

# St. Thomas More's Newsletter

Wednesday, 22nd May 2019

Phone: 9787 7788

SCHOOL WEBSITE: [www.stmmtlza.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stmmtlza.catholic.edu.au)

STUDENT PAGE: [www.stmmtlza.catholic.edu.au/mydesktop](http://www.stmmtlza.catholic.edu.au/mydesktop)

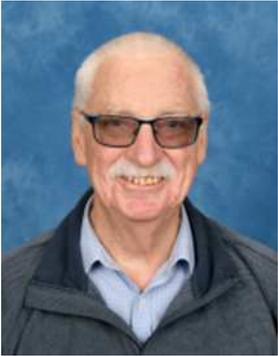
EMAIL: [stmmtlza@stmmtlza.catholic.edu.au](mailto:stmmtlza@stmmtlza.catholic.edu.au)

*St. Thomas More School is a Child Safe School*

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Dear Parents,

### Farewell Fr. Laurie



The St Thomas More school community congratulates Father Laurie on achieving 50 years as a priest on Friday 31st May. At the same time we are sad as we will farewell him to retirement. We have been truly privileged to have a man of his calibre as our parish priest and 'boss' of the school.

Father Laurie came to Mt Eliza in January 2001 when the school had 4 classroom blocks and, in his words, 'when it rained, the dirt all washed down to the creek'.

As Parish Priest he has led the school pastorally and educationally. He has been an outstanding support to staff, students and families when needed. At the same time, Father Laurie has allowed the school 'freedom' to develop as the need arose.

As a member of the Parish Education Board, Father Laurie has also led the new building works, the refurbishments and the landscaping and outdoor development.

The children will farewell Father Laurie next Thursday afternoon with a Festival for Father at 2pm. This will be followed by a parent farewell at 3pm—all parents are invited to the staff room to show their appreciation of Father Laurie's services. Our farewell Mass will be on Friday 31st May at 12 noon.

The Parish will celebrate Fr Laurie's 50th Ordination Anniversary and his last weekend in the Parish before he retires on 1st/2nd June. At 10am Mass there will be presentations and speeches—please bring a plate of food to share.

We wish him good health in retirement, with time to embrace new things and go wherever the Spirit moves him.

There is no news yet on our new Parish Priest.

### Maths Olympiad Competition

For many years, students at St. Thomas More have been given the opportunity to enter the APSMO Maths Olympiad competition. Last year, 34 students at St. Thomas More, from Year 5 and 6, participated.

There were 32,455 students across Australia and New Zealand who competed.

Through participating in this competition, students solve difficult mathematical problems and learn new and effective strategies. They develop great perseverance and learn to take on difficult challenges.

The competitors all feel proud of their great efforts and enthusiasm.

The winner of the competition for 2018 was Mia Davies. There were two students who scored in the top 10% of all competitors, Mia Davies and Lucas Parrish. There were 6 students who scored in the top 25% of all competitors, James Dixon, Holly Wills, Georgia Cooke, Jessica Sharpe, Frazer Smits and Alex Vandermeer.

This year 33 Year 4, 5 and 6 students will undertake this great challenge. We wish them well. Jill Chaplin

### Confirmation

We pray for our final group of Confirmation candidates as they receive the sacrament this Saturday, 25th May at 6pm.

### Colds and Flu

Please be aware that there are a lot of different viruses going around within the school and community at the moment. If your child is unwell please keep them home and contact the office to notify us of their absence.

Have a happy week ahead.

*Mrs. Pat McConvill*

Principal

### Term Dates

#### May

24th—School Mass, led by 3/4S

25th—Confirmation Mass, 6pm

27th—31st—Reconciliation Week

28th—Open Day

29th—District Cross Country

30th—Father Laurie's Parent Farewell, 3-4pm

31st—Father Laurie's Farewell School Mass, 12 noon



*St. Thomas More Primary School*

*Open Day*

Tuesday 28th May

Tours by appointment 9:15am, 10am or 12pm

Applications invited during the month of June.

# Deputy's Report

## *Learning and Teaching - Technology*

In technology classes students in Years 1-6 recently completed their digital e safety licence learning. The online coursework they completed was presented by the Alannah and Madeline Foundation in conjunction with the ESmart Commissioner.

The junior students completed a range of activities online and as a class in relation to being cybersafe. Whilst the senior students completed activities as well they were required to pass eight tests in relation to the following areas:

- Digital Devices
- Protecting Privacy
- Searching safely
- Creating and sharing
- Social Networking and gaming
- Communicating safely online
- Friends and strangers
- Credits tokens and coins

Each course was quite a challenge and each student has done so well. The benefits have been the increase of awareness around cybersafety and digital technology use. I recommend discussing with your children further at home around concepts such as; if students see something online that makes them feel uncomfortable who are the trusted adults they can speak to, or the wellbeing benefits of balancing screen time with no screen time.

## *Sustainability and Technology*

Electronic waste (ewaste) is a growing problem in Australia and STM is encouraging all students and their families to dispose of their ewaste responsibly to prevent it from ending up in landfill sites that pollute our environment. On Friday there will be a collection cage positioned on the basketball carpark to allow you to drop off ewaste.

