Dear Parents,

Congratulations to Mrs Gibbs and the Year 5 students for their entertaining assembly item last Friday morning. I thought the performance was fantastic and was so impressed with the confidence and self-assurance of the children as they acted out their roles. Again congratulations, your presentation was terrific and enjoyed by all.

Parent Spelling Workshop: I look forward to seeing parents at the Spelling Workshop being held in our school library Wednesday 18 March at 7.00pm. Fiona Glumac – Literacy Consultant from CE Office will be assisting Ryan, Sarah and Sam with the presentation of the workshop. This promises to be an excellent evening and will allow the staff to share with the St. Thomas’ parents, the strategies and beliefs of the Words Their Way Spelling Program, which is being implemented across the school this year.

Great News: We received an email from ACARA (Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority) recently stating that St. Thomas’ may receive some media attention regarding the remarkable results from our 2014 NAPLAN results. The email states that the improvement comparing our school to like school is significant. This is wonderful recognition for staff, students and parents of St. Thomas’. It is not just a reflection of the teachers who classes sat NAPLAN last year but all those teachers who have contributed throughout previous years. Obviously, NAPLAN is one form of testing and therefore only one component of student achievement we measure ourselves against at St. Thomas’. All we do at St. Thomas’ is to ensure that the students are receiving an education that is developing the whole child – spiritually, physically, academically and emotionally. This is great news and certainly something worth sharing.

Professional Development Day: This Friday, 13 March the staff of St. Thomas’ will be involved in our specially organised Professional Development Day. We have managed to gain the services of Stephanie Jackiewicz (Early Years Learning & Care Team Leader) and Jan Flemming (Early Childhood Consultant) to present and guide our ECE staff in the formation of St. Thomas’ ECE Charter and to assist in the development of our Quality Improvement Plan (QIP). This will ensure that St. Thomas’ staff members are meeting the goals of the National Quality Standards in Early Childhood. The senior teachers will be lead by Ryan von Bergheim regarding the further development of Information Technology (IT) skills and pedagogy and how this is used within the classroom.

Year 6 Camp: We wish our Year 6 students and the staff and parents attending camp next week in Pemberton 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 16 March – Friday 20 March.

Lunchtime Mass: One of the areas we are looking at improving in our Evangelisation Plan for 2015 is increasing student attendance at Mass. Therefore, each class will attend a Parish lunchtime mass in Semester One. The Year Five and Six classes will be attending tomorrow. Parents are more than welcome to attend these services with their child’s class. Teachers, in their regular communication with parents, will keep you informed of the dates of respective class masses. These masses start at 12.30pm and generally last for 30 minutes.

Project Compassion: Please continue to encourage your children to raise funds for Caritas Australia’s Annual Project Compassion Appeal. Each family received a Project Compassion box following the Ash Wednesday mass. These will need to be returned to school on Wednesday 1 April so that this money can be presented to the Parish community at the Stations of the Cross Service on Thursday 2 April.

With regards and best wishes

Justin Tuohy
Principal
Music News Flash

The choir had a super first practice yesterday, and we would like to thank Tom’s Mum for bringing in the tasty treats :) We have decided due to interest and time availability, to move practice back to Monday lunch for the time being so that more music loving students from years 4 to 6 can attend.

The choir is so excited about our first debut on the 28th of March for Earth hour and more details to come shortly.

See you all Monday lunch time!

Miss Bryce :)

Commitment Masses

For those children receiving a Sacrament this year the date to attend the Commitment mass is the weekend of the 14th and 15th March. The masses to attend are the Saturday night at 5.30pm (children's mass) or the 9.30am on the Sunday morning. The children will be given their Sacrament enrolment Certificate at school the week before. They will need to bring this to the Mass where it will be collected by Father Wayne. We strongly encourage you to attend. If you are unable to attend on this date please attend Mass over the next 2 weeks and give the Enrolment Certificate to Father.

Thank you

Nicky Sullivan

Canteen Roster

16 September

Jan O’Brien, Judy Lucas & Jody Chaney

A big thank you to all the families who have paid their accounts to date.
We still have a number of platers, plates and items which have been left in the Parish Hall from previous events. Please take a few minutes to double check none of them belong to you.

Remaining items will be donated.

Thank you.

It was great to see Gemma Sullivan and Lucinda Flavel dominate the water polo action at Claremont Pool on Saturday. The girls showed ruthlessness balanced with sportsmanship in a winning performance. Awesome to see so many of our students keeping fit and healthy with sport participation on the weekends!

Mr Oorloff

---

SCHOOL BATHERS

MRS BARON-HAY HAS AN EXTRA PAIR OF GIRLS SIZE 10 (1 PIECE @ $43) & BOYS SIZE 8 JAMMERS @ $35.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PURCHASE THESE PLEASE EMAIL ME AT: baron-hay.helen@cathednet.wa.edu.au
Five Tips for Helping Children Develop Better Habits:

Although homework is usually the last thing kids want to do after school, it can be a valuable tool to help them develop self-regulatory skills that will serve them well for the rest of their lives. And when parents get involved, its effects can be even further reaching including active participation, confidence building and increased achievement levels.

