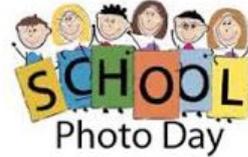




St Thomas More's
Catholic Primary
School



ROCK AND ROLL NIGHT
Friday 22 July



SCHOOL PHOTOS
Monday 25 July



MARY MACKILLOP
FEAST DAY
Monday 8 August

NEWSLETTER

From the Principal:

Welcome back to all – I hope the break was restful, refreshing and a chance to have a break from normal routines.

Central to St Thomas More's Catholic Primary School is our Catholic Ethos: our beliefs and values that centre on Jesus Christ and the high moral bar he set for human interactions –that of true genuine compassion to the world – respecting the dignity of every person as a child of God. We are a community at STM where the core values of respect, integrity, inclusiveness, forgiveness and justice are key qualities of we who serve in the name of Jesus. I ask that we continue the strength of our community and work together

“with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” Ephesians 4:2-3.

It is the flourishing of every human being that we desire and here at STM we work particularly hard at striving towards this goal.

I welcome you all to our community Rock n' Roll Night this Friday at St Ailbes Hall from 6:00.

Carol Seagar
Principal

Rock and Roll Night
Tomorrow 22 July at St Ailbes,
Margaret St, 6 - 8 pm
Music by the renowned Mr
Barry Nas and band
\$10 per family
Raffles on the night
A great night of dancing and
fun for everyone
BYO nibbles and drink

School Photos

Next Monday 25 July
Please ensure children are
neatly dressed in winter
uniform.



Unpacking the daily MYTERN Message: Lift your head and change perspective

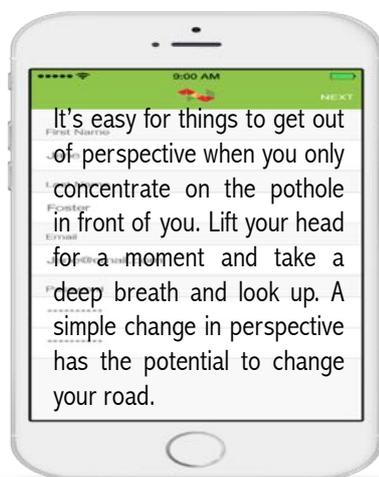
Focusing too much on one problem has the potential to transform a minor hole into a huge chasm, engulfing you until it feels like there is no way out.

Creative thinking and being able to find solutions is easier to achieve when you stop and lift your head, change your focus and expand your view.

Concentrating on the negative can also take you away from appreciating what may be going on right next to you.

Family activity: Work out PETS that can help each of you stop and lift your head. It may involve deep breathing, listening to a song, having time alone, talking to someone, exercise, drawing – it will be different for everyone. Try to remember the PETS that work for other family members as well as your own.

Discuss what PET you would choose for each member of your family and subtle ways that you could remind them. For example: If one of their PETS is drawing - the impetus they need to gain a different perspective may be by simply leaving a pad and pencil on their bed. The fact that you have bothered to do that also sends a wonderful message of caring (rather than suggesting 'you NEED a PET!').



CONFIRMATION & FIRST EUCHARIST CANDIDATES 2016

Reminder that Welcome Masses are over the weekend of 23/24th of July.

Can those families who have not yet returned their registration forms please do so ASAP to either the School or Parish Office.

If any family has not yet registered and still wishes to do so please contact Rosie Caelli by email or phone before the Welcome Masses. Rosie 0438 274067 or acaelli@bigpond.net.au

Coming Up

Fri 22 July
Rock and Roll Night

Mon 25 July
School Photos

Thurs 28 July
Board Meeting, 7.00

Tues 2 Aug
ICAS English Exam

Mon 8 Aug
Mary MacKillop Feast Day

Tues 16 Aug
ICAS Math Exam

Wed 31 Aug
P & F Meeting, 7.00

Thurs 1 Sept
Board Meeting, 7.00

Wed 21 Sept
SingFest

What's On outside school

THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS
Launceston Youth Theatre Ensemble proudly presents the exciting stage production of *Through the Looking Glass*. Performed by the LYTE Senior Company, the sequel to *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* follows our daring heroine Alice as she again enters a fantastical world, this time by climbing through a mirror into the world she can see beyond.
Earl Arts Centre: Aug 4 and 5 @ 6pm & Aug 6 @ 2pm. Tickets @ trybooking.com/LITS

