“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.”

1 Thessalonians 5:11
Dear Parents and Carers

“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.”

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Welcome back to another school year! I hope and trust that all families enjoyed a richly deserved break and a very happy and safe holiday. I have included the above quote from St Paul’s First Letter to the Thessalonians as it is our school theme for 2017. This beautiful quote speaks to the value of community and the way that an ideal community treats its members. Supporting each other, affirming each other, valuing each other, building each other up: this speaks to a community that is in a position to form and educate young hearts and minds. At St Thomas Aquinas we strive to provide all children with an environment that can enable them to grow and flourish.

The children have returned happy and settled and leaped straight into work. ELC and Grades 1 – 6 started yesterday; Kindergarten have started today. We welcome to our school community the following new families; Hunt, Greep, Smith, Thomas, Black, Greep, Slockee, Taumoepeau, Wall, Daniel, Robb, Russell, Foresti, Morehouse, Brands, Carson, Ross, Rayner, Malauulu, Allan, Aveyard, Ayton, Bakavgas, Blake, Brown, Browne, Crnjac, Denoon, Givens, Goodisson, Heckbarally, Hind, Kiley, Knights, Ligacs, Maher, Mathas, McRae, Merlacco, Neilsen, Nermut-Hollink, Onyekaike, Pentes, Pietrukowski, Robertson, Rowell, Ryan, Small, Sprague, Thexton, Thompson, Tounou’ua, White & Wicks. I wish all of our new families the very best as they undertake their journey here at St Thomas Aquinas and I look forward to watching the children grow and learn.

Student Achievement

Congratulations to last year’s Year 6 award recipients: Jorja Simpson, who won the St Thomas Aquinas Academic Award, Isobel White, who won the Barry Carey award and Jocelyn Moore, who won the Rotary Student Citizen Award. I am very proud of our award winners and their achievements, well done! I look forward to celebrating the many achievements of our students this year.

P.T.O.............
Staffing
As I wrote in a letter yesterday, Rebecca Stevenson and Eloise Cole were successful in gaining positions, at the end of last year, at St John the Apostle Primary School and Sacred Heart Cootamundra, respectively. I wish both Rebecca and Eloise all the very best and thank them for their dedication and service to the school and its students. Rebecca has been replaced by Emma East and we are finalising the process for Eloise’s replacement. Eloise has written a short note farewelling the parents and students. We welcome to the school 7 new or returning staff members: Anne Gowen (Year 2 and Religious Education Coordinator), Michael Prosper (Years 5/6), Emma East (Years 5/6), Stephanie Noack (Year 4 and Coordinator), Naomi Wicks (executive release for Steph Noack), Bethany Moores (executive release for Anne Gowen), Bernice Stallard (part-time, Library) and Monica Murray (ELC). I welcome all our new and returning staff and wish them a very happy year. Please make them all feel welcome as they join, or re-join, our community. And finally, my congratulations to Narisa Wong (Thomas) and Kristy-Lee Kaden (Walker), both of whom were married in the holidays. I wish Narisa and Nick and Kristy-Lee and Ash a lifetime of happiness.

Car Park
Our carpark extensions are nearing completion and I was informed yesterday that it should be completed by the end of next week. In the meantime, there is protective fencing around the areas that the workers are still constructing, however the carpark itself is able to be used. I thank you all for your patience during this period.

Meet and Greet Night
A reminder that our Meet and Greet night is next Monday at 6pm, starting in the hall. I will introduce the staff and talk about some of the initiatives for the year. Following the hall discussion, you will have an opportunity to meet your child’s teacher at a Grade Stall, located in the sandpit area (near morning assembly). We will also have a BBQ for parents and children.

Swimming Carnival
Finally, a reminder that our annual Swimming carnival is Friday week 2 (February 10th). All students from Grades 3 – 6 are able to compete and this year, children from K-2 will also be joining us for part of the carnival. A note went home late last year. A follow up reminder will be sent home too.

Have a wonderful week with your families. Please contact me if you have any concerns or questions, on the school number: 6258 4077 or my email address: Cameron.johns@cg.catholic.edu.au

Best wishes
Cameron Johns
Principal

K's Challenge

Please put you answers in the Freddo Box on top of the school letter box.
(the corridor to Mr Johns' Office)
By Monday Lunch time.

WEEK one, TERM One

Smallest and Largest

What is the smallest and largest number you can write in words.
You can only use any letter once?

Example: EIGHTYy or forFORTYty
But not NINETY as N is used twice or SEVENTY as E is used twice.
St Vincent de Paul Annual Doorknock Appeal begins this week and runs throughout all of February. Our Parish Conference is in great need of assistance for this appeal.

There are two ways to help.

One: Actually go from house to house in a particular area and ask people for donations. OR

Two: Help out by collecting donations outside Woolworths shop at Charnwood on Friday afternoon: 3pm-6pm and/or Saturday 10am-4pm.

If you can spare some time during February for this great work or need more information please contact Barry Panne-man: 62583397 (h) or 0481502261 (m). Volunteer sheets are also available at the back of the Church.

Thank you.

Parish School of Religion — 2017 Sacramental Preparation

Do you know of children in years 3 to 6 at schools other than St Thomas Aquinas? Do you know other catholic families in this position? Children in these classes are being prepared for the Sacraments of Reconciliation (yr 3), Eucharist (yr 4) and Confirmation (yrs 5-6) in this parish in 2017. If you know any families for whom this might be relevant, suggest to them that they contact the secretary of the Parish School of Religion, Denis Hally-Burton on 6258 3297 or by email on hally-burton@bigpond.com for more information.

Stressed about back to school costs?

Would $500 help pay for uniforms, books, excursions, tutoring, a laptop or tablet?

Saver Plus matches your savings for school costs, dollar for dollar, up to $500!

You may eligible if:
- you have a Health Care or a Pensioner Concession card and,
- you or your partner have some regular income from work such as full-time, part-time, casual or seasonal work.

Contact Kathleen Watson, your local Saver Plus Coordinator:
02 6283 7606 / 0448 730 305
or kathleen.watson@thesmithfamily.com.au

Saver Plus was developed by ANZ and Brotherhood of St Laurence and is delivered in your area by The Smith Family. The program is funded by ANZ and the Australian Government. Find more information at saverplus.org.au.

**Altar Servers for Weekend Masses**
**4th & 5th February 2017**

**Saturday 6pm:** Charlotte Searson, Vince & Sav Barbaro

**Sunday 9 am:** Holly, Meg, Jessica & Amy Freeman

**Children’s Liturgy (4-13 years)**
Susan Magyar & Katie Walsh-Smith

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**Assembly in the Hall at 1:00**

**Friday**

**Week 4 - Years 5/6**

**Week 6 - Year 4**

**Week 8 - Year 3**

**Week 9 - Kinder**

**Week 10 - Awards**

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**Mass Times at St Thomas Aquinas**

Monday to Friday 9.30 am

Saturday 6.00 pm

Sunday 9.00 am

Confession Saturday 4.30 pm