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## ST THOMAS AQUINAS COLLEGE

PO Box 500  
 1 Tynong Road,  
 Tynong, Victoria 3813

### COLLEGE CHRONICLE

Tuesday 21st March 2023

#### Word from the Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

The College seeks to provide, as far as practicable, a safe and supportive environment. In order to facilitate the inclusion and safe participation of all students in the educational experiences offered by the College we must have a detailed understanding of the students who have a diagnosed health care, complex care need or medical condition.

The parents/guardians of the child who has a medically diagnosed health care need, allergy or relevant medical condition must provide an authorised Medical Management Plan for the child. The child's registered medical/health practitioner must be consulted by parents/guardians in the development of the Medical Management Plan and the advice from the medical/health practitioner must be documented in the Medical Management Plan (signed and dated by the medical/health practitioner).

The Medical Management Plan must be followed in the event of an incident relating to the child's diagnosed healthcare need, allergy or relevant medical condition. We request further medical advice from the medical/health practitioner where this is deemed necessary to clarify practice or mitigate newly identified risks via a Student Health Support Plan.

Student Health Support Plan must be developed in consultation with the child's parents/guardians and implemented so as to reasonably ensure that the risks relating to the child's medically diagnosed healthcare need, allergy or relevant medical condition are assessed and minimised. This plan is completed in two parts, the first by the parent/guardian and the second in consultation with the College.

Forms can be obtained through the office and should be a matter of priority for families who's children have additional needs.

Learning beyond the classroom has begun, with many students already having the opportunity to draw upon the experiences and expertise of others in our wider community. These extracurricular programs including Luna Park, guest speakers, Science and Hockey workshops enable and challenge students to explore, wonder, create and connect in a number of different ways.

On Friday, our Senior College Leaders participated in the first of a number of conferences relating to Leadership. During the conference the students heard from myself and Fr Stephens in relation to Christian Leadership and promoting a can-do mindset, igniting, guiding and nurturing leadership spirit.



Developing a sense of belonging is essential to our life satisfaction and mental health. School is a huge part of the lives of our children and young people, so we want them to have the strongest sense of belonging and connection as members of the College community.

Participating in whole College events in a more relaxed atmosphere where they can engage and celebrate together with their peers assists in forming positive relationships and connections. These days are often the ones that students remember for years after finishing their time at the College.

The excitement and anticipation in the lead-up to the Athletics was palpable as the running of some events were held in the days prior to the carnival. We congratulate and acknowledge the work of our staff, students, volunteers, and families for generating a positive and competitive House spirit across the day. It was great to see so many students participate in the day, having fun in the different events on offer.

Without a doubt, my favourite event of the day was the Grade 1 sack race.

Thank you to the stakeholders who attended the first Community Engagement Session, which commenced the planning process to help shape the strategic direction of the College over the next four years.

You will have now received a soft and hard copy of the feedback form and a reminder that your participation may be through a conversation with a member of the College leadership, filling out the feedback form and returning it to the College. Thank you to those that have already returned the forms.

St Patrick's Day was celebrated last Friday and the following is an Irish blessing for the remainder of the term.

*May there always be work for your hands to do, May your purse always hold a coin or two. May the sun always shine warm on your windowpane, May a rainbow be certain to follow each rain. May the hand of a friend always be near you, And may God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you.*

God Bless,  
*Kieran*

Kieran O'Dwyer  
 (Acting Principal)

#### VIRTUE THIS WEEK

#### OBEDIENCE

Assenting to rightful authority without hesitation or resistance.

#### COLLECT - FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Grant, we beseech Thee, O almighty God, that we, who for our evil deeds justly deserve to be punished, by the comfort of Thy grace may mercifully be relieved. 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 (Physical Environment) - Part 6

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.



**Physical Environment** is the fifth Universal of Positive Behaviour Support that we will be exploring. The school environment includes the physical (e.g. arrangement of furniture, displays, resources, indoor and outdoor interactive spaces), and the non-physical (e.g. sound, temperature, lighting, air quality and seating arrangements). The physical structure and set up of a classroom is a significant variable in influencing and affecting student motivation, engagement and learning. Student consultation and involvement in the process of creating their environment can empower them, increase motivation and the development of a positive learning community. Consideration of the physical environment in terms of how students move and line up can act as a way to minimise behavioural issues.

A physical learning environment involves;

- Students being actively engaged in the use of their space
- Consideration given to the layout of learning areas
- Flexibility to suit the type of activity and instruction
- All spaces within the school being clearly visible
- Having clear traffic routes and access to required equipment, learning spaces and entrances/exits
- Instructional material being accessible, clean, in good order and ready for use
- Students and staff being able to see and hear each other when communicating
- Having minimal distractions caused by sound and visual stimuli from within and outside the classroom
- Appropriate physical adjustments for students with diverse needs
- Learning environments that are safe and appropriate.

