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# ST THOMAS AQUINAS COLLEGE

PO Box 500  
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 Tynong, Victoria 3813

## COLLEGE CHRONICLE

Tuesday 2nd May 2023

### Word from the Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

The College has found its feet quickly this term.

We have held our ANZAC Day service and Parent teacher interviews, our Year 11-12 Boys Tennis Team have won through to the State Championships, our Grade 4 - 6 Athletics Team have competed today and a all of the athletes have progressed through to the Regional round to be held later in the year.

We wish our Secondary School Staff and Students all the best as they head away on their camps tomorrow.

We will be holding our first Community Morning Tea on Monday 15 May at 9.00 am in the Multi Purpose Building foyer. All welcome to attend.

Throughout the first term the College has been investigating ways of improving communication in order to bridge the gap between home and College.

We are pleased to announce that as of Monday 8th May our newly redesigned website will be live. Over the past 6 months our College Executive has been working to build a new website that better reflects our College community and provides a refreshed 'digital front door' for prospective families interested in learning at the College.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Mr Santiago Gomez and Mrs Liz Alexander for the work they have undertaken on this project.

Next week we will launch the St Thomas Aquinas App. Parents will be able to access the key features of College from the palm of their hand with the App. It will allow families to receive instant information about the College, blog posts from key staff, push notifications for urgent updates, the ability to log student absence and more.

Parents will receive communication from the College early next week on where to download the App, how to launch it on your android or Apple device and a series of frequently asked questions. With these more efficient modes of communication, our fortnightly newsletter will be replaced by the St Thomas



Aquinas College's quarterly magazine which will be an engaging review of news, events and achievements from the College and its broader community across the term. In addition to our website, for those on social media platforms we have developed a Facebook page titled ST THOMAS AQUINAS COLLEGE TYNONG (and refreshed our Instagram page) to provide a closer view into the daily happenings at the College. Here is the link to our Facebook Page which is brand new so we encourage you to like and follow the page. [St Thomas Aquinas College Tynong | Tynong VIC | Facebook](#)

Through the initial stages of our Community Engagement process, the Executive has been able to identify a number of common themes to help shape the strategic direction of the College. One of these is, the adequate provision of facilities and programs to support the Sport and Recreational pursuits of the students.

The College would like to seek expressions of interest from our parents and carers, to establish a special interest - Sport and Recreation Reference Group. This can be done by emailing Liz Alexander - [liz.alexander@stac.vic.edu.au](mailto:liz.alexander@stac.vic.edu.au)

The Sport and Recreation Reference Group will provide key stakeholders the opportunity to provide advice and feedback to the Executive on matters relevant to the strategic direction of sport and recreation at the College. Furthermore, the group will support the Executive through the provision of guidance on the development of sport and recreational facilities, infrastructure to meet the ever evolving needs and interests of the student body.

We look forward to bringing you more information on all these matters over the coming weeks.

God Bless,  
Kieran

Kieran O'Dywer  
(Principal)

### VIRTUE THIS WEEK

#### PRUDENCE

Enables one to endure difficulties for the sake of what is good

### COLLECT - 3rd SUNDAY AFTER EASTER

O God, who to those that go astray dost show the light of Thy truth, that they may return to the path of justice: grant that all who are enrolled in the Christian faith, may both reject all that is hostile to that name, and follow after what is fitting to it. 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 (College Wide Expectations) - Part 9

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.

**College wide expectations** is the eighth Universal of Positive Behaviour Support that we will be exploring. They are a compilation of specific, positively stated behaviours and understandings that become the agreed way of functioning within the College community. These expectations are linked to the vision and mission of the College. They are broadly stated, relate directly to the virtues, skills and capabilities and apply to all people across all College settings. College wide expectations are important for providing a common vision, shared beliefs, language and understanding for the entire College community.



Research clearly demonstrates that expectations have a significant impact on student learning academically, socially and emotionally. Teachers who have high expectations are more likely to enhance their students' learning than teachers with lower expectations. Teachers in an educational setting who work collaboratively to have consistent collective expectations across a school have an even greater impact and influence on student learning and achievements.

College wide expectations involve:

- Being small in number, with only three to five expectations
- Being positively stated
- Describing the general ways that people are expected to behave at all times
- Reflecting the College community's (College, families and parish) philosophy and vision
- Consistent application across the entire College environment for all stakeholders of the community
- Actively developing, sharing, discussing, promoting, practising and enacting the College wide expectations.

God bless,

*David*

David Williams  
**Deputy Principal**

### School Photo Day

**Wednesday 10th May 2023**

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.

**Primary**

**TRUSTFULNESS**

Grace Garner  
Verena Botrous  
Faith Mascarenhas  
Philomena Ward

**DILIGENCE**

Eli Taveira, Harriet Gomez  
Patrick Hardiman, Jessica Morgan  
Gemma Verleg, Annabelle de Castella  
Allegra Pravidur, Emma Hayward  
Samuel Soefting, Jenna Lewis  
Daniel Hanney, Suzannah McLean  
Trina Matta

**PERSEVERANCE**

Benedict Davis, Edward Gomez  
Raphael Sprowell, Michaela Garner  
Abigail Higgins, Mary Mascarenhas  
Nikolina Palcic, Raphael Smit  
Eli Taveira, Dempsey Collins  
Verity Gallagher, Cristina Mandarano  
Timothy McLean, Holly Wesa,  
Mark Falts, Rebecca Higgins  
Thea Attard, Carmella Nivet  
Evangeline Nivet, Gemma Pullen  
Adrain Soefting, Gus Alexander  
Charlie Lewis, Grace Garner  
Hunter MacDonell, Maria Sorial  
Vito Tommasi, Cedrick Mitchell,  
Olivia Fitzpatrick, Marina Sorial  
Emma Hayward, Jenna Lewis  
Ruby Collins, Emma Fitzpatrick  
Stella Kulkewycz, Thomas Stevenage  
Bobby Alexander, Helena Soefting  
Sienna Higgins, Helena Hicks  
Oliver Verleg

