Dear Parents & Members of Our School Community

Review of Crisis Management/Evacuation Policy: Throughout 2016 Mr von Bergheim, Mr Steven Dunn, (Dad of Charlie in Kindy) and I have been undertaking a review of the two policies mentioned in the heading. The process has been significant and parents and students may notice some changes taking place over the next few weeks.

To ensure the continued safety of the students at St Thomas’ we are now asking that when parents sign in to the school they wear a special lanyard. These lanyards can be found hanging above the ‘Sign In’ book in the front office. These lanyards clearly demonstrate to staff and students those parents/guardians who are on the school grounds as visitors. As per normal parents/guardians will only need to sign in when accessing the school from the front entrance during school hours not when dropping off/picking up. The lanyard also displays a very simple and brief checklist of tasks that the visitor can follow in the event of an emergency.

Another change to the policy is to ensure emergency authorities can quickly and calmly identify those in charge or those who can assist in the case of an emergency. Therefore the ‘Incident Coordinator’ and ‘Fire Wardens’ will wear hard hats to signify to emergency authorities their position.

Parents will be informed of additional changes as they are implemented.

Father’s Evening Kindy: It was remise of me not to mention the Father’s Evening for Kindy dad’s held in the Kindy room on Wednesday 24 August. The event was a great success and allowed the Dads who don’t often get the opportunity to see the activities in the Kindy classroom, the opportunity to ‘experience’ Kindy life. Thanks to Mrs. Bell, Mrs. Gamble, Mrs. Koong and Mrs. Richardson for organising this great initiative.

Father’s Day Breakfast and Liturgy: Thanks to Mrs. Passerra and Mrs. Vincent for preparing the Father’s Day Liturgy and to the P&F for their organisation of the breakfast. It was a wonderful event with the highlight for me being the Pre-Primary students reading their prayers about their dads.

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 and competitiveness.

Oracy: It has been very pleasing to see the students in Years Three and Four complete their Oracy Presentations last week. They were extremely well prepared for their presentations and enthusiastically responded to questions asked of them. Thanks to the teachers for their efforts with this event.

TOM State Final: Congratulations to Harry Lucas, Euan Cowie, Genevieve Moody, Minerva Chaney, Felix Frichot, Austin Moltoni and Oscar Martella who represented St Thomas’ at the Tournament of Minds State Final last Saturday. The students participated in the Maths Engineering section. Although they did not win they have represented our school superbly. I would like to once again thank Lisa Keatch for coordinating the event and Lila Gibbs for her dedication to the students and this program. Lila has given significant time after hours to this event. Well done one and all!

Catholic Performing Arts Festival: Thanks must also go to Cathy Cottun who coordinated the children who had performed in the Catholic Education Performing Arts Festival, to present to the school last Tuesday. This assembly truly showcased the wonderful talent we have at St Thomas’.

Children’s Mass: The next Parish/School Mass will take place this Saturday, 17 September, at 5.30pm. The Year One class and Miss Pilling are organising the Mass and sausage sizzle. Even though it is the Year One class organising this event, it would be wonderful to see the Church full with St Thomas’ families.

Kalunga Kattijin Festival Kings Park: Well what a fantastic day was had by all at yesterday’s festival. I was impressed with the activities that were offered, the behaviour and participation of the students and the volume of parent helpers that were able to give up their time to assist. Significant work goes into the planning of an event like this, as could been seen when four large busses pulled up at the front of the school to ferry our students to this event. Thanks to Mrs Sullivan who organised the day and to all of the teachers for being so willingly involved.

 Faction Cup: This term’s Faction Cup Competition is drawing to a conclusion. All four factions have a realistic chance of taking out the prize. The winning faction will be announced at Gathering on Monday 19 September. The winning team will then be treated to a significant prize on Wednesday 21 September. Token counting has now gone in-house so that when the result is announced it will be a surprise.

With regards and best wishes

Justin Tuohy
Principal

Quote of the Week

“...One’s dignity may be assaulted, vandalised and cruelly mocked, but cannot be taken away unless it is surrendered.”
Michael J. Fox

Lord, let me be an instrument of thy peace.
Where there is hatred,
Let me sow love,
Where there is injury, pardon
Where there is doubt, faith
Where there is despair, hope
Where there is darkness, light
And where there is sadness, joy.

Saint Francis of Assisi
Performing Arts Festival 2016

This year we celebrated the 27th Annual Performing Arts Festival for Catholic Schools and Colleges in Western Australia. This was a showcase of talent from across the state. It provided an opportunity for some of our musical students to perform in a public forum, and to share their gifts and talents with a wider audience, receiving a written adjudication and certificate of participation.

All students put in a lot of effort, perseverance and discipline to ensure their performance was the best it could be. I encourage all students to explore the wonderful world of music and performance.

Pope Francis encourages young people to “put your talent at the service of the Gospel, with creativity and boundless charity” and our students have certainly lived up to embodiment of the Pope’s intent.

Choir – St Thomas’ Trebles – Honourable Mention

Vocal soloists – Matilda Newman – Certificate of Merit
Laura Best – Honourable Mention

Flute Solo – Yoojung Koh – Honourable Mention

Violin Solo – Gabriela Martinez

Guitar Solo – Kate Nolan

Piano Soloists
Yr 4
Pathawi Edwards
Abigail O’Sullivan
Keeley Clutton – Certificate of Merit

Yr 5
Oscar Lorbeer – Certificate Of Merit
Matilda Newman
Valeria Herrera-Florido

Yr 6
Hannah Lorbeer

Cathy Cotton
Next term we celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The children will be prepared for the sacrament in their Religion classes in Year 3. If you have a child that needs to receive this sacrament please email or contact Mrs Sullivan. This will occur towards the middle of Term 4 after school (3.30-4.30pm) over three days. The exact dates will be confirmed by Father Wayne early next term.

