thanks for returning your library books and congratulations Sheridan and Gittens!

Third Annual Euroz North Cottesloe Cold Water Classic

Sunday October 23
1.8km swim for adults
400m nippers swim
Registrations open September 28
Fundraising
Leukaemia Foundation of Australia


Dear St Thomas Families

Next march, my friend and I are embarking on a 6 day trek through part of Nepal, raising funds for Oxfam to help them continue their work in rebuilding the lives of those affected by the earthquake last year.

To help achieve this, we are hosting a movie fundraiser night on Sunday 18 September to see Bridget Jones’ Baby at Windsor Cinema, Nedlands. Please come along and support this very worthy cause.

Tickets can be purchased via try booking
https://www.trybooking.com/MOIS

A Night At the Movies
Bridget Jones’ Baby
Sunday 18 September at 6pm
Tickets $30 (includes pre movie nibbles)
Drinks can be purchased at the bar
Raffle prizes to be won
Thank you in advance for all your support
Liz MacQuillan
(Daniel’s mum, year 5)

Have you a current Kindy to Year 5 child who will not be returning to St Thomas’ in 2017?
Reminder one terms notice must be given to avoid penalty fees.
Please complete the Student Departure Form available from the front office.

Thank you

INVITATION

Fathers Day Breakfast and Liturgy
Presented by Pre Primary
Friday 2 September.

7.30 am Breakfast (coffee & croissant) and 9.00am Liturgy in the Church

Fathers, granddads, Step dads and important males you are warmly invited to share a croissant and coffee in the hall for breakfast and then join us for Liturgy afterwards presented by Pre Primary.
**Year 6 Squash Tournament**

On Friday of week five, twelve year six students were chosen to compete against Saint Paul’s Primary in a squash tournament. We all played four rounds of squash, at the squash centre on Cambridge St. In the end Saint Thomas’ was victorious and we all had so much fun and all played very well. We thank Miss Kerse for organising an amazing afternoon and for Mr Tuohy and Mr VB for taking us there.

**RESULTS**

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SPELLING</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isabel Hennessy</td>
<td>Distinction</td>
<td>Top 4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cayden Aquiza Relenas</td>
<td>Distinction</td>
<td>Top 6%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WRITTING</strong></td>
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<td>Minerva Chaney</td>
<td>Distinction</td>
<td>Top 5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isabel Hennessy</td>
<td>Distinction</td>
<td>Top 5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adrian Garbowski</td>
<td>Distinction</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yasmin Jones</td>
<td>Distinction</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matilda Newman</td>
<td>Credit</td>
<td>Top 15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laura Moore</td>
<td>Credit</td>
<td>Top 32%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Congratulations to all the individual Champion Girls, Boys and Runner Up Champions. Congratulations to Blue Faction for taking out the Athletics Carnival. Well done to all those who participated in the 800m race. It was a fantastic day with very tight competition. A big thank you to all the staff and parents for assisting with the day!

Miss Kerse

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YR 1</th>
<th>Champion Girl</th>
<th>Runner Up Champion Girl</th>
<th>Champion Boy</th>
<th>Runner Up Champion Boy</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rosie Joel</td>
<td>Erin Moore</td>
<td>Christian Lorbeer</td>
<td>Bastian Dominguez</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lily Lucas</td>
<td>Juliana Rodrigues</td>
<td>Luca Howard</td>
<td>Austin Trend</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sophia O’Sullivan</td>
<td>Annabel Hurst</td>
<td>Alexander Garbowski</td>
<td>Samuel Hicks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maya Ness</td>
<td>Sienna Howard</td>
<td>Pathawi Edwards</td>
<td>Lucas Preston</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kate Nolan</td>
<td>Grace Gibbons</td>
<td>Finn Klug</td>
<td>Oscar Lorbeer</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sophia Baron-Hay</td>
<td>Hannah Lorbeer</td>
<td>Joshua Howard</td>
<td>Euan Cowie</td>
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</tbody>
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Overall Faction Order

1st: Blue
Points 846

2nd: Green & Gold
Points 812

3rd: Red
Points 684

4th: Points

Winning Faction: BLUE

800m Winners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Girls</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joshua Howard (Year 6)</td>
<td>Kate Nolan (Year 5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finn Klug (Year 5)</td>
<td>Sophie Baron-Hay (Year 6)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Euan Cowie (Year 6)</td>
<td>Ella Hogan (Year 6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucas Preston (Year 4)</td>
<td>Sophia Coutts (Year 6)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Happy Fathers Day to all our St Thomas’ Dad’s and Grandads