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**ST THOMAS AQUINAS
 COLLEGE**

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COLLEGE CHRONICLE

Tuesday 12th October 2021

Word from the Principal

Dear Parents, Students and Friends of the College,

Last week I was involved in a lot of consultation and decision making which led to the announcement made last Thursday and the Principal's address on Friday. It was painful news to all to know that we are obliged to continue the rest of the term in remote learning mode. Despite this, parent have been very supportive. I want to thank the parent body for their understanding and supportive feedback. It is comforting to know that our parents are behind the school in this matter.

Due to the vaccination mandate, from 25th October onwards, our staff numbers on site will be greatly reduced. Many of our teachers and admin staff will be forced to work from home. Therefore, from 25th October we will only have a skeleton crew on site. This means that we will do our very best to cater for vulnerable children and children of essential workers who need to attend onsite learning, but we foresee that staffing limitations will make it very difficult. That is why we sent out a survey last night to find out from parents which children absolutely have to attend on site learning and which children don't. We know things can change, but we also know that if we don't start planning immediately for the next month, we may find ourselves unprepared, overloaded and under-staffed. Therefore, the

information you provide us in this survey is critical for operations.

I repeat what I said in the address to parents last Friday that it is really important that we all pull together at this critical time and support each other. If it is possible for families to group and support each other in home learning hubs, then you need to consider this. If it is possible for parents and families to network and co-ordinate with each other to provide time out for tired parents, then this should be pursued. If it is possible for young adults with time on their hands to assist their own siblings or other children in their home learning, then I ask them to engage in this work of mercy. We need to be thinking outside the square and we need to be thinking now about how we can support the large network of school families struggling at the moment.

I write these words on the Feast of the Maternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. May Her maternal heart communicate its love, care and compassion to us all.

Sincerely yours in the Two Hearts,

Father Cranshaw
 Principal



Farewell to Mr Phillips



Mr Phillip's last day at the College will be Friday 22 October. Mr Phillips, a former student of the College, joined out staff in 2018. He taught Grade 7 students for a year and then was appointed Dean of Secondary Boys' for two years. At the beginning of this Year Mr Phillips took on the charge of Grade 6 teacher and Dean of the Primary school. We are so very grateful to Mr Phillips for his dedication to our students and to the College over the past three and half years. His Catholic life and professional example, his passion for teaching and the high standards he upholds in the classroom and beyond are an inspiration to us all. Students and staff are very sad to hear of his departure because he is much loved and will be dearly missed. We wish Mr Phillips and his family every blessing and success in their future endeavours. (Fr Cranshaw)



VIRTUE THIS WEEK

EXCELLENCE

"Be ye perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect"

COLLECT - 20th Sunday after Pentecost

In Thy mercy, we beseech Thee, O Lord, grant to Thy faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins and also serve Thee with a quiet mind. 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.



From the Deputy Principal

Questionnaire

Last night I sent out a survey relating to what parents can manage over the coming weeks with the introduction of the vaccine mandate. Please check your emails for more information and complete the survey as soon as possible.



Lockdown Challenges

We continue to receive Entrée, Main and Dessert items from students who have been participating in the cooking lockdown challenge this past week. We will continue to leave entries open over the coming week and will package them into a mini meal idea book in the coming weeks. Many of the dishes presented look AMAZING. So keep up the amazing work students and parents! Whenever possible we will put a collage of submissions together later in this newsletter.

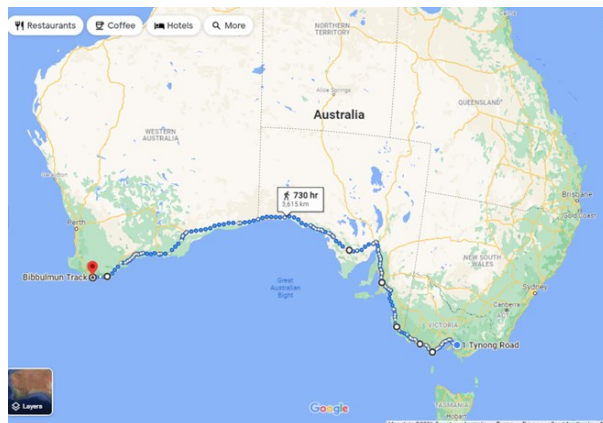
Fitness Challenge – the Fitness Challenge continues. Videos are available on the Fitness Google Classroom shared with the students by Mr Bell.

Parent Teacher Interviews

Please remember to book your Parent Teacher Interviews. They will be held via phone (even though it refers to the Library on the booking form). If you have a particular number you wish the teacher to ring, please place it in the Notes section of the booking.

