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ST THOMAS AQUINAS
 COLLEGE

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COLLEGE CHRONICLE

Tuesday 29th March 2022

Word from the Principal

Dear Staff, Parents and Friends of the College,

We only have 12 more school days left of Term 1. Because it is an exceptionally long term of 11 weeks, students are looking tired and teachers too. The stresses and strains of school life amidst the ongoing background of Pandemic legislation and compliance has added to the strain on all schools across Australia. This strain is causing more and more teachers to take leave or look for other areas of employment outside of teaching. The nation is predicting a short fall of 4000 teachers over the next few years, which means that less and less subjects will be available and more and more pressure will be placed on the teachers who are still available.

This is one of the reasons why our school has faced an unprecedented 10 weeks of relief teacher shortage and staff absence due to exhaustion and illness. The staff who have remained, have had to cover additional classes while still trying to find time to prepare and run their own classes. Over the past 3 weeks two of our staff have been hospitalised but neither for Covid related reasons. I am relating this information so that parents understand the pressure schools are under. I am asking for an increase in prayers for our teachers who are doing a tremendous job but are struggling under the weight of the cross God has sent us to bear during this Lent.

On a happier note, parents may remember that I made a promise in my Principal's address last February that I would work to reduce the consolidated fees charged per student. I am pleased to announce that we have already been able to achieve a significant saving for parents. The Government is offering funding to run camps this year. Our school has qualified for this funding, so the three-day Secondary camps, that we will be running in May, will be entirely funded by the Government. This equates to a saving of \$300 per student. I need to remind parents that attendance at these camps is not optional and therefore all Secondary students are required to attend.

One more bit of good news is that we are hoping to resume 8:40am Masses at school from Term 2 onwards. Due to our students having classes during the time of these Masses, the scheduling of these Masses will be determined by the availability of men to serve each Mass. In other words, we will only be able to resume 8:40am Masses at the College to the degree that faithful attend in reasonable numbers (10 or more) and men are available to serve each day. If the 8:40am resumes again at the College, it may well replace the 8:40am Mass at Corpus Christi Church. The school would appreciate an indication of support for this undertaking. If you would like to support it by your attendance or availability to serve the Mass, please email the College at office@stac.vic.edu.au



Sincerely yours in the Two Hearts,

Father Andrew Cranshaw
 Principal



VIRTUE THIS WEEK

RESPONSIBILITY

Responsibility: Fulfilling one's just duties; accepting the consequences of one's words and actions, intentional or not.

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. Amen.



Instaurare
 omnia in
 Christo
 To restore all
 things in
 Christ

From the Deputy Principal

Dear Parents,

As we near the end of term, it's important our students continue to remain focused on their learning, maintain good standards around uniform and attendance, and ensure they continue to engage with all aspects of College life.

Congratulations to all the students who participated in the School Sport Victoria Volleyball competition last Friday and to Mr Wilkinson and Miss Bell for accompanying the students. We look forward to following the progress of our Junior (Year 7) Boys as they participate in the regional round after being successful at the local level.

Our Happiness photo competition drew to a close last week and at our College Assembly this morning it was a pleasure to present Scarlett Attard with the award for the 'Happiest Photo'. Thank you to all students who submitted a photo.

Across the term, staff have been implementing a range of universal teaching strategies in the classroom. Two of these have been, setting learning intentions and modelling what success looks in order to support student engagement and learning. I encourage you to be in dialogue with your child around what is occurring in the classroom. This supports the Family - College partnership and assists your children in becoming the best version of themselves. If at any stage you feel as if your child needs extra support in any aspect of their schooling, please don't hesitate to contact the College.

One of the issues that is becoming more prevalent in the community for adolescents is the use of Vapes or e-cigarettes. Vaping is the act of using an e-cigarette, or 'vape,' which are lithium battery-powered devices that use cartridges filled with liquids, or 'juice.' The liquids typically contain nicotine, artificial flavourings, and various chemicals, some of which have been shown to be toxic. The liquid is heated into an aerosol, or vapour, and inhaled into the user's lungs.

The Lung Foundation Australia, has developed a suite of resources to fill the knowledge gap around vaping and e-cigarettes. These resources are designed by and for young Australians, educators and parents and carers, to arm you with accurate and evidenced-based information. Please if you are concerned about the use of vapes or e-cigarettes visit their website and look through the insightful resources.

I am reminded during Lent that it's important we learn to slow down and spend time in prayer and meditation on the Passion of Christ especially as we hurt towards the end of a busy first term. Slowing down doesn't mean stopping or dropping the ball on what awaits us, but to develop a sense of trust, confidence and faith in God to give us the ability to meet the challenges that are to come.

