

3rd March 2022

Issue 5

St Thomas More Catholic Primary School



Principal's Report

PRAYER FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE IN UKRAINE

God of peace and justice, who change the hardened heart and break the power of violence, we entrust the people of Ukraine to you.


Protect them in this time of peril; let them know not death but life, not slavery but freedom.

You are Father of all; we are brothers and sisters.

Give us the strength to live that truth in love, choosing peace not war.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.




PO Box 524
Margaret River WA 6285
Phone: 9757 3544
admin@stmcps.wa.edu.au
www.stmcps.com
Absentee Number: 9758 8042

The Vine



Dear Parents and Caregivers,



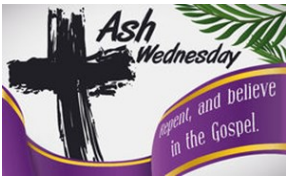
Masks

I would like to start by thanking our parent body for being so supportive of the new directions provided by WA Health stating that children in Year 3 and above are required to wear masks as of today. Students will be required to bring their own mask each day and wear it when in the classroom. Common sense should apply regarding the colour and markings on masks, with students asked not to wear masks that may contain inappropriate markings or designs.

I know this is difficult for some, and these children are not used to wearing a mask, but I appreciate parents being accommodating and respectful of this decision. It was great to see all the children in Years 3 to 6 coming to school today with a mask – the teachers will continue to allow lots of outside breaks! We will have some spare masks, so if your child forgets theirs, loses it or it is damaged, we will be able to provide a replacement, however, each child is encouraged to take responsibility for their own mask throughout the day.

Continued over

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Lent

Unfortunately, we were unable to come together as a school community yesterday, to celebrate the beginning of Lent with Ash Wednesday, however, each class had their own liturgy and was visited by Fr Mat as he talked about the importance of Lent and what this special period means for Catholics. As he distributed the ashes to students and staff, we were reminded of the importance of *prayer, fasting and almsgiving* and how we can turn back to God.

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.

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. Project Compassion boxes will be sent home for each family today 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. This year's theme is **For All Future Generations**, helps remind us that the good we do today will extend and impact the lives of generations to come. 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.

Yesterday, our Social Justice Committee, lead by our Social Justice Leaders, Millie Fairbrass and Kingston Nguyen, sold cookies and brownies to raise money to support this cause. Thanks to everyone who purchased something!

A reminder to families that next Tuesday 8 March is a Pupil Free Day, as the staff undertake some Professional Development.

I wish all families a safe and wonderful week ahead.

Peace and best wishes,

RUSSELL WYLIE
PRINCIPAL

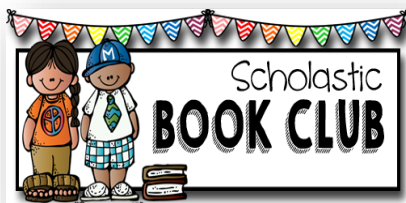
Monday 7th March
Labour Day Public Holiday

Tuesday 8th March
Pupil Free Day - Staff PD

Friday 4th March
Merit Assembly over the PA System

Thursday 10th March
Last day for Book Club orders

Important Dates



Issue 2 of Book Club was sent home earlier this week! Your orders and payments need to be returned to the school no later than **Thursday March 10**.

You can pay by either Cash or Cheque or you can use Credit Card through the LOOP online system.

Orders received after this date will **NOT** be processed. If you are paying by cheque please make all cheques payable to Scholastic Australia.

Thanking you for your co-operation.

Rita Willmott - Book Club Organiser

Thought of the Week



Congratulations!



School Merit Award Winners

Term 1

Week 4

Pre-Primary	Euann Avison
Year 1	Arlie Whareaitu
Year 2	Sienna Walker
Year 5	Phoebe Hickman
Year 6	Kingston Nguyen

Assistant Principal News

Dear Parents and Caregivers,



First Week of Lent

(Week beginning Monday March 7)



We begin our annual Lenten Project Compassion journey by learning about Anatercia, a 12-year-old girl living in a small village in southern Mozambique. She began to take on more and more adult responsibilities as her mother has chronic health issues. She did most of the household chores and had to travel up to five hours every day to collect clean water. Water scarcity also meant that harvests were poor and there was never enough to eat.

With your support, Caritas Australia's local partner, Caritas Regional Chokwe, was able to help Anatercia's family to irrigate their farm to improve their food security. They also improved water access for households in the village, delivered sustainable farming training, and provided Anatercia with essential school supplies.

Anatercia's health, education and quality of life have improved, along with the outlook of her whole community for all future generations.

Please support Project Compassion: lent.caritas.org.au

Peace and best wishes,

Mrs Nicolle Achmad
Assistant Principal



Parish Masses

St Thomas More Catholic Church - Margaret River

- Saturday - 6.00pm
- Sunday - 10.00am

Lumen Christi Catholic Church - Augusta

- Sunday - 8.00am



A Note from the Community School Health Nurse



Welcome to the new school year

Hello. I'd like to introduce myself and my role. My name is Chey Peters and I am the Community School Health Nurse for your school this year. School Health Nurses work with schools to promote healthy development and physical and emotional wellbeing. We are a good contact point for children and their families, providing information, assessments, health counselling, parenting support and referrals as needed. Our service is free and confidential.

