

11th February 2021

Issue 1

# St Thomas More Catholic Primary School



PO Box 524  
Margaret River WA 6285  
Phone: 9757 3544  
admin@stmcpa.wa.edu.au  
www.stmcpa.com

Absentee Number: 9758 8042

# The Vine



## Principal's Report

### Prayer for the Start of the School Year

*Loving God,*

*bless this journey of a new school year that we undertake this week.*

*We welcome those who are new to our community this year and ask that you strengthen them to share the wonderful gifts you have given them. Send your spirit upon all our students, parents and teachers and fill them with your wisdom and blessings.*

*May the work we do, bring new hope and courage to all we meet this year.*

*We make this prayer through Christ Our Lord,*

*Amen.*

*St Thomas More ... Pray for us.*

*St Mary MacKillop ... Pray for us.*



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Although we had a slight false start to the beginning of our year, the children have settled in well and we have loved seeing their smiling faces and the way they have commenced in their new classes. There has been lots of learning already taking place in the classrooms with the students thoroughly engaged in their tasks. Thank you to all parents for helping to ensure the children are prepared for school and encouraging such a positive attitude.

We welcome back our existing families and offer a huge warm welcome to the 22 new families to our school. I am sure our wonderful community will quickly help you feel welcome and part of our Tommy More family. We also welcome Mrs Brittany Becker back to our school family as our new 3 Year Old Kindy teacher and Mrs Fiona Guise as our Pre-Primary Teacher Assistant.

Thank you to all those parents who came along to our welcome Morning Tea yesterday morning in the library. It was wonderful to see so many new faces join with some of our existing families to connect with old friends and make some new ones. I would like to thank the P&F for their fantastic work in organising this and putting on coffee from Yahava!



Continued over .....

Principal's Report .....continued from Page 1

### **Parent Information Evening**

Our Parent-Teacher Information evening will be held on **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February** for our Pre-Primary to Year 6 classes, commencing at **5:30pm** for the first session. There will be a second session offered from **6:20pm** for those families with more than one child, or who cannot get to school at the earlier time. I encourage all parents to make the effort to attend these sessions to find out information in regard to their child's class and hear about how you can further support your child's learning. A creche will be available in the library for parents needing this service.

### **School Calendar Dates**

For information on our term, pupil free and Sacramental dates, please refer regularly to the calendar on the school website. This calendar is regularly updated and contains the most up to date information.

### **Official School Times**

School commences: 8:40am

Recess: 10:40am – 11:00am

Lunch time: 12:40pm – 1:20pm

School concludes: 3:00pm

Kindy and Pre-Kindy commence at 9:00am with Pre-Kindy finishing at 2:45pm.

Please note: Staff meetings are held every Wednesday afternoon after school in Term 1 and the office will be closed.

### **School Code of Conduct**

The school has a Code of Conduct that all members of the St Thomas More School community need to adhere to. The purpose of the Code of Conduct is to describe minimum standards of conduct in all behaviour and decision making to ensure the safety and well-being of students. A Parent Charter is also available which provides statements to assist parents in being aware of their obligations as a member of the St Thomas More Catholic Primary School community. The complete Code of Conduct and Parent Charter are both published on our school website.

### **School Canteen**

A reminder to parents that lunch orders only will be able to be placed (Pre-Primary to Year 6) on a **Monday** and **Friday**. A menu will be sent home with your child, but is also available on our website and the Connected app.

### **Student Sign in and Out Procedures**

As a school, it is our duty to ensure that all students who attend St Thomas More are provided with the maximum duty of care. It is necessary to be informed of the whereabouts of all students within the school, during school hours. To enable this to happen, any students who leave the school grounds during school time must be 'signed out' and 'signed in' on their return. On 'signing out' a student at the office parents will be given a slip to take to the class teacher when they go to pick up their child. To ensure that teachers, including specialist subject teachers, are carrying out their duty of care, we ask parents who need to take children out of school prior to home time to please adhere to this request and if you are planning to take your child to appointment/s during school time, please email the teacher in advance, so that they can have the student ready for you to collect.

### **P&F Meeting**

Our amazing P&F will be meeting this Tuesday at 6:30pm at the Margaret River District Club. All parents are members of the P&F and we would love to see some new faces come along to support our school.

### **Tommy More Playgroup**

Next Friday, we will once again be offering our playgroup to children from 0-3 years of age. It will run from 9:00am-11:00am in the room next to Pre Primary. I thank Mrs Sarah Conder for kindly volunteering to lead this playgroup. Please let any families know about this, should they have children who may be interested in attending.

