**Beginnings**

Lord Jesus, You are with us as we commence our year’s work. Help us to understand our importance in educating our children. And bless this partnership between teachers and parents. Guide us in our decisions. And open our hearts in friendship to each other. May we show particular care to those who are most in need. May we be welcoming, especially to those who are new amongst us. And may our union result in many benefits for the children on whose behalf we gather.

Amen

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**Dear Parents & Members of Our School Community**

Welcome back for the start of the 2017 school year. Welcome to all our new students and their families. We hope your time at St Thomas’ will be rewarding and enjoyable. A warm welcome to all our new Kindy students as well as those students who have joined us in other grades: Anton (Pre Primary) and Aurelia (Year 3) Barbaro, Xavier Grillo (Pre Primary), Xavier Harris (Year 5), Chloe Liu (Year 3).

We also welcome to our school Mrs Natasha Baldwin (Year One Teaching Assistant) and Mrs Clare McIlree (Year Two Teaching Assistant).

As a staff, we have been looking forward to the beginning of another exciting year ahead and I must say that as parents you should be very proud of the way your children have settled into their new classes. Not only do they look smart in their school uniforms, but are well organised and very enthusiastic.

I am sure the first week has been a little hectic for you as you settle into old routines or even the new ones that may pop up with your child moving into a new classroom setting. Please be gentle on yourself over the next week or so until these all fall into place. As always, if you have any issues please make sure you make an appointment to help. I am more than happy to discuss classroom/playground issues that occur from time to time however; your child’s classroom teacher should always be your first port of call.

**Before School Duty:** Parents please be aware that a member of staff is on morning duty from 8.15am. Children should not be arriving at school before this time. We do understand that sometimes this is unavoidable due to work and other commitments but it should not be a regular occurrence.

**Year 6 Camp:** We wish our Year Six students and the staff attending camp next week all the very best. I encourage them to attempt every challenge on camp and use this time away as a class to gain the very best out of themselves and their peers. Camp runs from Monday 6 – Friday 10 February.

**Infrastructure Update:** As you may be aware the school has had significant infrastructure completed during the holidays. The ‘Maker Space’ has taken shape in the library and I.T. Lab. Please feel free to come in and see the transformation that has taken place. Thanks to Mr. von Bergheim and committee for their planning, ideas and vision.

Software and hardware have been updated in the library, which will bring our system more in line with the demands of libraries in 2017 and beyond. The Wi-Fi system of the entire school has also been updated and will allow both staff and students uninterrupted access to the internet. This again is extremely important with the NAPLAN testing moving online for St. Thomas’ in 2017. Thanks to Mrs. Gibbs for organising and planning these upgrades.

The Early Childhood Playground has been re-planned, revamped and constructed. I am extremely pleased with the end result and was made very much aware, by the way the junior students played on it over the past few days, that they are extremely happy with the end result too. Thanks to the junior primary teachers for all the planning and meetings they had in 2016 in coming up with ideas for the company that designed and built the playground. In particular thanks must go to Mrs. Jones for working with ideas for the company that designed and built the playground. In particular thanks must go to Mrs. Jones for planning and meetings they had in 2016 in coming up with ideas for the company that designed and built the playground. In particular thanks must go to Mrs. Jones for planning and meetings they had in 2016 in coming up with ideas for the company that designed and built the playground. In particular thanks must go to Mrs. Jones for planning and meetings they had in 2016 in coming up with ideas for the company that designed and built the playground. In particular thanks must go to Mrs. Jones for planning and meetings they had in 2016 in coming up with ideas for the company that designed and built the playground.

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Parish Children’s Masses: The first Parish Children’s Mass of the year will be on Saturday 18 February commencing at 5.30pm. The Year Two children and their families will be in charge of preparing and cooking the sausage sizzle and organising aspects of the Mass. Mrs. Gibbs will be sending details home within the coming week.

P&F Sundowner: Next, Friday 10 February, the P&F will be holding our annual Sundowner. This event will begin at 6.00pm and conclude at 10.00pm. This is a fantastic way for our school to come together as a community and welcome new families. As we know community doesn’t just happen and that it is something we have to work together to develop. I would like to thank the P&F Committee for organising the event and look forward to seeing you there.

Parent/Teacher Evening (Pre primary—Year 6): On Monday 13 February we will be conducting our Class Information Evening. At 6.00pm Extend Before and After School Care will be running a presentation to all families who are interested in their program for 2017. The Parent/Teacher Evening will then commence with a Whole School Briefing in the school hall commencing at 6.30pm, where we will begin with a prayer and have a short address regarding our whole school focus for 2017. Then parents will be invited to move to their child’s class to hear the teacher’s expectations for the year. Each class teacher will run two sessions so that parents are able to attend as many of their children’s rooms as possible. This is an important opportunity to find out a little about the expectations and operations of your child’s class therefore, your attendance is encouraged and very much appreciated.

P&F Meeting: Please note that the first P&F Meeting of the year will take place on Tuesday 14 February in the school hall at 9.00am. It’s always great to see some new faces. So please come along and join in the planning for the year ahead and invite other parents to come along with you.