Two aspects of learning environments are crucial and interdependent. The first is the cultivation of a culture of learning to activate the potential of students and teachers and the second relates to the physical space that enhances the acquisition of capabilities and competencies. When teachers meet students' basic need for autonomy, competence and relatedness students demonstrate higher levels of engagement and motivation in their learning. If we want our students to be inquiring, connected collaborators, we need to provide and facilitate flexible learning spaces that cater for large and small group collaboration; quiet places for reflection and deep thinking; active areas for investigation, inquiry, documentation and communication; and a variety of resources that are available to assist and enhance learning.

God bless,

*David*

David Williams

**Acting Deputy Principal**

## SCHOOL TUITION FEES

Dear Parents and Carers

Time is running out! Remember, you have until 31 March this year to take advantage of the 5% discount on the payment of your school fees. Please contact the College if you are having any issues.

Thank you.

Primary	Secondary Girls	Secondary Boys
<p><b>LOYALTY</b> Edward Gomez Holly Wesa Joseph de Castella Olivia Fitzpatrick Emma Fitzpatrick</p> <p><b>DILIGENCE</b> Benedict Davis, Edward Gomez Mary Mascarenhas, Raphael Smit Eli Taveira, Dempsey Collins Patrick Hardiman, Luis Obrador Olivia Fitzpatrick, Maverick Frieh Gemma Higgins, Gina Nimr Ryder Youngman, Noah Cleary Christopher Freriks, Helena Soefting Eleanor Foley, Jack Lewis Tiffany MacDonell, Angela Phillips Gemma Verleg</p> <p><b>PERSEVERENCE</b> Raphael Sprowell, Michaela Garner Abigail Higgins, Sophia MacDonald Charlie Lewis, Audrey Gallagher Sophia Borg, Maria Falts Gemma Higgins, Gina Nimr Scarlett Attard, Noah Cleary Patrick Davis, Jack Lewis Benjamin Salib</p> <p><b>RESPONSIBILITY</b> Gemma Pullen, Patrick Hardiman Luis Obrador, Olivia Fitzpatrick Gina Nimr, Christopher Freriks Helena Soefting, Gemma Verleg</p> <p><b>LEADERSHIP</b> Gus Alexander, Oliva Fitzpatrick Siena Smit</p> <p><b>INITIATIVE</b> Raphael Smit, Evangeline Nivet Leo Mandarano, Max Mandarano, Luis Obrador, Maria Falts Scarlett Attard, Noah Cleary Jessica Morgan, Angela Phillips Benjamin Salib, Siena Smit</p>	<p><b>LOYALTY</b> Paula Obrador, Lily Braaksma Katie Higgins, Genevieve McLean Charlotte Ockerse, Emily Houston Lucy Armstrong, Lauren Elliott, Marie-Estelle Hanney Josephine Nivet, Isabelle Higgins Joanna Verleg, Rebecca Fitzpatrick Josephine MacDonald Christiane Ryan</p> <p><b>RESPECT</b> Monique de Castella, Claudia Hanney Genevieve McLean, Annette MacDonald Josephine Soefting, Philomena Sprowell Isabelle Taylor, Bethany Verleg Judy Abraham, Emily Houston Lucy Armstrong, Aleisha Higgins Marina Malty, Lauren Elliott Madeleine Hovens, Josephine Nivet Isabelle Higgins, Isabelle Lewis Joanna Verleg, Rebecca Fitzpatrick Josephine MacDonald, Christiane Ryan</p> <p><b>PERSEVERANCE</b> Paula Obrador, Liola Hau Kautai Katie Higgins, Maria Botrous Claudia Hanney, Charlotte Ockerse Emily Houston, Aleisha Higgins Marina Malty, Lauren Elliott Madeleine Hovens, Josephine Nivet Isabelle Higgins, Isabelle Lewis Rebecca Fitzpatrick Josephine MacDonald Christiane Ryan</p> <p><b>RESPONSIBILITY</b> Josephine Soefting Philomena Sprowell, Isabelle Taylor Lauren Elliott, Madeleine Hovens Josephine Nivet, Isabelle Higgins Isabelle Lewis, Rebecca Fitzpatrick Josephine MacDonald, Christiane Ryan</p> <p><b>LEADERSHIP</b> Marina Malty, Brianna Robinson Rebecca Fitzpatrick Josephine MacDonald, Christiane Ryan</p> <p><b>INITIATIVE</b> Chrystella Zaccari, Lucy Armstrong Lauren Elliott, Josephine Nivet Poppy Taveira, Joanna Verleg, Rebecca Fitzpatrick, Josephine MacDonald</p>	<p><b>LOYALTY</b> David Ockerse Kerols Abraham Daniel Nivet Santino Tommasi Sebastian Hayward Ignatius Attard Hugo Ward Orlando de Castella Marcel Upston Matthew Sprowell Anthony Tadros Aaron Braaksma Luka Pravidur Charles Upston Daniel Freriks Julian Hovens Joseph Morgan</p> <p><b>REPECT</b> Daniel de Castella Joseph Hardiman Luca Attard Joseph Hovens Sebastian Fahey John Higgins Xavier Taveira Charles Upston Daniel Freriks</p> <p><b>PERSEVERANCE</b> Maarten Braaksma Chara Wangkaew Xavier Taveira Daniel Freriks</p>







Tynong Netball Club will be meeting this Friday the 24<sup>th</sup> March, after school approx. 3.15pm at the college gym facility.

