From the Principal

“Praise be to you, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruit with coloured flowers and herbs”.

Thus begins the latest encyclical letter from Pope Francis entitled “Laudato Si” and it is great reading because it is so relevant to us all today. Concern for the common good is one of these principles and is at the heart of this document. As Francis formulates this principle in Laudato Si, the common good means “that everything is interconnected, and that genuine care for our own lives and our relationships with nature is inseparable from fraternity, justice and faithfulness to others”. (http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html)

An encyclical, it is one of the highest forms of papal teaching authority as they apply enduring principles to contemporary problems.

Pope Francis’ analysis of environmental problems takes up only 28 out of the encyclical’s 184 pages but it is striking a message home with many in the world today.

“The destruction of the human environment is extremely serious, not only because God has entrusted the world to us men and women, but because human life is itself a gift which must be defended from various forms of debasement. Every effort to protect and improve our world entails profound changes in “lifestyles, models of production and consumption, and the established structures of power which today govern societies”. Pope Francis recalls the work of “Pope Benedict asked us to recognise that the natural environment has been gravely damaged by our irresponsible behaviour. The social environment has also suffered damage.”

The students at St Thomas More’s were gifted with 130 native trees last week for our playground. The Prep N students blessed these ready for further growing and nurturing to enhance and benefit our school environment as well as the health of the whole environment. Grade 1/2 SP worked in our garden last week and enjoyed the fruits of their labour with the cooking of vegetable soup and fresh bread. All enjoying the wonderful educational environment of our vegetable garden.

Carol Seagar
Principal
STUDENT MEDICAL DETAILS CHANGED?
If medical information for your child/ren has changed and hasn’t yet been advised to the school office, or you have supplied an epi-pen or other medication which may have since expired, please supply the office with relevant information and/or replacement medication.

Please visit our website to view photos of your children and their work for the year.
web.stm.tas.edu.au

ROCK & ROLL NIGHT
FRIDAY
7 AUGUST, 6 - 8PM
ST AILBES, MARGARET ST
$10 PER FAMILY
RAFFLES ON THE NIGHT

SCHOOL PHOTOS
MONDAY 24 AUGUST
Children are to wear full winter uniform

Fair news!

It’s that time of year, time to muster the troops and prepare for the St Thomas More’s School Fair. This year the fair will be held on Friday 13 November.

So far we have co-ordinators for most classes, we need a few more and we require lots of volunteers – the more the merrier! If you are able to lend a hand please email me on cramerf@bigpond.net.au. Our first fair meeting will be held at the school on Wednesday 5 August at 2.00pm – please come along if you are able to, I will publish further details of meetings as they are scheduled.

We will also require donations of goods and services, so please put your thinking caps on! Looking forward to a memorable and successful Fair,

Regards, Meri-ann Franks

Attention Parents of Grade 4 Students

In 2016 we will be continuing our one-to-one iPad program in Grade 5/6. For next year’s program the school will not be offering the outright purchase of iPads through the school. The main reason for this is that iPads can now often be bought cheaper when stores have sales on Apple products. Our educational pricing discounts can’t match 10% or more off. Therefore we ask that you keep an eye out for good deals on iPads and purchase one for your child for Grade 5 next year (any newly purchased iPad will be suitable for use at STM next year). We will still offer a lease-to-buy option for those parents that do not want to buy the iPad outright and will also still offer an iPad for use at school only, if you are unable to buy an iPad at all.

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Tree Day