LENT – A TIME TO REFLECT

Lent offers us all a very special opportunity to grow in our relationship with God and to deepen our commitment to a way of life, rooted in our baptism.

In our busy world, Lent provides us with an opportunity to reflect upon our patterns, to pray more deeply, experience sorrow for what we’ve done and failed to do and to be generous to those in need.

Dear Parents,

GOODBYE, GOOD LUCK AND THANK-YOU to Mrs. Anne Papke, who is leaving St. Thomas Aquinas School on Friday, February 27 after 10 years serving this school, during which time she has helped so many parents, students and staff. Anne has decided to spend more time at home and has accepted another position which will require less time at school and more time at home.

Since thanks, Anne, from us all at St. Thomas Aquinas.

Thank-you to the parents who were able to attend our Opening School Mass last Thursday. Our Mass was a lovely celebration as we joined together to pray for the year ahead and ask for God’s Blessing on all our endeavours.

I am pleased to report that the children have settled into routine and learning with much enthusiasm and excitement. Each year I am struck by the same thought of how it is not only a privilege but it is also a challenge for parents and teachers to maintain the level of excitement each day of the year ahead. By fully supporting each other in this quest I am sure we will succeed.

PICKING UP & DROPPING OFF CHILDREN AROUND OUR SCHOOL

For the safety of children, parents are reminded to take care and obey parking signs when picking up or dropping off children around school. Council’s Parking & Information Officers regularly patrol the school area during start and finish times and motorists detected breaching parking regulations risk being issued with a Penalty Infringement Notice.

Remember, as soon as you stop to let your children in or out of the car, you are deemed to be parked. You do not have to leave your car or turn the engine off to be fined, so please ensure you are parked in a legal parking area.

If you breach a parking regulation, the Parking & Information Officer assigned to monitor the area will usually record your registration number and details, and the Penalty Infringement Notice will be posted to you within the next three days.

GOAL SETTING MEETINGS

A reminder that parents are required to go on line by tomorrow, Friday, February 20 to make an appointment for our Goal Setting Meetings next Thursday, February 26. The link is www.schoolinterviews.com.au – School Event Code 9DFHW and follow the instructions as per last week’s Flyer. Children will be dismissed at 1.00 p.m. on Thursday, February 26.
MESSAGE FROM FR. RAY
Dear Parents, Carers and Students

As a community we are blessed with so many gifts, given us by a loving God that we may not merely shine but, more significantly, illuminate others. We do this by reaching out to one another. This often means putting our own biases aside.

You see, in the Christian understanding – and, therefore, in line with the basic principles of our School – there is no place for prejudice and the tall poppy syndrome, so prevalent in society. Life is all about praise of God through our gifts. And, as St Paul points out, there is a variety of gifts. Now, each one of us does not possess all gifts – we are all different, thankfully. This brings out the fact that we need to respect each other’s gifts rather than put a person down simply out of jealousy for his/her gifts.

We need to keep tight rein on the way we give voice to our prejudices. Not only are they wrong in the first place, but they are made worse when we act on them. Rumour-mongering and the use of Facebook in such instances are certainly attitudes that are present but which need to stop.

This time before Easter is a wonderful opportunity to refocus ourselves to the good within us. Again, not only will this give us a more positive outlook on ourselves and others; but, it will also greatly benefit our students – and it is for them that we exist.

Fr Ray

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
At our first meeting for the year the following parents were elected as office bearers for 2015.

- Chairperson Geoff Clairidge
- Deputy Chairperson Matekino Olsen
- Secretary Linda Grubisic

I look forward to working with the Board as we continue to move forward and provide the best education for the children you place in our care.

THANK-YOU
- To Christian Jakobsson, who looks after our bins each week.

GETTING INVOLVED IN YOUR CHILD/CHILDREN’S SCHOOL

WHY
Research has found that children are most likely to perform better and to achieve more satisfying results, to enjoy school and to participate in extra-curricular activities and are less likely to fall behind classmates or be tempted to ‘drop out’ or even, in particularly serious cases of bad behaviour, to be asked to leave the school – if their father or mother has a high involvement in their schools.

You and your children’s teachers share a deep concern for your children’s learning and welfare. There is no better way to encourage growth and development than by working together, whatever the age of the child.

You can assist with the many non-teaching tasks so that teacher time and energy are released to work directly with children or to plan lessons and programs. You can offer skills and knowledge that complement those of the teaching staff – in culture, sports, administration, resource management and planning and organization.