Code of Conduct: As I mentioned in the last newsletter of 2016, St Thomas’ is required to have a Code of Conduct as part of the System Agreement with the Minister for Education. Clause 6 (3) of the System Agreement states: By 2017 all schools in the system will be required to adhere to a Code of Conduct on child safety in accordance with a standard determined by the Minister under section 159 (1) (i). This Code of Conduct will not only need to be abided by the staff of St Thomas’ but also the parents, students, volunteers and visitors of the school. A copy can be located on the school website.

With regards and best wishes

Justin Tuohy
Principal

Changes?

Has your address, mobile or work phone number changed over the holidays? Is there someone who regularly picks up or drops off your child/ren, or is listed as your emergency contact who has changed their contact number? Have you changed visa numbers or been allocated permanent residency?

Please email any changes to Julie in the office:

admin@stthomas.wa.edu.au

Thanks
St Thomas Pick up & Drop off
Before and after school: all drivers are asked to use College Road from one direction only – i.e. approaching from Warden Street. This facilitates a continuous flow of left-turning vehicles from College Road into the set-down/pick-up area. Children both leave and board vehicles from the left-side doors near the paved or undercover areas, and drivers can then proceed through the exit gates, turn left into College Road, and proceed towards Melville Street. Traffic flow therefore moves safely in an anti-clockwise direction around the school at these peak times.

Thank you for your support.

STUDENT UPDATE FORMS
Next week your eldest child will be sent home with a sheet entitled FULL FAMILY DETAILS

Please check over the details, make any changes clearly in pen, sign & return to the front office. If no changes are required please sign & return.
(Neew students where we have full details will not be sent forms at this time)

ALL forms need to be returned by MONDAY 13 FEBRUARY

Thank you

Medical Updates
Please ensure we have your children’s most current medical updates. This includes Anaphylaxis, asthma, allergies or medication taken regularly.
You are welcome to contact the school office to check the details we have on file.

Thank you

FOR SALE
Palatino piano & stool. Model No: UP-123. Rarely used and in very good condition. Located in the school hall. $2000.00 - valued at $3800.00
Any queries to Cathy Cotton on cotton.cathy@cathednet.wa.edu.au
LAST CHANCE TO ORDER THIS YEAR!

T-SHIRTS FOR PRE KINDY, KINDY AND PRE PRIMARY CHILDREN ONLY

The orders have been opened up online and will be available until Monday 6 February at 3pm. On-line ordering for these T-shirts is available through the website: https://www.ouronlinecanteen.com.au.

Those wishing to pay by cash or cheque order forms are available from the front office. Any orders through the office must be paid for at time of ordering by cash (correct change only) or cheque (payable to St Thomas’ P&F Association). Price $20 each.

We have received a letter from the Claremont Conference of the Society of St Vincent de Paul, thanking all our families for their generous donations to their Christmas Appeal. They have advised that due to overwhelming support of the Appeal at the end of last year from St Thomas’ and others they had sufficient foodstuffs etc to use for their regular callouts for emergency food relief.

You may be reassured therefore that everything that had been donated has found its way to those most in need - the poor and marginalised in our society.

Canteen Volunteers

Hello Parents

The P&F are looking for volunteers for canteen duty on Mondays and Fridays. If you can spare half an hour to help with giving out the lunch orders from 12:15pm, please email Nat Bogoias at: natalie.bogoias@gmail.com. A canteen coordinator is also needed which requires approximately 2 hours of your time each term. This position comes with a handover and support. No experience required! All enquiries to Nat.

Thank you for supporting your child’s canteen

Tissues

Please remember to bring 2 boxes of tissues per child. These can be left in your child's class.

Thank you
TERM PLANNERS

Term Planners have been placed on our website (http://www.stthomas.wa.edu.au/) for each term this year. Please remember that dates and events are subject to change. The Term Planners will be updated each Thursday to keep them as up-to-date as possible each week.

Also this year whole class events organised by your Class Parent Representative will be added to the planners.

LIBRARY 2017

Welcome back to the school library! In 2017 students will visit the library to borrow books on WEDNESDAYS and it was fantastic to see so many happy faces yesterday.

Library rules for students for PP to Year 6:

- Please bring a book bag or plastic satchel on Wednesdays to transport your books to and from the library. (It doesn't have to be a fancy library bag. The sort of bag used for grocery shopping will be fine.) Make sure your name is on your bag/satchel.
- Library books don’t like drink bottles. Please separate books and drink bottles in your school bag.
- We DO NOT charge fines for overdue books and we always welcome back overdue books with a smile! If you have four books overdue you won’t be able to borrow more books until you return your overdue books.
- I prefer to repair damaged books at the library. Don’t repair books yourself -- please let me know about damage when you return your books.
- If you lose a book (or your dog eats a book), please discuss with me on a Wednesday or via email.