1. **Provide support rather than instruction** - When it comes to helping kids with their homework, it’s important to place the emphasis on providing support rather than on giving instruction. In fact, research shows that parent help can actually backfire if it focuses too much on homework content. Kids already get plenty of instruction at school, so homework is their chance to work independently and figure things out on their own. As much as you might want to jump in and explain things or even do the work for them, a better way of supporting them would be to simply provide feedback and encouragement.

2. **Help them develop a routine** - Routines can help kids complete their homework more efficiently but, perhaps more importantly, routines allow them to take responsibility. Students who have a clearly defined routine feel more confident in their ability to overcome homework challenges and take more responsibility for their learning. These students are also ultimately more likely to do better in school overall. Homework routines could include setting a specific time for completing homework each day, designating a certain area of the home for studying, or developing a strategy for tackling problems and setting goals for completing projects ahead of time.

3. **Emphasise the benefits** - Although it’s normal to want to intervene when a child is struggling with homework, taking control by offering incentives and ultimatums or stepping in and doing much of the work yourself will undermine its long-term benefits. Children need a sense of autonomy as it helps them develop their independence, and when they feel like homework has value, they’ll also put more effort into it.

So rather than cajoling or bribing kids to do their homework, a better approach is to explain why and how it will help them accomplish their personal goals so they can make the decision to tackle it themselves.

4. **Provide them with choices**

Giving kids choices as to how, when and where they would like to complete their homework is a big part of providing them with a sense of autonomy.

One study published in the Journal of Educational Psychology found that when students were given a choice of homework options, they reported higher intrinsic motivation, felt more competent and performed better on tests. So having choices not only helps kids feel like they are in the driver’s seat, but also makes the learning seem more interesting and the goals more attainable.

5. **Praise effort rather than intelligence**

It’s also important to communicate is that mistakes are part of the learning process and are not to be feared. Numerous studies highlight the importance of encouraging students to think of their intelligence as flexible, so that rather than viewing their mistakes as a sign of lesser intelligence; they’ll see them as building blocks.

When praising kids, it’s important to focus on the effort they put into their work rather than how smart they are, because when they believe that intellectual ability is something that can be developed, they are able to stop worrying about how smart they seem and put all that energy into tackling new challenges instead.

Posted by Marianne Stenge http://splash.abc.net.au/newsandarticles/blog

---

**Water Fun day**

The Pre Primaries’, Year 1 and Year 2’s had a great time last Tuesday at Claremont Pool. Thank you to all the parents who assisted and to Mrs Baron Hay who drove the bus.

A big thanks to the year 6’s who very ably helped out during the afternoon.

Mrs Ramsay
Mums - kids driving you up the wall? Need a night off?
Dads - looking to escape the house and experience the great outdoors?
Kids - want to go camping with your mates at school and go to sleep like angels (Please?)

Then come camping at St Thomas. On Saturday 21 March 2015, the ‘bottom oval’ will be transformed into a sea of tents as Dad’s and kids come together for a camp out. Dust off the swag, check the tent for holes, pump up the air mattress, pack the mozzie spray and come on down to the school for a fun night of camping.

When: Saturday 21st March, gates open at 3.00pm to pitch your tent, enter off Melville Street. Finish about 10.00am Sunday morning.
Who: St Thomas Dad’s and their primary school age children (Pre-kindly to Year 6) are welcome.
Can’t: Make the whole night or don’t have a tent? Feel free to come along for Saturday night and head home after the movie.
How Much?: Just $30 minimum P&F donation per family, including sausage sizzle, breakfast and a movie. $20 per family for Saturday evening only.
Why: Why not?
What: to bring - your tent, kids, mattresses, PJ’s, ruggies, teddies and torches.
What: to do
Saturday 27th
- 3.00-5.00pm arrive via Melville St and pitch your tent
- 5.30pm – kids mass
- 6.30pm – Dinner (sausage sizzle)
- 7.30pm– Movie
- 9.30 – lights out and bed (we hope!)
Sunday 28th
- 7am – breakfast and Coffee Van!
- 9am – decamp and clean up
- 10am – go home.

Limited space is available, so get in early!

RSVP StThomasPF@gmail.com by no later than Wednesday 18th March

It is important that we confirm numbers for catering and ensuring we have enough space.

Notes: If children have food allergies, it may be simpler to self cater.
### Vacation Care Program

**April 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mon 6th April</strong></td>
<td>Public Holiday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tue 7th April</strong></td>
<td>Excursion: Lunch Provided - Tropical Twist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wed 8th April</strong></td>
<td>Excursion: Time Zone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thu 9th April</strong></td>
<td>Excursion: Sculptures by the sandpit &amp; The Grove Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fri 10th April</strong></td>
<td>In House: Letter M Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mon 13th April</strong></td>
<td>Excursion: Belmont Cinemas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tue 14th April</strong></td>
<td>In House: Kite Making</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wed 15th April</strong></td>
<td>Excursion: Lunch Provided - Kings Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thu 16th April</strong></td>
<td>Excursion: Giant Games</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fri 17th April</strong></td>
<td>Excursion: Deca-Dance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Week 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mon 20th April</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

### HAIRSPRAY

**John XXIII College**

PRESENTS

21 APRIL 6.30 | 22 APRIL 6.30 | 23 APRIL 6.30 | 24 APRIL 6.30 | 24 APRIL 7.30 | 25 APRIL 2.00 & 7.30

**First in... Best Seats**

Tickets available online at www.johnxxiii.edu.au