Kind regards,

STUDENTS DEPARTING EARLY

It has come to our attention the ever increasing amount of students leaving school early for various appointments. This causes disruption to the daily running of the College and also to the classes involved when a student has to leave early. We understand that getting afternoon appointments after school has ended may be quite difficult at times due to the location of the College.

We therefore request that, where at all possible, appointments be made in the morning after parents have dropped the rest of the family to school. This way only the students attending the appointment is missing any classes. We also ask that students

remain at school until 3:10pm and up to the last day of school prior to any holidays coming up including long weekends.

In the event that an early departure cannot be avoided this is the procedure for collecting your child: (this was always the procedure prior to Covid restrictions that were in place)

1. Send email to the office
2. Arrive allowing time to come to the office for an early departure slip and sign in as a visitor.
3. Take the slip to the class where your child is at that time and give to teacher so that you can collect your child.
4. Return to the office and sign out.

COLLEGE CARPARK SAFETY

We need to REMIND parents once more to 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 vehicle. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation on this matter.

LUNCH ORDERS

Due to lack of interest from students the decision has been made that LUNCH ORDERS will no longer be available.

The service has ceased as of TODAY.

Secondary Girls

OBEDIENCE

Judy Abraham, Emily Houston, Emily Morgan, Lucy Armstrong, Aleisha Higgins, Lauren Elliott, Madeleine Hovens, Josephine Nivet, Isabelle Higgins, Poppy Taveira, Joanna Verleg, Mia Beckenham, Victoria Stevenage, Christiane Ryan, Lilian de Castella, Anna Hardiman, Anne Ockerse, Alana Houston, Stephanie Verleg

Respect

Marie-Estelle Hanney, Marina Malty, Lauren Elliott, Madeleine Hovens, Mia Beckenham

Secondary Boys

OBEDIENCE

Mark Obrador, Santino Tommasi, Gabriel Upston, Sebastian Hayward, Hugo Ward, Marcel Upston, William Fahey, Laurence Ockerse, Braydan Rayner, Aaron Braaksma, Sebastian Fahey, Xavier Taveira, Charles Upston, Andre Elliott, Julian Hovens, Joseph Morgan, Benjamin Nivet, Benjamin Powell, Ethan Ward, Immanuel Saldanha, Isaac Braaksma, Simon Taveira

Respect

Joseph Hardiman, Joseph Hovens, Chara Wangkaew

Primary

OBEDIENCE

Verity Gallagher, Harriet Gomez, Majella Verleg, Markos Yassa, Annabelle de Castella, Joseph Reagan, Suzannah McLean, Philomena Ward, Molly Taveira, Madison Braaksma, Maria Botrous, Matthew MacDonald, Oliver Verleg, Emma Fitzpatrick, Paula Obrador

Diligence

Angela Phillips, Anima Nagaraj, Annabelle de Castella, Marius Zaccari, Joseph Obrador, Joseph Reagan, Elizabeth Davis, Samuel Soefting

Perseverance

Leo McLean, Marius Zaccari, Louis Nivet, Marcel Ward, Jenna Lewis

Responsibility

Jacy Perez-Melei, Joseph Reagan, Jenna Lewis, Adam Khier

Leadership

Jacy Perez-Melei

Initiative

Joseph Obrador



YEAR 12 Footy Tipping LEADERBOARD

16. Miss Hogan
15. Mr Wilkinson, Mr Velnoweth, Gen McLean, Will McLean, Jake Hanney, Bailey MacDonell
14. Mrs Ross, Miss Wood, Miss Murray, Miss McNamara, Miss Morris, Mitchell MacDonald, Alex Stevenage, Will Stevenage
13. Majella Smythe, Miss Bell, Mr van Strijp, Aaron Braaksma, Julian Hovens, Zoran Pravidur, Patrick Hardiman, Raphael Hayward
12. Mrs McKenzie, Jake Smit, Joseph Hardiman, Ollie Pravidur, Raymond Borgonovo
11. Annette MacDonald



Garfield Junior Football Club

The club is seeking players for the 2022 season, particularly in the Under 12 team.

If your child (in Grade 5 or 6), or someone you know, might be interested,

please contact the club or get them to

Register

by going to

www.garfieldjfc.com.au.

Thank you.





STAC HAPPINESS PHOTO COMPETITION

Secondhand Uniform Shop Operating Hours

Monday 8:30am - 9:30am

Monday 2:45pm - 3:30pm

If you have items to donate or sell please drop at uniform shop during these hours.

