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ST THOMAS AQUINAS
 COLLEGE

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COLLEGE CHRONICLE

Tuesday 7th February 2023

Word from the Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is with a great sense of excitement that I extend to you a very warm welcome to the 2023 academic year, where we will strive to create a culture that supports our vision of forming in each youth the true and perfect Catholic. Furthermore, one that celebrates the pursuit of excellence across all fields.

Throughout the year, our students will be provided with a thorough Catholic education founded upon traditional principles and the mission of Our Lord. This mission instils a sense of hope and possibility for each person. Therefore, from the moment a student walks through the gates, be it their first day of Foundation or the commencement of their final year, we believe they should feel part of a community that will support and challenge them during their formation.

When we share the belief in the student as formed in the image of God, without question or judgement, deserving of the dignity and respect this affords, it means that there can be no compromise on quality for any student or family.

It was wonderful to see so many of our College community members at our Opening Assembly on Monday and Mass on Wednesday during our first week. This increased level of engagement by our community has been a significant contributor to the positive morale displayed by both our staff and students during this early part of the term. I hope that you will continue to engage with the College in such a positive way throughout the year.

For those who are new to our College community this year, I trust you will feel especially welcome. As your journey begins, I hope you feel a sense of connectedness and belonging with the College that you have entrusted to contribute to the formation of your children. Our College is a place where your children will be inspired by the Gospel and led by the Holy Ghost to grow in virtue and act for justice and the common good.

For those continuing their journey with the College, I thank you for your continued support and seek your ongoing commitment. As each year brings new demands, this year will

reveal its own diverse challenges. Therefore, your continuing support for the work of our staff will enable us to grow and help to build a vibrant and dynamic place of faith, academic, social and emotional growth for our children.



As you are aware the College has communicated with you the expectations we will hold for all of our key stakeholders. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the College community for the way in which these expectations have been adhered to across the first week of the year.

High expectations enable students to achieve the best possible outcomes in both their academic achievement and their wellbeing. High expectations are linked to self-esteem, children's sense of agency and academic motivation. These factors in turn lead to educational success. As a College community, we must be careful not to drop the expectations we hold of our students, as they are capable of so much.

In order to value the narrative of each student and their family, without judgement, the College will hold the door open and remain in communication, so that no child or family is disadvantaged. I will continue to remain accessible to students, parents, staff and the broader community and I look forward to walking alongside you throughout the year.

God bless,

Kieran

Kieran O'Dwyer (**Acting Principal**)

VIRTUE THIS WEEK

AFFABILITY

Being easy to approach and easy to talk to - friendly

COLLECT - 4th SUNDAY AFTER THE EPHIPHANY

O God, Who knowest us to be set in the midst of dangers so great that, by reason of the frailty of our nature, we cannot always withstand; grant to us health of mind and body, that being helped by Thee, we may overcome the things which we suffer for our sins. 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



Dear Students, Staff and Families,

I hope you have enjoyed a restful, happy and holy Christmas period and I welcome you back to the beginning of a busy year of learning.

At the College we are aware of the ever changing social, political, technological and cultural landscape. We live in the world of the iGeneration and Screenagers. The technology of iPhones, iPods, and iPads open up the world, particularly through social media, that can powerfully shape attitudes and behaviours. How do we, in partnership, as a College, Families and Parish prepare the students to navigate these dangerous waters?

I would like to propose some iWords in this current time of the iGeneration that will assist in forming in our youth the true and perfect Catholic:

- **i**dentify: developing a deep understanding of the dignity of the human person in themselves and others, created in the image of God
- **i**nquiry: stimulating curiosity; awakening a sense of wonder and appreciation where students are empowered purposeful learners who engage in critical thinking, problem-solving and ask important, penetrating questions to seek the truth in the tradition of St Thomas Aquinas
- **i**nteraction: promoting collaboration, learning partnerships and communication through justice, fortitude, temperance, and wise decision making.
- **i**nitiative: fostering self-directed, personalised and purposeful learning, particularly through the development of self-regulation and self-reflection
- **i**magination: nurturing and cultivating creativity through literature, visual arts, music and drama
- **i**ntuition: assisting students to learn how to feel and recognise truth with their hearts and minds based on the teachings of sacred scripture, sacred tradition and the magisterium of the Catholic Church.
- **i**ntegrity: developing their character where they demonstrate morality, honesty, trustworthiness, reliability and they take responsibility for their actions.

