



Term 4 - Week 3

Upcoming Events

St Thomas Playgroup

Date: Wednesday 6 November - Wednesday 4 December
Time: 9:00am
Venue: St Thomas School - Goodwood

Year 4 Zoo Snooze - Group 1

Date: Friday 22 November - Saturday 23 November
Time: 4:50pm
Venue: Adelaide Zoo - Entry (Gate 3 Plane Tree Drive)

Christmas Concert

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

Year 4 Zoo Snooze - Group 2

Date: Friday 29 November - Saturday 30 November
Time: 4:50pm
Venue: Adelaide Zoo - Entry (Gate 3 Plane Tree Drive)

Student Free Day

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

Term 4 Calendar 2024

Date: Friday 1 November - Friday 13 December
Time: 8:30am
Venue: St Thomas School - Goodwood

From the Principal



This final term for the year has begun smoothly with classes well underway with rich learning tasks and a number of extra curricular activities already unfolding. In a few short weeks we have enjoyed a Year 6 Canberra Camp, the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion, the Tennis Carnival, Italian Day, Bandanna Day, Yr 1 Clelands Wildlife Park excursion Graduation, Athletics Carnival preparations, Little Picasso incursions, Children's University and the Disco. What a great start to the term!

Our Year 6 Canberra Camp was a wonderful success and our students learned much from this visit to our nation's capital, enriching their understanding of civics and citizenship amongst many other learnings. I had the privilege of joining the camp this year and I thoroughly appreciated this opportunity. I felt so incredibly proud of our students! From their resilience and courage to undertake a long camp interstate, to their deep engagement at each visit, with respectful and insightful interactions, I was so impressed! Their level of general knowledge, awareness of Australian politics and history, and critical thinking was shown through their mature and thoughtful questioning and responses. We had such a smooth experience and the gains were many, from strengthening of friendships, through to greater self-awareness; and confidence, as well as all the learning about our nation, government and history. So, to our families who have supported this experience, and trusted us with this, I extend my heartfelt gratitude. You have given an incredible gift to your children! This has placed them in good stead for their final term together as they begin turning their attention towards the culmination of primary schooling in readiness for that milestone transition to secondary school. We wish our Year 6 students and their families every blessing during this final term and look forward to celebrating with them later this term.

Last week our Year 3 students participated in the SACPSSA Tennis Carnival at Millswood Tennis Club. This is a wonderful example of using the richness of our local community partnerships in a local walking excursion of our neighbourhood to a nearby sporting facility. Experiences such as these build confidence in our children to try a sport that may be unfamiliar to them, and to also build that confidence in our local area, navigating our local streets in a safe and supported manner by our staff and volunteers. This final term will see a number of end of year excursions to be enjoyed. Please stay attune to these through the calendar and communication forums. I

encourage you to volunteer and join us if you are able to do so.

We wish our Year 5 Tournament of Minds Team every blessing as they travel to Sydney this week and over the weekend, competing in the International Finals! Our superstar Language and Literature team will be representing not just St Thomas, but the state of South Australia, competing on an international level. Both Mrs Donnellan and myself will travel with them and are looking forward to sharing this experience. We extend our gratitude to Mrs Donnellan for her tireless support of Tournament of Minds in our school and for her commitment to this team over this extended period. We wish them all the very best!

Kind Regards,

Belinda Burford
Principal

From the Deputy Principal



Celebrating First Educators

I was lucky enough to attend the 2024 Children's University Graduation in the historic Bonython Hall at the University of Adelaide. I was lucky enough to witness the awesome sense of achievement in our graduates who have put a great deal of effort into extra learning opportunities across the year. I was lucky enough to be immersed within a ceremony of rich tradition, which deeply values, acknowledges and celebrates the life-long pursuit of learning.

I was also lucky enough to witness the absolute pride of parents and family members as they watched their young ones walk across the stage to receive their certificate. There was great applause, hugs, kisses and a million photos! And that's when I was reminded of the power of first educators- our parents and caregivers!

It was obvious that this group of students, like all the students of St Thomas, are surrounded by the constant, rich learning of family. Each comes to school every day, already grounded in a world of knowledge and skill. What a foundation for taking learning to the next

level!