By helping with clerical tasks and preparation tasks, you enable the teacher to be more effective – with your child and others in the class.

BENEFITS FOR YOUR CHILD
Your child’s educational needs can be met more fully when you can give your informed personal attention and assistance in co-operation with the teaching staff. You are already the main expert on your child. By helping the teaching staff you can enrich your child’s learning opportunities and experiences – and those of all the children in the class.
BENEFITS FOR YOU
Schools need your support and by working in your school you will gain a deeper understanding of educational needs and goals. You will learn more about everyday activities in the classroom and enjoy increased communication and interaction with teaching staff. You will have the satisfaction of helping children during a very important stage of their education and development.

There are many really worthwhile rewards to be gained – by children and by parents – when parents are involved in their children’s schools.

WAYS TO HELP
• Help in the classroom with Literacy and Numeracy blocks
• Help with sporting events
• Volunteer for the Canteen
• Join a Committee - Parents & Friends Education Board
• Attend Working Bees
• Share information about a hobby
• Share information about a career
• Volunteer one hour each week
• Accompany a class on excursions
• Use your contacts to gain sponsorship or support for the school
• Speak well of the school
• Offer your help to speak to prospective parents
• Help in the Library
• Donate materials for the Art Room, Fete etc.

CANTEEN NEWS
We wish to advise parents that we have checked with the Health Department and the berries used in the muffins sold in the Canteen have been given the ALL CLEAR by the Health Department

HUMOUR
Paddy and Mick were driving through the countryside in Ireland, when they saw three bombs on the side of the road. Paddy said to Mick, “We should pick them up.” “Yes, but what if one of them goes off?” says Mick. “We’ll tell them we only found two,” says Paddy.

Yours sincerely,

Michael O’Riley

MICHAEL O’RILEY
Principal

MINDFULNESS
On Monday all staff attended a Professional Learning day on Mindfulness. Our facilitator, Georgina Manning guided us through a number of Medication practices, which staff will be exploring with the students. Our whole school community will benefit from Mindfulness, parents will be encouraged to use some of the practices at home. In the coming weeks there will be a parent workshop which we encourage all parents to attend (stay tuned to the newsletter for the date).
Mindfulness has many benefits, especially for students as their social emotional development is enhanced. Georgina Manning has many valuable Parenting Tip sheets attached to her website www.wellbeingforkids.com.au which parents and carers may find interesting and helpful. Clare Green (Well Being Coordinator)
HOUSE ATHLETICS CARNIVAL
Our House Athletics Carnival will be held on Tuesday 24th March at Goldsworthy Athletics Track. All students from the school will be involved. 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 Thursday 19th March.

HOUSE CROSS COUNTRY CARNIVAL
The House Cross Country Carnival will be held next Thursday 5th March at Stead Park. 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 Tuesday 3rd March.

Narelle Freguin (Phy Ed. Leader)

On Tuesday 10th March a Little Athletics Victoria representative and a member from local club Corio will be attending Junior PE lessons. Students will take part in introductory athletics sessions with modified equipment.

Anyone interested in joining Little Athletics, please contact
Corio Little Athletics Club
0408122 303
http://www.coriolac.com.au
Goldsworthy Reserve, Goldsworthy Road, Corio
Day of competition Saturday
8:30am - 12:30pm

BREAKFAST CLUB
The breakfast club has commenced for the year, every Monday, Thursday and Friday from 8am. If you would like to volunteer to help out on any of these days send a note to school with your child

SCHOOL APP
Do you have the school app on your mobile phone, it can be downloaded from the itunes app store or for an android phone google play or your phones app store type in-St Thomas Aquinas School Norlane.

PAKO FESTA
The Pako Festa is on again and we would love to see as many families turn up as possible, the school will be meeting at 10.30 on Pakington St (see map provided) We are No.46 in the parade. Hope to see you all there.
PAKO FESTA PARADE - STREET MAP

Assembly point for Street Parade
ODD numbers collect in Waratah St

PLEASE do not enter via Pakington Street.

Assembly point for Street Parade
EVEN numbers collect in Pakington St.

Waterloo Street
Street closed

Collins Street
Anglesea Street
Maitland Street

Wellington Street

Lawton Street
O'Connell Street

Clarence Street
Preston Street

Albert Street

TOWN HALL

Weller Street
Candover Street

Hope Street

Yuille Street

Toilets

Autumn Street
Street closed

Gordon Avenue