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ST THOMAS AQUINAS COLLEGE

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COLLEGE CHRONICLE

Thursday 3rd February 2022

Word from the Principal

Dear Parents, Students and Friends of the College,

The term has begun really well. Students are very positive about being back at school amongst their peers and are excited about the term ahead. The Solemn High Mass yesterday, which marked the opening of the school year was a beautiful ceremony in which the students served and sung very well. I thank the parents for their support and attendance.

This term we are able to operate quite normally, but the Government is still imposing **tight COVID restrictions on schools** in relation to a few things. This means that we are not able to hold events on school grounds at which public can attend in large numbers. Students in Grade 3 and upwards who do not have an exemption are required to wear a face mask indoors only. Masks are not required outdoors for parents, staff or students. Rapid Antigen Tests, supplied by the Government are being distributed by the College to every family; families are asked to use them to test their children twice weekly. Many rooms are now fitted with air purifiers supplied by the Government.

Since large public gatherings are not possible on school grounds, the **Presentation Ceremony** will take place as scheduled next Friday 11 February 1:30pm-3:15pm, but only students and staff will be able to attend. The College will livestream the event for parents and friends wishing to follow the ceremonies. A link to the livestream will be sent out to parents next week.

We are still running the Music Tuition program this year, but due to restrictions on schools some of the **music tutors** have opted for an itinerant approach. Please see the advertisements in the Chronicle for more information on what the tutors offer and how to book for lessons.

Around this time I always hold an evening address to parents known as **'The Principal's Address'**. Although, the restrictions around large gatherings on school grounds have made a gathering impossible, all is not lost. I will record my message and provide parents with a link to it later next week. The address is always an important event to help parents connect with the school, receive insights

into the College's strategic direction and learn about the programs and events the College is developing and will offer this year. Please try to find the time to watch the address when it comes out later next week.



This week in the Secondary sub-schools, our students are voting for their **House Captains**. Our Primary students are eagerly waiting on the decision of the Dean and Principal as to who will be the Primary School Captains this year. We hope to be in a position next week at the Tuesday morning assembly to announce these positions and award the elected students with their leadership badges.

I wish our families and friends the blessings of the feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary and an enjoyable start to the school year.

Sincerely yours in the Two Hearts,

Father Cranshaw
 (Principal)



2022 School Captains

VIRTUE THIS WEEK

JUSTICE

When justice is done it brings joy to the righteous but terror to the evildoers

Proverbs 21:15

COLLECT - 4th Sunday after Epiphany

O God, Who knowest us to be set in the midst of dangers so great that, by reason of the frailty of our nature, we cannot always withstand; grant to us health of mind and body, that being helped by Thee, we may overcome the things which we suffer for our sins. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever. Amen.



Instaurare omnia in Christo
 To restore all things in Christ

Welcome to our new Staff, Students and Families

Staff

Mr Kieran O'Dwyer - Deputy Principal, **David Williams** - Dean of Primary,
Eliza Braaksma - Music & Drama, **Maria Hardiman** - Learning Support,
Josephine Illman - Secondary, **Janine Ponsonby** - Year 1,
Angela Ross - Learning Support, **Warren Trencher** - Secondary,
Vincent van Strijp - Secondary, **Mallory Wood** - Learning Support.

Students

Foundation



Gus ALEXANDER, Thea ATTARD, Mark FALTS,
Verity GALLAGHER, Rebecca HIGGINS, Charlie LEWIS,
Sophie MACDONALD, Hunter MACDONELL,
Cristina MANDARANO, Carmelia NIVET, Evangeline NIVET,
Gemma PULLEN, Hosanna REAGAN, Lexi SHARKEY,
Adrian SOEFTING, Holly WESA

Year 3

Leo MANDARANO, Max MANDARANO

Year 4

Jacy PEREZ-MELEI

Year 5

Dominic BORGONOVO

Year 7

Keva PEREZ-MELEI, Zuri PEREZ-MELEI, Isabelle TAYLOR

Year 8

Emily HOUSTON, Jacob SMIT

Year 9

Samuel TAYLOR

Year 10

Mia BECKENHAM

Year 11

Immanuel SALDANHA

Year 12

Alana HOUSTON



WOODWIND AND STRING MUSIC LESSONS At ST THOMAS AQUINAS COLLEGE

Flute, oboe, clarinet, saxophone, Violin, and cello, lessons are available at STAC.

There are group lessons or private lessons available.
Group lessons are \$10 a week.

Private lessons of 20min are \$18,
and 30min are \$27 per week.



Please call Sarah Considine if interested on
Mob:0427885306.



PIANO TUITION

For piano tuition, please contact the Office on
56292500.



From the Deputy Principal

"It is better to illuminate, than merely to shine"
St Thomas Aquinas

As a College community, this quote provides us with an important question at the commencement of each school year; How can we bring to life the words of St Thomas Aquinas? The foundation of the answer lies within the narrative of our faith.

We must respect and honour the sacred dignity of each person. We must see each person, as made in the image and likeness of God. Each human being is unique, unrepeatable, loved and called by God. Embracing this narrative as our foundation, allows the College community to work alongside each other in creating an environment that enables each person to flourish.

As a College community, we understand and have experienced over the past two years an environment that has been characterised by frequent interruptions

to the faith, academic, social and emotional development of our children. We have witnessed that a successful school and its community must work alongside each other in order to adapt and change, constantly evolve whilst remaining steadfast in faith.

The commencement of 2022, provides us all with the opportunity to pause, reflect and then engage in the responsibility of being a lighthouse in the formation of our students. It is a role that will provide us with great opportunities and exhilarating challenges. One that will be met, with our hearts and minds open to the possibilities that await.

