

18th February 2021

Issue 2

St Thomas More Catholic Primary School



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Absentee Number: 9758 8042

The Vine



Principal's Report

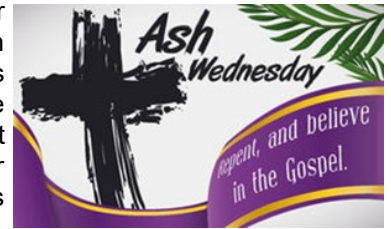
*Almighty and ever living God,
you invite us deeper into your world, your people, your Lent.
May this time be one of outward focus;
seeking you in those we often ignore.
Help us live a Lent focused on freedom, generosity, and encounter.
Give us hearts hungry to serve you
and those who need what we have to give.
Amen.*



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Lent

Our school community joined together yesterday morning to celebrate the beginning of Lent with Ash Wednesday. Led reverently by our Year 4 class, it was a wonderful opportunity to reflect on what Lent means and what we can do during this period to turn back to God. Fr Mat reminded us of the importance of *fasting, giving and praying* and ways that we can do this in our everyday lives. We had our foreheads marked with ashes in the shape of a cross symbolising that the person belongs to Jesus Christ, who died on a cross.



Lent is a time for strengthening our faith, a time to reflect on who we are and where we are going. It is a time for quietness and prayer, a time for penance and meditation, a time for reflection on how the Church gives us the opportunity to address the important elements of our life in a practical way. Lent provides many opportunities for people to choose to do renewing activities, such as visiting someone who is lonely, remembering to pray regularly, attending Mass again or tell people you love them more often.

The children made some Lenten promises in their classrooms and through our teaching are helping them to understand that if we are choosing to do something this Lent, it needs to lead us to a positive change, which in turn has a positive effect on the people around us.

As a school, we have a focus each term to help us think about others and our duty to show compassion, understanding and grace. We then try to link this focus to an outreach program to assist others in our community. This term's focus is Compassion. We encourage the students to show this to each other, to forgive and try to understand different points of view, circumstances and backgrounds. Often there is a lot more to someone's story than is visible on the surface and we encourage the students to try to remember and accept this. On Monday, Project Compassion boxes were sent home for each family and we encourage families to fill these boxes over the Lenten period and donate to help not only people within Australia, but also those struggling in other countries. These boxes will later be collected and forwarded onto Caritas Australia so they can help people both in Australia and other countries of the world.

Tommy More Playgroup

Tomorrow morning 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. Educational activities will be provided along with the opportunity to make some new friends and have a cup of coffee. Please bring a piece of fruit and a gold coin donation.

Continued over

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Student Medication

If your child requires medication to be taken during school hours, it is important that you complete a 'Student Medication Request/Record' form which is available from the office.

- Medication is to be delivered to the School Office by the parent/guardian.
- The label on the original medication or a special letter outlining medication from the doctor must clearly state: (i) the name of the child (ii) the dosage and times required.
- All medications are stored either in the school office/medical room or in a locked cabinet in the classroom, except where either refrigeration is required (e.g. antibiotics) or in the case of self-administered asthma reliever medication.
- Asthma medication (reliever puffers only) may be kept by a child for self-administration, only when parents/guardians have notified the school and given permission via the Student Medication Request/Record form.
- It is the parent's responsibility to collect any 'out of date' medication for safe disposal. It is also a parent's responsibility to collect any unused medication at the completion of treatment.
- Parents/guardians must notify the School Office and complete a new Student Medication Request/Record form if there are any changes to details such as dosage or type of medication.

Ways to Assist Your Child to Succeed at School

A new school year means a fresh start for students. Regardless of your child's performance last year, they start school with a clean slate. A break offers students the chance to begin new habits and adopt new behaviours. Here are seven ideas from Michael Grose to help you make the most of the fresh start and make this year your child's best year ever year at school.

7 Ways to Make a Sensational Start to the School Year

1. Commit to your child going to school every day on time.
2. Help kids start each day well.
3. Establish good work & study habits.
4. Make sure your child gets enough sleep.
5. Get your kids outside more for good physical and mental health.
6. Focus on being friendly and kind.
7. Develop self-help skills.

P&F Meeting

Thanks to all the parents who came along to our first P&F meeting for 2021. It was great to see many new faces and the plans put forward for both fundraising and friendraising over the course of the year. Thank you also to those parents who have put their hands up to be a Class Rep this year. This is a really important role and a good link between the P&F and the classes. Look out for details regarding our first Sundowner, held on Friday 12th March.

Leader's Forum

I will be attending the CEWA Leader's Forum in Perth, along with Mrs Achmad on Monday. This is an opportunity for us to meet with other leaders across the state and hear about the latest initiatives in Catholic Education with a focus on system-wide strategies that underpin Catholic Schools of Excellence.

Clubs

We will be offering a Clubs program for our Year 3 to 6 students over a four-week period later this term. It will involve the students participating in a nominated activity for a two-hour session each week. Current activities being offered will include surfing, mountain biking and skateboarding so far. If there are any parents who would love to volunteer their time between 11:00am and 1:00pm on a Thursday from 4th March, to run a club, please let us know. Suggestions include cooking, sewing, arts and crafts, coding, orienteering or photography, just to name a few. More information will come home to children involved shortly once the activities have been finalised.

