

St Thomas More Catholic Primary School



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Absentee Number: 9758 8042

The Vine



Principal's Report

Prayer for the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

(celebrated on 21 November)

*Hail Mary, full of grace.
The Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb,
Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death.
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 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 in always so carefully reflecting on what is best for our school in the decisions that are made. A special thanks also to Fiona Guise 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:

I would like to thank the parent community for their support and patience over the course of the year. Things haven't always gone how we would have liked it to, there have been some traditions that haven't been able to happen and the students have had to experience some disappointment in missing out, but you have stood by the school, supported your children and helped them bounce back and develop resilience in what have been some tough times.

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We started the year positively, welcoming 6 new families into our community and having high hopes for a great year ahead. Our Year 3 students began with the 1:1 iPad program, completing the rollout across the school. As the Covid-19 pandemic swept the world, we were put in a position of uncertainty, concern and unease. Families began to self-isolate and by March 23rd, we were down to only 66 children attending school and the week after only 3 children attended on the Monday. The teachers had to quickly adapt their teaching programs and utilise technology to deliver learning to the students at home. The agility the staff demonstrated in learning new programs to deliver remote learning packages, ensuring students were still able to engage and continuing to provide a rich education remotely was not only appreciated but I believe, set us apart from other schools. The continued pastoral care they demonstrated to students and families, through phone-calls, emails and information presented via both the Teams and See-Saw platforms truly demonstrated why we are such a special community at St Thomas More. I want to sincerely thank the staff for their dedication, thoughtfulness, agility and responsiveness in dealing with the situation that was placed on them in such a pastoral and professional manner in a time that brought much stress and uncertainty.

Over the course of the year our enrolments have increased, a 3 Year Old Kindy started and we believe a greater presence in the community has been observed. We look to implement a new Phonics program for our K-Year 2 students next year called Letters and Sounds and through the trial of a Spelling program in Year 4 this year, the staff have decided to implement the Soundwaves program for next year in Years 3-6. We will continue to follow best practice in teaching both English and Maths, implementing Literacy blocks, incorporating Guided Reading and using a variety of hands-on and problem-solving strategies to assist the learning of Mathematics, Technology and Science.

At the end of Term 2, we had our first 'Wellness Week', with a strong focus on developing wellbeing for our students, staff and parent community. We felt this was a successful week, providing many opportunities to be mentally, physically and spiritually well. This week culminated in the celebration of St Thomas More Feast Day, where the children were able to work in groups to complete various fun activities and come together and celebrate as one community. Term 3 became a very busy one, as many events were held, with the preparation and celebration of all Sacraments, Faction and Interschool Cross Country carnivals, whole school Masses, school photos, class Assemblies, Father's Day Colour Run and Sundowner and the P&F Quiz Night.

I truly would like to thank our amazing P&F for all their hard work in the way they were able to provide many resources and opportunities for our school and their determination to persevere through uncertain and difficult times is a testament to just how wonderful they truly are. Our parent community has been the biggest advocate for our school, constantly positively promoting it within the community and I believe has assisted in our school developing a strong reputation for providing a high quality education, but equally with a strong focus on community values and student care. I would particularly like to thank this dedicated team, led by Elle Lawrance, in all that they have accomplished for us over the year.

Father Mat has continued to be a strong presence in the school, frequently visiting classes and assisting in the development of knowledge and understanding of our Catholic faith. He has supported us in providing both Whole School and Class Masses, class reconciliation and continued to assist in the further development of the Catholic Identity throughout the school. I thank Father Mat for his continued work in promoting and supporting our school and the way he has become such a valuable member of our community.

A Strategic Plan for 2020-2024 was developed and endorsed by the School Board this year. It focuses on goals under the four headings of Catholic Identity, Education, Stewardship and Community. There were 5 key goals identified for improvement over the coming years and this can be viewed on our website. We have already begun the journey of implementing strategies to achieve these goals and I believe this will continue to set us apart from the other schools in the region with what we can offer our students and the way we develop them.

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I would like to thank the School Board for their trust in me and their continued support. I have enjoyed the comradery and advice and feel they are really working well together for the best interests of our school. I would especially like to thank our Board Chair – Angela Hickman, for her time, energy and constant vigilance in ensuring the Board is doing everything in its power to provide the best school possible. Angela is retiring from her role as Board Chair and we appreciate all you have given to the Board and thank you for your service and wish you all the very best.