So a big shout out to all our families, as the first educators of the students of St Thomas School and Preschool! On behalf of future generations, thank you for playing your significant part in growing young minds and beings! Thank you for the extra opportunities to experience and learn, to try new things, explore and play! Thank you for the encouragement to join a team, get up on a stage, practise, practise and practise some more! Thank you for believing they can do it and being there to encourage them to get back up after the fall! Thank you for the hours of discernment and consideration- and all the guilt that comes from your role as parents!

Parents and caregivers of St Thomas- the first educators, we say thank you for allowing our team of educators to join you on this journey, to complement your passion and partner in raising these young hearts and minds!

A special thank you to Megan Phillips who coordinated our Children's University Program for 2025- continuing our great tradition in this fantastic aspect of our extra-curricular offerings!

"But he did it first!"

When you are the Deputy, you have a number of conversations across the week about behaviour choices. With over 300 developing minds, there is always new opportunities to learn the complex skills of relating and connecting with others.

Our whole school expectations, called the St Thomas Way, provides a strong foundation for this learning and these conversations. Perhaps ask your child if they can recall the 3 parts to the St Thomas Way... and let them tell you about how we do things at St Thomas. We are Respectful, Safe and Ready to Learn! It is that simple... and perhaps that complicated!

Emotions can get in the way of good decision making. Sometimes old ways of thinking can also prevent us from following the St Thomas Way... you may or may not be surprised at how many times I might hear these sayings...

"But he did it first"

"But they always do it to me"

"But she made me angry"

'But they've done it to me before'

"But if someone pushes you, you push them back"

"But...but...but..."

Have you heard these words before? They echo the ancient teachings of 'an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' It always surprises me how much these words are still used today; that our poor choices and our harm of others, through words or actions, can be justified. This approach to disagreement or conflict is further encouraged by the structure of our 'animal brain,' where our amygdala fires and we act without thinking. But to be human, to fully be human, we can access other parts of our brain which take us beyond this reactive thinking.

Over 2000 years ago, this fella called Jesus was teaching about how to be the best version of ourselves and how to make earth just like heaven. (He got really famous and lots of people thought, and continue to think, his teachings are life changing and hold the secret to true happiness!) In all this teaching, he told his disciples, and all human kind, to stop using the ancient teaching of 'eye for an eye' to justify hurting others. He taught his disciples to 'love one another, just as I have loved you.' Love one another, even if they hurt you. Love one another, in spite of how you are treated. Love one another. You can see this expressed in Matthew's gospel (5: 38-48.)

For some reason this teaching has got a bad rap. For some reason, this teaching can sometimes be viewed as weak or naïve. Suggesting that love is weak and seeking justice through harming others is a sign of strength. But this Jesus fella knows that seeking justice through harming others only brings disharmony, unhappiness and an endless cycle of retaliation.

Our St Thomas Way is grounded in unconditional love of all people that seeks to support all our learners to be the best version of themselves. It is grounded in Jesus' teaching. It calls our learners to be respectful, safe and ready learn- regardless of the situation. We do the right thing because it is the right thing to do. The happiest people are those who live out this call!

I guess our shared challenge as educators in partnership, both parents/caregivers and teachers, is how we get this powerful message into the daily life of our young people! It certainly takes a village!

Go gently,

Paul Mensforth

Deputy Principal

From the REC



Dear Parents, Caregivers and Friends,

It feels like we only began Term Four yesterday, yet here we are, already three weeks in! Perhaps it seems as though time is flying

because the past three weeks have been packed with meaningful events and programs. We've celebrated the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist, enjoyed a "Church Tour" with our early years classes, held a school-wide mass for All Saints Day, and joined together in community prayer for All Souls Day.

This term, we're continuing our social justice initiatives, including a Skipathon for Catholic Charities on Friday, 15th November, during school hours, and the Vinnies Giving Tree in the final week of term. Upcoming events include the Sacramental Program Information Night on 21st November at 6:00 pm in Mercy Hall, our Christmas Concert on 27th November, and our Thanksgiving Mass on Thursday, 12th December 9.30 am, at Holy Cross Church.

Through all these programs, we deepen our Catholic identity, uniting students, staff, and parents in a broader community. Each event offers a spiritual richness that transcends material value, enriching the lives of everyone involved.

