The Journey of Life

Crossing a stream is very much like life. It’s about finding the right way to go... sometimes it’s easy... sometimes we might take a wrong step but we can always begin again. Once we find the way, we have the knowledge and wisdom and can use what we have learned to help and lead others.

Working together makes getting through easier. The Holy Spirit helps and guides us through life, giving us the courage to begin again and help us discover new knowledge and understandings. As we go through life, our family and the Church, are there to help us through and guide us.

Dear Parents & Members of Our School Community

The end of term is a great opportunity to reflect on the many fantastic things that have happened at St Thomas’. It is also an opportune time to thank the many people who make up our school community for their efforts during the first Semester. We have many committed and enthusiastic people – staff, parents and children, who give their time and talents to create a positive atmosphere at our school.

Firstly, congratulations to all the students for their efforts throughout the semester. I know all the students have worked hard during the last two terms and achieved results that have showcased their true abilities and potential. It is important, as parents will be aware, to take the time to discuss School Reports with your child/children. Teacher’s comments and the Religious Education, Numeracy and Literacy Continuums are important and should be used as indicators of the areas that a child may work towards improving. If parents have any concerns about their child’s progress, please arrange an interview with the class teacher.

I congratulate and thank the staff for their commitment and effort this semester. It has been extremely busy with numerous events planned within the school – most importantly, the preparation and participation of students in the Sacrament of First Eucharist. The students have been involved with various sporting commitments throughout the term and we thank all the parents who have assisted us with these commitments.

Lastly, I would like to thank the parents for their support. We have great parent attendance at class assemblies, P&F meetings, sporting fixtures and classroom rosters. It is wonderful to see parents coming into the school and supporting the teachers in the delivery of their programs.

I wish everyone a very restful and rejuvenating break and look forward to an even more eventful Term 3.

School Reports: At the end of Term Two written formal reports will be sent home to parents. These reports will give parents an indication of their child/children’s achievements in the Learning Areas of Religious Education, English, Mathematics, Health & PE, the Humanities, the Arts, Science, Languages Other Than English and Technology.

First Semester reports will be sent home to parents on Friday 1 July. Portfolios will also be sent home for Pre Kindy and Kindy classes. The portfolios are a snapshot of the learning journey the students have undertaken so far this year.

First Holy Communion: Best wishes to those students that will be undertaking the Sacrament of Holy Communion this Sunday. This is certainly a special time for the children as they take another step on their faith journey.

St Thomas’ Day: On Friday 1 July we will be celebrating St Thomas’ Feast Day. Mrs. Gibbs and the Year Two class will be organising the Mass and lunch.

9.00am Assembly with Guests: The Honorable Premier of Western Australia Mr Colin Barnett and Dr. Tim McDonald Executive Director of Catholic Education in Western Australia.

9.20am Morning tea with parents and tour of school
11.30am Mass (lead by the Year Two children) - All parents and members of our School Community are welcome to attend.
12.30am Sausage Sizzle lunch (provided by the school and prepared by Year Two students)
1.40pm Tabloid Sports Afternoon.

Teacher Leave: Mr von Bergheim will be taking an allocation of his Long Service Leave from Wednesday 29 June to Tuesday 26 July (inclusive). We wish him all the very best as he travels through Europe.

Interschool Sports Carnival: Well done to the students in Years 4—6 who represented the school at last Friday’s Interschool Sports event. The children participated in AFL, taking out the Championship. NETBALL, with our Division A girls finishing in 2nd place and our Division B girls finishing 4th. In SOCCER with both teams finishing 5th and 6th in the expanded competition. Thanks to the teachers, Mr vB, Miss Kerse, Mrs Sullivan, Mrs Knox and Mr O’Marra for training the teams prior to the event and to those that coached on the day. A huge thanks to Miss Kerse for her organization of the entire carnival. Thanks Loretta for all your efforts.

Interschool Cross Country Carnival Results: Congratulations to the students who participated in the Interschool Cross Country Carnival today. It was great to see the team in action and to hear them supporting and encouraging their teammates. St. Thomas’ came second in the ‘Most Improved’ Shield. Overall we came 3rd only just missing out on 2nd place by a few points! It was pleasing to see that all the hard work at Running Club and training at school transferred across to this Interschool event. Well done to all concerned.

Edu-Dance Concert: Congratulations to all classes for their sensational performances at the Edudance Concert last night. We were treated once again to a fantastic show. I was so impressed! All your hard work this term has certainly paid off.

Canteen Roster

27 June
Helen Rodriguez

The Holy Spirit helps and guides us through life, giving us the courage to begin again and help us discover new knowledge and understandings. As we go through life, our family and the Church, are there to help us through and guide us.

If you have integrity, nothing else matters. If you don’t have integrity, nothing else matters.”

