



# Week 8, Term 3 2024

## Upcoming Events

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### Market Monday

Date: Monday 16 September  
Time: 3:00pm  
Venue: St Thomas School - Goodwood

### Year 3 Sleepover

Date: Thursday 19 September - Friday 20 September  
Time: 5:00pm  
Venue: St Thomas School - Goodwood

### Catholic Schools Music Festival

Date: Wednesday 25 September  
Venue: Adelaide Festival Centre - Adelaide SA

### Sports Day!

Date: Friday 27 September  
Time: 8:30am - 1:00pm  
Venue: Orphanage Park - Millswood

### Year 6 Canberra Trip

Date: Monday 14 October - Thursday 17 October  
Venue: Canberra -

### Italian Day

Date: Friday 25 October  
Venue: St Thomas School - Goodwood

### Children's University

Date: Thursday 31 October  
Venue: Bonython Hall -

### Christmas Concert

Date: Wednesday 27 November  
Venue: St Thomas School - Goodwood

### Student Free Day

Date: Friday 13 December  
Venue: St Thomas School - Goodwood

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## From the Principal



As we approach the end of another remarkable year at St Thomas, I am filled with gratitude and pride as I reflect on the wonderful achievements and growth witnessed throughout our community. This year has been a beautiful blend of joyous moments, focused work, collaboration, and achievements, woven together by the contributions of our incredible students, our dedicated staff, supportive parents, and our constant partnership with our Emmaus Parish.

I would like to celebrate our incredible students. Their perseverance and growth throughout this year has been so inspiring. It has been a joy to see them exemplify the Visible Learning Dispositions of being gritty, reflective, connected, creative and brave. Whether in the classroom, yard or during extracurricular activities, their willingness to embrace challenges and learn from their experiences, has been outstanding. Through their unique personalities and gifts, each of our students have contributed to our vibrant school community, and we are eager to see how they will continue to grow and thrive in the years to come. To those students and families who are leaving us and moving onwards, we wish you every success in your future endeavours and we thank you for being such a valuable part of our community. To our graduating Year 6 students and families, I extend my sincere best wishes and gratitude. Take with you the spirit of Mercy, and many wonderful memories of your time here and may God bless you abundantly.

I also extend my heartfelt appreciation to our dedicated staff. Their tireless efforts and commitment to excellence have made a significant impact on our students' lives. Their passion for fostering an enriching learning environment does not go unnoticed, and it is their collective hard work that creates the nurturing atmosphere where our students flourish.

As we celebrate our achievements, we must also take a moment to recognise the transitions within our community. We say farewell to Mr Paul Chalubek, Mrs Nicole Rowlands and Mrs Lina Kontis. We extend our deepest gratitude for their years of service and we wish them all the best in their next ventures. We also say 'goodbye for now' to Mrs Susan Czabayski for 2025 and look forward to her return in 2026.

At the same time, we are excited to welcome new staff members who will be joining us in the coming year. We look forward to welcoming

Mr Nathan Munro (Yr 3/4), Ms Sophie McLeod (Yr 3/4) and Mrs Michelle Cordon (Music).

As we conclude this year, I encourage everyone to take time to reflect and acknowledge the memories we have created together. May the season of Christmas bring you much love and peace, and the spirit of the newborn Jesus be in your hearts, bringing joy and hope. I look forward to seeing you all in the new year!

Merry Christmas to all!

Belinda Burford

## From the Deputy Principal



### **A TIME OF REFLECTION**

We are currently in the season of Advent, the time in our Catholic Liturgical Calendar dedicated to preparing ourselves for the celebration of Christmas. It is a time when we are called to slow down and reflect. It is ironic that this time falls amidst such a busy time, as the year comes to a close and so much is asked of us. But it is a time when we are called to slow down and reflect. This reflection centres around the presence of Christ in the cosmic story, of which we are most certainly a part. Christ is the light of the world and draws all things to fullness. Your story is an expression of this shared story and the Catholic belief is that Christ is right at the centre; at the centre of every story.

