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**ST THOMAS AQUINAS  
 COLLEGE**

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**COLLEGE CHRONICLE**

Tuesday 3rd May 2022

**Word from the Principal**

Dear Staff, Parents and Friends of the College,

You will be aware of the lifting of most Covid related restrictions on schools now. This is welcome news and means, with a few exceptions, face masks are no longer required for students or staff. This also means that community use of school facilities can resume, and parents will be able once again to attend school events indoors and outdoors independent of the attendee's vaccination status. More detailed information will be sent out to parents in a separate communication this week.

Term 2 will be a busy and short term. Next week begins our Secondary school inter-house debates with topics like 'whether we should return to the land', and 'whether technology improves human communication' being debated by our students. From these debates, senior speakers will be selected to represent the College in our inter-school debate against St Philomena's school in Brisbane Term 3.

Wednesday the school be holding its annual Cross Country on school grounds. Parents are encouraged to attend to cheer their children on. Detailed information around timing of events and where spectators can assemble will be sent out to parents soon.

The Cross Country will be followed by Parent-Teacher Interviews. This is to discuss the interim reports and any other concerns related to their child's learning.

Bookings for the Parent-Teacher Interviews are now available through Parent Lounge and interviews will be held face-to-face on site rather than by telephone call this year. If you need help making an appointment on Parent Lounge, please contact the College office for assistance.

I would like to thank the P&F for their successful fundraiser last Sunday at the church which raised nearly \$2000. P&F are also running a Mother's Day event this Friday at the Aquinas Community Centre. All mothers and grandmothers are welcome to join this event. Page 3 of this publication offers more information.

I wish you all an enjoyable start to the new term and assure you of my prayers.

Father Andrew Cranshaw  
 Principal



**Parent Teacher Interviews**

Wednesday 11th May 2022

3:30pm to 7pm

Bookings can be made via our Parent Lounge at the following link:

<https://tassweb.stac.vic.edu.au/parentlounge/index.cfm?do=parentportal.home#21>

Please call or email the office if you have any questions.

**School Photo Day**

Wednesday 18th May 2022.

Students need to be in their full school winter uniform.

Student photo forms will be handed out by teachers today for students to take home. Sibling/family photo forms and spare forms are available at the school office. It's important that you advise the office if you would like a sibling/family photo so that we can ensure you don't miss out on the day.

**VIRTUE THIS WEEK**

**PRUDENCE**

Prudence: Enables one to reason and act rightly in any given situation.

**COLLECT - ST JOSEPH THE WORKER**

O God, Creator of all things, Who dost impose on man the law of work; grant in Thy goodness that, by the example and patronage of blessed Joseph, we may both accomplish the work Thou dost command and attain the reward Thou has promised. 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

## From the Deputy Principal

Dear Parents,

I truly hope that the Easter holiday period has provided some opportunity for you to unwind, recharge and spend time with family, friends and loved ones.

I hope you have taken the opportunity over the break to review the students' interim reports. These reports provide a snapshot of the learning trajectory of your child and will form the basis of the Parent Teacher Interviews that occur next Wednesday 11th May. Please take the time to book interviews with as many teachers as possible. These interviews are critical in enhancing the learning partnership between the College and home, as well as providing an opportunity to unpack the interim reports further. Teachers will be able to also provide both the parent and child with strategies to allow the learning trajectory to remain moving in a positive direction.

The College staff spent Monday in Professional Learning meetings, with particular emphasis on creating a greater awareness of the virtues that create a Catholic educator. Staff also explored the next two phases of the learning sequence that is being adopted to ensure, positive outcomes are experienced by every student in every class.

This term will be extremely busy with both staff and students hoping to achieve a lot, in a short period of time. Please remain in communication with the College if you believe your child would benefit from additional support in any of the key spheres of the College.

The Victorian Government has announced some important changes to COVIDSafe measures for schools that will apply from the start of Term 2.

### Face masks

- Staff and students are no longer required to wear a face mask indoors or outdoors at school.
- Everyone aged eight (8) years or over must wear a face mask when travelling to and from school on public transport, taxis or rideshare vehicles, unless a lawful exemption applies. This includes when travelling to and from activities, school camps and excursions on school buses or via public transport.
- Visitors are no longer required to wear a face mask indoors or outdoors at school.

### Screening requirements

Students who have tested positive for COVID-19, and have completed their 7-day isolation period, now do not need to undertake rapid antigen test (RAT) screening for 12 weeks after their release from isolation. This was previously 8 weeks.

### Household contacts

- Students who are household contacts of a COVID-19 case are not required to quarantine. They may return to school as long as they undertake rapid antigen tests (RAT) 5 times during their 7-day period.
- They are required to notify the school that they are a household contact.
- Students aged 8 years and above who are household contacts are required to wear face masks when indoors at school unless they have a valid exemption.
- If a student household contact returns a positive RAT result, they must isolate for 7 days.

### Vaccination requirements for visitors to schools

Parents, carers and other adult visitors (not performing work) are no longer required to show evidence of two doses of COVID-19 vaccine.

### RAT screening program reminder

- RATs will continue to be supplied for the first 4 weeks of Term 2 to support the early detection of COVID-19 in our school.
- The testing recommendations will remain the same this Term for students and staff with as mainstream schools – recommended to test at home twice a week
- If you have any concerns about COVID-19, please get in contact with your GP or another health professional who can answer your questions.

Thank you for your ongoing support in keeping our school safe.