Alan Simpson

Dates to Remember

SUNDAY 26 JUNE
First Holy Communion
Year 4
FRIDAY 01 JULY
Visit by Premier Colin Barnett and Dr Tim McDonald & St Thomas’ Feast Day & LAST DAY OF TERM
MONDAY 18 JULY
First Day Term 3

Canteen Roster

27 June
Helen Rodriguez

8 Warden Street CLAREMONT WA 6010
Telephone: 9286 9500
Email: admin@stthomas.wa.edu.au
Website: www.stthomas.wa.edu.au

“If you have integrity, nothing else matters. If you don’t have integrity, nothing else matters.”

Alan Simpson

St Thomas’ Primary School
NEWSLETTER
23 June 2016 — Term 2— Week 9

8 Warden Street CLAREMONT WA 6010
Telephone: 9286 9500
Email: admin@stthomas.wa.edu.au
Website: www.stthomas.wa.edu.au
RE News

School/ Parish Mass

Thank you to all the students that volunteered to read or were a collector at the mass last Saturday. You did a fantastic job! Thank you to the families and children from the school who attended it is wonderful in building relationships between the church and school. The sausage sizzle is a great success thank you to those who cooked and served. Upcoming School/ Parish Masses (Sat. 5.30pm) are:

- 20 August - Year 6
- 17 September - Year 1
- 22 October - Pre Primary
- 19 November - Year 5

First Holy Communion

We wish our Year 4 students and Valeria in Year 5 all the best for receiving Eucharist this Sunday at 9.30am at St Thomas’ Parish. Please keep these children in your thoughts and prayers.

For our Communion Retreat we visited the Mary Mackillop Centre in South Perth. Sister Maree led us in a beautiful day of prayer and reflection. The children were outstanding in their reverence. It was wonderful to have such a valued spiritual experience leading up to the students’ First Eucharist.

St Thomas Feast Day Mass

We would love you to join us on the last Friday of term (01 July) at 11.30am for the St Thomas Feast Day Mass in the church. This mass is being presented by the Year 2 children.

Some quotes from Mary Mackillop-

“God’s love is too deep for words to express”
“We must teach more by example than by words”
“Let us thank God we are as we are”

Wishing you a blessed week
Mrs Sullivan
**Understanding is Key**

A key area for development at St Thomas’ Primary School is the development of our children’s higher order thinking skills. We follow the works of Bloom, Ryan and de Bono and incorporate this into our teaching methods and techniques, our questioning and the activities and inquiries we plan.

Learning is making meaning. Meaning is making connections. Connections are in concepts. In order to learn something, we must understand its meaning. We make meaning by connecting new ideas to ones we already have. The links or chains with which we connect new ideas or information to ones we already know are their common concepts.

The importance of developing higher order think skills is clear. We need our children to be able to think beyond simple retention and relaying of information. We currently work to develop thinking skills through Pre-Kindy to Year 6.

- Acquisition of Knowledge
- Comprehension
- Application
- Analysis
- Synthesis
- Evaluation
- Dialectical Thought
- Metacognition

We use Bloom’s taxonomy to assist us in our work on higher order thinking. Bloom divided learning into three domains of educational activity:

- **Cognitive**: Mental skills (knowledge)
- **Affective**: Growth in feelings or emotional area (attitude or self)
- **Psychomotor**: Manual or physical skills (skills)

The attitudes and skills within the domains are listed in six categories, starting from the simplest thinking behaviour to the most complex. General belief is that each behaviour needs to be mastered before the next one can take place.

The work we undertake will assist the children to think more often at the top levels of the taxonomy. Our goal is to achieve even deeper understanding, retention and transfer of knowledge in a number of different ways.

*Lisa Keatch*

---

**St Thomas’ Feast Day**

**Special dietary requirements**

Kindly letting you know that our school is supplying lunch to every child, however, we are only able to cater for children who are gluten intolerant. If your child is unable to eat sausages and bread rolls from Coles please supply a suitable lunch for them on Friday 01 July for the St Thomas’ Feast Day lunch.

*Thank you for your understanding*
Congratulations to everyone for participating in the 2016 St Thomas’ Cross Country Carnival. It was exciting to see the Pre-Primary’s, Year 1’s and Year 2’s joining us for the first time. The enthusiasm from the whole school was sensational to see.

The competition was fierce and the results prove that with two winning factions! Congratulations to Gold and Green equal with 209 points. Well done to Red not too far behind with 190 points and Blue in third position with 207 points.