Walk Around Australia

The Walk is in full swing at the moment and our students are continuing to motor along! At the time of writing this article (Tuesday morning), the students had collectively walked just under 3,615km. Based on the route we have taken, that means they have walked from Melbourne to a small town called Walpole in Western Australia. This is an amazing effort! But let's keep going! We haven't made it to Perth yet! Collectively we have done 730 hours of walking!



Elephant Rocks (near our current location)

Thank you for your continued support.
Yours in the Immaculate Heart.

Mark Stanton
Deputy Principal

ST GERARD LEAGUE

Whilst in lockdown we are unable to have the Food Friday Food Collection.

These collections were an enormous help with the work that the League does to help families in our community.

If you are able to contribute a donation transfers can be made to the following account.

St Gerard League

BSB: 063 532

Account: 10382071

Lockdown Cooking Challenge



Chrystella Zaccari made a Jelly Slice



Josephine Nivet made these Anzac Biscuits

Thanks for sending in these great photos. We look forward to lots more this week so that they can be published for the next Chronicle.

HATS FOR 4th TERM

For those students who need to be at the College, we remind them and parents, that the wearing of hats whilst outside during recess and lunch is compulsory in 4th Term.

NEWS FROM THE P & F

Please note the Dinner Auction for 2021 has been cancelled.

ST THOMAS AQUINAS COLLEGE

To form in each youth the true and perfect Catholic



**ENROLING
NOW**



Ph:5629 2500 Email: office@stac.vic.edu.au

The DIVINE MATERNITY of MARY 11th October



When Mary of Nazareth conceived in Her womb the Word of God, that conception was the effect of the fullness of Her grace, and of an action of the Holy Spirit which occurred in Her soul first of all, thereby making of Her flesh a tabernacle and a sanctuary. The dignity of the Mother of God is Her great sanctity, it is the incomparable grace which raises Her above all the Angels, the grace in which She was predestined and created for this glorious purpose. By the acts of Her blessed Maternity, She *bordred* on divinity while remaining entirely human. In this way She seems to exhaust, as it were, the power of God - the fullness of the grace accorded Her cannot be surpassed. It is easier for us to conceive of the greatness of Mary, however, when we consider Her maternity of the Mystical Body, the Church, which like Herself is entirely human, and composed of persons who are very far indeed from being what our Saviour was, a Divine Person incarnate.

We understand better what Mary is for the Church by listening to Saint Louis Mary de Montfort, Apostle of the Cross and of the Rosary of Our Lady. As Mary was necessary for God in the Incarnation of the Word, so She is necessary for Him to sanctify souls and bring about their likeness to Christ, and She is much needed by us, in our great infirmity:

"The Holy Ghost gives no heavenly gift to men which He does not have pass through Her virginal hands...; such is the sentiment of the Church and its holy Fathers. Mary, being altogether transformed into God by grace and by the glory which transforms all the Saints into Him, asks nothing, wishes nothing, does nothing contrary to the eternal and immutable Will of God. When we read then in the writings of Saints Bernard, Bernardine, Bonaventure and others, that in heaven and on earth everything, even God Himself, is subject to the Blessed Virgin, they mean that the authority which God has been well pleased to give Her is so great that it seems as if She had the same power as God; and that Her prayers and petitions are so powerful with God that they always pass for commandments with His Majesty, who never resists the prayer of His dear Mother, because She is always humble and conformed to His Will. If Moses, by the force of his prayer, stayed the anger of God against the Israelites in a manner so powerful that the most high and infinitely merciful Lord, being unable to resist him, told him to let Him alone that He might be angry with and punish that rebellious people, what must we not, with much greater reason, think of the prayer of the humble Mary, the worthy Mother of God, which is more powerful with His Majesty than the prayers and intercessions of all the Angels and Saints both in heaven and on earth?"

2021 CALENDAR

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI
11 Oct	12 Oct	13 Oct	14 Oct Parent/Teacher Interviews 3:30pm - 6pm	15 Oct 11:15am VCE Religion Exam Parent/Teacher Interviews 8:40am - 4pm
18 Oct	19 Oct	20 Oct	21 Oct	22 Oct
25 Oct	26 Oct	27 Oct	28 Oct	29 Oct
1 Nov ALL SAINTS HOLY DAY - MID TERM BREAK	2 Nov Melbourne Cup Holiday - MID TERM BREAK	3 Nov	4 Nov	5 Nov
8 Nov	9 Nov	10 Nov	11 Nov	12 Nov

OFFICE HOURS

8:15am - 3:30pm
MONDAY - FRIDAY

2021 TERM DATES

4th Term: Wed 6th Oct - Thu 9th Dec