The office no longer accepts items therefore please drop at the shop on a Monday or contact Michelle on 0468 438 404.

Shop located in small building next to chapel)

FOOD FRIDAY DONATIONS

The St Gerard's League will be collecting donations of non-perishable food items on the first Friday of each month. **Our next collection will this Friday 1st April.** Food items can be left at the front office, with class teacher or homeroom. Thank you for your support and generosity.

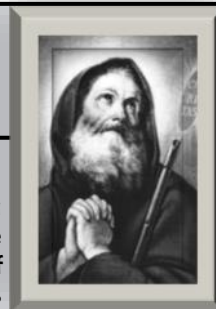
If at any stage you wish to donate please contact Mr Phil Robinson on 0407 925 720



A Beautiful Sight Primary School Children Praying for the Pope to consecrate Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on the Feast of the Annunciation



Saint Francis of Paula



(1416-1507)

At the age of fifteen, Saint Francis left his poor home at Paula in Calabria, Italy, to live as a hermit in a cave on the seacoast. In time disciples gathered around him, and with them, in 1436, he founded the Order of the "Minims." He chose this name that they might always consider themselves the *least* of monastic Orders. They observed a perpetual Lent, never touching meat, fish, eggs, or milk. Francis himself made the rock his bed; his best garment was a hair shirt, and boiled herbs were his only fare. His first consideration in all things was *Caritas*, charity.

Saint Francis was a *thaumaturge*, which denomination indicates a miracle-worker known for his virtually unceasing wonders. The Church recognizes that God, as a rule, does not raise up more than one every century. He cured the sick, raised the dead, averted plagues, expelled evil spirits, and brought sinners to penance. But opposition arose; a famous preacher, misled by a few misguided monks, set to work to preach against Saint Francis and his miracles. The Saint took no notice of it, and the preacher, finding that he made no way with his hearers, determined to go to see this poor hermit whom he did not know, and confound him in person. The Saint received him kindly, gave him a seat by the fire, and listened to a long exposition of his own frauds. He then quietly took some glowing embers from the fire, and closing his hands upon them unhurt, said, "Come, Father Anthony, warm yourself, for you are shivering for want of a little charity." Father Anthony, falling at the Saint's feet, asked for pardon, and then, having received his embrace, left him, to become his panegyrist and himself attain great perfection.

When the avaricious King Ferdinand of Naples offered him a gift of money for his convent, Francis told him to give it back to his oppressed subjects, and softened his heart by causing blood to flow from the ill-gotten coin.

King Louis XI of France, trembling at the approach of death, sent for the poor hermit to come and ward off the foe whose advance neither his fortresses nor his guards could check. Francis went at the Pope's command, leaving his country and his foundations there, which he foretold he would not see again; and he prepared the king for a pious death. He set the court to marveling when a delicately seasoned fish, which the king had ordered prepared for his guest's dinner, swam away after Saint Francis cast it into the pool from which it had been taken. And the successors of King Louis showered favours' on their remarkable guest, desiring him to remain in France. It was God's will that retained him there.

His Rule for the Order of Minims was adopted also by women religious, and spread throughout Europe; a less rigorous Rule was adapted for the Third Order Secular for those who desired a life of penance in their state. His name was revered everywhere in the Christian world; his prophecies were, during his lifetime, and are still today, held in great veneration. He died at the age of ninety-one, on Good Friday, 1507, with the crucifix in his hand and the last words of Jesus on his lips: "*Into Thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.*"

Reflection. Rely in all difficulties upon God. The faith and love which enabled Saint Francis to work miracles will do wonders for yourself, by giving you strength and consolation in proportion to your confidence and your efforts.

2022 CALENDAR

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI
28 Mar	29 Mar Interhouse Lunch time Sport LUNCH ORDERS	30 Mar Interhouse Lunch time Sport FENCING - 7/8B	31 Mar	1 Apr FENCING - 7/8G FOOD FRIDAY
4 Apr	5 Apr SSV Senior Volleyball Interhouse Lunch time Sport	6 Apr Interhouse Lunch time Sport FENCING - 7/8B	7 Apr	8 Apr FENCING - 7/8G
11 Apr	12 Apr Interhouse Lunch time Sport	13 Apr Secondary School Day of Recollection LAST DAY OF TERM	14 Apr MAUNDY THURSDAY	15 Apr GOOD FRIDAY
2 May	3 May SECOND TERM COMMENCES	4 May	5 May	6 May

OFFICE HOURS

8:15am - 3:30pm

TERM DATES

1st Term: Monday 31st January - Wednesday 13th April
2nd Term: Tuesday 3rd May - Friday 24th June