**RESPONSIBILITY**

Fletcher Collins, Benjamin Salib, Marina  
Sorial, Samuel Soefting, Jenna Lewis,  
Lorenzo Tommasi, Madison Braaksma,  
Lina Nimr, Louie Mitchell

**LEADERSHIP**

Madison Braaksma

**INITIATIVE**

Leo Mandarano, Max Mandarano  
Noah Cleary, Samuel Soefting,  
Madison Braaksma, Louie Mitchell

**Secondary Girls**

**TRUSTFULNESS**

Paula Obrador  
Liola Hau Kautai  
Genevieve McLean  
Isabelle Taylor  
Bethany Verleg  
Judy Abraham  
Emily Houston  
Emily Morgan  
Lucy Armstrong  
Laura Elliott  
Madeleine Hovens  
Isabelle Lewis

**RESPECT**

Paula Obrador, Liola Hau Kautai  
Katie Higgins, Maria Botrous  
Emanuela Palcic, Genevieve McLean  
Josephine Soefting, Isabelle Taylor  
Bethany Verleg, Judy Abraham  
Emily Houston, Emily Morgan  
Lucy Armstrong, Aleisha Higgins  
Marie-Estelle Hanney, Jessie Calnan  
Lauren Elliott, Faustina Hau Kautai  
Josephine Nivet, Isabelle Lewis  
Poppy Taveira, Joanna Verleg

**PERSEVERANCE**

Emily Houston, Aleisha Higgins  
Isabelle Higgins, Joanna Verleg  
Rebecca Fitzpatrick

**RESPONSIBILITY**

Isabelle Taylor, Bethany Verleg  
Aleisha Higgins, Fautina Hau Kautai  
Isabelle Higgins, Isabelle Lewis  
Rebecca Fitzpatrick

**LEADERSHIP**

Isabelle Lewis, Rebecca Fitzpatrick

**INITIATIVE**

Isabelle Lewis

**Secondary Boys**

**TRUSTFULNESS**

Adam Khier  
Mark Obrador  
Santino Tommasi  
Daniel de Castella  
Joseph Hardiman  
Myles Youngman  
Laurence Ockerse  
Sebastian Fahey

**RESPECT**

Santino Tommasi

**PERSEVERANCE**

Santino Tommasi  
Hugo Ward  
Marcel Upston  
William Fahey  
Andre Elliott  
Daniel Freriks  
Joseph Morgan

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 November.



# Mothers Day

# STALL

Come along and spoil Mum!

**Thursday, 11th of May**

**MULTI PURPOSE BUILDING  
PLANTS, CHOCOLATES & GIFTS  
AVAILABLE FOR MUM!**

**PLEASE BRING AT LEAST \$5 ALONG**



#### New Road Rules:

New road rules were introduced on 31st March regulating the use of a range of portable devices while driving a vehicle or riding a motorbike. Please visit this website for further information.

[New Victorian road rules 2023 : VicRoads](#)



# Saint Monica

(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.



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.

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

**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.

## 2023 CALENDAR

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI
<b>1 May</b>	<b>2 May</b> Yr 4-6 Boys and Girls Divisional Athletics	<b>3 May</b> SECONDARY HOUSE CAMPS	<b>4 May</b> SECONDARY HOUSE CAMPS	<b>5 May</b> SECONDARY HOUSE CAMPS
3:30 - 4:30pm Study Hall				<b>NO STUDY HALL</b>
<b>8 May</b>	<b>9 May</b>	<b>10 May</b> SCHOOL PHOTOS	<b>11 May</b> Mothers Day Stall 3:30pm Boys Basketball Training	<b>12 May</b> 7/8 B&G - Fencing
3:30 - 4:30pm Study Hall				<b>NO STUDY HALL</b>
<b>15 May</b> 9am Community Morning Tea	<b>16 May</b>	<b>17 May</b>	<b>18 May</b> ASCENSION THURSDAY HOLIDAY	<b>19 May</b> 7/8 B&G - Fencing
3:30 - 4:30pm Study Hall				<b>NO STUDY HALL</b>
<b>22 May</b> VCE Exams	<b>23 May</b> VCE Exams Yr 3-6, 7-12 Cross Country	<b>24 May</b> VCE Exams	<b>25 May</b> VCE Exams 3:30pm Boys Basketball Training	<b>26 May</b> VCE Exams 7/8 B&G - Fencing
3:30 - 4:30pm Study Hall				<b>NO STUDY HALL</b>
<b>29 May</b> Yr 5-6 District Teeball, Netball & Soccer	<b>30 May</b>	<b>31 May</b>	<b>1 June</b> 3:30pm Boys Basketball Training	<b>2 June</b> 7/8 B&G - Fencing
3:30 - 4:30pm Study Hall				<b>NO STUDY HALL</b>

**OFFICE HOURS**  
8:15am - 3:30pm  
MONDAY - FRIDAY

### TERM DATES 2023

2nd Term: 26th April - 23rd June  
3rd Term: 18th July - 15th September  
4th Term: 2nd October - 7th December