Along with Nicolle, our Assistant Principal, I look forward to continuing to develop our school into the future. I thank Nicolle for her tireless work and dedication in trying to ensure I keep on track and that our school keeps ticking along. I believe we have one of the best school communities and I will continue to work to support and develop this in the best interests of our children.

Staffing 2021

Principal	Russell Wylie
Assistant Principal	Nicolle Achmad
Pre-Kindy	Brittany Becker and Renae Cummins
Kindy	Jane Wolf, Rachel Hassall & Renae Cummins
Pre-Primary	Jennifer Morrison and Fiona Guise (Brittany Becker Sem 1 Fridays)
Year 1	Merridith Newman (M-Th) and Meg Ryan (F)
Year 1 TA	Lee Russell (M-Th) and Sarah Ryan (F)
Year 2	Terri Ross
Year 3	Michael O'Brien
Year 4	Kristie Chapman (M-T) and Cameron McRae (W-F)
Year 5	Nicole Teague
Year 6	Meg Ryan (M) and Alice Tippett (T-F)
Year 2-6 TA	Kaye Stanley
School Chaplain	Laurissa Knowles
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 (M & Th)
Groundsman	Andrew Lindsay (M-Th)

End of Year Events

There are a number of events coming up as we move towards the end of the year that I would like to make parents aware of:

Volunteer Thankyou Morning Tea: We invite all parents who have volunteered their time in some capacity over the course of the year to come along to a Thankyou Morning Tea at **9:30am 4th December** in the Library.

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Music Concert: The Year 4-6 students will be performing a range of songs on **Monday 7th December** commencing at **5:30pm** at the Margaret River HEART. All parents and family members are invited to come along and watch our amazing students showcase some of what they have learnt this year in Music.

Whole School Thanksgiving Mass: We will conclude our year with a Praise and Thanksgiving Mass on **Thursday 10 December** at **9:00am** in the church. We invite all families to come along and celebrate the end of the year with us at this Mass.

Year 6 Graduation and Awards celebration: We will farewell our Year 6 students and present the Year 1-5 class awards and the Year 6 awards on **Thursday 10 December** at 6:00pm. The Year 6 leaders for 2021 will also be recognised and presented with their badges. All families are invited to attend this Graduation and Awards evening.

End of Year Excursion: We will come together as a school community and celebrate the end of the year with a lunch and excursion to the Heart to watch Trolls World Tour and the P&F have kindly agreed to supply a Sausage Sizzle lunch, drink and icy-pole for the children for the last day of school.

Year 6 Camp

I will be accompanying the Year 6 class on their Rottnest camp next week, along with Mrs Alice Tippet, Mr Joel Lawrance and Mrs Marion McRae. The Year 6 students are really excited about this opportunity to learn more about themselves, try new things and find out about the history of Rottnest. Wish us luck!

I will be in Perth tomorrow for the Catholic Primary Principals' AGM and farewell to retiring Principals and the CEWA System Thanksgiving Mass.

I wish all families a wonderful week ahead.

Peace and best wishes,

RUSSELL WYLIE
PRINCIPAL

Uniform Shop



Please email your Order Forms through to
rita.willmott@cewa.edu.au
with details of your order and credit card.
Forms can be downloaded off the school's website.
The Uniform Shop is open on **Tuesdays only**.
Thank you!
Rita Willmott

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 **Wisdom6285**) or visit our website <https://stmcp.wa.edu.au/> and go to the Communication tab to select Online Absentee.

You can also ring the school on the Absentee line on 9758 8042 and leave a message of the child's name, class and reason for absence and then send a note in with your child when they return to school.



Parking

It has been raised with the school that parents are parking on the privately-owned block of land next to the school. As this is private property, parents are asked not to park on this block of land. There is parking available at the Church carpark, or across the road at the Recreation Centre. Alternatively, parents are encouraged to make use of the Drive-Thru. We appreciate your assistance in this matter.

