Dear Parents

It was wonderful to have met so many of the children and parents throughout the first week of the school year, unfortunately I feel I have to meet both students and parents over and over again until names finally start to sink in. I do wish to make special comment to parents about how well your children greet staff every morning and engage in conversation. This has impressed me to no end.

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 and see your child’s teacher, they are more than willing and in fact want to help. As Principal I am more than happy to discuss classroom/playground issues that can pop up from time to time but your child’s classroom teacher should always be your first port of call.

Each new year brings with it a new sense of learning, discovery and wondering for each one of us. While our history is so important to who we are and what we know, it is our dreams and aspirations that drive where we could be or want to do, and this is so applicable to a school as we all strive to new learnings and dreams. I hope all of these come true for you all this year.

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.

P&F Meeting: Please note that the first P&F Meeting of the year will take place on Wednesday 18 February in the staff room at 7.30pm. It’s always great to see some new faces, so come along and join in the planning for the year ahead. Why not invite another parent to come along with you? Remember many hands make light work. It would be great to see you there and the TimTams are on me.

We have a very busy week ahead, as you can see by the information outlined below:

Welcoming School Mass: Today we celebrated our first school mass of the new year. It was wonderful to see a number of parents in attendance and I thank Fr. Wayne and Mrs Sullivan and her Year Four class for organising the service. The mass was a fantastic opportunity for us as a collective to take a little time in the presence of God and prepare for our exciting year ahead.

Staff Commissioning Mass: The staff will be joining colleagues from Catholic schools in the district to celebrate the start of the new school year along with the commissioning of new staff members. The mass will take place at St. Mary’s Cathedral commencing at 4.30pm on Wednesday 11 February.

Parent/Teacher Evening (Pre primary—Year 6): On Thursday evening we will be conducting our Class Information evening. This will 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 on our whole school focus for 2015. Then parents will be invited to move to their child’s class to hear the class information sessions so that you can get to as many of your 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. As such, your attendance would be very much appreciated.

P&F Sundowner: This Friday we have our P&F Sundowner from 6.00pm – 10.00pm. This is a fantastic way for our school to come together as a community and welcome new families to our school. 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.

God Bless

Justin Tuohy
Principal

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 welcome, especially, those who are new amongst us.

And may our union result in many benefits for the children on whose behalf we gather.

Amen

Quote of the Week - "Don’t count the days, make the days count."
Muhammad Ali
Calling on all lower primary parents who would like to be part of the St Thomas book club. This is a fantastic opportunity to become more involved in our school community, to meet new friends and importantly, to take some time out of busy schedules to read some great titles!

Anyone interested can contact Natalie or Amy by email at:

natalie.bogoias@gmail.com or amy_rose8@hotmail.com

Reminder!
Please ensure you access the school through the main office when either dropping off or picking up during the school day. Late Slips & Early Departure Forms are required.
All visitors (includes parents) during the school day must report to the office prior to entering the grounds.

Thank you for your co-operation.

UNIFORM SHOP
The Uniform Shop will be open this Friday 13 February
8:15am—9:00 am
Located in the Parish Hall

PLEASE NOTE: Due to ALL staff attending the annual Commissioning Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral on Wednesday 11 February, the office/school will be closed from 3.30pm.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB
Scholastic Book Club returns for 2015! Catalogues will be distributed to students this week (K-Yr6). Our school Library receives books valued at 20% commission of all Book Club sales. In 2014 the school Library received $892.50 in commission books.
This year we are trialling the new Linked Online Ordering & Payment system (LOOP) for credit card orders. Please see the back page of the catalogue for how to order with LOOP. Orders not submitted directly to Scholastic via LOOP may be placed in the Scholastic Book Club locked box in the school office. Cheques to be made payable to Scholastic Australia. Orders close Feb 21st.

Many thanks for your continuing support.

Mrs Fiona O’Shea

St Thomas Pick up & Drop off
Reminder
When dropping off or picking up your children please ensure you always enter the College Road gates from Warden Street. This allows for a free flow of traffic, keeps your children safe and makes for happy drivers too! Please do not park or block our neighbours driveways Thank you
Hello and a warm welcome to everyone at St Thomas’

The Parents and Friends of St Thomas is something the whole school community belongs to; each of you are valued and have a role to play.

The annual welcoming Sundowner is on this Friday the 13th starting at 6:00pm and finishing at 10:00pm. At 6:30pm Father Wayne will bless our school. Parents are asked to pray together a short prayer of blessing over our teachers. The words will be given to you on the night. This is definitely a kid free night (newborns excepted).