Congratulations to the children who completed their Christian initiation by receiving the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist. We are proud to support them on their faith journey.

Emilia Baker, Max Baker, Archer Harris, Connor Harris, Sebastian Melegh, Marcus Lin, Jaxon Milotti, Oliver Milotti, Max Vella, Ruby Mackenzie, Isaac Saba.

Year 6 Canberra Trip



Our trip to Canberra was packed with memorable experiences. Visiting the Australian Institute of Sport was incredible as we explored the training facilities and learned about the commitment it takes to become an elite athlete. Parliament House was equally fantastic, we walked through the halls, learned about Australia's political process, and even saw where important decisions were made. At the Australian Electoral Commission, we gained a sense of how elections work, discovering the effort that goes into guaranteeing fair voting. The Aquatics Centre was a perfect way to unwind, where we splashed around and enjoyed some fun after our busy day. Each stop added an exciting layer to our understanding of Canberra, making it a trip we'll never forget. We would also like to say thank you to Pacer

for providing a rebate of \$90 per student totalling \$2,970 which helped make the trip possible.

By Polly, Holly and Ainsley

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Children's University



Children's University - Class of 2024!

Our Children's University graduates attended Bonython Hall at Adelaide University on 31st October to celebrate their achievements.

Congratulations to St Thomas' 2024 Graduates & their level of achievement:

Gold Post Graduate Certificate - 600 hours Ian Barreto,

Bronze Post Graduate Certificate - 530 hours Grace Brown

Gold Post Graduate Award - 500 hours Lauren Bath

Bronze Post Graduate Award - 430 hours Sofia Kim

Gold Degree - 400 hours Ella McKay

Gold Diploma - 300 hours Dougie Michalik, Scout Hallion, Shenali Fernando

Silver Diploma - 265 hours Maisey Watson, Grace Torella, Phoebe Baczynski

Bronze Diploma - 230 hours Lola Wotherspoon, Gareth Thien

Gold Certificate - 200 hours Grace Barclay

Silver Certificate - 165 hours Josephine English

Bronze Certificate - 130 hours Aarnav Patel

Gold Award - 100 hours Phoebe Craig

Silver Award - 65 hours Cooper Reilly, Camille Ramsey

Bronze Award - 30 hours Hudson Stewart, Tilda Rossetto-Benn, Evelyn Hakendorf, Matheus Chaves

Children's University is a charity that works in partnership with schools to develop a love of learning in children. Children are encouraged to celebrate participation in extra-curricular activities in and outside of school. The impact of these activities is proven to be positive which is why Children's University is committed to creating a level playing field of opportunity. Our children would not be able to participate if not for the encouragement and support of their families - thank you to all involved.

For more information about Children's University, please click on the link - [Children's University](#).

Finance



FEE INFORMATION

We are pleased to inform our school families that there will not be an increase in school fees for the 2025 school year.

It is at the heart of Catholic education that our schools are affordable and accessible to all.

If any family has financial concerns, please contact myself Jodi Jansons to confidentially discuss additional support through fee remissions.

Reminder

- **Term 4 Fee Payment due 15 November.**
- **Fees are to be finalised by the end of November. Please ensure payments are up to date.**

To request a fee statement or discuss your account please email accounts@stg.catholic.edu.au

Jodi Jansons

Business Manager

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SAPSASA

Girls Football - Congratulations to Ainsley Pryde who was part of the winning SAPSASA Division 2 Girls Football carnival as part of the

Adelaide South East team.

Boys Tennis - Congratulations to Sid Ackarie who has been selected as part of the Adelaide South East tennis team to play in the Division 1 SAPSASA Tennis Carnival in Week 6, Term 4.

Boys Cricket - Congratulations to Seb Walton & Boston Nitschke who have been selected as part of the Adelaide South East cricket team to play in the SAPSASA Cricket Carnival in Week 4, Term 4. Xavier Alksne has been selected as a Reserve.

Congratulations to Gareth Thien who placed 7th on Day 1 of the Metro Championship (out of a field of 55). Unfortunately Gareth did not make the state team, but a fabulous effort.

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Camp Australia



Please access the link below for the latest news from Camp Australia

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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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