I wish all families a wonderful week ahead.

Peace and best wishes,

RUSSELL WYLIE
PRINCIPAL

Assistant Principal News



Caritas Australia Project Compassion

A Project Compassion box was sent home on Monday with the eldest child. Please consider giving what you can this Lent, to help transform the lives of people living in poverty.



First Week of Lent

(school week beginning Monday 22nd February)

We begin our annual Lenten Project Compassion journey by learning about the story of Jamila and her family. Jamila, 22, is a Rohingya woman, living in the world's largest refugee camp in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. A single mother, she fled armed conflict in Myanmar to save herself, her elderly mother and eight-month-old baby.

With the support of Caritas Australia, through Caritas Bangladesh, Jamila was able to access emergency food and shelter. She also received counselling, emotional support and learnt sewing skills, to help her earn an income. Jamila now feels less alone, with a sense of community around her. She is able to 'Be More' to her little family.

- 860,494 people remain in the densely populated camps, in desperate need of humanitarian assistance, especially due to COVID-19. ([UNHCR](#))



Watch a short film about Jamila's story [here](#).

"Aspire not to have more, but to be more." Please support Project Compassion: lent.caritas.org.au

Shrove Tuesday

Thank you for supporting the Shrove Tuesday pancake fundraiser. We raised approximately \$120 which will be donated to Caritas Australia for Project Compassion.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Children who are baptised have been invited to participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time on Wednesday 17 March at 6pm. The other important dates for this sacrament are: Parent/Child Information Night on Thursday 25 February at 5.30pm and Commitment Mass on Sunday 14 March at 10.00am. If you wish to register your child to receive this sacrament, please return the enrolment form by tomorrow.

Have a wonderful week ahead.

God bless,

MRS NICOLLE ACHMAD
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Health Care Card Tuition Fee Discount Scheme — Time to renew your application.

Parents/guardians who are responsible for the payment of school fees and hold a current means tested family Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card will be entitled to a discount on tuition fees only. The discounted tuition fee per student for 2021 will be as follows:

- \$300.00 per year for Primary students (Kindergarten - Year 6).

The discounted tuition fee does not cover additional charges such as camps, the compulsory building levy and subject levies. Eligible cards must fit the scheme's means testing requirements, e.g., PP (Parenting Payment (partnered)), FA (Family Allowance), LI (Low Income), NSA (New Start Allowance), PA (Partner Allowance), SA (Sickness Allowance), SL (Special Benefit), WA (Widow Allowance) and MAA (Mature Age Allowance).

Application forms are available at the office.

Forms must be completed by **Friday 26th February** to gain the Tuition Fee discount.

Forms received after this date may not qualify for discount.

Thought of the Week



Parish Masses

St Thomas More Catholic Church - Margaret River

- Saturday - 6.00pm
- Sunday - 10.00am

Lumen Christi Catholic Church - Augusta

- Sunday - 8.00am



Friday 19th February

8.45am Merit Assembly

Tuesday 23rd February

11.00am Year 4 Reconciliation

Thursday 25th February

5.30pm Parent/Child Workshop - Sacrament of Reconciliation

Friday 26th February

8.45am Merit Assembly
11.30am Year 4 - Stations of the Cross
- in the Church

**Monday 1st March
Labour Day Public Holiday**

**Tuesday 2nd March
Pupil Free Day - Staff PD**

Important Dates



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.

Uniform Shop

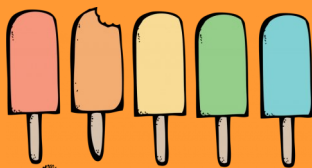


Please email your Order Forms through to
rita.willmott@cewa.edu.au

with details of your order and credit card.

Forms can be downloaded off the school's website.
 Uniforms will go home with your children on **Tuesdays**.

Thank you!
 Rita Willmott



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

All items are \$1.00

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://stmcpss.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.



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/>



positive partnerships

Working together to support school-aged students on the autism spectrum

Free
to attend

2 Day Autism Workshop for Parents and Carers



Join other local families to learn more about autism and ways to strengthen the home-school partnership

Learn about:

- Diversity of autism
- Understanding behaviour
- Sensory processing
- Working together with your school

Location:

Pagoda Resort & Spa

112 Melville Parade

Como WA 6152

Morning tea and a light lunch are provided

Perth, WA

Wed 17th & Thurs 18th March, 2021

9.15am - 2.30pm



Interpreters available



To register, visit
positivepartnerships.com.au



For help, call:
1300 881 971

The Positive Partnerships initiative is funded by the Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment through the Helping Children with Autism Package and is delivered by Autism Spectrum Australia. The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent the views of the Australian Government or the Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment.



SCHOOL SOCCER

ALL YEAR
ROUND

BEFORE/AFTER
SCHOOL SOCCER

AGES 4-12,
MANY LOCATIONS

KEEP ACTIVE,
HAVE FUN

FOR MORE INFO:

Website: www.ljsoccer.com.au

Email: luke@ljsoccer.com.au

Mobile: 0490447819