I look forward to walking alongside you on this journey, one that will be enlightened by faith, animated by love and leading to hope.

If at any point you require support, please don't hesitate to contact me through the office.

[Kieran O'Dwyer](#)- Deputy Principal.

GENERAL NOTICES

LATE PASS/ABSENT REMINDERS: If a student arrives at school after homeroom commences (8:30am) they must first report to the office to collect a late pass. If your child/ren will not be attending school on any given day please let us know preferably through the Parent Lounge. You may also phone the office at any time and leave a message prior to 8am otherwise call us before 8:30am. Thanks.

LUNCH ORDERS: Lunch Orders will recommence being offered on Tuesday of next week (8th Feb) and each Tuesday after that. Today we have attached a Menu for your use. The procedure is that the order is written on an envelope with the students name and year level. The correct money then is placed in the envelope or you have the opportunity to call The Farmers Market Café at Nar Nar Goon on 5942 5335 to pay by credit card. The order must be left at the office prior to 8:30am.

STAC SECONDHAND UNIFORM SHOP: New operating times. Monday mornings 8.30am - 9.30am & Monday afternoons 2.45pm - 3.30 pm. Good quantity and quality of stock is currently available to choose from at very affordable prices. Bring in your uniform items to sell for yourself or to donate to the P&F. All P&F sales go directly back into the school to benefit the students. Repairs and alterations are available.

Contact Michelle for enquiries 0468438404

FOOD FRIDAY DONATIONS

The St Gerard's League will be collecting donations of non-perishable food items this Friday 5th March.

Food items can be left at the front office, with class teacher or homeroom.

Thank you for your support and generosity.



PARENTS & FRIENDS

Welcome to all the new parents to our St Thomas Aquinas College community. It was great meeting the foundation parents during the welcoming morning tea. A special thanks to the parents who provided food and refreshments on the morning and we extended our gratitude to the priests for hosting the event at the Priory.

For those parents unable to attend, our primary focus this year is to have regular social events across our community. So please keep a look out for notices of upcoming events.

Regards,

Parents and Friends



Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary

2nd February

The law of God, given by Moses to the Jews, ordained that after childbirth a woman should continue for a certain time in a state which that law calls unclean, during which time she was not to appear in public. This term was of forty days following the birth of a son, and double that time for a daughter. When the term expired, the mother was to bring to the Temple a lamb and a young pigeon or turtle-dove, as an offering to God. These being sacrificed to Almighty God by the priest, she was cleansed of the legal impurity and reinstated in her former privileges. A dove was required of all as a sin-offering, whether rich or poor; but as the expense of a lamb might be too great for the poor, these were allowed to substitute for it a second dove. Such was the case, Scripture tells us, for the Holy Family. (*Luke 2:24*)



the most profound humility, adoration and thanksgiving, presented Her divine Son, by the hands of the priest, to His Eternal Father. She then redeemed Him with five shekels, as the law appoints, and received Him back again as a sacred charge committed to Her special care, until the Father would again demand Him for the full accomplishment of man's redemption.

Our Saviour having been conceived by the Holy Ghost, and His Blessed Mother remaining always a spotless virgin, it is evident that She was not subject to the law of purification, but devotion and zeal to honor God by every observance prescribed by His law, prompted Mary to perform this act of religion.

Besides the law which obliged the mother to purify herself, there was another which required that the first-born son be offered to God, and that after his presentation the child be ransomed with a certain sum of money, and specific sacrifices offered on the occasion. Mary complied exactly with all these ordinances. She obeyed not only in the essential points of the law, but had strict regard to all the circumstances. On the day of Her purification She walked several miles to Jerusalem, with the world's Redeemer in Her arms. She waited for the priest at the gate of the Temple, made Her offerings of thanksgiving and expiation, and with

The ceremony of this day closed in a third mystery - the meeting in the Temple of the holy prophets Simeon and Anne with the Divine Infant and His parents. Saint Simeon, on that occasion, received into his arms the object of all his desires and sighs, and praised God for the happiness of beholding the much-longed-for Messiah. He foretold to Mary Her martyrdom of sorrow, and that Jesus would bring redemption to those who would accept it on the terms it was offered, but a heavy judgment on all who would obstinately reject it. Mary, hearing this terrible prediction, courageously and sweetly committed all to God's holy Will. Simeon, having beheld Our Saviour, exclaimed: "Now Thou canst dismiss Thy servant, O Lord, in peace, according to Thy word, because mine eyes have seen Thy salvation." The aged prophetess Anne, who had served God with great fervor during her long widowhood, also had the happiness of recognizing and adoring the Redeemer of the world. This feast is called Candlemas, because the Church blesses the candles to be borne in the procession of the day.

Reflection. Let us strive to imitate the humility of the ever-blessed Mother of God, remembering that humility is the path which leads to lasting peace and brings us closer to God, who gives His grace to the humble.

2022 CALENDAR

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI
Mon 31st Jan SCHOOL RESUMES	1 Feb	2 Feb School Mass	3 Feb	4 Feb
7 Feb	8 Feb	9 Feb	10 Feb	11 Feb 1:30pm: Presentation Ceremony (Students only)
14 Feb	15 Feb	16 Feb	17 Feb	18 Feb
21 Feb	22 Feb	23 Feb	24 Feb	25 Feb
28 Feb	1 Mar ATHLETICS DAY	2 Mar ASH WEDNESDAY	3 Mar	4 Mar

OFFICE HOURS

8:15am - 3:30pm
MONDAY - FRIDAY

TERM DATES

1st Term: Monday 31st January - Wednesday 13th April
2nd Term: Tuesday 3rd May - Friday 24th June