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ST THOMAS AQUINAS COLLEGE

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COLLEGE CHRONICLE

Tuesday 15th February 2022

Word from the Principal

Dear Parents, Students and Friends of the College,

The Principal's Address is the event of this week. This Thursday (17th Feb) a link to the Principal's Address will be sent out to all parents of the College. The purpose of this address is always to inform the parent body of the direction of the College each year. It is an opportunity for me to introduce new staff and talk about various projects, events and programs the school plans to undertake during the year. This normally takes place on school grounds as an evening event during the week, but current COVID restrictions preventing public gatherings at schools mean that I have to take the novel approach of recording the address and sending it out through the internet. This new approach certainly comes with some conveniences for parents, as they won't have to travel nor find a babysitter in order to attend the address, but this novel approach comes with some disadvantages too, namely we have lost a precious opportunity at this time of the year for you to meet other parents, talk face to face with them, meet the Principal and other staff and enjoy real human contact. This human contact is something we all need right now to reforge community ties damaged by two years of lockdowns and other restrictions. So here are some other ways that we might reforge them:

Mothers of the school community try to meet on a weekly basis at what they call the '**Haven**'. It is a great initiative run by the College Parents and Friends Association to give mothers a chance to catch-up over a coffee and share some time together while their pre-schoolers are supervised in a range of activities suited to their age. Mothers interested in the Haven can contact the College's P&F via this email: pandf@stac.vic.edu.au

The **Athletics' Carnival** is another event this term which will help forge community ties. The venue is new, namely Casey Fields Regional Athletics Centre, Cranbourne East. The venue has excellent facilities and plenty of spectator room for parents and friends to watch the events. It is recommended that spectators bring a sun umbrella or similar because shading is limited and not always available on the grassy banks nearest to the students where parents will want to sit. The event will be held on

Tuesday 1st March from 10am onwards. Further information will be sent out to parents closer to the time.



Part of re forging community ties is getting involved in the **Parents and Friends Association (P&F)**. The P&F's Annual General Meeting (AGM) is a really important event staged each year at this time to report on the previous year, elect officers and set goals for the year ahead. To make the meeting even more conducive to re forging community ties, this year it will be combined with a wine and cheese night at the priory. It will take place Wednesday evening, 16th March starting at 7pm. For further details and to indicate attendance please email Daniel Attard pandf@stac.vic.edu.au

Sincerely yours in the Two Hearts,

Father Cranshaw
(Principal)

CRUCIBLE CHALLENGES for 2022 are well underway!



VIRTUE THIS WEEK

COURTESY

Treating other people with respect, recognizing that all are made in God's image and likeness

COLLECT - SEPTUAGESIMA SUNDAY

Graciously hear, we beseech Thee, O Lord, the prayers of Thy people, that we who are justly afflicted for our sins, may be mercifully delivered by Thy goodness, for 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

From the Deputy Principal

On Tuesday 8th and 15th February during our College assemblies, we have had the opportunity for the commissioning of a number of our Secondary and Primary School Student Leaders, whom we have asked to lead the student body throughout 2022. These assemblies have woven in nicely with our Presentation Afternoon on Friday 11th February. This was an opportunity for us to congratulate and acknowledge the individual achievement of our students while also celebrating the achievements of the class of 2021. It was also wonderful to hear the inspiring message from the 2020 College Dux Mitchell Youngman.

I was afforded the wonderful opportunity to address the College during the Presentation ceremony. My message focused on the students being the best version of themselves and the adoption of an *I CAN attitude or Growth Mindset by students when they are challenged by adversity. As educators and parents, we should be looking for the opportunities to encourage this attitude and mindset in all our children.*

With a growth mindset, students are open to new ideas, to investigate, to enquire, to seek to understand more, and to show what they know. A student with a growth mindset approaches new tasks as an opportunity and accepts, while sometimes searching into the unknown can be a challenge, and they might not always succeed but the benefits will outweigh the risks. At school and at home, we can help stimulate a growth mindset in the students, as they strive to become the best version of themselves. By considering the way we communicate with them, in particularly the way in which we provide feedback about something they have completed. Where possible pivot on

providing simple feedback like good or bad, this limits their thinking. Instead, when giving feedback encourage children to think about the ways in which they approached tasks and therefore the outcome they have achieved.

