

St Thomas More Catholic Primary School



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The Vine



Principal's Report

The Lords Prayer

Our Father who art in Heaven
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power
and the glory, for ever and ever.

Amen



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Annual Community Meeting

Thank you to all the parents and staff who came along to our ACM last night. It was great to see so many parents come and support our school and hear about all the wonderful things that have happened over the past year and what is planned for the future. I would like to thank our School Board for their support and for always carefully reflecting on what is best for our school in the decisions that are made. A special thanks also to Lee Russell, Karien Rollinger and Nicolle Achmad for all their work in ensuring the Sundowner was set up and well catered for.

I will include a reduced version of my Principal's report that was presented last night:

Thank you to the community for so warmly welcoming my family and I. We have felt extremely blessed to be a part of the St Thomas More community. Thank you to Nicolle Achmad for her tireless patience, support and assistance.

Our school improvement plan included to review and update our technology. After consultation with parents, a 1:1 iPad program was implemented for our Year 4 and 5 students. Whilst we are still in the early stages of implementing this, teachers have reported a positive impact on the students learning. We look forward to the expanded model next year as our Year 3 and 4 students are also part of this program. The teaching and learning programs have been further enhanced by a range of incursions and events that have assisted in the development of the knowledge and skills of our students, whilst providing them with many opportunities for different experiences.

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The development of our Catholic Identity has been a focus this year, with the introduction of Social Justice leaders and a value for each term, connected to our fundraising efforts. Fr Mat has been a visible presence in our school, forming a positive relationship with our school community and spiritually guiding our students and I thank Fr Mat for his ongoing support of our school and the way he so carefully and genuinely interacts with the students.

It has been wonderful to see the presence our school has had in the community over the past year, and I believe the efforts made in positively marketing St Thomas More has been encouraging. Our new website and the Connected app have been well received and the use of our school Facebook page has helped share the stories of our school with the wider community. Our involvement in many community events has showcased the positive interactions we bring to the South West region.

Our amazing P&F have been instrumental in assisting with this presence, positively promoting our school within the community and I would like to acknowledge the tireless work the P&F committee put in to organising both friendraising and fundraising opportunities, which directly benefit our school, and most importantly the students. Special thanks to our retiring P&F President, Kathryn Morrison and P&F Treasurer, Wendy Russell.

The teaching staff have been working on embedding Aboriginal Education into the curriculum and as a result developed a plan to further develop an understanding of Aboriginal perspectives. They also did some work around developing clear learning intentions and success criteria to ensure each student knows what they are learning, why they are learning it and how they know they are going. Staff have also been looking more closely at student data and using it to guide their programs for individual students and reflecting on how, in particular, Literacy is taught, incorporating guided reading, reading groups and writing.

An intervention program was introduced this year called Macqlit, which has benefited many students in assisting the development of their knowledge and skills in spelling, reading and writing and looking at our data, we have seen great improvements. On the flip side, our LEAP program has provided an excellent opportunity for those students requiring extension, to further develop higher order thinking skills with like-minded peers.

Our students have been able to be involved in a range of sporting, music and art events, including both school based and interschool sport events, bands and our art display at the Margaret River Show.

Our 2019 NAPLAN results continue to be inconsistent, with further work to be done in developing consistency in our teaching programs and knowing exactly where each student is and where they need to be. This will form part of our school improvement plan for 2020, however, moving forward into the coming year, we will work to provide our students with the opportunity to develop higher order skills which will prepare them for their future.

I cannot overemphasise the challenges that lay ahead for us over the next few years. The financial viability of our school is something we need to keep a close eye on and we must continue to work towards ensuring we have enough money to continue offering an outstanding learning program for our students. Funding levels have not kept pace with increased operating costs and as such, increasing our enrolment numbers is significant in maintaining an operable budget. One of the simplest ways of doing this is through word of mouth – so I encourage all parents and those associated with St Thomas More to speak positively and frequently about our great school within the community. I will continue to work with the Board in marketing our school and making its presence felt more strongly within the community.

A special thank you to Pat Moran and Sharyn Bucat for their dedication and time serving on our School Board. Both Pat and Sharyn are stepping down from their roles on the Board. Amber Fairbrass was the only nomination for the Board and we congratulate her on continuing in this important role.

