Hello everyone,

A school community is like any other part of our wider community. For our school to work well, all members need to follow the expectations and rules of the community. These expectations are developed from our school values of Respect, Justice, Service and Compassion. Sometimes things happen and children can't follow the school's expectations. Below is detailed our school's procedures for working with children. Our school's policies and procedures need to be consistent with the Victorian Government's Child Safe Standards.

**What happens at St Thomas Aquinas when children break the school's expectations?**

When children break the school's rules and expectations at St Thomas Aquinas Primary School, the following process takes place:

1. The incident is recorded in the Behaviour Management Folder. This is stored in the Principal's office. Details about those involved, what happened, and any follow up actions is recorded.
2. The Folder is checked regularly to monitor student behaviour.
3. If the child is recorded in the Folder for a second time, the parents will be contacted by phone and informed of the incidents.
4. A third occurrence in the book will require a meeting with the child's homeroom teacher, the Student Wellbeing Leader and the principal.
5. At that meeting, a plan will be developed to address the child's behaviour.
6. Persistent breaking of the school rules may result in the implementation of a modified learning plan for the child.
7. A serious incident may result in parents being contacted immediately and the child removed from the school for an agreed period of time.

Every child is unique and their personal circumstances need to be considered when addressing concerns about behaviour. When we all work together, we can make our school even better.

Thanks

Rod Sims
Principal
Father Ray’s Reflection

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

Service is one of our proclaimed Gospel Values. Our journey towards Easter is a good time to reflect on how and why we serve others. The one model we have before us, particularly at this time, is Jesus washing his disciples’ feet. In those days, it was the task of the least important slave. And, yet, Jesus did just that.

When we look deeper at the example of Jesus, we can see how he was motivated by love. This is what ought to motivate us. Now, we are complex human beings and our motivations usually are a mixed bag. Be that as it may, we need to work on purifying our motivation. It is never “What can I get out of this?” or “What is the least possible effort I need to make?” or even “Do I only do this if I feel like it or only if I have the time?”

What Jesus teaches us is that service, motivated by love, is a total commitment. This is the way of service that we aspire to at our School. In Lenten terms, we are invited to look at our motivations and to work at transforming them so that we truly live the path of Jesus. How can we serve one another in a better more meaningful way?

Again, we can go to our gifts. These are given to us by a loving God. But they are not for our benefit alone. They are given so that we may live out our mission, given for service of others. Can we make another step forward this Lent?

IMPORTANT EVENT

Father Elio Capra - Monday March 7th at 7pm

Father Elio Capra is a Salesian priest who works with schools and parents exploring our Catholic faith and how we can show it in our daily living. He will be at St Thomas Aquinas on Monday, March 7 to work with the teachers after school and then with the parents. I would love to see many parents at the meeting on Monday night.

The meeting will be held in the Senior Learning Community and will begin at 7:00pm and finish by 8:30pm. Please return the attached form so we can organise some supper.

House Cross Country Carnival - note change of venue

The House Cross Country Carnival will be held Thursday 17th March at Windsor Park from 9.30am-11am. All grade 3 to 6 students will be attending. If you interested in assisting at the carnival, please indicate on the permission form. All parent helpers will be contacted prior to the event. Please return permission slip by Monday 14th March.

Parents and Friends Meeting -
A brief meeting will be held on Monday March 7th at 2:10 pm (before Assembly)

Parents and Caregivers,
On behalf of St Thomas Aquinas our Parents and Friends Committee are seeking donations for our Easter raffles and materials for the children to make Easter Bonnets.

We would appreciate any donations to help support the school in having the following items:
- Easter Eggs/Bunnies
- Soft toy bunnies/chicks
- Easter Baskets
- Easter Crafts

These items can be dropped off to the school office.

Secondary School Open Days
Our Catholic Secondary Schools have their open days coming up. It’s a good opportunity for parents of children in Year 5 to have a look at the schools before you have to make a decision. We love seeing our Year 6 students moving on to Catholic Secondary Schools so that they can take advantage of many opportunities there.

The days are:
- Clonard - Friday March 18th
- St Joseph’s - Monday March 21st
- St Ignatius - Sunday March 20th
- Sacred Heart - Tuesday March 22nd

Attachments:
- Parent volunteers form
- Fr Elio Capra evening
Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Our canteen is run by volunteers to provide a healthy lunch for our children of St Thomas Aquinas. If you are able to help, please fill in the form below and return to school office ASAP. Must have current Working with Children’s check and if you need help obtaining one we will be happy to help.

If we get enough helpers canteen will open 2 Days per week - Monday and Friday.

Name________________________________
Contact number_______________________
Which day available:
Monday
Friday

Fr Elio Capra

Monday March 7th at 7pm

This meeting is for adults only.

We will be attending the session with Fr Elio Capra  Yes  No
Number attending:  ______________
Name: _______________________