As a College our intention is to further develop our Educational Culture in the elements of faith, wellbeing and learning where these characteristics and other critical competencies are nurtured within our students.

Our Annual Action Plan for 2023 in the areas of Learning and Teaching and Student Wellbeing we have identified the following strategic actions that we believe will assist in framing our desired Educational Culture:

- Update the College documentation and staff knowledge and understanding of the revised Australian Curriculum
- Provide professional development in the implementation of the Instructional Pathway
- Utilise evidence of student learning and data to inform our instructional practice
- Explore positive behaviour support to promote high expectations in learning and behaviour
- Investigate the how the virtues program can be practically implemented throughout all aspects of learning via the General Capabilities of the Australian Curriculum and
- Implement and uphold the Child Safe Standards.

St Thomas Aquinas teaches that joy is the noblest human act. May each one of us whether in trial or triumph work with Our Lord to allow him to shape us into the person he has created us to be.

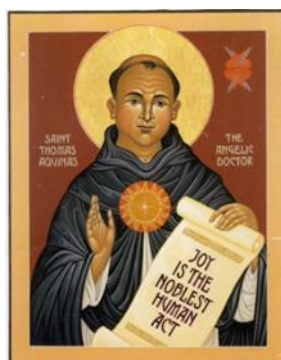
I will leave you with the words found in the letter of St James to reflect upon as we venture into another year of learning:

“Count it all joy, my brethren, when you meet various trials, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let that steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.” (James 1:2-4)

God bless,

David

David Williams
(Acting Deputy Principal)



Welcome

We extend a very big welcome to our new staff members, families and students who have joined us this year at the College.

STAFF

Mrs Brigid Gribble
Mrs Laura Alexander
Miss Michelle Whitlock
Mrs Natalie Devine
Mr Nicholas Fontyn
Mr Peter Foley
Mr Frank Bonig
Miss Rachel Williams
Miss Gemma Ockerse

FAMILIES

Collins
Sorial
Garner
Samymuthu
de Costa
Calnan

STUDENTS

Benedict Davis F
Michaela Garner F
Edward Gomez F
Abigail Higgins F
Mary Mascarenhas F
Nikolina Palcic F
Raphael Smit F
Raphael Spowell F
Eli Taveira F
Dempsey Collins Yr 1
Grace Garner Yr 1
Maria Sorial Yr 1
Bethany Garner Yr 2
Fletcher Collins Yr 3
Luke Garner Yr 3
Monica Sorial Yr 3
Marina Sorial Yr 4
Lola Collins Yr 5
Dominic Borgonovo Yr 6
Ruby Collins Yr 6
Selina Robinson Yr 6
Brianna Robinson Yr
Jessie Calnan Yr 10
Michael de Costa Yr 10
Bradley Samymuthu Yr 11
Benedict Samymuthu Yr 12

Congratulations

We extend our congratulations to Mrs Janine Bruiners whose was married over the Christmas holiday break.

Our congratulations also to our new Yr 2/3 teacher Mr Nicholas Fontyn who with his wife welcomed their first child last week. A beautiful baby girl.

Virtues, First Term, 2023

WEEK 1 Results

Primary

JUSTICE

Jenna Lewis, Patrick Hardiman

DILIGENCE

Emma Hayward, Louis Nivet,
Allegra Pravidur, Jacy Perez-Melei,
Leo McLean, Leo Mandarano,
Max Mandarano, Marcel Ward,
Joseph Obrador, Ryder Youngman, Lius Obrador,
Patrick Hardiman, Gemma Verleg,

PERSERVERANCE

Noah Taveira, Elizabeth Davis, Sebastian Hau Kautai, Maverick Freih, Angela Phillips, Marius Zaccari, Annabelle de Castella, Marina Sorial, Jack Lewis, Gemma Higgins, Tiffany MacDonell, Sophia Borg

Primary

RESPONSIBILITY

Lola Collins, Marcel Ward, Scarlett Attard,
Siena Smit, Benjamin Salib, Eleanor Foley

LEADERSHIP

Louis Nivet, Emma Hayward, Christopher Freriks,
Helena Soefting

INITIATIVE

Noah Taveira, Samuel Soefting, Karas Mikhaeil,
Faith Mascarenhas, Patrick Davis, Jessica Morgan

SECOND HAND UNIFORM SHOP

The Uniform Shop is open Monday afternoons only from

2:45pm - 3:30pm.