21 SEPTEMBER, 6:30 p.m. 22 SEPTEMBER, 6:30 p.m.

East Launceston Primary School	Bridport Primary School
Invermay Primary School	Cressy District High School
Mowbray Heights Primary School	Glen Dhu Primary School
Norwood Primary School	Hagley Farm School
Punchbowl Primary School	Launceston Christian School
Ravenswood Heights Primary	Scotch Oakburn College Junior
St. Thomas Mores Catholic School	Scottsdale Primary School
Trevallyn Primary School	Summerdale Primary School

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM THEATRE NORTH: 6323 3666

WJAM BARRATTS MUSIC orange

See photos,
newsletters, calendar
and more on our
website:
stm.tas.edu.au

Gallery



Our School Captains for Terms 3 and 4
Josic Curtis and Ryan Fleming

B-4@STM

In 2017
we will be offering a
Birth - 4 year old Program on
Tuesday mornings 9-11am.
Please tell your friends and family.
All welcome!
For more information
please call our school office
63377200
or email
stm@catholic.tas.edu.au



Bumps and bruises do hurt - but that's life!

...the good old days. Days when we all drank from the same drink bottle and no-one died from it. Days when we rode our bikes on the street just wearing a cap. The trees we climbed and rivers we swam in.

A time when there were no iPhones, chat rooms, internet, multiple TV channels or laptops. We actually had real friends that we actually spoke to.

Where did we find those friends - OUTSIDE. Playing with the kids up the street from just after breakfast until the streetlights came on. There were no text messages, you just walked up and knocked on the door to see who was home.

Teeth were chipped, bones were broken and no-one sued anyone for every day accidents.

It is easy as a loving parent to want to over protect our children. But in doing so, are we actually turning them into a bunch of sissies who can't handle any hiccup life throws them - and life sure does throw them.

So to the over 40s, well done on surviving the tough, unrelenting, unsupervised, risky, dodgy childhoods.

Now it's time to throw the next generation out the back door and see if they can make a billy cart out of the bits of junk under the house!

Except from Jo Palmer's Jo's World in the Sunday Examiner, 14 Dec 2014.

Children do not seem to realise that falling over, bumping their head on a pole, having their fingers bent back by a ball, getting scratched by a pencil will hurt, and they may even get a bruise, but they won't die or be permanently in pain. They seem to think an icepack will fix anything and expect to have hospital treatment for the most minute of incidents.

Children need to be told that scrapes and bumps are an everyday part of childhood and they will make it through the school day without visiting first aid. Of course they should tell someone and get checked out if they have seriously hurt themselves, twisted an ankle, cut themselves, fallen on their head, etc, but the old adage about crying wolf is still true and children who come to first aid every day may not be taken seriously when they need to be.

ICEPACKS: WE ARE CONSTANTLY HAVING TO BUY NEW ONES AS THOSE LEANT TO CHILDREN DO NOT RETURN TO FIRST AID. IF YOU HAVE ANY ICEPACKS THAT HAVE ACCIDENTALLY BEEN TAKEN HOME COULD YOU PLEASE RETURN THEM TO SCHOOL. THANK YOU.

Parent/Teacher Interview Bookings

Dear Parents/Guardians

This year we will be trialling an online booking system for our Parent/Teacher Interviews as we hope this will make the booking process run much more smoothly. We will be placing details about this process in the newsletter as well as having reminders on Facebook and Team App closer to the date. A link to the booking website will be placed on our school website. This link will become active at 9am on the first day of Term Three (Monday 18 July). At this point spots can be booked for our Parent/Teacher Interviews, which will be in Week Two of Term Three. You will need to provide details when prompted online in order to book a spot. Once a spot is booked online it will no longer be available to others unless that booking is cancelled, at which point it will become available again. It is important that you only book one time slot per child unless your child is on a Funded IEP, in which case you may book a double slot.

