



St Thomas More's
Catholic Primary
School



Carols by
Candlelight
Thurs 1 Dec, 6.45pm



Kinder Nativity Plays
KG Thurs 8 Dec 12pm
KW Fri 9 Dec 12pm



Grade 6 Pilgrimage
Fri 9 Dec
Be at school by 8.50

NEWSLETTER

From the Principal:

This week marks the first week of Advent. This is a time of preparation in so many ways. Preparing for Christmas and the end of the school year can be a hectic time, but we must not lose sight of what really matters at this time of year. Advent is a time for us to think about how we can prepare for the birth of Jesus. Part of this is thinking about how we relate to and treat others during this busy and often stressful time of year. I have asked the students in assemblies this term to take the time to consider how others are feeling and how they can show kindness to their peers. This can be a challenge, particularly as students grow tired in the last few weeks of term. However, Advent reminds us to see this challenge as followers of Jesus, and showing kindness and compassion to others is a brilliant way for us to prepare for the birth of Christ.



I was extremely fortunate to attend the Band Concert at St Patricks on Thursday Evening last week. I was extremely impressed by the devotion and talent that was shown from all of the students from St Thomas More's, as they represented our school beautifully. I would sincerely like to thank Fiona Mowat and all of her wonderful tutors for the hard work and dedication that they have shown toward our students throughout the year.

This Thursday 1 December will be an extremely busy day as we have both our Orientation for 2017 classes and our Christmas Carols in the evening. Our Orientation is an opportunity for students to find out who else will be in their class and who their teacher/s will be in 2017. Our classroom teachers have worked hard to ensure the best fit for all of our students in 2017 and we are confident that they will be excited and happy about their classes. We are also confident that you will be excited and happy after hearing the wonderful singing voices on offer at our Christmas Carols event.

Finally, it is with sadness that I announce the retirement of our Finance Officer of 28 years, Mrs Julie Williams. Julie's pleasant smile and wonderful laugh has greeted countless students, parents and staff members during her time at the school. Her expertise and knowledge in the position she has held at the school has been invaluable. I know that you join with me in wishing Julie all the very best in her retirement and future endeavours. Julie will be very much missed by the entire school community.

Kurt Atkins
Acting Principal

Coming Up

Thurs 1 Dec
Carols by Candlelight
6.45pm on the oval

Thurs 8 Dec
Kinder G Nativity Play
12.00pm

Fri 9 Dec
Kinder W Nativity Play
12.00pm
Gr 6 Pilgrimage

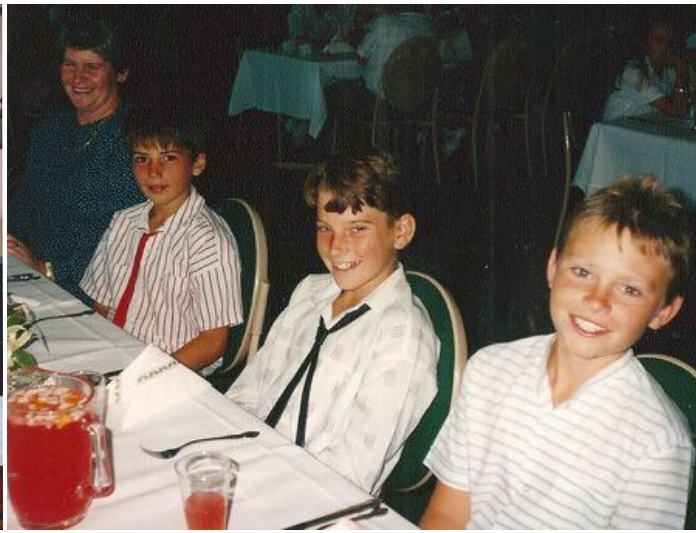
Mon 12 Dec
Gr 6 Leavers' Dinner,
5.30pm

Tues 13 Dec
End of Year Mass,
6.30pm
Gr 6 Last Day

Wed 14 Dec
Last day of term



Julie in the office 1989



Leavers Dinner 1989



Leavers Dinner 1990



Shrek - Carols 2001

The Examiner 2001



Outside old office 2000



Staff Dinner 2000



Here's to Julie - we'll miss you.

TERM DATES FOR 2017

TERM 1: 9 FEB - 13 APRIL
EASTER: 14-18 APRIL

TERM 2: 1 MAY - 7 JULY

TERM 3: 24 JULY - 29 SEPT

TERM 4: 17 OCT - 21² DEC



I've been in this event every year since grade 3 and it's always been a great achievement of mine to compete and represent the school. I'm looking forward to next year's event. Lockie Presnell.

I've been in the triathlon since last year and every year has been very good. I've competed in the individual and team events. It's a really fun day. I hope to do it again next year. Ethan Crisp.



SPORT'S NEWEST KIDS PROGRAM IS HERE!

For more information or to register go to:
<http://www.bowlpatrol.com.au>

Bowl Patrol is a program to teach kids the basic skills of tenpin bowling.

Features:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ For kids aged 6-12 ■ Learn to bowl ■ Improve balance & co-ordination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 8 week program ■ Skills based progression ■ Qualified instructor
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BOWL PATROL WILL BE HELD AT:

Launceston Lanes
 20 Innocent Street - Phone 63449933
 Starting term 1 2017 click and register on web link above

Bracelets for Pippa

Giarna Selby, a year 8 student at Scotch Oakburn College as part of her school project has been raising money and awareness for 3-year-old Pippa Harmey, who most of you would know was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia (ALL) on Christmas Day 2015.

