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ST THOMAS AQUINAS
 COLLEGE

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COLLEGE CHRONICLE

Tuesday 21st February 2023

Word from the Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

Tomorrow we commence Lent, a time of preparation, change and renewal. It allows us to focus on new beginnings and new life. An opportunity to reflect on how we can become better people, to deepen our relationship with God and a time to grow out of the ways that turn us away from our Faith.

We are provided with practical advice on how we might go about this period of preparation and change. Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving are traditionally three ways that we can prepare ourselves for the death and resurrection of Jesus at Easter.

Furthermore, what a liberating idea Renewal is, to start over, to begin again. I'm sure we have all, at times wished that we could start over. Lent gives us the opportunity to start over with God. We know that through his unconditional love of each of us, it is possible to start again.

As we move closer to the commencement of Lent, we are encouraged to reflect on our lives in the light of the example of Our Lord. Some of the questions I will meditate on will be:

How am I growing my faith?

- How can I Improve my spiritual life and my relationship with God?
- In what ways can I deepen my prayer life, charity and service to others?

It is also my hope and prayer for this period that each of us finds our place here within our College community, that each of us shares in the joy of moments of inspiration and aspiration, that we all make new connections and learn new things in an atmosphere of support, encouragement and challenge, and that we know Our Lord walks with us always, but particularly during those more difficult moments.

This week our staff and students have been exploring the virtue of Generosity. The focus has been on ensuring that we are all giving of our time, effort and resources to help others in a positive way. Hopefully, over the course of the week you will hear your child talk about how they have helped a classmate who may have been struggling with a task or maybe they will offer to pick up some additional responsibility at home.

It is expected that our staff remain in communication with parents on a regular basis and do not leave everything to be discussed during the Parent Teacher Interviews. Over the next two weeks, your child will come to the conclusion of their first learning phase for the term. You should expect to receive an



email updating you on the progress of your child's learning. If there are any concerns, I encourage you to make contact with the College.

The Parents and Friends Committee held its Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, 15th February. The committee is a very positive and vital support for our College community. Thank you to all members and in particular, the current office bearers:

- President: Michael Braaksma
- Treasurer: Steve Verleg
- Secretary: Santiago Gomez
- Deputy President: Adam Armstrong

Many of the members of this committee have given outstanding service to the College community for many years, and we must have new parents join each year to replace those who finish up. So, I encourage all parents to consider joining, as a strong Parents and Friends Committee will strengthen our College community and help ensure positive student outcomes.

As we have highlighted across the first phase of this term, the extracurricular program will again be a highlight of the year for many students. The Camps, Sports and Excursion Fund (CSEF) is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of camps, sporting activities and excursions. If you believe that you may be entitled to this fund, please complete the Application form sent to you by the College Bursar.

Please return the completed form as soon as possible.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child. This payment will be credited to your College fee account. The annual CSEF amount per student is \$225 for secondary school students and \$125 for primary school students.

God Bless,

Kieran

Kieran O'Dwyer (*Acting Principal*)

VIRTUE THIS WEEK

GENEROSITY

Giving of oneself in a willing and cheerful manner for the good of others

COLLECT - QUINQUAGESIMA SUNDAY

Do Thou, we beseech Thee, O Lord mercifully hear our prayers, that we being loosed from the bonds of our sins, may by Thee be defended against all adversity. Through Our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.



Instaurare
 omnia in
 Christo
 To restore all
 things in
 Christ

From the Deputy Principal



Positive Behaviour Support (Active Supervision) - Part 2

Dear Parents and Families,

Research has demonstrated that positive behaviour support is significantly effective in minimising and managing challenging behaviours in the classroom. It reduces stress, frees up much-needed time for teaching, improves overall student behaviours and creates better classroom cultures.



This week we will explore the first Universal of Positive Behaviour Support. **Active supervision** is the focused monitoring and intentional observation of students within the learning spaces and outside in the playground. Teachers strategically position themselves and circulate to observe all students: watching, monitoring and listening with the purpose of predicting, minimising or preventing potential issues. Educators utilise their knowledge of the developmental stages and their professional knowledge of students to anticipate behaviour and redirect when necessary.

Successful strategies of active supervision include:

- Interacting, connecting and building relationships with students
- Being aware of and responding to potential risks to student emotional and physical safety
- Positioning and circulating to have a high degree of visibility
- Visually scanning and making frequent eye contact with students
- Actively moving around the space to engage with students in their learning and play
- Being alert to the first signs of tension or conflict and responding promptly to redirect or de-escalate behaviour
- Employing non-verbal signals to indicate that you are aware of behaviour

When teachers take the time to notice, acknowledge and listen to students it is a positive way to build relationships and show that the students matter. This assists in building trust, connections and a sense of belonging.

God bless,

David

David Williams
Acting Deputy Principal

Primary

COURTESY

Michaela Garner
Brennan Hayward
Louis Nivet
Matthew MacDonald

Secondary Girls

COURTESY

Secondary Boys

COURTESY

Joseph Hardiman
Hugo Ward
Marcel Upston
Louis Ward
Raymond Borgonovo
Joseph Morgan
Cameron Armstrong
Benedict Samymuthu

**WOODWIND AND STRING MUSIC LESSONS
At ST THOMAS AQUINAS COLLEGE**

Flute, oboe, clarinet, saxophone, violin, and cello and guitar lessons are available at the College.

There are group lessons or private lessons available.

Group lessons are \$10 a week.

Private lessons of 20 min are \$19 and 30 min are \$28 per week.



FOOD FRIDAY



Food Friday continues this year.
Your donated non-perishable food items are distributed to families in our community. Your support is most appreciated.