Pre-primary - Year 4 are asked to bring a finger food plate of something savoury and Years 5 & 6 something sweet. There is a $10 donation for existing families and drinks are provided by the P & F. A special invitation is extended to all new families, come along as our guests. There will be a roster at the bar to serve drinks.

The first P & F meeting of 2015 will be held in the school hall on 18th February, Ash Wednesday, at 7:30. The main purpose of the evening will be to outline a plan of the year in terms of how the P&F can support the teaching and learning at St Thomas. Discussions will be around community building, evangelisation, fundraising, and volunteering to get the canteen up and running. Please come along to share your thoughts. If you have seen something happening elsewhere that you would like to see happen here at St Thomas please come and share.

God Bless!

Ann Johnston
P&F President

Vatican Survey on Marriage and Family responses due 12 February

You may by now have heard that Pope Francis has again asked dioceses across the globe to engage in a further survey on matters relating to marriage, divorce, same-sex attraction, parenting and other challenges that affect contemporary family life. He is keen to know the Catholic community’s thoughts on these matters.

Archbishop Costelloe is keen that as many Catholics as possible engage in the survey, and particularly wants those who feel on the edges of the Church, or who have totally given up the practice of the Faith, to feel they have an avenue where they can speak what is presently on their mind.

Can I ask you to pass on news about the survey to anyone you know who is a baptised Catholic via email, Facebook, Twitter, through phone conversation, and even handwritten letter.

The survey can be completed in several ways go to http://www.jedo.perthcatholic.org.au/2015/01/engaging-in-the-vatican-survey/
The deadline for the survey is 5pm on Thursday, 12 February.
Fundamental Movement Skills Clinic

Some of our PP – Year 2 St Thomas Students have signed up to improve their Fundamental Movement Skills. Students will be receiving expert tuition from UWA students. There are still places available: sessions will be conducted from 7.40 am – 8.25am at St Thomas.

Please email Amanda Derbyshire if you are interested. (Amanda.derbyshire@uwa.edu.au)

The Rotary Club of Freshwater Bay presenting St Thomas’ with 32 microscopes as part of their Microscopes in Schools Project.

You can learn more about this project at: http://www.microscopesinschools.com/
Keep an eye open
In coming weeks for a drop off day for the
Sports Exchange

Sports Exchange launch 21 February
7:30am—11.00am. Hollywood Primary School

Water Fun Day
Years PP - 2
Tuesday March 3
1:00pm – 2:30pm

Our Water Fun Day will take place at Claremont Aquatic Centre.

Children will be bussed to the centre and are to be picked up by a parent or guardian at the conclusion of the afternoon. If students are unable to be collected from the centre, the school bus will be available to take them back to school.

A permission slip and more details of the event will be passed out to the students closer to the event. Swimming Training will commence in week 4 for years 3—6.

Thanks
Mrs Ramsey

Better internet can mean many things to many people, but our main aim is to foster the positive and eliminate the negative online. We can contribute to these aims in many ways, regardless of who we are. Please read the good advice being shared by the ‘Safer Internet’ advisors.

Children and young people can help to foster the positive by being kind and respectful to others online, by protecting their online reputations (and those of others), and by seeking out positive opportunities to create, engage and share online. They can help to eliminate the negative by being ‘helpful bystanders’: supporting peers if they encounter issues online, taking a stand against cyberbullying, and reporting any inappropriate or illegal content they find. Above all, children and young people should be encouraged to take their stand as digital citizens of the future – participating in debates on internet governance and legislation, and making their voices heard.

Parents and carers can help to foster the positive by maintaining an open and honest dialogue with their children about their online lives, by supporting them with their personal development online and helping them to deal with any concerns or issues, seeking out positive opportunities to share with their children online, and helping their children to find and use good quality digital resources. They can help to eliminate the negative by monitoring and supporting their child’s online activity (as appropriate to their age), by modelling positive online behaviours themselves, and by also reporting any inappropriate or illegal content they find.

gibbs.lila@cathednet.wa.edu.au
Maranatha Centre for Adult Faith Formation: Looking for some soul-food now the kids are back at school? Married to a Catholic, but not one yourself? Just want to explore something new? Why not take a course at the Maranatha Centre for Adult Faith Formation. Many courses are during school time, there are no exams or assignments, and you don’t have to be a “good” Catholic (or a Catholic at all!). Topics for Term One include “Exploring Faith: Theology for Beginners,” and “Ways of Praying”. For more information or to register for a course, visit www.maranathacentre.org.au or call

The PE staff are encouraging ALL SWIMMERS to have a go. This is a low key event where you can practice racing techniques including diving off the block (without your goggles coming off), turns and racing. There is no pressure, it is simply practice for the upcoming carnivals. You do not have to be a member of Uniswim - we have had a special invitation for our school so it