4 February 2016

From the Principal:

Welcome back everyone to St Thomas More’s for 2016. It was a great delight today to greet all of the students and to witness their joy at seeing old friends; their apprehension at meeting new staff and even their anxiety about getting back into school. Rest assured even we adults feel these emotions at the start of the year and it is OK to acknowledge this and then move back into the familiar rhythm of school life.

Thank you to the many parents who came to the MYTERN information evening Tuesday night. This set of skills and language will be taught and used with the students across all aspects of school in order to develop their sense of control over their emotions and to increase their emotional intelligence. There will be regular updates and information in the newsletters all year as we progress with this teaching. Your support at home for these skills is essential.

On behalf of all of the staff at STM I look forward to a rewarding year of learning with you and your children.

Please read the information below on our procedures in case of bush fires.

1. Students will be kept inside where possible if the smoke haze is evident.
2. Doors, windows and vents will be kept closed
3. Air conditioners will be used to recirculate air
4. No physical activity outside will be permitted.
5. Students taking asthma puffers will need to be closely monitored and teachers advised of changes of doses.
6. You can check smoke levels near your school with the Environment Protection Authority’s real-time air quality data http://epa.tas.gov.au/epa/real-time-air-quality-data-for-tasmania
7. Find more info about how smoke can affect your health http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/publichealth/alerts/air/bushfire_smoke
8. WE WILL EMAIL, FACEBOOK AND TEAM APP IF THE SCHOOL IS IN ANY DANGER AND ASK PARENTS TO KEEP WATCH ON THE TAS FIRE SITE AND ABC LOCAL RADIO
Library
A stocktake has recently been done in the library and it has come to our attention that 600 books are missing! Could you please check your bookcases, under beds, wardrobes, garages, etc for any books labelled St Thomas More's and return them to school during our Amnesty period. Thank you

Working With Children Card
A reminder for all parents/volunteers who wish to help out with school activities that you need to apply for a WWVP card - go to www.justice.tas.gov.au/working_with_children; pay at Service Tas.

Signing Children In/Out
Children signing in/out and parents signing their child/ren in/out need to do so at the office counter. You also now need to take a relevant card (“Sign In” or “Sign Out”) to the child’s teacher.

Opening Mass
Tuesday 16 February at 12.00 in the church. All welcome.

Lunches
Could parents please make sure their child is given suitable lunches and a fork or spoon if necessary. Do not give them food that is required to have boiling water or be heated in the staffroom.

Canteen lunches start next Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

A reminder we are a NUT AWARE school so no peanut butter or Nutella sandwiches, muesli bars and snacks with nuts.

Epi-pens and Medication
Could parents please ensure their child’s Epi-pens are up-to-date and that we have one in the school first aid kit. The same with asthma and any other medication

Shrove Tuesday - 9 February
Children are asked to bring a gold coin donation for pancakes to class on Tuesday. Funds raised will go to Caritas.

Cybersmart Presentation
Thursday 11 February at 7.00pm in the Josephite Hall. Childcare available.
Traffic Safety
The school urges all parents to support road safety by obeying signage displayed and also ask you remind your child/ren to be very aware of potential traffic related dangers around the school. Sometimes for example, motorists do not abide by road laws, and if students are crossing inappropriately (with or without you), or just not aware of their surrounds by always looking either way, we could have an accident.

The education and care of our students is a partnership between the staff and parents and we all need to do our bit by acting appropriately and not showing a disregard for road laws, even if only to demonstrate your support to children watching of appropriate behaviour.

MYTERN
Fridge magnets are available from the office for $10.

Lost
At the end of last year - a green jumper named Sophia Artini, sz 6-8. Please check your child didn’t accidentally pick it up, return to office if found.

Newsletters
Newsletters are emailed out on Thursdays. Please let us know if you are not receiving it or if you would like another email address added.

Calendars
Calendars are being sent home today. If you require another one for separate households please see the office.

Parent - Teacher Nights
Week 4 - 23, 24 and 25 February. Info to go home soon.

TASDANCE
Tasdance offers a range of after-school dance classes in a non-competitive environment, our classes are run by tertiary qualified dance teachers. Our classes are competitively priced with concessions available.
Gallery

Miss Underlin’s Prep class

New sandpit

New tree fort