You are welcome to call for an appointment or to check stock availability.

Michelle can be reached on 0468438404

Michelle also offers a Blazer re-braiding service, cuffs bound, hems, zips replaced, tears mended and repairs to wool jumpers.

Please also note the office no longer accepts items for re-sale therefore please drop at the shop on a Monday afternoon when Michelle is present.

FOOD FRIDAY

Food Friday continues this year. Your donated non-perishable food items are distributed to families in our community.

Your support is most appreciated.

Our next Food Friday is on 3rd March.

You are most welcome to donate prior to this date.

Please contact Mr Phil Robinson on 0407 925 720 should you have any enquiries.



2023 BE PART OF OUR TEAM!

TRAINING
TUES & THURS
6.30PM SHARP!
COMELY BANKS
RECREATIONAL
RESERVE, OFFICER

*Amazing facilities
Professional Coaches
Family Friendly Club*



 @pakenhamrlc

 @pakenhameelsrlc

Our Lady of Lourdes

(11th February)

1858

The first of the eighteen apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary to the humble Bernadette Soubirous took place at Lourdes on February 11, 1858. On March 25th, when Bernadette asked the *beautiful Lady* Her name, She replied: "*I am the Immaculate Conception.*" The Church for long centuries had believed in Her Immaculate Conception, Her exemption from every trace of the original sin which through Adam, our first and common father, separated man from his God. It was never proclaimed a dogma, however, until 1854. Mary Herself, in 1830, had asked of a Vincentian Sister at the Rue du Bac in Paris, that a medal be struck bearing Her likeness and the inscription: "O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to Thee." Our Lady by Her apparitions at Lourdes in 1858 seems to convey Her appreciation for the formal proclamation of Her great privilege, by Pius IX, in 1854. Countless and magnificent miracles of healing have occurred at Lourdes, confirmed by physicians and recorded in the Lourdes shrine "Book of Life." To name but one: a doctor



wrote a book describing the great miracle he had witnessed for a dying girl, whom he had observed on the train that was carrying handicapped persons from Paris to Lourdes. He had not expected her to survive and return home from the sanctuary.

Through the Lourdes Apparitions, the devotion of persons in all parts of the world to the Immaculate Mother of God has been wonderfully spread, and countless miracles have been wrought everywhere through Her intercession. The Virgin Mother of God is truly the chosen Messenger of God to these latter times, which are entrusted to Her, the chosen vessel of the unique privilege of exemption from original sin. Only with Her assistance will the dangers of the present world situation be averted. As She has done since 1858 in many places, at Lourdes, too, She gave us Her peace plan for the world, through Saint Bernadette: *Prayer and Penance*, to save souls.

2023 CALENDAR

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI
6 Feb 9am - Community Mass in College Chapel	7 Feb	8 Feb	9 Feb	10 Feb
3:30 - 4:30pm Study Hall				NO STUDY HALL
13 Feb 9am - Community Mass in College Chapel Swimming Yr 4&5	14 Feb	15 Feb	15 Feb Swimming Yr 4&5	17 Feb 8:45am COMMUNITY MORNING TEA
3:30 - 4:30pm Study Hall				NO STUDY HALL
20 Feb 9am - Community Mass in College Chapel Swimming Yr 4&5	21 Feb - Shrove Tuesday	22 Feb - Ash Wednesday	23 Feb	24 Feb
3:30 - 4:30pm Study Hall				NO STUDY HALL
27 Feb 9am - Community Mass in College Chapel	28 Feb	1 Mar	2 Mar	3 Mar
3:30 - 4:30pm Study Hall				NO STUDY HALL
6 Mar 9am - Community Mass in College Chapel	7 Mar St Thomas Aquinas Feast Day	8 Mar	9 Mar	10 Mar STUDENT FREE DAY
3:30 - 4:30pm Study Hall				NO STUDY HALL

OFFICE HOURS

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

TERM DATES 2023

1st Term:	30th January - 5th April	3rd Term:	18th July - 15th September
2nd Term:	26th April - 23rd June	4th Term:	2nd October - 8th December