So it doesn't matter who we are, where we live or what we do, Christ is at our centre; loving us, knowing us and calling us to more. Christ, the light of the world, is with us always; every day in every moment.

So Advent is a time dedicated to becoming more aware of this light and presence of love in our lives. It is a time dedicated to listening to Christ's call within; urging us to be the light in the world and be the very best version of who we are created to be. It is only through reflection and prayer that we can achieve this knowing and deeper understanding.

So as 2024 draws to a close, let's take some time to be still and reflect, as we prepare ourselves to really celebrate the richness of Christmas.

Our Academic Reports are distributed this week and we are blessed to celebrate our Excellence Assembly, with over 120 students achieving awards. These included:

- **The Academic Excellence Awards;** presented to students who achieved 8 or more A grades in their Semester Two subjects.
- **The Learner Disposition Excellence Awards;** presented to one student in each class who, deemed by their class teacher, has most displayed the St Thomas Learner Dispositions across the semester.
- **The Outstanding Growth in Learning Awards;** presented to two students in each class who, deemed by their class teacher, have made the greatest progress towards their learning goals.
- And **our Mercy Awards;** presented to one student in each class who, deemed by their class teacher, has most displayed the Mercy Values throughout the semester.

As will be mentioned in our assembly, the students who have achieved these awards have worked extremely hard and put 100% effort into every learning task and every subject, even those subjects that are not their favourites. Every student has the potential and capacity to achieve these awards; and it is as simple and as challenging as putting their best effort into every learning opportunity and using the St Thomas Learner Dispositions every day.

So in this season of reflection, when we are called to consider ways we can continue to grow to become the best version of ourselves, perhaps it is a perfect time to sit down together with your child to reflect on their learning journey and create their goals for 2025.

You could use our specially designed review proforma! Follow this link to access it here ...

[My Personal Learning Review for 2024.pdf](#)

May the light of this season shine brightly for your family! Wish all our families a safe and merry Christmas!

Go gently,

**Paul Mensforth**

Deputy Principal



**Dear Parents, Caregivers, and Friends**

How quickly the days, weeks, and months of the 2024 school year have passed! As we prepare to close for the year and embrace the Christmas season and summer holidays, we have so much to reflect upon and give thanks for—our successes, how much we’ve learned, and how we’ve supported, cared for, and challenged each other to be the best we can be.

We thank God for the many blessings of the 2024 school year: the friendships we’ve developed and nurtured, the promises we’ve kept, and the kindnesses we’ve received.

A heartfelt thank you to all—students, staff, parents, families, and our parish community—for your unwavering support throughout the year. Together, we can take immense pride in who we are as a united and thriving community.

I also want to extend a huge thank you for your incredibly generous response to our local **Vinnies Christmas Appeal**. The staffroom has been overwhelmed by the abundance of Christmas hamper items donated to support those less fortunate in our communities.

Additionally, this year we received thank-you certificates and letters from the many charities we supported: **Caritas Australia, Catholic Charities, Catholic Mission, Sister Janet Mead’s Adelaide Day Centre for Homeless Persons Inc., Catherine House, and Vinnies**. Well done, St Thomas!

As we head into the summer holidays, I hope you enjoy the fun and relaxation this season brings. To all, I wish you a joyous and blessed Christmas and a safe, enjoyable holiday.

**A PROMISE .....**

A very long time ago God made a VERY BIG PROMISE to all of us and all of creation ...

God would send someone very special to show us how to make a ‘broken world’ a much safer and happier place for everyone to live in. God kept that promise and ..... sent Jesus.

Wishing all of our students, families, staff and parishioners a Christmas filled with

**PEACE, HOPE, LOVE and JOY.**

During the coming Christmas season

May you be blessed

With the spirit of the season,  
which is peace,

The gladness of the season,  
which is hope,

And the heart of the season,  
which is love.