Below is a list of instructions that explain how to make a P/T booking:

- To book a slot simply click on the booking link on our school website www.stm.tas.edu.au (this will not be available until Monday 18 July at around 9am), this will take you to the booking page.
- Click on the 'Choose Class' drop down menu and choose a class that you have a child in. Below you will see the days and dates of Week Two.
- Select a day that suits by pressing the green 'Choose' button under that date. This will open up a menu with possible time slots.
- Press the green 'Choose' button next to an available time slot that you want to book (it will say which slots are unavailable). Then press the green 'Confirm Appointments' button.
- Input your details and then select the green 'Submit' button. If you have already registered your details previously select the blue 'Already Registered? Click Here' button and input your login details, then click the green 'Submit' button.
- Now select the Check Box to agree to terms and conditions and then select the green 'Confirm My Appointment' button and your booking will be confirmed.
- You can book other time slots for other children by clicking on the 'Home' button in the top left hand corner of the screen and then repeating the process outlined above (you should not need to log in or put in your details again).
- You can also view your confirmed bookings by selecting the 'Welcome...' drop down menu in the top right hand of the screen and then selecting 'View Appointments'. If you have made a mistake with a booking you can also delete it from this page.
- Please keep these instructions for future reference.

If you do not have Internet access and/or you are unable to use our online booking system you are

Important news for parents about the Asthma & Anaphylaxis Schools Program

Students with asthma – no matter how mild

If your child has asthma – even if it is quite mild – please let us know if you haven't already.

We require an up to date written Asthma Action Plan completed by the students Doctor.

We just completed training with the Asthma Foundation of Tasmania. They told us that there is no way of predicting if a student may suddenly have a major flare up, even if it has not happened before.

So please let us know so we can fulfil our duty of care and keep an eye on them.



Students with anaphylaxis

Please make sure that we have your child's most recent Anaphylaxis Action Plan.

The plan that we are referring to is the one that has the patient's photo attached and signed off by a doctor.

According to ASCIA, Australia's authority on anaphylaxis, the plans should be renewed by your doctor at least once a year.

Any questions on asthma or anaphylaxis

If you have any queries, talk to the Asthma Foundation of Tasmania, the organisers of the Schools Program, by visiting www.asthmatas.org.au or calling 1800 278 462.

REVIEWING TASMANIA'S EDUCATION ACT

Lift Education. Lift Tasmania



FACT SHEET: LOWERING THE PREP STARTING AGE BY SIX MONTHS

WHAT IS BEING PROPOSED?

As part of the review of the Education Act, the Government is proposing to lower the compulsory school starting age (for Prep) by six months, from 5 years to 4 years and 6 months.

The proposed change to the school starting age will apply to children born in 2016 and means that beginning in 2021, a child who is 4 years and 6 months by the start of the year must be enrolled in Prep or be provided with registered home education.

Children will have access to Kindergarten up to six months earlier. Kindergarten in Tasmania is preschool and is not compulsory.

WHY IS THIS CHANGE IMPORTANT?

Evidence shows that quality early learning has significant benefits for our children that flow throughout their schooling years and later life.

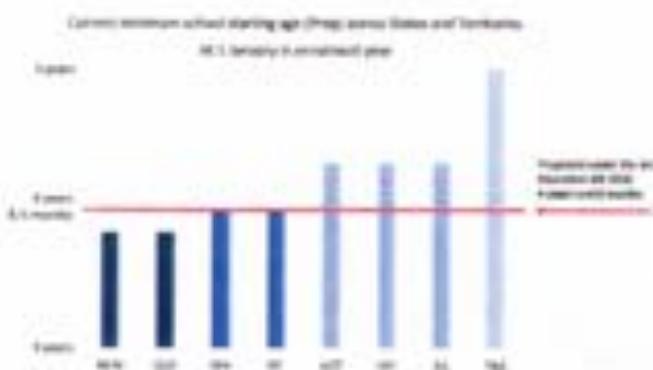
While the research is clear that all children benefit from quality early learning experiences, this is especially so for those from a low socio-economic background. Providing more options for families in rural and remote areas who currently may have limited or no access to early learning education is also important.

Simply – this proposal is about equity in education and creating more options for families by offering every Tasmanian child access to quality early learning sooner.

WHAT DO OTHER STATES AND TERRITORIES DO?

We know that the minimum age in which a child can be enrolled in Prep across Australia ranges from 4 years and 5 months to 5 years.