### **Ash Wednesday**

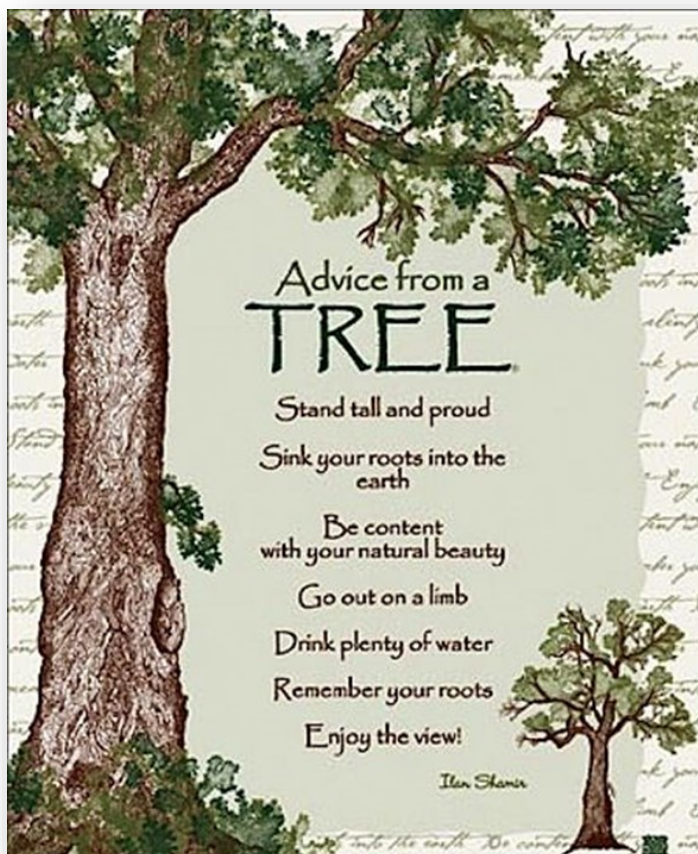
We celebrate the start of Lent next Wednesday and will be joining together as a faith community with a Mass at 9:00am. We would like to extend a very warm welcome to all our parents, carers and grandparents to join with us on Ash Wednesday, 17 February. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a time of repentance and renewal, of prayer and reflection, of seeking to renew and restore our relationship with Jesus and of striving to follow more closely in his footsteps. Receiving the Ashes signifies to one and all our intention to repent, to make sacrifices and changes in our lives in order to become better Christians. We would really love to see the church packed with as many parents as possible, so that you can not only share this Lenten journey with your children, but also set an example for them to follow.

I wish all families a wonderful week and year ahead. Please remember to speak to your teacher if you ever have any queries or concerns. We look forward to working positively together for the children in our school and giving each an opportunity to develop in a way that they become lifelong learners who live their faith and contribute to our world.

Peace and best wishes,

**RUSSELL WYLIE**  
**PRINCIPAL**

## Thought of the Week



## Uniform Shop

Please email your Order Forms through to  
[rita.willmott@cewa.edu.au](mailto:rita.willmott@cewa.edu.au)

with details of your order and credit card.

Forms can be downloaded off the  
 school's website.

Uniforms will go home with  
 your children on **Tuesdays**.

Thank you!  
 Rita Willmott



## Important Dates

### Monday 15th February

5.30 - 6.15pm

Parent/Teacher Information Evening

6.20 - 7.05pm

Parent/Teacher Information Evening

### Tuesday 16th February

6.30pm

P&F Meeting at the Margaret River District Club

### Wednesday 17th February

9.00am

Ash Wednesday - Whole School Mass

### Friday 19th February

8.45am

Merit Assembly

### Monday 1st March

Labour Day Public Holiday

### Tuesday 2nd March

Pupil Free Day - Staff PD

## 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.s.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.



## Assistant Principal News

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

To our familiar faces, welcome back! To our new families, welcome to our community! I thoroughly enjoyed meeting and chatting to our parents, grandparents and friends at our welcome morning tea yesterday and we thank our amazing, hardworking P&F for organising this for us. The P&F are very active in our school and I know that they encourage all parents to be involved. Their first meeting for the year is scheduled for next Tuesday 16 February at 6.30pm at the Margaret River District Club. We look forward to seeing you then.

### Ash Wednesday Whole School Mass



Our first mass for this year, will be held next Wednesday 17 February at 9.00am in the St Thomas More Catholic Church for Ash Wednesday. **Ash Wednesday** begins our **forty-day season of Lent** that leads to Easter. We invite you to join with us as we come together like the people of the Old Testament to remind ourselves that we do not always follow God's ways and that we need to ask for God's mercy and forgiveness so that we can live in peace and in joy with God and with each other.

### Compassion

Our whole school value that we will be focusing on this term is compassion. As St Oscar Romero said, 'Aspire not to have more, but to be more.' This message invites us to feel with others, enter into their circumstances, and be one with them. When you or someone you know is compassionate towards another person, extraordinary things can happen. Our challenge this term is to take the time to listen and to take in what other people are feeling, to be united as a community.



### Project Compassion

Caritas Australia takes the theme of 'Be More' for Project Compassion this year. It challenges us to go that extra mile, get out of our comfort zone to touch the lives of strangers, to help others and to express love and compassion for the most vulnerable.

Following our Ash Wednesday mass next week, your child will bring home a Project Compassion box and we invite you for the six weeks of lent to fundraise for the world's most marginalised. Some ideas are found at: <https://lent.caritas.org.au/fundraising-ideas>.

Have a wonderful week ahead.

God bless,

**Mrs Nicolle Achmad**  
Assistant Principal



## 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.

## Parish 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.**

## Skateboard Workshops

AN ALL ABILITIES SKATE SESSION  
DESIGNED FOR THOSE LIVING WITH A  
DISABILITY OR SENSORY NEEDS

SMALL GROUP NUMBERS  
QUALIFIED INSTRUCTOR & SUPPORT WORKER



\$15 per person  
Equipment available or byo

For more information contact  
concretesk8club@gmail.com  
0409821293



**ST THOMAS MORE  
AFTER SCHOOL  
SOCCER 2021**

**\$79**

**Term 1 (9 sessions)**

Ages 4-8 Wednesdays 3:10-4:10pm  
School Oval

Email: [luke@ljsoccer.com.au](mailto:luke@ljsoccer.com.au)  
Mobile: 0490447819



We have classes for boys and girls, starting from 2 years and up, beginners to advanced and in many different genres. We cater for everyone!

Katt

Blackwood Dance Company

Mobile: 0439 092 056

Facebook: @BlackwoodDanceCo

Website: <https://blackwood-dance-company.business.site/>