From the Principal:

Visible learning within and beyond the classroom has been very evident in the last few weeks. It was a delight to see our brood of chickens hatch and to have the engagement and support of the 1/2 parents through Educa. Our 5/6 Science Exhibition showed the extent of engagement students will go to when they are in charge of their own investigation, guided ably by staff and supported at home with parental interest. Four students represented STM in a Maths Relay Challenge last weekend and it was so impressive to see thinking in action, true collaboration of ideas and problem solving with an obvious love of maths. Many parents actively support our reading program at home by encouraging on-going reading and this was evident in the amazing range of characters represented at our Kinder Book Week Parade. The students could clearly articulate the character they had chosen and why. Grade 1/2 Peters presented their dioramas as assembly, which depicted a character from a book in its setting.

Staff have had a strategic focus on improving students’ reading skills this year and Miss O’Neill has interviewed many students to ascertain their knowledge of these taught skills. The results are very impressive with students knowing how and why to use certain reading strategies that will enhance their understanding of the texts they read.

Many thanks to the staff and parents who enable the Saturday Family Mass to be a Catholic community event of worship, listening to the Liturgy of the Word and coming together through the celebration of the Eucharist.

Our School Fair Committee are working very hard to enable the fair to be another success this year. Please contribute to class stalls by liaising with class teachers and organising rosters. Any donations for our chocolate wheel and raffle would be greatly appreciated.

I am pleased to announce that Mrs Georgia Greig will be teaching a Prep class next year.

Due to Mrs Greig having a change of grade classes for next year, a Kindergarten teaching position will be advertised in late September. We will advise you of the new teacher as soon as this is decided.

I trust in your continued support of Mrs Greig and all staff at St Thomas More’s Catholic Primary School as they move into their roles in 2017.

Carol Seagar
Principal
LIMITING SCREEN TIME AT HOME

The importance of limiting screen time at home can’t be underestimated. There is a plethora of research that outlines the highly negative impacts of over exposure to screens on our youth. Of course, we know that television, computers and iPads have fantastic upside, but like any activity, moderation is the key. Below is a list of just some of the nasty side effects attributed to screen over exposure.

Children that are exposed to too much screen time:
- Carry a much higher risk of childhood obesity.
- Are more likely to display aggressive behavior. Children naturally copy what they see. (For a simple, chilling experiment, allow your son to watch professional wrestling and see how long it takes before he tackles his sister).
- Are more likely to engage in “risky behaviors” when they get older.
- Have less energy.
- Have a harder time in school.
- Are more-exposed to commercials, advertisements, and propaganda.

(Taken from http://www.becomingminimalist.com/how-to-limit-yourchilds-screen-time/, this article is worth a read in full)

The Australian parenting website, raisingchildren.net.au, has some very helpful guidelines on limiting screen time. The link is below.

http://raisingchildren.net.au/articles/screen_time.html

Fee Accounts

Your fee accounts were sent out in February and you have from March to November (9 months) to make payments.

Should you be experiencing financial difficulties and you are not able to pay your account in full, please contact the office and make an appointment to see Carol. We can discuss a mutually satisfactory repayment arrangement.

It helps if we know you have a problem and we can help. If you do not let us know and just ignore your responsibilities then it make it difficult for everyone.

Kitchen Garden

A huge thank you to the parents who have donated materials for the Kitchen Garden. We have received lucerne, manure, plants, etc, which all saves the school money.

Are you leaving STM?

If your child/children will not be attending STM in 2017 (excluding Gr 6 students) could you please notify the office asap as we are currently working on class lists for next year and have waiting lists for all grades.

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: 16 Oct - 21 Dec
Basketball: Sam Hall and Declan Rae have been selected for the future development program for basketball. They go to training once a week and also basketball camps. It’s the first time they’ve been selected.

Futsal: Rhys Lawson, Samuel Hill, Brodie Mathews and Thomas Chambers will represent the state in Futsal.

Chickens were incubated and hatched in 1/2 Peters

Maths Relay Team: Tom Herd, Conor Rae, Olive Morris, Magnus McIndoe

Congratulations to Tom Fryett for his gold medal in the UNSW testing competition for Digital Technologies.

Race Walking: Congratulations to Demi Petterwood who was selected to represent Tasmania in the Australian Federation Road Walking Championships held in Canberra last weekend. Demi competed in the U12 Women’s 2km event.

Kinder Book Week Parade
Fair play and competition

Competition can be good for children. When children compete against each other, the game becomes a challenge and motivates children to do their best. It can improve skills, encourage discipline and focus, and make children feel good about their achievements. Competition also increases the desire to win. And that’s when children can sometimes find it hard to play fair. Because they want to win, they might challenge rules and other players. You can help your child have a good experience at competitive games by thinking about whether the game is suitable for her. Here are some questions that can help you work this out:

- Is the game suitable for your child’s age? Modify the game to suit your child’s age or let him know he can play it when he’s older.
- Does your child have an opportunity to win? Switch to a game of chance where your child will have the same chance of winning as an adult.
- Competition works best when you set out clear and fair rules before the game begins and make sure everyone sticks to them. It’s also good if children are all at the same skill level.
- Children deal better with competition, as they get older. It might be best to wait until your child shows an interest in playing a competitive sport

When children aren’t playing fair

Here are some ideas for those times when your child is finding it tough to play fair:

- Take your child out of the game and talk calmly and clearly about what you expect from her behaviour. Let her know what she can do to play fairly. For example, ‘It’s important that everyone follows the rules and the rules say that you can only have one throw each turn’. You can also let her know that it’s hard but important to play fairly – this might help her control her feelings.
- If your child keeps behaving the same way or if it gets worse, deal with his behaviour and have a chat with him afterwards when he calms down.
- Talk to your child about her feelings of frustration and what she should do next time. Before your child plays the next game, you could try setting up some ground rules.
- Remind your child that games are about having fun, not about winning or losing. Try to give feedback that focuses on the fun of the game, not who won or lost. If your child is bragging about winning as a way of getting attention or respect from others, try praising him for his efforts in other areas more – for example, when he cooperates with others, shares or is helpful.