Congratulations to the follow individual award winners:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1km</th>
<th>1250 km</th>
<th>1750 km</th>
<th>2 km</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 3 Girls</td>
<td>Year 4 Girls</td>
<td>Year 5 Girls</td>
<td>Year 6 Girls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Annabel Hurst</td>
<td>1st Maya Ness</td>
<td>1st Kate Nolan</td>
<td>1st Sophie Baron-Hay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Genevieve Hagemann</td>
<td>2nd Sienna Howard</td>
<td>2nd Grace Gibbons</td>
<td>2nd Ella Hogan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Isabel Hennessy</td>
<td>3rd Genevieve Moody</td>
<td>3rd Kate Fisher</td>
<td>3rd Sophia Coutts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 3 Boys</th>
<th>Year 4 Boys</th>
<th>Year 5 Boys</th>
<th>Year 6 Boys</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Alexander Garbowski</td>
<td>1st Lucas Preston</td>
<td>1st Finn Klug Green</td>
<td>1st Joshua Howard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd William Bennett</td>
<td>2nd Paddy McAluliffe</td>
<td>2nd Josh Gomes</td>
<td>2nd Euan Cowie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Aidan Bourne</td>
<td>3rd Austin Moltoni</td>
<td>3rd Sam Bailey</td>
<td>3rd Finn O’Brien</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th Lucas Edwards</td>
<td>4th Saxon Davidson</td>
<td>4th Daniel McQuillan</td>
<td>4th Harry Lucas</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We are looking forward to the enthusiasm to continue into our Interschool Cross Country Carnival for the Year 3 to 6 students. Best of luck to these students!

*Miss Kerse*
NOTN

Congratulations to our wonderful E-Challengers who, in front of a large audience, took our St Thomas’ family and friends on a biographical journey.

L.Keatch
LIBRARY DRAW WINNERS

Well done to the following students who returned books to the library in the past fortnight and have won a token for their faction.

**Week 8:**
Kate S (year 4) BLUE
Sophia A-L (year 6) GOLD

**Week 9:**
Ava M (year 1) RED
Zac S (year 5) RED

Every Tuesday we have a library draw using the names of all students who have returned library books during the previous week. All students need to return their overdue library books before the end of term. If your child has overdue books, they will have received an overdue library notice — but do check with your child because sometimes notices don’t make it home and we would love our books back!

**FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY (A call for parent volunteers)**

We sometimes need extra help to get through a backlog covering new books (at the library an hour before afternoon pickup, or taking books home to cover), and helpers for events such as the book fair or Book Week etc.

Parents who would like to register as a Friend of the Library (aka parent volunteer!), please email Rebecca Newman: newman.rebecca@cathednet.wa.edu.au or see Rebecca in the library on Tuesdays. Rebecca can then send a call out via the list when helpers are needed. (Registering as a Friend doesn’t obligate you to help.)

*Thank you for your support!*
*Rebecca Newman*

These holidays are the ideal time to support MS Readathon, a great way to raise money and also read a lot more books. Check out the website for information and happy reading!

Building Stronger Families - a course for the whole family. Wednesday 27th July x 8 weeks. $80 per single parent family/$120 per family. This six-week course is designed specifically for families with children over the age of 10. Inclusion is the key, and any adult involved in the parenting process is invited to come along and learn the skills needed to keep your family healthy. Parents, learn how to be leaders and role models in your family. Children learn how to be special and also how to belong. This course is based on the work of George Doub and Florence Creighton, authors of Survival Skills for Healthy Families. Please phone 6164 0200 for more information or click here.

PIT STOP - A Parenting Tune-up for Fathers, 27 July x 8 weeks. $130 per person.
This course covers -
Why Dads Matter To Kids
Developing a Healthy Parenting Style
Improving Family Communication and Closeness
Steering Your Children Through Stressful Stages
Disciplining the Kids Without Losing It
Balancing Life, Work and Family
Working as a Team (Partner's Evening)
Please phone 6164 0200 for more information or click here.

Virtues Parenting Program – Monday 1 August x 6 weeks. $110 per person.
Being a parent is the most complex and important activity on the planet. Parents are the child’s first and most important educators, yet they receive little or no training in what to do or how to do it. Unfortunately, children don’t come with instruction manuals. Teaching virtues to children is a way of bringing out the best in every child. Each day of living with children brings fresh opportunities for guiding them and using “teachable moments” which pass quickly and may never come again. Children are born in and with potential; their natural qualities can develop into positive or negative traits depending on how they are educated in the early years. Character develops as children learn to make responsible, moral choices with self-esteem being a natural outcome. Please phone 6164 0200 for more information or click here.

Happy Holidays - stay safe and have fun!

Looking for something to do this holidays? Claremont & Nedlands libraries run holiday programs!
Also we have flyers in the office from:
Kidz ‘n Sport
Bubble Dome
Grasshopper Soccer
Australian Girls Choir
Australian Sports Camps
A3 Australian School of Performing Arts
Feel free to take one!

2017 & 2018 enrolments now finalising
Please get your application to the office before the end of term. If you know any family or friends who are planning to send their children to St Thomas’ please share this information with them to avoid disappointment.

Thanks