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**ST THOMAS AQUINAS
 COLLEGE**

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COLLEGE CHRONICLE

Tuesday 19th October 2021

Word from the Principal

Dear Parents, Students and Friends of the College,

It is with great sadness that I announce to you the resignation of Mr Stanton. The reasons for his resignation are firstly due to his mother who is in the last months of her life on earth. Mr Stanton, being the sole son residing in Victoria, needs to be there for his mother while she is still alive. Secondly, Mr Stanton's wife is suffering from an auto-immune disease making her very susceptible to COVID. The pandemic has meant that since last August he has had to live in isolation at home, unable to have contact with his own family members. His wife not being able to go out in public due to risk of infection also means that he must do all the shopping and other errands. Managing family commitments with work has become too much.

The possibility of taking leave and coming back next year has been considered but declined partly due to a small but very vocal group in our community that have made it their mission to vilify Mr Stanton's good name. They have repeatedly verbally attacked him in the carpark and have sent aggressive emails attacking him because they do not agree with the College's way of managing the health and safety of its students and staff during the pandemic. We all have our own views on the pandemic and how we believe the government, the school, the parish or others should react to it, but when these views lead one to attack and vilify another person in the school community, it is a clear sign that one is not acting out of true charity but out of bitter zeal, deep pride and prejudice. It is so regrettable that our community has members in it that have stooped to this level. On behalf of the community, I would like to publicly apologise to Mr Stanton and his family for this damaging behaviour. Let us bear in mind all that the College leadership has had to sustain immense pressure for nearly two years in and out of 6 lockdowns. Mr Stanton has borne a great deal of this stress. He has been at the forefront of managing the College's operations and protecting our College from a raft of dangers, while navigation through the strong sensitivities of a very divided school community. It is now time for him to enjoy a well-deserved rest and to receive the community's deepest appreciations.

Mr Stanton's loyalty to the College is second to none. His weekly hours on site exceed that of anyone else, and his dedication to duty is unparalleled, but what trumps all is that Mr Stanton will not leave us hanging. He has every right to leave us now so that his mother and family are not deprived of him any longer, but he is committed to seeing the year out in order to support the College during this incredibly challenging time. I for one am most grateful to Mr Stanton

for making this additional sacrifice, because without my Deputy I would not be able to sustain the strain of this position much longer. I ask the school community to please spare at least one rosary per family for Mr Stanton, his wife, children and his dying mother.



On another note, an important email went out to all parents on 15th October outlining the operations for next week and beyond. We received very mixed feedback from parents. To help parents appreciate the basis for the approach, it is important to realise that I am trying to accommodate three groups of parents: those who need their children back at school as soon as possible because they have to return to work or because of mental health; those who can't send their children to school because of family health reasons or quarantine requirements; and those who can only send their children to school some of the time due to transportation or carer related issues. On top of this I have to accommodate the rights of my staff to not be forced into vaccination if they have serious reasons for refusing; finally, I have to prepare the College lockdowns and deep cleaning each and every time a student comes on site with Covid. May Our Lady protect us from this latter danger. With above mentioned parameters in place, I hope parents will understand why we are taking the approach outlined in the 15 October email.

I mentioned in my last public address of 8th October, that we would be moving to remote learning until the end of the term. This remains the bottom line that we will fall back on when all else fails, or when certain families have no other option or if the College is locked-down. This means that remote learning will continue until the end of the year for all families that need it but we offer on-site learning for all others. Our staff are working in an ever more flexible way to make this possible. Please be patient with them because this is putting tremendous pressure on us all. For some families remote learning is all they can cope with at the moment; for other families, their children need to return to on-site learning as soon as possible; for yet other families remote learning is not an option because they have to return to work. In other words, man proposes but God disposes. So, please understand that we are doing all we can to help. Please in return do all you can to help us make this work.

On another note, I have a good number of staff who would like to be on site next week but are rightly fearful of the vilification and judgemental nature of a small body of vocal parents who will judge them by saying things like "This or that staff member must be vaccinated otherwise he or she wouldn't be on site." Is this what our community has been

VIRTUE THIS WEEK

HONESTY

"All things betray thee, who betrayest me."

F. Thompson, *Hound of Heaven*

COLLECT - 21st Sunday after Pentecost

O Lord, we beseech Thee, to keep Thy household in continual godliness that, through Thy protection, it may be free from all adversities, and devotedly given to serve Thee in good works to the glory of Thy Name. 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

reduced to? Does one have access to another's private medical status anyway? If not, then why does one pass judgement upon another in this matter? Has not the Catholic Church said that it is not a sin to get vaccinated when one has a gravely proportionate reason? Who are we to judge whether they have proportionate reasons? Why then would we condemn our neighbour of sin where there is no sin? Our Lord reserved His harshest condemnations for these kind of pharisaic judgements *"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith."* Matt 23:24. Is one allowed to neglect the greater commandments of charity, justice and mercy just because one is on a crusade against Covid? Let us avoid everything that smacks of division. If we are to be God's children, then let us first be peace makers "Blessed are the

peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God."