As we move towards finishing the year, I would also like to thank the amazing staff of St Thomas More for their dedication and support and wish everyone a wonderful end to the year.

Tour de Cure



On Monday, we had about 50 riders from the Tour de Cure visiting our school to talk about ways to assist in the prevention of Cancer and create awareness about raising funds to help cure Cancer. The riders, from all over Australia, were doing a tour of the South West and riding around the Margaret River region. The riders joined with the students where they talked about Being Fit, Being Healthy and Being Happy.

Staffing 2020

Principal	Russell Wylie
Assistant Principal	Nicolle Achmad
Kindy	Jane Wolf and Rachel Hassall
Pre-Primary	Jennifer Morrison and Dianne Quintrell
Year 1	Merridith Newman (M-Th) and Meg Ryan (F)
Year 2	Terri Ross
Year 3	Meg Ryan (M) and Alice Tippett (T-F)
Year 1- 3 TA	Lee Russell
Year 4	Kristie Chapman (M-W) and Cameron McRae (Th-F)
Year 5	Michael O'Brien
Year 6	Nicole Teague
Year 4-6 TA	Kaye Stanley
Literacy Support and LEAP	Nicolle Achmad
Students with a Disability Coordinator	Nicolle Achmad
Music	Michael Goodwin (M & W)
Physical Education	Cameron McRae (M & T)
Visual Art	Felicity Pascoe (W-F)
Indonesian	Myfanwy Walley (T & W)
Library Aide	Rachel Hassall
Admin/Finance Officer	Karien Rollinger
Admin Assistant	Rita Willmott (T & Th)
Groundsman	Andrew Lindsay (M-Th)

Year 5 Leadership Speeches

Today I listened to the Year 5 students present their speeches as they nominated themselves for a Leadership position in 2020. I was impressed by the confidence and spirit these students showed as they outlined their reasons why they would make a good leader in our school. I believe any of these students would make a good leader and the opportunity for them to speak in front of other staff and students allowed them to have a taste of what could be involved in this role. Our Year 3, 4 and 5 students voted and later the staff will have the opportunity to vote. Students who receive the majority of votes will then be invited to have an interview with me before the positions are decided upon. Congratulations to all our Year 5 students who presented a speech! Leadership positions will be presented at our Year 6 Graduation and awards evening on 12th December.

I wish all families a wonderful week ahead.

Peace and best wishes

RUSSELL WYLIE
PRINCIPAL

Assistant Principal News

Christ the King

Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.

Last Sunday, 24 November, brought the yearly liturgical cycle to an end with the mass honouring Christ as King. This is quite a recent Feast day, inaugurated in 1925 by Pope Pius XI. This was a time in our world's history when the first Great War was over, but there were signs in Europe that peace was illusory. The feast was to be a reminder that though world powers may fail, there is a power for peace within the world that will not fail.

While the world seeks power through materialistic means, Jesus displays the power of God's reign on a Cross. Wars begin with greed and selfishness, whether on a world scale or within the family home. Peace begins where there is generosity, forgiveness and concern about others. This is the kingdom that Jesus offers and the power that we celebrated on Sunday.

First Sunday of Advent

This Sunday is the first Sunday of Advent, which is also the first Sunday of a new liturgical year for the Church. It is a time of preparation for Christmas, the coming of the Lord. In this season, we recall two central elements of our faith: the final coming of the Lord in glory and the incarnation of the Lord in the birth of Jesus. Key themes of the Advent season are watchful waiting, preparation and justice.

Christmas is meant to be a time for joy, but many of us are feeling stressed with the pressure to try to get everything ready for Christmas. It appears as though Christmas has moved from a time to celebrate the birth of Christ, family and thanks for the blessings you have to a time of materialism. Everyone seems more focused on presents and what they are going to get, rather than on what they can do for others. This year, maybe your family could be challenged to consider other ways to give other than gift-giving this Christmas, such as visiting people in the nursing home, making cookies or a meal for neighbours, taking blankets to the homeless, raising awareness of an environmental issue or volunteering to help with a charity.