Kieran O'Dwyer - Deputy Principal

## FOOD FRIDAY DONATIONS

The St Gerard's League will be collecting donations of non-perishable food items on the first Friday of each month. **Our next collection will this Friday 6th May.** Food items can be left at the front office, with class teacher or homeroom. Thank you for your support and generosity.

If at any stage you wish to donate  
please contact Mr Phil Robinson on 0407 925 720



## THE SCHOOL DENTAL INITIATIVE

The Dental Health Van will visit the school next term in the week commencing 1st August 2022.

Forms will be handed out to students today and any parents wanting their children to take part in the initiative will need to hand in their forms to the school office before the 23rd May 2022.

Mother's Day  
Morning Tea  
Friday 6th May  
The Haven  
\$5 entry

Including coffee/tea and cake

Kids free

Open from drop off or come after  
morning mass

RSVP by sms 0499937965

### Extension of the Schools Rapid Antigen Testing Program

The Victorian Government has [announced](#)\* it is extending the rapid antigen test (RAT) screening program for the first four weeks of Term 2.

According to the Department of Education and Training (DET), schools will receive their RAT allocation for the first two weeks of Term 2 by Friday 8 April 2022.

The screening recommendations will remain the same next term for students and staff which is the recommendation to test at home twice a week.



The College community offers its deepest sympathy to our Learning Support Co-Ordinator Muirenn Hogan on the recent loss of her dear father Mr Michael Hogan. We also extend our sympathy to Murienn's mother Natasha, and to her 3 siblings who all attended the College for their education. May He Rest in Peace.

#### **KINDNESS**

"Love and kindness are never wasted. They always make a difference. They bless the one who receives them, and they bless you, the giver."





an  
evening  
of  
canapes and drinks

A STAC Parents & Friends Fundraiser

18th June

6:30 PM

for 18 people

\$70 pp

19 Pinehill Drive Pakenham

for further information, contact [pandf@stac.vic.edu.au](mailto:pandf@stac.vic.edu.au) or 0417 574 454

To book directly, use this link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/an-evening-of-canapes-drinks-tickets-305290691677>

**Menu including -**

Grazing platter to begin ~ Scallop on Thai scented Pea Puree ~ King Prawns on Wombok and Chilli Salad ~ Mango, Procutto, Bocconcini, Basil, Balsamic ~ Mini Lamb Kebabs with Yoghurt Dipping Sauce ~ Mini Zucchini and Haljourni Fritters ~ Crispy Pork Belly Bites with Plum Dipping Sauce ~ Bbq Beef Mini Sliders with Slaw ~ Followed by a selection of Mini Dessert

Beer and Wine included throughout the night.

**SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS COLLEGE  
PARENTS & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION**

# St Monica

4th May - Widow (332-388)

Saint Monica, the mother of Saint Augustine, was born in 332 of a Christian family of the ancient city of Tagasta in northern Africa. After a girlhood of singular innocence and piety, she was given in marriage to Patricius, a pagan. She at once devoted herself to his conversion, praying for him always and winning his reverence and love by the holiness of her life and her affectionate forbearance. She was rewarded by seeing him baptized a year before his death.



When her son Augustine went astray in faith and habits, her prayers and tears were incessant. She once begged a learned bishop that he would talk to her son, in order to bring him to a better disposition, but he declined, despairing of success with a young man at once so gifted and so headstrong. At the sight of her prayers and tears, he nonetheless bade her be of good courage, for it could not happen that the child of those tears should perish.

Augustine, by going to Italy, was able for a time to free himself from his mother's importunities, but he could not escape from her prayers, which encompassed him like the providence of God. She

followed him to Italy; and there, by his marvellous conversion, her sorrow was turned into joy.

At Ostia, shortly before they were to re-embark for Africa, Augustine and his mother sat at a window conversing on the life of the blessed. She turned to him and said, "My son, there is nothing now I care for in this life. What I shall now do, or why I remain on this earth, I know not. The one reason I had for wishing to linger in this life a little longer was that I might see you a Catholic Christian before I died. This grace God has granted me superabundantly, seeing you reject earthly happiness to become His servant." A few days afterwards she had an attack of fever and died at the age of fifty-six, in the year 388.

**Reflection.** It is impossible to set any bounds to what persevering prayer may do. It gives man a share in the Divine Omnipotence. Saint Augustine's soul lay bound in the chains of heresy and an illegitimate union, both of which had by long habit grown inveterate. They were broken by his mother's prayers.

## 2022 CALENDAR

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI
2 May	3 May SECOND TERM COMMENCES	4 May	5 May	6 May
9 May	10 May Yr 10-12B Debate Mannix vs MacKillop	11 May <b>COLLEGE CROSS COUNTRY</b>  3:30pm PARENT / TEACHER INTERVIEWS	12 May Yr 10-12B Debate Kolbe vs Bosco	13 May
16 May Interhouse debating Comp. (16-27 May)	17 May Yr 10-12G Debate MacKillop vs Bosco	18 May  <b>SCHOOL PHOTOS</b>	19 May Yr 10-12G Debate Kolbe vs Mannix	20 May
23 May HOUSE CAMPS SECONDARY STUDENTS	24 May HOUSE CAMPS SECONDARY STUDENTS	25 May HOUSE CAMPS SECONDARY STUDENTS	26 May <b>ASCENSION THURSDAY HOLIDAY</b>	27 May

### OFFICE HOURS

8:15am - 3:30pm

### TERM DATES

2nd Term: Tuesday 3rd May - Friday 24th June  
3rd Term: Tuesday 19th July - Friday 16th September