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**ST THOMAS AQUINAS
 COLLEGE**

PO Box 500
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 Tynong, Victoria 3813

COLLEGE CHRONICLE

Tuesday 8th March 2022

Word from the Principal

Dear Staff, Parents and Friends of the College,

Music is an important part of a well-rounded education, therefore is one of the subjects that our school takes quite seriously; but the talents of our students go far beyond the classroom, moving us to provide as many outlets to develop those talents as means provide. Here are some ways our school supports the musical formation of its students.

Weekly Musical tuition lessons:

We currently have two music tutors who provide weekly tuition to our students. They offer to train our students in flute, oboe, clarinet, saxophone, violin, cello and piano. Please see the advertisement on page 3 of the Chronicle for more information.

College Choir:

Our secondary students have the opportunity to participate in the College choir. The boys and girls train separately Monday after school for one hour each week and come together to perform set pieces on important occasions like ANZAC day memorial services, College Masses and Presentation Night. When students are ready, the College also enters them into local competitions for which historically our students have done very well.

Chapel Schola and Choir:

Sacred Music is an integral part of the liturgy of the Church. Students are given the opportunity to learn sacred music throughout Primary and Secondary school as part of their classes in music. Secondary boys have the opportunity of joining the College Schola, which is traditionally a boys' choir dedicated to singing Gregorian chant, the traditional sacred music of the Catholic Church. Our boys train once a week at lunchtime and then sing at the weekly Friday College Masses. Secondary girls have the opportunity of joining the College chapel choir which is dedicated to singing choral pieces suited to Mass. They likewise train once a week at lunchtime and then sing at the weekly Friday College Masses.



Parish Choir:

Our secondary students can progress on to become members of the Corpus Christi parish choir. This requires them to attend a practice every Wednesday evening at the parish church from 7pm-8:30pm. They then perform every Sunday at the 10am High Mass.

College Band or Orchestra:

For some time now we have been wanting to start a College brass band or small college orchestra but our staff are stretched too thin. This is why I am calling on members of the school community who might be interested in supporting this venture. The band or orchestra members would come together after school to practice once a week. They would perform on important occasions like the Presentation Night or at a music recital. This initiative is only possible with the support of the community, so please reflect on whether God might be calling you to offer your musical experience in this capacity to help our students grow in confidence and love for music. If you feel you might be able to help in this enterprise, please contact the College with an expression of interest by the 25th of March.

Sincerely yours in the Two Hearts,

**Father Andrew Cranshaw
 Principal**

VIRTUE THIS WEEK

KINDNESS

Thankful disposition of
 mind and heart

COLLECT - FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

O God, who dost purify Thy Church by the yearly observance of forty days; grant to Thy household that what we strive to obtain from Thee by self denial, we may secure by good works. 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

Yesterday we celebrated St Thomas Aquinas Feast Day, a major celebration on the College calendar.

This provided staff, students and the broader community the opportunity to deepen their sense of connectedness with the College. Connectedness is a key experience in the enhancement of belonging and the development of identity that our St Thomas Aquinas students encounter, across their educational journeys. Building a sense of connectedness, provides the students with the opportunity to experience their journey at the College, in ways that extend beyond the formal classroom learning, extending to the realisation that each person forms part of an extensive community, in which each member contributes to the wellbeing of all others.

A strong sense of school connectedness and a feeling of belonging to a community is a key protective factor for young people. School connectedness is critical to academic success, attendance and avoidance of harmful risk taking behaviours in children and young people. Therefore, days like the Feast Day provide an important role in the College in achieving our vision of forming in each youth the true and perfect Catholic through providing a complete education, taking in the whole of human life.

As I moved around the activities that the students undertook to celebrate the Feast Day, it was pleasing to witness the students on the sports field or jumping castle, building spaghetti towers or guiding a blind-folded friend through a maze; working to authentically include all of their peers in the grade or house group. We strive to uncover students' talents and interests, in order to celebrate and nurture the students as they discover what it means to be the best version of themselves.

Dear Parents of a VCE student/s,

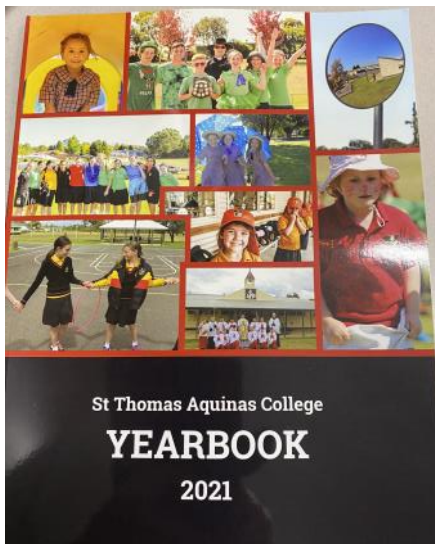
When you have a child completing the senior years of school, it can often feel as if everyone in the family is doing Year 11 or 12. Here are a few ideas for navigating through these years and keeping everyone's dignity intact. As a parent, you have a vital role in helping your child manage their time, energy, stress and self efficacy throughout this two year journey.