Tasmanian children should have the same opportunities to participate as children in other States and Territories. Lowering the minimum school starting age will bring Tasmania closer to the average of other States and Territories. This means Tasmanian children will be about the same age in the same grade as children in other States and Territories.



WHAT CHOICES WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR MY CHILD IN THE YEAR BEFORE PREP?

Changes to the school starting age will provide you with greater choice for early learning options for your children. You may choose for your child to be enrolled in Kindergarten or remain in an education and care setting/service or remain at home until your child reaches compulsory age or a mixture of all these options based on what suits you and your child best. Many families find that participating in Kindergarten helps their child with the transition to school.

The Early Years Learning Framework is the main approved framework used across the nation in both education and care (child care) and early learning settings in Kindergarten for this age group.

"Inequality in early childhood experiences and learning produces inequality in ability, achievement, health, and adult success."

Hoxby, Spring 2013, American Education: The Economics of Inequality
The Value of Early Childhood Education





WHAT IS KINDERGARTEN?

Pre-school arrangements are different across Australia. In 1968 a decision was made to attach pre-schools to schools in Tasmania and these were called Kindergartens.

Kindergartens today use play-based learning. They are dynamic, interesting and fun places for children to discover the world around them. We know that it's really important for very young minds to learn through play and play-based experiences, not through formal instruction.

Children are born ready to learn in the first 3 years of life the brain develops more and faster than at any other time.

ARE SCHOOLS ABLE TO PROVIDE FOR CHILDREN UP TO 6 MONTHS YOUNGER?

Schools already have a range of early learning experiences for children from birth to four years with teachers supporting children at different points in their learning and development. Launching into Learning (LIL) provides an opportunity for children and families to begin interacting with school from birth and facilitates a positive transition into Kindergarten.

The Department will continue working with schools to ensure they are able to support all children in Kindergarten and Prep. For example, continuing working with schools to assist any teachers who may need to upgrade their early childhood qualifications, or to allow for any facility modifications. If Tasmania lowers the prep starting age, we have until 2020, when the first group of children will be eligible for Kindergarten, to make sure schools and families are ready for the change.

WILL TEACHERS BE ABLE TO SUPPORT MY CHILD AND THEIR SPECIFIC NEEDS?

Teachers are highly qualified and are equipped to support and nurture children throughout their many and varied levels of development. They will continue to be well supported with teacher assistants in Kindergarten. Children learn and develop at different rates and teachers and other staff will continue working with families to make sure all children are cared for and supported. This includes providing assistance with going to the toilet, comforting a child who is sick or upset and ensuring children get a rest should they need it.

High quality pre-schooling is related to better intellectual and social-behavioural development for children.

The Effective Provision of Pre-School Education (EPPE) Project, 2001

WHY AREN'T WE DOING WHAT FINLAND DOES AND STARTING SCHOOL LATER?

Most Finnish children attend early learning programs between the ages of 1-5 prior to starting formal schooling.

While some countries with a later starting age do better than Australia in high stakes testing, such as Finland and Estonia, other countries with a later starting age do less well than Australia, such as Sweden, Hungary and Bulgaria.

There are many things to learn from other places in the world including Finland. However it is not always beneficial to look at communities which do not have the same basic community make-up and assume what works there will work here. For instance, the Finnish education system, and Finnish society more broadly, is very different to Tasmania. We need to promote ideas which will work best for children growing up in Tasmania.

HOW ARE WE WORKING WITH THE CHILD CARE SECTOR ON THESE CHANGES?

It is acknowledged that lowering the Prep starting age will have an impact on the child care sector in Tasmania. We are working with the sector to firstly understand the impact, then to ensure the impact is minimised in this important change for families.

CAN A CHILD CARE BUSINESS PROVIDE KINDERGARTEN?

Yes. Long day care centres can seek registration as a non-government school (through the Schools Registration Board, which registers non-government schools) in order to deliver Kindergarten.

A for-profit Long Day Care (LDC) that is approved to deliver Kindergarten as a non-government school would be eligible for funding under the National Partnership Agreement on Universal Access to Early Childhood Education (NP UAECE). It would not be eligible for State Government funding as funding is provided to not-for-profit schools only (as per the Education Act).

A non-for-profit LDC that is approved to deliver Kindergarten as a non-government school would be eligible for State Government funding and for funding under the NP UAECE.