Items that can be dropped off include:

Computers, laptops and all connected items (ie keyboard, mouse etc.)  
Printers, scanners, faxes and photocopiers  
Televisions and monitors  
Stereo's, VCR's, DVD players, CD players, speakers and set top boxes  
Gaming consoles and attachments  
Mobile phones and batteries  
Swimming pool, spa and water tank pumps  
Other corded electronic household goods - excluding white goods

Our recycling partner Ewastec operates as part of the Australian Governments' National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme (NCRS) and manually disassembles all ewaste providing employment for workers in their disability program. All ewaste received by STM will raise money to contribute to our other recycling programs



## *Working Bee*

This Saturday the Term 2 working bee will start at 9am. We have had a limited response so far and are hoping we get a few more volunteers for the day.

The working bee has been an integral part of the STM history and has played a major part in the building and maintenance of the school. The contribution of families has meant not only the school continues to develop but saves a significant amount of money to then be directed to other school improvements and learning programs.

This Saturday we are aiming to achieve the following goals:

- Complete maintenance on the Gym
- Complete a rubbish removal and tidy up of the school grounds (a skip needs to be filled!)
- Attend to maintenance issues on the car park
- Top up the sand pit and build a retaining wall near the oval
- Clean out reachable gutters in preparation for winter

Along with our five major goals there are also a number of other maintenance jobs to complete.

We require some expert trades particularly an electrician. We will also require someone to volunteer to bring a trailer (to do a sand run).

We also require some wheelbarrows, angle grinder (preferably battery powered) and reciprocal saw that would be appreciated. Also we ask anyone attending to bring gloves, wear sensible shoes and a raincoat.

As always BBQ and refreshments will be provided for lunch and we are aiming to have the day wrapped up around 1pm.

If you are able to assist this Saturday and want to volunteer for one of the above jobs would it be possible to send an email to Ed or myself at: [eduardvalbe@gmail.com](mailto:eduardvalbe@gmail.com) OR [ctodd@stmmlza.catholic.edu.au](mailto:ctodd@stmmlza.catholic.edu.au)



## **SPORTS NEWS**

Congratulations to Dylan and Xavier who played tennis at regional level.

“Tennis on 6th May was an amazing day. It was a hard day because we had to play some really good players. It was really hard but we gave it our best shot. I (Xavier) made it to the Grand Final but then lost to a good player who didn't lose a game all day. Beside losing, it was a fun competition throughout the whole thing and I am looking forward to next year, can't wait.”

By Xavier

## **Parent's Association**

The PA meets every month to discuss ideas to build our parent community over a glass of wine or a cup of tea; everyone is welcome (not just the committee). The next PA meeting will be on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June in the Parents room (in the Office building). Please contact Julia via [juliamccarthy@hotmail.com](mailto:juliamccarthy@hotmail.com) or 0451514554 for more information

### **TERM 2 ACTIVITIES**

Tuesday 28 May – St Thomas More Open Day (PA to put on a morning tea for prospective parents)

Thursday 30 May – Father Laurie's farewell 3-4pm in the Staff Room (for parents to attend)

Friday 21 June – St Thomas More Day (PA to supply kids a gift/treat)

Tuesday 9 July – Holiday movie day at school (organised by the PA)

June/July – Popcorn drive (fundraiser)

### **FIRSTLY - THANKS!**

Thank-you to merry team of helpers at the Mother's Day - Sonya Muser, Natalie Warwick, Desiree Rivero, Rose Denadai, Sally McGloin, Clare Parks and Renee De Jong. Also our grade 6 leaders Archer Vandermeer, Alex Poladitis, Eva Cortes and Jade Collins for their help bringing the classes up to the Stall. A special thanks to Ally St Clair (grandmother to Max & Maddy) for her generous donation of gifts and to Sonya Muser for her succulent donation! And a special mention to Kaiah Parkyn for her amazing wrapping of nearly 350 gifts!

Second thanks is to the Mums who came along to the Canadian Bay pub – didn't we have a blast! I think this format for celebrating mothers day will be one we will repeat!

My next thanks go to Andrew Snowball for his very generous donation of the Salomon shoes. We have some very funky shoes walking around STM now, and this raised over \$1000 for the school – how incredible!

### **NEXT WEEK**

Next week we have our STM Open Day on TUESDAY and the farewell for Fr Laurie on THURSDAY. Thanks to the parents who have volunteered to assist with preparing the morning/afternoon tea and with chatting to the prospective families who will be participating in the open day. A reminder of the morning tea that we ask the families provide can be dropped to the office that morning:

Prep & Year 1/2 - Sweet Platter

Year 3/4/5/6 - Savoury Platter

On THURSDAY we will have an openhouse/afternoon tea in the Staff Room between 3 and 4pm for parents to have a coffee/tea/cake and chat with Fr Laurie and thank him for the 18 years he has given to the school. The PA are also presenting Fr Laurie with a gift on behalf of the parent community. Please come along.