Our next Food Friday is on 3rd March.
You are most welcome to donate prior to this date.

SECOND HAND UNIFORM SHOP

The Uniform Shop is open Monday afternoons only from

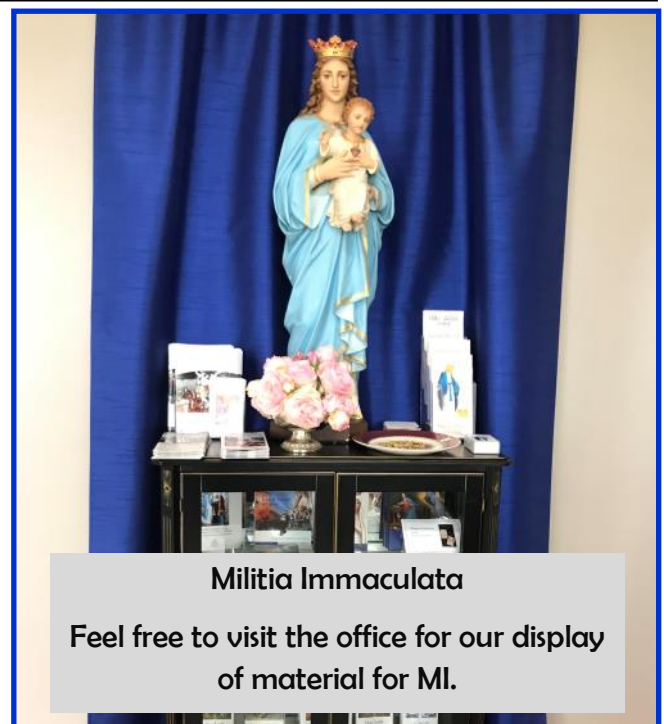
2:45pm - 3:30pm.

You are welcome to call for an appointment or to check stock availability.

Michelle can be reached on 0468438404

Michelle also offers a Blazer re-braiding service, cuffs bound, hems, zips replaced, tears mended and repairs to wool jumpers.

Please also note the office no longer accepts items for re-sale therefore please drop at the shop on a Monday afternoon when Michelle is present.



Militia Immaculata

Feel free to visit the office for our display of material for MI.

St Thomas Aquinas College Parents & Friends

We are seeking donations of
Easter Eggs and chocolates for a Raffle.

Please could you drop off your donations to
the College office or
give to Kate Gomez or Rebecca Davis.

We would appreciate receiving these by 1st March.



St Thomas Aquinas College

DINNER AUCTION 2023

The Dinner Auction Committee is looking for new members.

Any help you can offer, big or small, is greatly appreciated
for this important fundraising event.

Please call or text Monica Murnane on 0400 097 399 for more details.

The Dinner Auction will be held in the 2nd half of the year with a
date to be announced soon.

Ash Wednesday

22nd February 2023

Why is this day thus named?

Because on this day the Church blesses ashes, and places them on the heads of her faithful children, saying: "Remember man, thou art dust, and unto dust thou shalt return."

Why is this done?

St. Charles Borromeo gives us the following reasons for this practice: that the faithful may be moved to sincere humility of heart; that the heavenly blessing may descend upon them, by which they, being really penitent, will weep with their whole soul for their sins, remembering how earth was cursed because of sin, and that we have all to return to dust; that strength to do true penance may be given the body, and that our soul may be endowed with divine grace to persevere in penance.

With such thoughts let the ashes be put upon your head, while you ask in all humility and with a contrite heart, for God's mercy and grace.

Why from this day until the end of Lent are the altars draped in violet?

Because, as has been already said, the holy season of Lent is a time of sorrow and penance for sin, and the Church desires externally to demonstrate by the violet with which she drapes the altar, by the violet vestments worn by the priests, and by the cessation of the organ and festive singing, that we in quiet mourning are bewailing our sins; and to still further impress the spirit of penance upon us, there is usually only a simple crucifix or a picture of Christ's passion, left visible upon the altar, and devoutly meditating upon it, the heart is mostly prepared for contrition.

2023 CALENDAR

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI
3:30 - 4:30pm Study Hall				NO STUDY HALL
20 Feb 9am - Community Mass in College Chapel Swimming Yr 4&5	21 Feb - Shrove Tuesday	22 Feb - Ash Wednesday	23 Feb Swimming Yr 4&5	24 Feb
3:30 - 4:30pm Study Hall				NO STUDY HALL
27 Feb 9am - Community Mass in College Chapel BACKUP Swimming 4/5	28 Feb	1 Mar	2 Mar	3 Mar
3:30 - 4:30pm Study Hall				NO STUDY HALL
6 Mar 9am - Community Mass in College Chapel Yr 12 Physics Excursion	7 Mar St Thomas Aquinas Feast Day	8 Mar	9 Mar	10 Mar STUDENT FREE DAY
3:30 - 4:30pm Study Hall				NO STUDY HALL
13 Mar PUBLIC HOLIDAY	14 Mar	15 Mar 2:00pm - Community Afternoon Tea	16 Mar ATHLETICS DAY	17 Mar - St Patrick
3:30 - 4:30pm Study Hall				NO STUDY HALL
20 Mar 9am - Community Mass in College Chapel	21 Mar	22 Mar	23 Mar	24 Mar
3:30 - 4:30pm Study Hall				NO STUDY HALL

OFFICE HOURS

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

TERM DATES 2023

1st Term:	30th January - 5th April	3rd Term:	18th July - 15th September
2nd Term:	26th April - 23rd June	4th Term:	2nd October - 8th December