Giarna has been making pink and purple (Pippa's favourite colours) leather bracelets in a range of adjustable sizes and has sold them at Scotch Oakburn College and thought St Thomas More's would like to be involved. She will be [selling the bracelets for \\$2 each on Monday 5 Dec at lunch time outside the office.](#) With each sale, there will be the opportunity to go in the draw to win a Nomination bracelet.





Next year St Thomas More's will be moving to a new all-in-one parent and community communication platform called Schoolzine. Schoolzine will replace a number of the communication services we currently provide including our newsletter, Team App, and event booking systems. Schoolzine provide access to content through a website and free app that is downloadable on the Apple App Store or Google Play Store. The website and app will allow you to access our new school eNewsletter. Furthermore, the app will replace Team App, as it provides the ability to send out push notifications, as Team App does, but with increased

functionality. In 2017 we will still continue to send out notifications using Team App, up until we feel comfortable that everyone has had a chance to switch over to the new Schoolzine platform. This new platform will also replace our booking system for Parent/Teacher Interviews and any other event bookings that we may need throughout the year. We hope that this new all-in-one platform will allow for increased and more user-friendly communication between the school and families. Whilst we do not have any content on the app yet, you can download the Schoolzine app and find St Thomas More's now. This way as we role into using the Schoolzine app in the new year you will be ready to go and start receiving notifications straight away. As with Team App, it is important to leave push notifications turned on when you install the new Schoolzine app. We will send out more information as it comes to hand.

PBS – Change in Break Times for 2017

Next year we will be restructuring our break times as part of our Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) plan. We are implementing this for the following reasons:

- To reduce the number of incidences occurring in the playground in the last 15 mins of 2nd break playtime, as our data indicates that the majority of playground incidents occur at this time.
- To allow more eating time at 1st break to provide students with time to eat substantial food (namely sandwich or the like) which will increase attention/focus and productivity in the middle session; and in addition reduce the amount of food and rubbish being taken in to the playground.

The following additional changes will also be implemented:

- Students will be encouraged to eat their main meal at the 1st break.
- Lunch orders will come at the 1st break rather than the 2nd break.
- Specialist lessons will start at 8:50am rather than 9am.

The school will review and assess these changes at the end of Term One in 2017.

Times	Current - 2016	Time frame	2017	Time frame
Morning session	8.50 - 11.00	2hrs 10mins	8.50 – 10.50	2 hrs
Recess (1 st break)				
• eating time	11.00 – 11.05	5 mins	10.50 – 11.00	10 mins
• play time	11.05 – 11.25	20 mins	11.00 – 11.25	25 mins
Middle session	11.25 – 1.00	1hr 35mins	No change	No change
Lunch (2 nd break)				
• eating time	1.00– 1.10	10 mins	1.00– 1.10	10 mins
• play time	1.10 – 1.45	35 mins	1.10 – 1.35	25 mins
Afternoon session	1.45 – 2.55	1hr 10 mins	1.35 – 2.55	1hr 20mins

2017 CLASSES

Kinder S	Miss Gemma Stephens
Kinder W	Mrs Jacquie Wood
Prep O	Mrs Rosemary O'Brien 3 days; Other teacher yet to be announced
Prep G	Mrs Georgia Greig
1/2 CR	Mrs Emilie Carr and Mrs Aimee Rooney
1/2 S	Mrs Jessica Scharapow
1/2 P	Miss Lauren Peters
3/4 W	Mrs Janet Wilson 4 days; Other teacher yet to be announced
3/4 M	Mrs Denise Morgan
3/4 LC	Mrs Julie Love and Mrs Kate Chugg
5/6 P	Mrs Niccola Pearce
5/6 OA	Miss Cassie O'Neill and Mr Kurt Atkins
5/6	Teacher yet to be announced

Parents/Guardians On-Site During Lockdown or Fire Alarm

Could we please ask that if any parents/guardians are on school grounds during a Lockdown or a Fire Alarm that they please follow any instructions given to them by STM staff members.

FOUND - A very cute teddy with red hat and gingham dress. See the office.

St Vinnies' Christmas Food Drive

Over the next two weeks we will be helping Vinnies with their Christmas Food Drive. STM's support makes a real difference to the families who require assistance at this time of year and, once again, Vinnies are calling for our help to assist in providing some support to those in need. Vinnies are very appreciative of any support that STM might be able to provide. Here are some suggested Christmas items to donate for the drive this year. We ask that students bring these into their own classroom where we will have boxes ready to accept all goods.

It is vital that all grocery and other food items are non-perishable and are "in-date". All donated gifts must be new and in the original packaging to be considered suitable to be given to children for Christmas - all donated gifts, which are second-hand, will be sold in our Vinnies shops.

Tinned Salmon	Tinned Corn	Tinned Beans	Christmas Bon Bons
Tinned Tuna	Tinned Tomatoes	Tinned Peas	Fruit Mince Pies
Tinned Ham	Tinned Fruit	Tinned Beetroot	Christmas Cakes
Milo	Jelly crystals	Pasta Sauce	Christmas Puddings
Fruit Juice	Cranberry Sauce	Spaghetti	Long-life Custard
Sparkling Apple Juice	Gravy Mix	Deb Dried Potato	Tinned shortbread
Soft Drink	Breakfast Cereal	Rice Crackers	Boxes of Chocolates
Water Cordial	Jams & Honey	Sweet biscuits	Christmas Stockings
Coffee	Wrapping Paper	Savoury Biscuits	Bags of Lollies
Serviettes	Grocery Cards	Potato chips	Popcorn