Christmas Children's Mass

St Thomas More Catholic Church children's Christmas Mass will be celebrated on Christmas Eve, **Tuesday 24th December at 6pm**. Children from our school are invited to be involved in a Nativity play. If your child would like to participate, please add their name to the Christmas poster located on the school office glass door. Rehearsals for the Nativity play will take place on Wednesday 11 December at 1.30pm. We encourage all children to be involved.

Have a wonderful week ahead.

NICOLLE ACHMAD
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL



Absentees



A reminder to parents that there is a simple way to let us know your child is absent from school, while providing a note at the same time. Jump on our app or website!

There is an easy online form that can be completed and it is directly emailed to the school. Too easy! Either download our school app – **Connected** (password is **Wisdom19**) or visit our website <https://stmcps.wa.edu.au/> and go to the Communication tab to select Online Absentee.

Thought of the Week



School Merit

Award Winners

Term 4 - Week 6

Year 3

Jasper Moran

Year 5

Jack Miller

Friday 29th November

8.45am Year 6 Assembly

Thursday 5th December

9.30am Kindy/Pre-Primary Christmas Concert

Friday 6th December

9.30 - 10.30am Swim Fun - Pre-Primary to Year 3

11.00am - 1.00pm Faction Swimming Carnival - Years 4, 5 and 6

Tuesday 10th December

5.30pm STMCPs Music Concert

Thursday 12th December

9.30am Whole School Thanksgiving Mass

6.00pm Year 6 Graduation and Awards Celebration

Friday 13th December

Last Day of Term for Students

Important Dates

Parish News

Masses


St Thomas More Catholic Church - Margaret River

- Saturday - 6.00pm
- Sunday - 10.00am


Lumen Christi Catholic Church - Augusta

- Sunday - 8.00am





The School Canteen is open on Fridays at Lunchtimes selling Icy Poles.
All items are \$1.00



The Uniform Shop is open on **Tuesday** afternoons only between **1.30pm and 3.00pm.**


Kids Cushion Concert

Join Pianists
Elodie Short & Anna Bogachova
presenting

The Nutcracker

Experience the joy of live music and the magic of a Christmas story. Explore the Piano and enjoy some Arts & Craft activities afterwards in Busselton and Margaret River!

December 7th, at 10.00 am, Uniting church, 47 Kent St, Busselton
 December 14th, at 10.00 am, Uniting church, 60 Tingle Ave, Margaret River
 December 15th, at 10.00 am, Caves House Hotel, Yallingup
 BYO comfy cushion!
 Suggested ages: 3-10 year olds but all welcome
 Tickets: \$10, free under 3 year olds



VacSwim

Enrol now for **VacSwim** summer holiday swimming lessons at education.wa.edu.au/swimming





Gala Night

to celebrate 100 years of
Catholic Education
at Our Lady of Lourdes School Dardanup
Friday 14th February 2020
7.00pm-11.00pm
at Bunbury Catholic College Hall

Dress: Cocktail
Champagne on arrival

‘Stand up and Mingle’ food,
(light bites and something a little bigger)

Licensed Bar - Tea and Coffee available
Tickets can be purchased from the school office, \$75 per person
dardanup.admin@cewa.edu.au
RSVP: by 30th January 2020
dardanup.admin@cewa.edu.au

ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
PRESENTS

MUSIC CONCERT

YEAR 4
YEAR 5
YEAR 6

10 DECEMBER
2019
AT 5.30PM

MARGARET RIVER
HEART
47 WALLCLIFFE ROAD
MARGARET RIVER






SAVE THE DATE



MULTICULTURAL

Christmas Gathering

Sunday 1st December 2019
@ 5.00pm St. Thomas More Parish



**Please join us as we celebrate
cultural diversity in our Parish Community!**

*Bring a plate to share and
let's explore and learn about each others culture .*

*This event will also be our way of showing
gratitude to our brothers (Tongan and East Timorese)
who have generously contributed to our Parish
through Sunday Mass singing and busy bee.*

*Please contact Lucy Russell & Margaret Blackmore
for more details.*



**Please wear any Christmas colours (red,green,gold) and
bring simple gifts to share for our Chrissie Kringle.**