We look forward to the School/Parish Mass this Saturday at 5pm presented by the Year 1 children. All students and parents are warmly invited.

Triumph of the Cross - Feast Day: September 14

Yesterday we celebrated this feast day, below is some information explaining its significance.

Today we celebrate our love for Jesus and show him how grateful we are through our respect for the cross. Jesus die to give us our salvation. He took on the suffering and shame of the cross. For Christians the cross has now become the most sacred symbol. When the cross has the image of the suffering Christ on it, that cross is called a crucifix. The crucifix on our bedroom wall and the crucifix or cross worn around our neck is an important reminder that Jesus paid a price for us. For hundreds of years pieces of the true cross have been treasured by devout Christians. It is believed that Emperor Heraclius recovered pieces of wood from the cross of Jesus in 629. He and his soldiers honored these pieces and invited all the people in the area to join them. Even before that time, Christians honoured and loved the symbol of the cross. The word "cross" can also mean the sufferings that come our way. When we accept them lovingly and with patience as Jesus did his cross, we become “cross-bearers” like Jesus.

Reflection: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you, because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world!

Turn a negative attitude into a positive attitude with the help of God

A positive attitude contributes to success in life more than anything else, according to a Stanford Research Institute study that shows a full 87.5 percent of people’s success can be traced to their positive attitudes, while just 12.5 percent of their success comes from their aptitude, knowledge, or skills.

What can you do if your mind is weighed down by negative attitudes that limit your success? You can change your attitudes, with God's help. Here's how:

Understand the power of attitude. If you allow negative attitudes (such as anxiety, envy, anger, bitterness, or pride) to grab hold of your mind, those attitudes will lead you to make negative decisions that will affect your life in negative ways. But if you choose to develop and maintain positive attitudes, your life will become positive as a result. Even when you encounter the challenges and tragedies of living in a fallen world, you’ll be able to deal with them successfully when you choose to approach life with positive attitudes. But keep in mind that changing negative attitudes to positive ones isn’t an instant event; it’s a lifelong process that requires perseverance. Ask God to help you each day, and study Jesus’ life, since He is the ultimate example of how to live in a fallen world with positive attitudes.

Respond rather than react to unexpected change. Change will sometimes surprise you, and when that change is negative you may be drawn into a crisis. Whenever that happens, avoid reacting negatively and instead deliberately decide to respond positively. Keep in mind that you can’t control situations or people, but you can choose how you’ll respond to them. Ask God to give you four key gifts to help you respond to unexpected change in positive ways: hope, faith in Him, a clear vision of what He wants you to do next, and the energy to do what He wants you to do. Whenever it’s possible for you to change troubling circumstances or relationships, make the effort to do so. Whenever you can’t change them, ask God to give you the peace you need to deal with them.

Wishing you a happy and blessed week
Mrs Sullivan
Clothing drive for refugees and people in need!

Collect your old and small clothes and bring them to school!

**CLOTHING DRIVE**

From the year 6 Christian service committee

Make sure to bring them in week 10, Wednesday 21st of September! Put your plastic bag(s) in the hall.

Put all your clothes into a bag and tie it up!

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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

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Final Reminder!

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

Thank you
MATHS DAY 2016
St Thomas' Garbage Bands
Whole School Excursion to Kalunga Katitjin Festival at Kings Park-

The students of St Thomas’ attended this wonderful event yesterday which in Noonyar means “Knowledge for children”. The children had the opportunity to be involved in cultural, sustainability and nature activities. It was a great day to be outdoors and was wonderful to see the children so engaged and enjoying themselves. It reinforced to the teachers that our new Junior playground will be very much appreciated by our students. We thank all the parent volunteers that helped make this day a great success.

Mrs Sullivan
Getting cooperation from kids can be simple
By Michael Grose (Author of Parenting Ideas)

In a conversation with a mum after a recent parenting seminar I was reminded how important it is to get the little things right if we want to get cooperation from kids....and avoid yelling, nagging and fighting with them.
She told me how she uses ‘when...then’ language when her children ask her to do something, particularly when she doesn’t think their timing is right.

Child: ‘Mum, can I watch TV?’
Parent: ‘When you’ve done your homework/done your jobs/helped your brother then you can watch TV.’

I call ‘When...then’ language Grandma’s principle. My grandma was smart. She insisted that children do the boring and difficult things before they did the easy, fun activities.

Want to go out and play? Sure, but you need to get your homework out of the way first.
Grandma’s principle is all about getting the order right – get the boring but important stuff out of the way then you can relax and have fun.

Grandma’s principle has other applications as well.

You can use it to promote responsible behaviour as well.

“When you’ve helped your brother with his homework then you can play a game on the iPad.”
We can also use Grandma’s principle to give kids more freedom.
“When you’ve shown you can catch the bus to the shops safely on your own then you’ll be able to catch a bus into the city on your own.”

‘When...then’ opens up possibilities for kids.

Rather than saying “No you can’t have ice cream/use my phone/go out” you can grant kids their wishes contingent on doing the important things first.

“When...then” is a useful strategy to add to your parenting repertoire.