Winning and losing

It’s not about winning or losing – it’s about how you play the game. When your child understands this, she’ll be a ‘good sport’ and have fun playing, no matter if she wins or loses. Winning is a great feeling, and it’s okay for your child to feel proud of being the winner. It’s also important for your child to be a good winner. This means showing sympathy and support to the losing team or player. Try to discourage your child from boasting and instead highlight the fun that everyone had playing the game. Sometimes it’s hard to turn losing into good news. But emphasising how well your child played is really important in helping him handle any bad feelings. Praise your child’s efforts. For example, ‘You were great at helping the younger kids’ or ‘You followed the rules really well’. Children — and even adults — find it easier to lose in a game of luck than in a game of skill. This is because losing a game of chance doesn’t say anything about you or your abilities. If your child is having difficulty dealing with losing, try playing games of chance first, then build up to skill-based activities.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLASS</th>
<th>STALL</th>
<th>CO-ORDINATOR</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kinder W</td>
<td>Fairy Floss/Frog in pond</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kinder G</td>
<td>Plants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prep U</td>
<td>Hoopla</td>
<td>Jamie Rae</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prep O</td>
<td>Books/DVD/Wii games etc</td>
<td>Kylie Smart</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/2 Peters</td>
<td>Lucky Cups</td>
<td>Shelley Tynam-Perkins</td>
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<td>1/2 Pearce</td>
<td>Craft</td>
<td>Jo Harwood</td>
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<td>1/2 S/C</td>
<td>Cakes &amp; Cupcakes</td>
<td>Lyndal Barns</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/4 Wilson</td>
<td>Pancakes</td>
<td>Christine Connors</td>
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<td>3/4 Love/ Chugg</td>
<td>Face Painting &amp; Zorbs</td>
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<td>4 Morgan</td>
<td>Wine/beer/soft drink</td>
<td>Natasha Belsak &amp; other P&amp;F members</td>
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<td>5/6 Edwards</td>
<td>Glow Disco</td>
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<td>5/6 O’Neil</td>
<td>Treasure Hunt/chocolate throw</td>
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<td>5/6 Atkins/ Clarke</td>
<td>Curries/Potatoes</td>
<td>Karen Cashion &amp; Meegan Murray</td>
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<td>BBQ</td>
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<td>Board members</td>
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<td>Art Competition</td>
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<td>Peta- Maria Rae</td>
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The fair is starting to take shape for 2016. The above classes still require parents to co-ordinate their activities. You are given support by both staff and the fair committee and for most stalls it is just organising a roster of parents for the night and collecting/setting up your stall.

We really need the whole school community to come together to continue to ensure our fair is a wonderful night for all.

**PICK-A-CUP**

As we have moved the fair forward this year the pick-a-cups will be coming home in the next couple of weeks to be returned BEFORE the school holidays. Please fill the cups with small treats/toys/hair items. We ask that all items be in very good condition and that sweets are kept to a minimum.

**DONATIONS**

We STILL require donations for the Chocolate Wheel. If you own your own business or wish to donate a voucher/item from another business that you purchase please leave at the office. We are putting together a business directory to be distributed to all STM families to support those businesses that have so kindly supported us.

We also need donations of small NEW toys for prizes for the Hoopla, Treasure Hunt and other activities. If you can help with this there is a box in the sunroom where donations can be left.
**BOOK STALL**

This year we will be selling books, dvd and computer games only on our second hand stall. In previous years it has been a huge task sorting through the toys and second hand items that had been donated and again a big task removing these items at the end of the evening. To this end we ask that families start to look through their bookshelves for suitable items.

If you donate dvd or computer games, PLEASE ensure they are cleaned, not scratched and are useable.

**BAKING DAYS**

We are trialling baking days/evenings this year to add to our cake stall. Every year we sell out of our cakes early in the fair. This year we will be holding baking days/evenings at the school and we encourage mums/dads/grandparents to come and join in one or more of these days. They will be a fun way to help contribute to the fair and a great chance to meet parents that you may not yet have met. Dates will be published closer to the fair.

**PLANT STALL**

We have managed to get donations of some plants from nurseries around Launceston. We would love more items. As the weather is warming up now is the time to plant seeds or cuttings of plants that will be ready to sell in time for our fair.

**COMMITTEE**

Thanks to the wonderful people who turn up to our meetings to help bring the fair together and to those who have already donated items and their time to the fair. This is our only major fundraiser for the year and the money raised goes to help the entire community. The more members we can have involved not only ensures a wonderful night, but also caters to the needs of every grade.

Next Meeting: Friday 2nd September, after Father’s Day Breakfast.

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**FAIR COUNTDOWN - ONLY 40 SCHOOL DAYS TO GO**

- We need donations for our Chocolate Wheel - hair appointments, travel vouchers, massage vouchers, food vouchers, accommodation, Airtime, sport, car, landscaping, iPad, dinner, cruise, cinema tickets - everything will be much appreciated.

- Stall helpers are also needed, contact the office if you can help.

- Start the Countdown - 9 weeks to go. How can you help?