Over the course of the first two weeks of Term 1 there has been a specific focus with the Primary and Secondary staff. This has been to develop an understanding of the individual educational needs that student presents with. Staff have been actively moving around the learning environment getting to know each student as well as their unique strengths and areas of challenge. Our staff take pride in knowing their students and work to identify and uncover the different perspectives each child has on issues related to the curriculum. They use these as windows to look through when designing the shape of the learning experiences they will provide for each student.

As students develop and grow in their knowledge, skill and general capability, we trust that they are inspired to embrace a love for learning throughout their lives. Curriculum design at the College is therefore designed not only for the formal arrangements which lead to successful learning, but also the informal elements of the curriculum: what students bring to the classroom from their own lived 'reality' and what occurs instinctively, regardless of what is planned.

Your children are placed at the centre of all curriculum design within the College, an environment where everyone's story is embraced.

Kieran O'Dwyer - Deputy Principal

COLLEGE CHOIR

For all 7-12 students who wish to join the choir auditions will be held over the coming weeks.

Please put your name in the signup lists if you are interested.

Practices will be held after school for **both** boys and girls on Mondays from 3:20-4:20pm.

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

AFFABILITY

Monique de Castella, Judy Abraham, Emily Houston,
Marie-Estelle Hanney, Lauren Elliott,
Faustina Hau Kautai, Madeleine Hovens,
Jessica Phillips, Poppy Taveira, Joanna Verleg,
Mia Beckenham, Rebecca Fitzpatrick,
Josephine MacDonald, Victoria Stevenage,
Christiane Ryan, Lilian de Castella, Anna Hardiman,
Anne Ockerse, Alana Houston, Claire Sprowell,
Stephanie Furness, Dallas MacDonald, Holly Phillips,
Stephanie Verleg.

Respect

Charlotte Ockerse, Keva Perez-Melei, Lucy Phillips,
Judy Abraham, Emily Houston, Lucy Armstrong,
Aleisha Higgins, Josephine Nivet, Isabelle Higgins,
Isabelle Lewis, Joanna Verleg, Mia Beckenham,
Lilian de Castella, Anne Ockerse, Alana Houston,
Claire Sprowell, Dallas MacDonald, Stephanie Verleg.

Perseverance

Emily Houston, Aleisha Higgins, Madeleine Hovens,
Josephine Nivet, Mia Beckenham, Anna Hardiman,
Alana Houston.

Responsibility

Judy Abraham, Emily Morgan.

Secondary Boys

AFFABILITY

Santino Tommasi, Gabriel Upston, Anthony Freriks,
Joseph Hardiman, Myles Youngman, Luca Attard,
Hugo Ward, Orlando de Castella, Marcel Upston,
Louis Ward, William Fahey, Bailey MacDonald,
Anthony Tadros, Deffy Wangkaew, Laurence
Ockerse, Braydan Rayner, Sebastian Fahey, John
Higgins,
Xavier Taveira, Charles Upston, Raphael Hayward,
Daniel Freriks, Julian Hovens, Joseph Morgan,
Ethan Ward, Cameron Armstrong,
Immanuel Saldanha, Isaac Braaksma, Simon Taveira.

Respect

Mark Obrador, Santino Tommasi, Tony Nagaraj,
Anthony Tadros, Michael Sprowell, Xavier Taveira,
Charles Upston, Andre Elliott, Raphael Hayward.

Perseverance

Orlando de Castella

Responsibility

Sebastian Hayward, Tony Nagaraj, Ignatius Attard,
William Fahey, Laurence Ockerse, Sebastian Fahey.

Primary

AFFABILITY

Gemma Pullen, Scarlett Autheman, Matilda Sharkey, Jack Lewis, Marcel Ward, Suzannah McLean,
Thomas Stevenage, Paula Obrador, Katie Higgins, Helena Attard.

Respect

Harriet Gomez, Patrick Hardiman, Jenna Lewis, Daniel Hanney, Suzannah McLean, Philomena Ward,
Matthew MacDonald, Thomas Stevenage, Molly Taveira, Paula Obrador, Liola Hau Kautai.

Perseverance

Charlie Lewis, Liola Hau Kautai.

*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.

Green Thumbs Wanted

The College is looking for volunteers to undertake small gardening roles across the campus.

Typical duties may include weeding, mulching, pruning and staking.

Hours are highly flexible to suit your lifestyle. All tools and supplies provided.

A current Working With Children card will be required.