On a final note, all schools are being told by DHHS to notify parents that mask are a requirement for Year 3 students upwards. We know well the views of some parents on this matter. If you feel your child has an exemption, please write to us.

Sincerely yours in the Two Hearts,

Father Cranshaw
(Principal)

From the Deputy Principal

Further Information regarding next week's operations

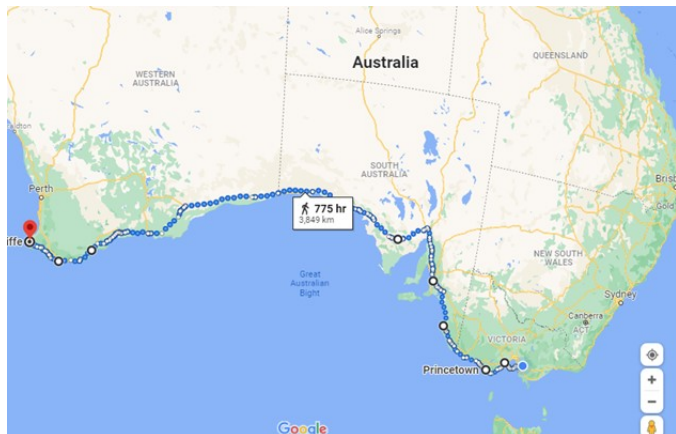
I hope to have plans completed by tomorrow for the coming week. Please keep an eye on your email for further information.



Lockdown Challenges

We continue to receive Entrée, Main and Dessert items from students who have been participating in the cooking lockdown challenge this past week. We will continue to leave entries open over the coming week and will package them into a mini meal idea book in the coming weeks. Many of the dishes presented look AMAZING. So keep up the amazing work students and parents! Whenever possible we will put a collage of submissions together later in this newsletter.

Fitness Challenge – the Fitness Challenge continues. Videos are available on the Fitness Google Classroom shared with the students by Mr Bell.



Walk Around Australia

The Walk is continuing, but we have lost momentum a little this week. Be great to see us round the south east corner of WA and head on up to Perth. We have made it to Margaret River in WA!

Smiths Beach (north west of our current location)

Thank you for your continued support.
Yours in the Immaculate Heart.

Mark Stanton
Deputy Principal



ST GERARD LEAGUE

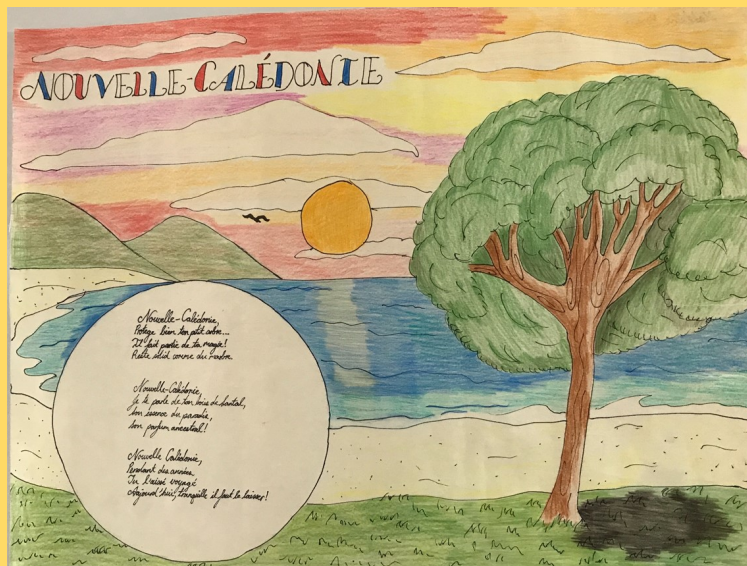
Whilst in lockdown we are unable to have the Food Friday Food Collection.

These collections were an enormous help with the work that the League does to help families in our community.