Parents, students and teachers can now search our library catalogue (you don't need a login to search). The library catalogue can be accessed from the St Thomas’ school website ... go to the 'Useful links' tab (at top right of the home page) and from the dropdown list click on 'library catalogue'.

Happy reading!

Rebecca Newman
Library

A big thank you Sarah Chatfield and Simone Lorbeer for all your time and effort in sorting, collating and labelling our school costumes. We are very grateful.
Welcome to 2017! We are all looking forward to staying cool and fit this Summer Term. We start our term off with Swimming Training taking place at Claremont Pool. All costs are covered. Please ensure your child is Year 3 and above and has successfully completed Stage 6 DET Swimming Lessons. A healthy snack will be supplied at the pool after swimming training. Please ensure your child has a light meal before training and something to top them up after training. The website below from Better Health raises the importance of a healthy breakfast to fuel our children for physical activity and mental stimulation, please have a read:


The first of two big carnivals that we are looking forward to this term is our very own St Thomas' Swimming Carnival and the Interschool’s Swimming Carnival. The competition at our own Swimming Carnival is going to be hot, hot, hot with new recruits and the forming of the three faction houses, good luck everyone! We are looking to take one of the top spots again at the Interschool Swimming Carnival. Selected students from Years 3 to 6 will represent us at the annual Interschool Swimming Carnival at the indoor HBF Stadium (Challenge Stadium). Please be prepared to do extra team training if you are selected for the St Thomas’ Interschool Swimming Squad.

New and exciting carnivals that we will be participating in for the first time will be the T20 Cricket Carnival and the Tennis Tournament. The Cricket Carnival and Tennis Tournament will be held at Abbett Park in Scarborough against the other Catholic Schools in our association. Students will be selected to compete in this competition.

In school, we are looking at a variety of summer sports including volleyball, lacrosse and touch rugby. The Fundamental Movement Program for the junior years will encompass the Gymnastic Program with a performance to amaze our parents.

Please make sure you place in your diary the following sporting dates and carnivals:

- Swimming Training: commencing Thursday 09 February and then each Thursday and Friday morning 7am-8am Claremont Pool
- Swimming Time Trials: 24 February
- St Thomas’ Swimming Carnival: 17 March
- T20 Cricket Carnival & Tennis Tournament: 28 March, Abbett Park, Scarborough
- Interschool Swimming Carnival: 3 April, HBF Stadium Mt Claremont

We also would love to continue the parent assistance during Physical Education lessons and before and after school training sessions so please place your name down on the rosters provided. Parent participation is so beneficial for your Child's physical development and we greatly appreciate your time and assistance.

Loretta Kerse
Dear Parents

As a staff we have become concerned with the amount of unhealthy food children in our society are exposed to. At our school this includes the significant number of birthday treats that are given out at school on a regular basis. We realise that some unhealthy choices have also been given to children by the school itself - i.e. pizza for Faction Cup winners, lolly rewards etc.

We wish to change the practice of giving food, in particular unhealthy choices, as a reward. At St. Thomas’ we are also concerned about our students with allergies and the time constraints in our classroom when accommodating birthday celebrations. At today’s staff meeting the decision was made that we will no longer allow birthday treats to be brought to school. Children’s birthdays will still be acknowledged at Monday gatherings and birthdays will be celebrated by the child’s class singing ‘happy birthday’. The principal will also present a small token to each child on their birthday.

This decision has been made with your children’s best interest at heart and in keeping with research showing healthy choices have a positive impact on students’ learning.

Thank you for your understanding and your ongoing support in promoting a healthy learning environment for your children.

Yours sincerely

Justin Tuohy
Principal
St. Thomas’ Primary, Claremont
Westside Wolves Hookin2Hockey 2017
Registrations Now Open Online
For more information go to www.wolves.org.au/about/minkey
Looking for New and Old; Boys and Girls to play in the following teams for St Thomas’ 2017 Hookin2Hockey season

Years 1 - Junior 9am
Years 2 & 3 - Intermediate 10.15am
(Quarter field up to 10 players with 7 on field, 2 x 20mins half's with 5 mins interval)

Years 4 - Nines 9am (3/4 quarter field up to 12 players with 9 players on field, 2 x 20 mins half's with 5 mins interval)

Season starts Saturday 6th May - 12th August with Breaks for Foundation day long weekend and July school holidays. One training session per week, each team requires an on-field coach and off-field manager. Early bird registrations $125 closing 25th March. Kids have a great time; mum & dad love the coffee and social Saturday morning at College Park.

Register your child interest with your school co-ordinator – Jan O’Brien jan@theloungeroom.com 0415 133 817
Let’s get our teams together for another successful and fun filled hockey season.

Other Fun Hockey Clinic
Westside Wolves Holiday Clinic
Westside Wolves runs a wonderful holiday clinic that is a great way to get your child started. Open for any child who has completed the registration for the 2017 Westside Wolves Season from Year 1 - 6, 10th - 12th April 2016. It always fills up so please register early so you don’t miss out.
Coaches include international, national & state players.

For more information please call or email Jan O’Brien 0415 133 817 jan@theloungeroom.com