Assistant Principal News

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

The following reflection is from a commemorative prayer booklet from the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart:

Day Three: Take on fresh Courage with Trust

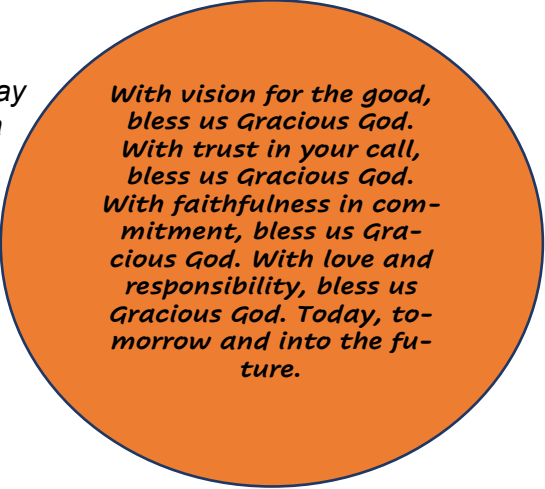
We remember Mary MacKillop first dressed to show that she wanted to be a Sister. We ask her to pray with us today.

Scripture:

The woman then left her water jar and went off into the town. She said to the people: "Come and see someone who told me everything I have ever done! Could this be the Messiah?" At that, everyone set out from town to meet Jesus. (John 4:28-30)

Reflection:

After years of planning the big day finally arrived – St Joseph's Day 19 March 1866. Mary MacKillop left home that morning wearing a black dress and changed her name to Sister Mary, signifying the very beginning of the Sisters of Saint Joseph. Mary was teaching in the Catholic school in Penola with her sibling sisters, Annie and Lexie. A migrant from London, Blanche Amsinck, who had converted to Catholicism and been expelled by her family, was drawn to Mary's vision and to the school. Blanche joined the fledgling order and was known as Sister Francis Xavier. Soon other women joined Mary and Blanche.



*With vision for the good,
bless us Gracious God.
With trust in your call,
bless us Gracious God.
With faithfulness in com-
mitment, bless us Gra-
cious God. With love and
responsibility, bless us
Gracious God. Today, to-
morrow and into the fu-
ture.*

PAUSE

What is resonating with me in this story of Mary?
In what ways am I being called at this time?

Prayer:

May we discern your call in our lives, Gracious God,
so that we have the courage to make choices, commit to them wholeheartedly,
learn from our mistakes, build love and hospitality in our families and communities, and participate with
trust in your mission.

Amen.

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal

This term, we are raising much needed food and resources for the poor and marginalised through the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal. Each class has been allocated a family to focus on. All students are asked to bring in an item that can be placed into a hamper that will be presented to a representative from St Vincent de Paul. The final date for the Christmas hamper items to be donated will be **Friday 27 November**. We thank you for supporting the Christmas appeal this term.

Have a wonderful week ahead!

God bless,

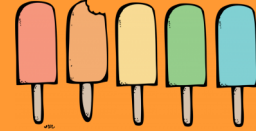
NICOLLE ACHMAD
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Thought of the Week



The School Canteen is open on Fridays at Lunchtimes selling Icy Poles.

All items are \$1.00



Parish Masses

St Thomas More Catholic Church
Margaret River

- Saturday - 6.00pm
- Sunday - 10.00am

Lumen Christi Catholic Church
Augusta

- Sunday - 8.00am



Congratulations!



School Merit Award Winners
Week 5

Pre-Primary	Margaux Lewis Jack Moke
Year 1	Vienne Nguyen
Year 2	Paige Hayward
Year 3	Sophia Burges Max Cooke
Year 4	Morgan Bell
Year 5	Sophie Lane
Year 6	Bella Fairbrass Angelina Tognela

Friday 20th November
8.45am Merit Assembly

Week 7
Monday 23rd November
Year 6s leave for Rottnest

Friday 27th November
8.45am Merit Assembly
Year 6s return from Rottnest

Important Dates

Family Members and Friends Course

One day dementia workshop



Alzheimer's WA extends a special invitation to family members and friends who know or care for a person living with dementia in the community (not suitable for people with a diagnosis of dementia).

This one day workshop provides participants with:

- An understanding of dementia
- Insight into what occurs when a person develops dementia
- Communication skills to best support a person living with dementia.

Enquiries and registrations to Kim Rosenfeld
T 08 9780 5233 | F 08 9757 2512
krosenfeld@amrshire.wa.gov.au | amrshire.wa.gov.au

Places are limited | Registration is essential

Date: 1 December 2020

Time: 9.30am - 4pm

Venue: Church Gallery,
Margaret River
Community Resource Centre

Cost: Free