I am part of the Healthy Country Kids Child Development Team, alongside other School Health Nurses and Allied Health professionals, such as Speech Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists, Dietitian, Social Worker and an Enuresis Nurse.

In response to increasing cases of COVID-19 in WA communities, our services to schools will very likely be disrupted in 2022 and will be delivered according to priorities, and in negotiation with School and Health leaders.

If you have any concerns about your child's physical or emotional health and well-being, or growth and development, please contact me on 9753 6480

or email WACHS-SW.NaturalistePrimarySchoolNurses@health.wa.gov.au

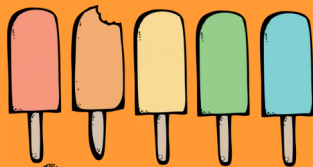
UNIFORM SHOP OPEN HOURS - MONDAYS FROM 1.30 - 3.00PM

Due to Covid restrictions please email your Order Forms through to me at rita.willmott@cewa.edu.au or alternatively complete an Order Form and send it in with your child 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 **Mondays**.

Thank you!
Rita Willmott



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

All items are \$1.00

Registrations are now open for the
2022 Netball season.

There are 6 divisions this year:

Under 9s, Under 11s, Under 13s, Under 16s,

Under 18s and Under 20s.

Registrations can be done through PlayHQ and
searching **Margaret River Netball Association**, or by
following the links on our website or Facebook page.

For any queries,
contact margaretrivernetball@gmail.com

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.

REGISTER NOW!
Registrations open from
23rd February to
31st March 2022

NETBALL SEASON 2022

Divisions
U/9
U/11
U/13
U/16
U/20

Visit the MRNA Facebook page for registration links
<https://www.facebook.com/MargaretRiverNetballAssociation>
Email: margaretrivernetball@gmail.com

MARGARET RIVER JUNIOR RUGBY CLUB

Interested in meeting new friends?

Would you like to try a new sport?

Margaret River Junior Gropers Rugby Club
could be for YOU!

Pre-Primary to Year 7.

Training starts: 23rd March

For more info, contact Abi: 0490 764 427
or Stephen: 0422 902 199





AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

Bishops call for peace in Ukraine, generous Australian response

MEDIA RELEASE

February 26, 2022

Australian Catholic Bishops Conference president Archbishop Mark Coleridge has expressed indignation at what is happening in Ukraine and called for a rejection of the madness of war and a return to reason, saying “the peace of the world is at stake”.

“We express our deep compassion for the people of Ukraine and our solidarity with all people of Ukrainian heritage here in Australia,” Archbishop Coleridge said.

“It’s not enough to condemn the bloodshed, breathe threats and take half-measures. The entire international community – including Australia – needs to do all in its power to stop the violence.

“This isn’t some geopolitical game. Lives are at stake. The lies have to stop. Truth and justice have to prevail if there is to be a future for all of us.

“Ukraine may seem a long way from Australia, but what’s happening there is not. Ukraine has become the world which will never be the same because of this militarised barbarism.”

Bishop Mykola Bychok, the leader of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Australia, said there has been growing fear in his homeland in recent weeks. That fear was realised this week.

“Ukraine is a peaceful nation; we don’t want war. An escalated Russian invasion will result in many more dead and injured, millions of refugees, more tears and pain,” he said.

“This is a question of life and death as nostalgia for an empire lost has led to senseless slaughter and immense suffering throughout Ukraine.”

The Russian invasion of Ukraine, a country whose identity long predates the Soviet Union and which has been widely recognised as a sovereign nation since 1991, is also likely to see the freedom of Ukrainian Catholics to practise their faith curtailed.

This would be all the more bitter for a Church which for 70 years was persecuted and forced underground, Bishop Bychok said.

Archbishop Coleridge stressed that, as with other countries that have known war in recent years, most recently Afghanistan, “a generous response by the Australian government is needed to help people fleeing violence in Ukraine”.

Caritas Australia, part of the Church’s international aid and development agency, is working with Caritas Ukraine to provide vital humanitarian assistance for the victims of war.

Pope Francis has appealed to those “with political responsibility to examine their consciences seriously before God, who is the God of peace and not of war, who is the Father of all, not just of some, who wants us to be brothers and sisters and not enemies”.

The Pope called on all believers and people of good will to make Ash Wednesday, March 2, a special day of prayer and fasting for peace. Archbishop Coleridge urged parishes, schools and other Catholic communities in Australia to heed his call.

“Prayer is more powerful than bombs. So we’ll be praying for an immediate ceasefire and a return to reason and negotiation. We’re also praying for those who have been killed, wounded or forced to flee,” Archbishop Coleridge said.