## Duck & Turtle



**MONDAY 16TH, WEDNESDAY 18TH,  
FRIDAY 20TH & MONDAY 23RD  
DECEMBER, 2024**

**WEDNESDAY 15TH & THURSDAY 16TH  
JANUARY, 2025**

8:30AM - 4PM @ ST THOMAS SCHOOL, GOODWOOD  
THE SPORT AND FITNESS PROGRAM FOR ALL KIDS!

**BOOK NOW AT [DUCKANDTURTLEFITNESS.COM](https://DUCKANDTURTLEFITNESS.COM)**

Duck & Turtle is back these holidays!!

Friday 20th & Monday 23rd December 2024

Wednesday 15th & Thursday 16th January 2025

8.30am - 4pm at St Thomas School Goodwood

[BOOK NOW !!](#)

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## Finance



# FEE INFORMATION

### **Finance**

Please note family accounts should be finalised for 2024.

We encourage any family experiencing financial hardship to contact the finance office as a matter of priority if you are unable to finalise your account by this time.

Jodi Jansons

Business Manager

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Jodi Jansons

Business Manager

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## Tournament of Minds



Hi from the TOM team in Sydney, we are currently in the opening ceremony day for the international finals!

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## Sports News



### Extra Curricular Sport in 2024

Extra Curricular Sport has seen fabulous participation numbers throughout 2024. With students across all year levels given the opportunity to participate in summer and winter sports, we have seen engagement from our Reception students through to our Year 6 graduating students and many in between. With over 150 students registered in our Extra Curricular sport programs in 2024, we would like to thank all our volunteer parents and caregivers for coaching, team managing, refereeing and supporting our students. Without the generosity of our volunteers, we would not be able to offer any Extra Curricular sport so on behalf of our St Thomas community, we thank you.

Our students have participated in T-Ball, Cricket, Basketball, Netball and Soccer throughout the year and we appreciate the partnerships we have with the relevant sporting organisations that enable our participation. Details regarding sport in 2025 will be sent early in Term 1 and it would be great to see participation increase even more in 2025. Participation in Extra Curricular activities promotes social interaction and highlights the importance of teamwork, leadership, and collaboration, skills that are crucial both for the personal and professional growth of our students.

Congratulations to our students who were selected to represent at District level in School Sport teams and compete at state carnivals throughout the year (Cricket, Girls and Boys Football & Tennis) and our students who competed in other carnivals & competitions including Golf, Cross Country, Swimming and Athletics. And we congratulate all our students who nominated to trial for selection - your efforts are certainly commended and appreciated.

Finally, should any parents & caregivers be willing to become a St Thomas volunteer in 2025 to assist with Extra Curricular activities, please collect a volunteer pack from the Front Office or email [mphillips@stg.catholic.edu.au](mailto:mphillips@stg.catholic.edu.au).

Enjoy your holidays and we look forward to seeing you in 2025.

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## Visible Wellbeing



VISIBLE WELLBEING™  
Professor Lea Waters PhD

*In our commitment to improving staff and student wellbeing across the school, this year our staff began the journey of Visible Wellbeing training. The Visible Wellbeing approach aims to provide both students and staff with a psychological toolkit that allows them to lead flourishing lives where they are able to feel and function at their best. We discussed the current state of mental health and stress for young people, and learned about using the illbeing-wellbeing spectrum to self-inquire about our current state of mental health, and explored ways that other schools support their communities to boost their wellbeing. As the year has progressed, we have engaged with specific training around a strengths approach, emotional regulation and attention/awareness. Our staff have engaged enthusiastically with the learning and the positive impact of its implementation is evident right across the school. We look forward to sharing more of this journey with you, as we continue our learning and engagement with Visible Wellbeing.*

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## Camp Australia



[Please access the link below for the latest news from Camp Australia](#)

[View this article online to read more](#)

## Quiz Night



### Quiz night

Our Red Carpet Quiz Night was a great success! Huge thanks to P & F organisers Rosie King and Lauren Waters for their efforts. A great profit of \$6,186.50 was raised. What an amazing effort! These funds, together with Gala funds, will go towards a refurbishment of Preschool furniture and equipment for the children. Stay tuned for the new look Preschool!