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

1 Thessalonians 5:11
Dear Parents and carers,

Swimming Carnival

Last Friday we held our swimming carnival at CISAC. It was a 40-degree day and so it was ideal to spend the day in water, even more so as CISAC is under cover and thus we were free from the dangers of sunburn. I would like to thank Kristy-Lee Kaden for her excellent work in preparing the carnival. It was a great success and the children had a great deal of fun. For the first time in a number of years, we were able to also include the K-2 children, who participated in water fun activities. I would also like to thank the parent community, many of whom helped on the day in a number of ways – thank you all for your selfless kindness and dedication, and in helping the children have a great day.

5/6 Camp

This week, our 5/6 students are on their annual school camp at Cooba, NSW, near Cooma. The camp is a frequent site for our school and it features a wide variety of activities and outdoor activities. The students will be on camp from Wednesday to Friday. Both Ben Kelly and I will be joining our students. In my absence, Anne Gowen and Steph Noack will share the responsibility for the running of the school.

Sacrament of Penance & Staff Commissioning Mass

A reminder that the children in Year 3 who are making the Sacrament of Penance this year are having a prayer night this Thursday, 16 February, at 7.00pm in the STA Library. All parents of children making the Sacrament this year are required to attend this evening. My thanks to Anne Gowen, Sr Colleen and Denis Hally-Burton for organising the evening.

In further RE news, this Saturday night the staff from St Thomas Aquinas will be attending the 6pm Mass and will be commissioned at the Mass. This is an important annual event and reflects the deep connection the school has with the parish.

St Thomas Aquinas Day

Next week on Thursday we are celebrating St Thomas Aquinas Day. The day is a fun day for students and teachers and is an annual event. The day begins with Mass followed by rotation activities for the students. All parents are invited to share a picnic lunch with students at 11.15am.
Royal Commission

Last week I sent home a letter from Archbishop Prowse concerning the Royal Commission into the institutional abuse of children. Many of you would know of Fr Frank Brenan SJ, the Jesuit priest who has written publically on many issues concerning the Church. In recent weeks, he celebrated Mass one Sunday at Sts Peter and Paul, Garran. Fr Brennan’s homily reflected upon the Royal Commission. Eureka Street, the online publication run by the Jesuits, was published in early February. It is well worth reading and I have attached a link to the article here: https://www.eurekastreet.com.au/article.aspx?aeid=50570#.WKH75027rIU

Have a wonderful week with your families.

Best wishes

Cameron Johns
Principal

Swimming Carnival Report

Year 4 Journalist Natalia Guirola-Ramirez

The races were very good and the novelty events were pretty cool. Kids were going crazy in the sprinklers, they practiced kicking and sliding into the water in the big pool and looked awesome, going on the water slide. I think everybody got to go on the water slide and the line... you should have seen it! Everybody got to do everything and especially the water slide, everybody was dying to go on the waterslide. The races were pretty good. The chants were good, I have no idea who came first, second or third. Blue has a bit of trouble with the chants but what I know for sure, it was VERY VERY LOUD. I think Red were the best chanters.

NETBALL NEWS

Georgia Smith was lucky enough to participate (representing the Belconnen District) in the launch of the newly formed Canberra Giants netball team on Wednesday, 8th February at the National Museum of Australia.

Georgia was fortunate to have the opportunity to talk to Julie Fitzgerald head coach (NSW Giants) and members of the Canberra team.