Creating structure for what occurs outside the hours that your child is at school, to support study throughout the year, has shown to contribute to positive outcomes. Short regular windows of study are more effective than long study marathons. To develop this you need to create a road map. Therefore it is imperative to sit down with your child and map out what an ideal week looks like. When doing this, take into consideration key issues such as Sleep, Relaxation, Diet, Study times, Stress, Socialising with friends, Part time work and How to handle the year concluding.

Without a plan, students can sometimes be left with doing what they like, when they feel like it and often feeling like studying is not the most common emotion in their lives at that particular time.

We also need to keep in mind that a child's Year 12 result is not a full stop on their future. There are many more determinants that contribute to them being the best version of themselves. Above all, remain calm and support your child. If there is anything the College can support you with, please don't hesitate to contact the College.

Kind regards,
Kieran O'Dwyer.



2021 YEARBOOK ON SALE NOW

The Yearbook can be purchased from the College Office.
Cost is \$20 per book.

Payment can be made by cash or credit card.

STAC HAPPINESS PHOTO COMPETITION



To coincide with World Happiness Day on 20th March, photography submissions are open for the **'STAC HAPPINESS' Photo Contest 2022**.

We would like to focus on the things that bring happiness to our lives. We all have places, people, pets, hobbies that bring us happiness, and we are inviting you to share these with us through this photography contest.

As appropriate photos are received, they will be printed and displayed in the library.

A digital copy can be forwarded to Mr O'Dwyer - kieran.odwyer@stac.vic.edu.au

All submissions must be original photos taken by the photographer

All submissions must have necessary information embedded into photographs:

- Name,
- Grade
- Description of why it is a 'happy' photo (maximum word limit: 30 words),

Entries close on Monday 21st March 2022. A panel of STAC Happiness and Photography experts will judge the the Primary, Secondary and Overall winners.

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.



Secondary Girls

GRATITUDE

Lauren Elliott, Isabelle Lewis,
Joanna Verleg, Lilian de Castella,
Anna Hardiman, Alana Houston,
Stephanie Verleg.

Leadership

Holly Phillips.

Secondary Boys

GRATITUDE

Santino Tommasi, Tony Nagaraj,
William Stevenage, Joseph Hardiman,
Thomas Davis, Hugo Ward, Orlando de Castella,
Anthony Tadros, Deffy Wangkaew, Laurence Ockerse,
Braydan Rayner, Charles Upston,
Cameron Armstrong, Simon Taveira.

Respect

William Fahey, Sebastian Fahey,
Xavier Taveira.

Responsibility

Santino Tommasi.

Primary

GRATITUDE

Lexi Sharkey, Samantha Borg, Gabrielle Spowell, Keisha Doolar, Oliver Verleg, David Ockerse.

Diligence

Cristina Mandarano, Luca Yassa, Emma Fitzpatrick, Ava McLean, Thomas Stevenage,
Jemma Salib, Molly Taveira.

Perseverance

Verity Gallagher, Charlie Lewis, Sarah Malaty, Suzannah McLean, Lorenzo Tommasi, Philomena Ward,
Madison Braaksma, Matthew MacDonald, Trina Matta, Lina Nimr, Stella Kulkewycz, Bobby Alexander,
Benjamin Tadros, Joseph Tadros.

Responsibility

Jenna Lewis, Sienna Higgins.

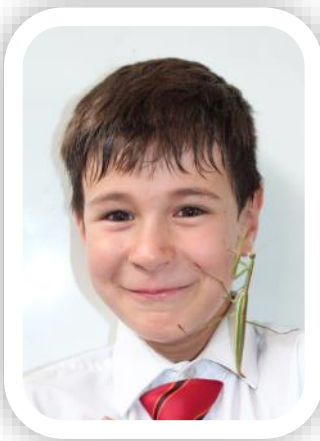
Initiative

Rebecca Higgins, Gemma Pullen, Madison Braaksma.

Virtues are awarded to those in Secondary who obtain three votes for the week from the teachers and in Primary two votes are required.

Well done to all our students who have featured this week.

From the Year 2 Classroom ... what do you see?????