Please contact the Office with your expression of interest. Thank you.



Parish Cricket Match

13th March at 1pm

The Corpus Christi parish invites you all to come along to watch a Parish cricket match starting 1pm at the Tynong recreation reserve (Park Rd, Tynong). It will be a 20/20 over match running for approx 3-4 hours.

The Year 12 class will be providing a sausage sizzle for families as a fundraiser. At this event

Please BYO chairs and picnic rugs and enjoy some down time while watching a great match!

For those with some cricket ability and wishing to play please contact James on 0401 568 521.



ATTENTION MOTHERS

Every Friday all of the College mothers are invited to attend the 8:40am Mass at Corpus Christi Church, under the patronage of St Anne.

Please join us afterwards for tea and coffee (gold coin donation) at the playground.

(All children welcome)
BYO snacks



COLLEGE CARPARK SAFETY

Now that our car park drop-off and pick-up procedure is returning to (relatively) normal, we need to ask parents to once more refrain from parking on the yellow line on either side of the centre traffic island. This is to ensure the safety of your children and to eliminate the need for anyone to cross in front of a line of parked cars to get to their own. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation on this matter.

TASTY & FRESH PANCAKES Fundraiser

SUNDAY FEB 27th

After 10 AM Mass

Corpus Christi Church

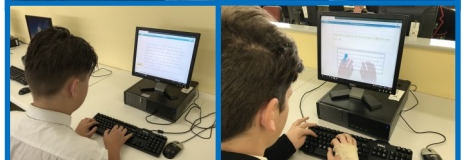
Gluten Free Options

STARTING FROM \$1

Card Services available

Organised by P&F

What's Happening in the Computer Lab



SAINT VALENTINE

14th February

Priest and Martyr (268)

Valentine was a holy priest in Rome, who assisted the martyrs during the persecution under Claudius II. His great virtue and influence became known, and he was apprehended and brought before the emperor's tribunal. "Why, Valentine, do you want to be the friend of our enemies and reject our friendship?" The Christian priest replied, "My Lord, if you knew the gift of God, you would be happy, and your empire with you; you would reject the cult of your idols and would adore the true God and His Son Jesus Christ." One of the judges interrupted, asking the martyr what he thought of Jupiter and Mercury. "That they were miserable, and spent all their lives in debauchery and crime!" The judge, furious, cried, "He has blasphemed against the gods and against the empire!" The emperor nonetheless continued his questioning with curiosity, pleased to have this opportunity to know what Christians thought. Valentine had the courage to exhort him to do penance for the blood of Christians which he had shed. "Believe in Jesus Christ, be baptized and you will be saved, and already in this life you will insure your empire's glory and the triumph of your arms." Claudius began to be convinced, and said to those in attendance, "Hear the beautiful doctrine



this man is teaching us!" But the prefect of Rome, dissatisfied, cried out, "See how this Christian is seducing our prince!" Claudius, weakening, abandoned the holy priest to another judge.

This man, named Asterius, had a little girl who had been blind for two years. Hearing of Jesus Christ, the Light of the world, he asked Valentine if he could convey that light to his child. Saint Valentine placed his hand on her eyes and prayed: "Lord Jesus Christ, true Light, illuminate this blind child!"

The child saw, and the Judge with all his family confessed Christ and received Baptism. The emperor, hearing of this, would have turned his gaze away from these conversions, but fear caused him to betray his sense of justice. With several other Christians Saint Valentine was tortured and martyred in the year 268.

This illustrious martyr has always been held in great honor in Rome, where there still exists a catacomb named for him.

Reflection. In the cause of justice and truth, human prudence should not be consulted; in that case, it is mere human respect. Saint Paul says: "The wisdom of this world is foolishness with God." (*1 Cor. 3:19*)

2022 CALENDAR

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI
14 Feb	15 Feb LUNCH ORDERS	16 Feb	17 Feb	18 Feb
21 Feb	22 Feb LUNCH ORDERS	23 Feb	24 Feb	25 Feb
28 Feb	1 Mar ATHLETICS DAY (no lunch orders)	2 Mar ASH WEDNESDAY	3 Mar	4 Mar
7 Mar St Thomas Aquinas Feast Day	8 Mar	9 Mar	10 Mar	11 Mar MID TERM BREAK
14 Mar LABOUR DAY Holiday	15 Mar	16 Mar	17 Mar	18 Mar

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