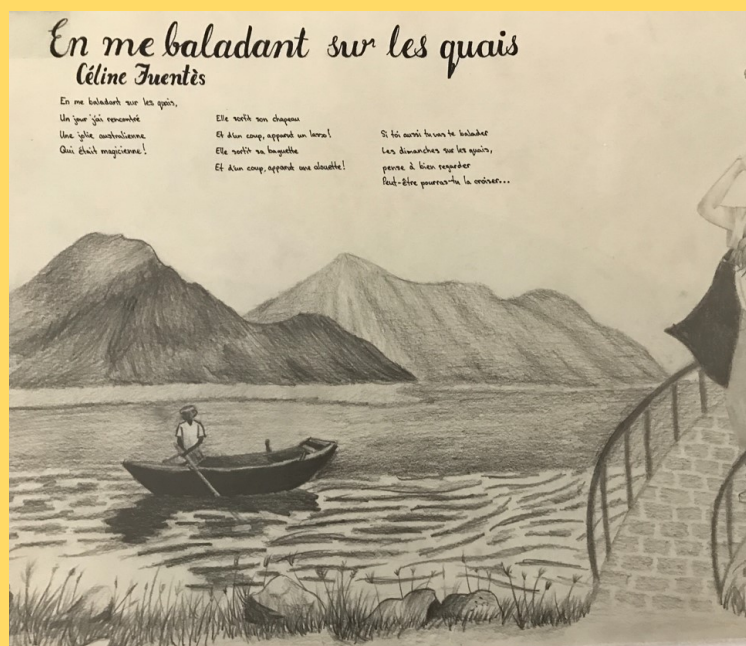
If you are able to contribute a donation transfers can be made to the following account.

St Gerard League

BSB: 063 532
Account: 10382071



FRENCH POETRY ART COMPETITION



HATS FOR 4th TERM

For those students who need to be at the College, we remind them and parents, that the wearing of hats whilst outside during recess and lunch is compulsory in 4th Term.

ST THOMAS AQUINAS COLLEGE

To form in each youth the true and perfect Catholic



ENROLING
NOW



Ph:5629 2500 Email: office@stac.vic.edu.au

St. Margaret Mary Alacoque (1647 - 1690)

17th October



Saint Margaret Mary, a soul of divine predilection, was born at Terreau in Burgundy, on July 22, 1647. During her infancy she showed a wonderfully sensitive revulsion to the very idea of sin, and while still a young child always recited the entire Rosary every day. She lost her father at the age of eight years, and her mother placed her with the Poor Clares. She was often sick and for four years was bedridden, losing almost entirely the use of her members. She made a vow to Our Lady to become one of Her daughters if She cured her, and was suddenly entirely well.

God began her purification when the charge of her mother's house was confided to persons who reduced the family to a sort of servitude. Margaret Mary turned to God for strength and consolation when she was accused of various crimes she had not committed. In short, the Saint of the Sacred Heart learned to suffer for Christ, with patience, what innocence can suffer in such situations.

She desired to be a religious, but her mother could not bear to hear a word of that desire. Finally God came to her assistance through a Franciscan priest, who told her brother that he would answer to God for the vocation of his sister. In 1671 she entered the Order of the Visitation of Mary, at Paray-le-Monial, and was professed the following year. She followed all the practices of the monastery in perfect

obedience, spending as much time as she could in the chapel with her Lord. After sanctifying her by many trials, Jesus appeared to her in numerous visions, displaying to her His Sacred Heart, sometimes burning as a furnace, and sometimes torn and bleeding on account of the coldness and sins of men. *"Behold this Heart which has so loved men, and been so little loved by them in return!"*

Saint Margaret Mary was for a time Mistress of Novices, and in this office exercised a true apostolate, working to win for the Heart of Jesus the hearts of the young girls who were aspiring to religious consecration. She was persecuted when she sent one of them home, not having seen in her the indications of a genuine vocation; the family attempted to have her deposed. She remained in the charge but was deprived of Holy Communion on the First Friday of the month. This practice was one of Our Lord's specific requests; for souls who communicate nine First Fridays in succession, He promised the most wonderful graces. The demons also persecuted her visibly; nonetheless her entire Community was finally won over to devotion to the Divine Heart.

Saint Margaret Mary died at the age of forty-two years, on October 17, 1690, and everywhere was heard in the city: "The Saint is dead! The Saint is dead!" She was beatified in 1864 by Pope Pius IX, and canonized in 1920 by Pope Benedict XV.

2021 CALENDAR

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI
18 Oct	19 Oct	20 Oct	21 Oct Year 12 Mass & Breakfast	22 Oct
25 Oct	26 Oct	27 Oct VCE Exams commence	28 Oct	29 Oct
1 Nov ALL SAINTS HOLY DAY - MID TERM BREAK	2 Nov Melbourne Cup Holiday - MID TERM BREAK	3 Nov	4 Nov	5 Nov
8 Nov	9 Nov Yr 10,11 Exams commence	10 Nov	11 Nov	12 Nov
15 Nov	16 Nov	17 Nov	18 Nov	19 Nov
22 Nov	23 Nov	24 Nov	25 Nov	26 Nov

OFFICE HOURS

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

TERM DATES

	4th Term:	Wed 6th Oct - Thu 9th Dec
2022	1st Term:	Monday 31st January