ATHLETICS DAY RESULTS

HOUSE RESULTS

1. **MANNIX** **5743.7 points**
2. **MACKILLOP** **5264.6 points**
3. **KOLBE** **5003.9 points**
4. **BOSCO** **4354.5 points**

AGE CHAMPIONS

Year level champions	GIRLS	BOYS
YR 12	Holly Phillips	Isaac Braaksma
YR 11		Julian Hovens
YR 10	Victoria Stevenage	Aaron Braaksma
YR 9	Madeleine Hovens	Deffy Wangkaew
YR 8	Aleisha Higgins	Jacob Smit
YR 7	Isabelle Taylor	Chara Wangkaew
YR 6	Lily Braaksma	Daniel Nivet
YR5	Emma Fitzpatrick	Thomas Stevenage
YR 4	Emmaline Hayward	Marius Zaccari
YR 3	Olivia Fitzpatrick	Benjamin Salib
YR 2	Dorothy Alexander	Vito Tommasi
YR1	Majella Verleg	Brennan Hayward
Foundation	Carmela Nivet	Adrian Soefting

Once again we thank those parent volunteers who were a tremendous help on the day.



St John of God - 8th March

Founder (1495-1550)



Nothing in the early life of John Ciudad, born of a poor couple in a town of Portugal, foreshadowed his future sanctity. Following a traveller whose description of Madrid had captivated his imagination, this only son of his parents ran away from his home. Soon regret and misery overtook him, but he was ashamed to return to his abandoned parents. In effect his mother, struck with a fever, but advised by an Angel that John would have to undergo long trials which would strengthen his virtue, departed this life only a few days after his adventure began.

For several years the renegade was engaged in tending sheep and cattle in Spain; his employer eventually offered him his only daughter in marriage and thereby a rich heritage, but John was interiorly advised that such was not his vocation. He left in secret the next day, joined the army of Spain against the French, later against the Turks. When he was about forty years of age, feeling profound remorse for his life which lacked order and purpose, he returned to his home village, only to learn of the death of both his parents. "I am not worthy to see the light of day!" exclaimed the grief-stricken voyager. He visited the cemetery, suffocated by his sobs, and cried out, "Pardon, pardon! O mother! Eternal penance!"

He resolved to devote himself to the ransom of Christian slaves in Africa, and on his way served the sick in a hospital. Meeting an aged nobleman at Gibraltar, unjustly exiled and on his way to Africa, John offered to go there as his servant, to remain with him and his family and support them by his labour. Count DaSilva fell ill in the new climate and soon died, thanking John for his unflinching aid, and predicting he would some day be one of Spain's greatest apostles. His family received amnesty and returned to Spain.

John, too, returned there by the advice of his confessor, and sought to do good by selling holy pictures and books at low prices. Finally the hour of grace struck. At Granada a sermon by the celebrated John of Avila shook his soul to its depths, and his expressions of self-aborrence were so extraordinary that he was taken to the asylum as one insane. For a time he acted this role purposely, in order to be whipped daily as a remedial measure. His confessor was John of Avila, who when he learned of this told him to cease his pretense and do something useful. Thereafter he employed himself in ministering to the sick.

He began to collect homeless poor, and to support them by his work and by begging. One night Saint John found in the streets a poor man who seemed near death, and, as was his wont, he carried him to the hospital, laid him on a bed, and went to fetch water to wash his feet. When he had washed them, he knelt to kiss them, but was awestruck: the feet were pierced, and the print of the nails shone with an unearthly radiance. He raised his eyes, and heard the words, "John, it is to Me that you do all that you do for the poor in My name. It is I who reach forth My hand for the alms you give; you clothe Me; Mine are the feet that you wash." And then the gracious vision disappeared, leaving Saint John filled at once with confusion and consolation.

The bishop became the Saint's patron and gave him the name of John of God. When his hospital was on fire, John was seen rushing about uninjured amid the flames until he had rescued all his poor. After ten years spent in the service of the suffering, the Saint's life was fitly closed when he plunged into a river to save a drowning boy, and died in 1550 of an illness brought on by the attempt. He was fifty-five years old.

2022 CALENDAR

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI
7 Mar St Thomas Aquinas Feast Day	8 Mar Interhouse Lunch time Sport LUNCH ORDERS	9 Mar Interhouse Lunch time Sport	10 Mar	11 Mar MID TERM BREAK
14 Mar LABOUR DAY Holiday	15 Mar Interhouse Lunch time Sport LUNCH ORDERS	16 Mar Interhouse Lunch time Sport FENCING - 7/8	17 Mar Feast of St Patrick	18 Mar FENCING - 7/8
21 Mar ANTI BULLYING WEEK INTERHOUSE VOLLEYBALL	22 Mar Interhouse Lunch time Sport LUNCH ORDERS	23 Mar Interhouse Lunch time Sport FENCING - 7/8	24 Mar	25 Mar FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION SSV 7/8 Volleyball FENCING - 7/8 GRIP LEADERSHIP

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