### **STM COMMUNITY PATHWAY – CLOSING DATE ANNOUNCED**

We will be closing sales of the bricks at the end of term 2 so that we can get the bricks made and we can then make a plan to lay the bricks this year. See the trybooking page to make your purchase [www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=474883&](http://www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=474883&)

### **MORNINGTON MARKET CAR PARK**

STM and Craft Markets Australia have a long standing agreement to provide volunteers to perform traffic management in the car park of the monthly Mornington Craft markets. The car park duty raises in excess of \$16,000 per year for the school. These are funds we ask families to contribute not from their own pockets, but with a little time (each family approximately once every 14 months). There are 14 markets each year - (one each month plus two summer twilight markets).

As you are aware, and agreed to at enrolment, it is the STM policy that all families must contribute on a rostered basis. The policy is that if you are unable to fulfil your rostered date it is your responsibility to find a replacement. However, it has become increasingly stressful and difficult to lock in and confirm the rosters for each market. We publish the rosters four months in advance yet often receive no response and late cancellations with no replacements.

Knowing that, we'd like to create a preference system and emergency bank. We will be introducing an online system where families will be able to log on and nominate their preferred month for carpark duty. The duty hours are 7.45am - 12.30pm for the Sunday Markets and 1.45pm - 6.30pm for the Saturday Twilight Markets. We invite you to let us know your preferred market date and if you are available for the next upcoming market should you be required (of course if you are called on as an emergency, you will not be rostered for any future markets for at least the next 14 months). Any spots not taken up voluntarily will be rostered on by the car park supervisor four months in advance. There is an opportunity here to gather some of your school buddies together and plan the same date and make a day of it. Following the duty why not head in together for something to eat, some live music and enjoy the market?

**We will be sending out more information on our new online system shortly.**

# MORNINGTON RACECOURSE MARKET CAR PARK DUTY

As you all know, STM is very lucky to have the monopoly on the car parking job for Mornington Market, as it raises approx. \$16,000 each year for the school!

But did you know that your volunteer hours are good for you? According to the OECD Better Life Index, volunteers tend to be more satisfied with their lives because they're interacting with other people, setting and achieving goals, and learning new things.

I've done car park duty twice during my 2 years at STM and really enjoyed both times – sure, it's tiring and our weekend activities are impacted, but I made some new connections with parents I didn't know and bumped into loads of friends visiting the market. And along with a fab free barista coffee, and as much cold water as I needed, my step count each time was enormous! All families are only rostered once every 14 months (approx.).

This year we have a NEW parent to the school generously giving up his time to be our carpark coordinator, Simon McGloin. Simon and Sally have Angus in grade 5 and two children in high school. Please let's make them feel welcome by letting Simon know that you are available for your roster when you see your name in the newsletter.

Thanks,

Julia McCarthy

## Market volunteer guidelines

- When you see your name on the roster please text Simon your availability, please include your name and the date of the market you're assigned to
- If you are unavailable for your rostered month, please organise another family to take your place at least 3 weeks in advance of the market, and advise Simon of the change asap.
- Arrive at 7.45 am (all weather event) / Twilight market 1.45pm
- Enter via the main gates of Racecourse on Racecourse Road, Mornington & park in the designated area (Market Staff will be at the gate to assist you)
- Sign in with the Team Leader (for record keeping and Work Cover). **Team Leaders must collect a Green folder from the school office the Friday prior to attending the market, and return it the following Monday.**
- Receive your safety vest & place your coffee order!
- Market Staff will take you to your location in the car park where you will direct cars
- The Market Leader will advise when you are finished, typically around 12.30pm (6.30pm Twilight) but can alter depending on how busy the market is. On slower days Market Staff will advise if you can leave earlier.

**Car Parking Co-Ordinator - Simon McGloin 0417 339 114 / [Simon\\_mcgloin@hotmail.com](mailto:Simon_mcgloin@hotmail.com)**

### SUNDAY 9<sup>th</sup> June

Natoli (Team Leader)  
 Millerd  
 Belsdon  
 Fay  
 Harper-Treloar  
 Higgins  
 King, D  
 Mauro  
 Michie  
 Sharpe  
 Smith, N & C  
 Trimble

### SUNDAY 14<sup>th</sup> July

Galvin (Team Leader)  
 Power-Reeves  
 Grima  
 Boatwright  
 Jenkins  
 McKenzie  
 Reid  
 Orisajinmi  
 Manning  
 Steel  
 Cooper  
 Cenacchi

### SUNDAY 11<sup>th</sup> August

Doyle (Team Leader)  
 Edens  
 Floro  
 Geer  
 Leamon  
 Leonard  
 Marinelli  
 O'Brien P & T  
 Rivero  
 Richards  
 St Clair  
 Wills

### SUNDAY 8<sup>th</sup> September

Allan (Team Leader)  
 Andaloro  
 Black A & N  
 Collins  
 Ferraro  
 Hodder  
 Hunt Z & D  
 Magoulas  
 Nero  
 Osbourne  
 Svalbe  
 Vaughan