Well done Georgia!
3J’s Book Recommendations

Robert – The Treehouse Series by Andy Griffiths
Elishka – Weirdo Series by Anh Do
Ava – Netball Gems series
Archer – All David Walliams books
Emma – The Diary of a Wimpy Kid by Jeff Kinney
Tayah – Stuff Happens series
Angus – The World’s Worst Children by David Walliams
Ignatius – Dragon Ball Z by Akira Toriyama
Zachary – The 13th Story Treehouse by Andy Griffiths
Alex – The was an old bloke who swallowed a chook by P. Crumble and Louis Shea
Brigitte – Pig the Pug Series by Aaron Blabey
Craig – Bad Guys by Aaron Blabey
Awan – Zac Power by H.I. Larry
Sea – Freak Street Meet the Humansons by Knife & Packer
Nicholas – The Big Fat Cow that Goes Kapow – Andy Griffins
Bianca – Dear Dumb Diary by Jim Benton
Brienna – Alice Miranda by Jacqueline Harvey
Sybilla – Pirhanas Don’t Eat Bananas by Aaron Blabey
Thomas – Harry Potter by J.K. Rowling
Hannah – Dork Diaries by Rachel Renee Russell
First Penance Parent and Child Meeting - Thursday 16 February

The First Penance (Reconciliation) begins with the first of three meetings this Thursday at 7.00 pm in the STA Library. The meetings are designed to assist parents who wish for their child to participate in the Sacrament of Penance. Parents are requested to bring their child with them to the first meeting. If you have any questions please contact Sr Colleen at the Parish or Anne Gowen (REC) at the school.

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Home Ground - Southwell Park, Lyneham

**Boys and Girls**  
Register online  
owlsrugbyjuniors.com.au

+  
**Rego Days**

Saturday, 18th February - Brumbies HQ at UC  
10.30am - 12 noon

Sunday 5th March - Southwell Park, Lyneham  
12 noon - 3pm

For more information  
uninorthsjunrs@gmail.com

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**2017 Dominican Art Exhibition**  
An Exhibition by Dominican Artists

ATF Press and  
Australian Catholic University, Canberra Campus

Invites you to the Dominican Art Exhibition to be held at  
Australian Catholic University  
Room 300.G.23 ground floor of the Blackfriars Building  
127 Phillip Ave  
Watson

Saturday 25 February 11 am to 5 pm  
Sunday 26 February 11 am to 5 pm  
Enter via entrance on Phillip Avenue  
$5 entry for catalogue of artists

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**WEST BELCONNEN JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE**

**REGISTRATION DAYS**

**FEBRUARY 25TH & 26TH**  
**11:00AM – 3:00PM**

OR REGISTER ONLINE @ PLAYNRL.COM

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**Bringing Up Great Kids**

Parents and Carers are invited to Bringing Up Great Kids—a parenting program developed by the Australian Childhood Foundation for Parents and Carers of children aged 2—13 years.  

This course will give you insights and skills needed to:

- Promote positive and nurturing relationships between parents and children
- Explore the management of stress in your parenting role
- Encourage the development of your child’s positive self-identity
- Develop the ability to contain strong emotion and to think through the responses to your child, rather than give “knee-jerk” reactions
- Overcome some of the obstacles that are getting in the way of being the kind of parent you would like to be
- Create opportunities for positive exchanges with your children.

The course is offered 3 hours per week for a 3 week period.

**DATES:** Mondays 20th Feb, 27th Feb & 6th March 2017  
**TIME:** 6pm—9pm

**VENUE:** 57 Hicks Street, Red Hill  
**Fee:** $100 (concessions available)

Fee includes light supper & course materials  

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**Bookings Essential**  
Contact  
1800 068 698  
Free Call
Zac Picker, Annie Walsh-Smith, Hayden Comber, Jacob Cosentini, Matthew Russell, Ajang Abuoi Akoi, Lucas Barnes, Jacey Sturgeon, Lu’isa Taumoepeau, Mia Panagiotopoulos, Lachlan Walker & Dare Fasugba

Altar Servers for Weekend Masses
18th & 19th February 2017

Saturday 6pm: Angus & Joe Murray, Jocelyn Moore
Sunday 9 am: Josh & Nic Mattress, Vince & Sav Barbaro

Children’s Liturgy (4-13 years)
Brett Seaman & Eugene Lim

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

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