All interested players and parents please attend for a half hour meeting.

Paperwork for club registration will be provided at this date. All players will need to take out Vic Netball insurance of \$60.00. Team fees are also payable.

Matches start from the 6<sup>th</sup> of May for the winter competition.

All games are played at Drouin and District Association facilities in Drouin.

Any further information, please contact Nicolette Zaccari on 0435635577 or Michelle Attard 0432713230.

## Easter Egg Guessing Competition

YEAR 12 FUNDRAISER



Lunch Times outside the Library Monday, Wednesday, and Friday

50c per guess.

ST THOMAS AQUINAS P&F

## Easter Chocolate Raffle

\$5 a ticket  
3 for \$12  
5 for \$20

1st prize



2nd prize



3rd prize



4th prize

# St Benedict

(Father of Western Monasticism - 21st March)

Saint Benedict, blessed by grace as his prophetic name seemed to foretell, was born of a noble Italian family in Umbria, in the year 480. As a boy he showed great inclination for virtue, and maturity in his actions. He was sent to Rome at the age of seven, to be placed in the public schools. At the age of fourteen, alarmed by the licentiousness of the Roman youth, he fled to the desert mountains of Subiaco, forty miles from Rome, and was directed by the Holy Spirit into a deep, craggy, and almost inaccessible cave, since known as the Holy Grotto. He lived there for three years, unknown to anyone save a holy monk named Romanus, who clothed him with the monastic habit and brought him food.



drink. When the Saint made the sign of the cross on the poisoned bowl, it broke and fell in pieces to the ground.

Saint Benedict resurrected a boy whose father pleaded for that miracle, saying "Give me back my son!" He replied, "Such miracles are not for us to work, but for the blessed apostles! Why will you lay upon me a burden which my weakness cannot bear?" But finally, moved by compassion, he prostrated himself upon the body of the child, and prayed: "Behold not, O Lord, my sins, but the faith of this man, and restore the soul which Thou hast taken away!" And the child rose up, and walked to the waiting arms of his father. When a monk lost the

He was eventually discovered, when, one Easter day, God advised a priest who lived about four miles from there, to take food to His servant, who was starving. The priest searched in the hills and finally found the solitary, and they took their meal together. Some shepherds also knew of his retreat, and soon the fame of this hermit's sanctity began to spread. The demon persecuted him, but to no avail; when a temptation of the flesh assailed him, he rolled in a clump of thorns and nettles, and came out of it covered with blood but sound in spirit.

iron head of his axe in a river, the Abbot told him to throw the handle in after it, and it rose from the river bed to resume its former place.

Six days before his death, Saint Benedict ordered his grave to be prepared, then fell ill of a fever. On the sixth day he asked to be carried to the chapel, and, having received the sacred Body and Blood of Christ, with hands uplifted and leaning on one of his disciples, he calmly expired in prayer, on the 21<sup>st</sup> of March, 543.

Disciples came to him, and under his direction, numerous monasteries were founded. The rigor of the rule he drew up, however, brought upon him the hatred of some of the monks, and one of them mixed poison with the Abbot's

**Reflection.** The Saints never feared to undertake any work for God, however arduous, because distrusting self they relied for assistance and support wholly upon prayer.

## 2023 CALENDAR

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI
<b>20 Mar</b> 9am - Community Mass in College Chapel <i>NAPLAN</i>	<b>21 Mar</b> <i>NAPLAN</i>	<b>22 Mar</b> <i>NAPLAN</i>	<b>23 Mar</b> Yr 6 - Mad about Science Incursion <i>NAPLAN</i>	<b>24 Mar</b>
3:30 - 4:30pm Study Hall				<b>NO STUDY HALL</b>
<b>27 Mar</b> <i>NAPLAN</i> SSV Yr 3-6 Athletics Yr 6 - Mad about Science Incursion	<b>28 Mar</b>	<b>29 Mar</b> GRIP Leadership Conference	<b>30 Mar</b>	<b>31 Mar</b> SSV Yr 7-8 Volleyball / Tennis
3:30 - 4:30pm Study Hall				<b>NO STUDY HALL</b>
<b>3 Apr</b>	<b>4 Apr</b> SSV Yr 9-12 B&G Volleyball / Tennis	<b>5 Apr</b> SECONDARY RECOLLECTION DAY Last Day of Term	<b>6 Apr</b> <b>HOLY THURSDAY</b>	<b>7 Apr</b> <b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>
3:30 - 4:30pm Study Hall		<b>SCHOOL HOLIDAYS</b>		
<b>24 Apr</b> Curriculum Day - no school	<b>25 Apr</b> <b>ANZAC DAY HOLIDAY</b>	<b>26 Apr</b> Term 2 commences	<b>27 Apr</b>	<b>28 Apr</b> Cross Country Parent/Teacher Interviews
3:30 - 4:30pm Study Hall				<b>NO STUDY HALL</b>

### 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 - 7th December